

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

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VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DE LA CONFÉRENCE

ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DE LA CONFERENCIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS	TABLE DES MATIERES	INDICE
PLENARY	PLENIERE	PLENARIA

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(6 November 1993)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>OPENING OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH CONFERENCE SESSION</u> <u>OUVERTURE DE LA VINGT-SEPTIEME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE</u> <u>INAUGURACION DEL 27° PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA</u>	2
<u>Opening Statement by the Director-General</u> <u>Discours d'ouverture du Directeur général</u> <u>Discurso de apertura del Director General</u>	2
<u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION</u> <u>INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE</u> <u>INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO</u>	3
1. <u>Election of Chairman and Vice-chairmen (C 93/LIM/1; C 93/LIM/2)</u> 1. <u>Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents (C 93/LIM/1; C 93/LIM/2)</u> 1. <u>Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes (C 93/LIM/1; C 93/LIM/2)</u>	3
<u>Address by the Chairman of the Conference</u> <u>Discours du Président de la Conférence</u> <u>Discurso del Presidente de la Conferencia</u>	4
2. <u>Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee (C 93/LIM/2)</u> 2. <u>Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 93/LIM/2)</u> 2. <u>Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales (C 93/LIM/2)</u>	7
<u>ADDRESS BY H.E. OSCAR LUIGI SCALFARO, PRESIDENT OF ITALY</u> <u>ALLOCUTION DE SON EXCELLENCE M. OSCAR LUIGI SCALFARO.</u> <u>PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE ITALIENNE</u> <u>ALOCUCION DEL EXCMO. SR. OSCAR LUIGI SCALFARO.</u> <u>PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA ITALIANA</u>	9
<u>EIGHTEENTH McDOUGALL MEMORIAL LECTURE</u> (by His Excellency Elias Hraoui, President of Lebanon) <u>DIX-HUITIEME CONFERENCE McDOUGALL</u> (par Son Excellence M. Elias Hraoui, Président du Liban) <u>18ª DISERTACION EN MEMORIA DE McDOUGALL</u> (Excelentísimo Señor Elias Hraoui, Presidente del Líbano)	13

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(6 November 1993)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION</u> (continued)	
<u>INTRODUCTION – QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE</u> (suite)	28
<u>INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO</u> (continuación)	
3. <u>Adoption of Agenda</u> (C 93/1)	
3. <u>Adoption de l'ordre du jour</u> (C 93/1)	28
3. <u>Aprobación del programa</u> (C 93/1)	
4. <u>Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items</u> (C 93/12; C 93/LIM/1)	
4. <u>Organisation de la session et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour</u> (C 93/12; C 93/LIM/1)	28
4. <u>Organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa</u> (C 93/12; C 93/13/LIM/1)	
5. <u>Admission of Observers</u> (C 93/13; C 93/13-Sup.1)	
5. <u>Admission d'observateurs</u> (C 93/13; C 93/13-Sup.1)	28
5. <u>Admisión de observadores</u> (C 93/13; C 93/13-Sup.1)	
IV. <u>APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u>	
IV. <u>NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u>	28
IV. <u>NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u>	
25. <u>Applications for Membership in the Organization</u> (C 93/19)	
25. <u>Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation</u> (C 93/19)	28
25. <u>Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización</u> (C 93/19)	
<u>First Report of the General Committee</u>	
<u>Premier rapport du Bureau</u>	28
<u>Primer Informe del Comité General</u>	
IV. <u>APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u> (continued)	
IV. <u>NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u> (suite)	39
IV. <u>NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u> (continuación)	
25. <u>Applications for Membership in the Organization</u> (C 93/19) (continued)	
25. <u>Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation</u> (C 93/19) (suite)	39
25. <u>Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización</u> (C 93/19) (continuación)	

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(8 November 1993)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u>	
<u>QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u>	44
<u>PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u>	
25. <u>Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 93/19) (Result of Ballot and Admission Ceremony) (continued)</u>	
25. <u>Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre del'Organisation (C 93/19) (Résultat du scrutin et cérémonie d'admission) (suite)</u>	44
25. <u>Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (C 93/19) (Resultado de la votación y ceremonia de admisión) (continuación)</u>	
<u>Adoption of Report of Credentials Committee</u>	
<u>Adoption du rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs</u>	60
<u>Aprobación del informe del Comité de Credenciales</u>	
27.1 <u>Appointment of the Director-General (C 93/18; C 93/18-Corr1)</u>	
27.1 <u>Nomination du Directeur général (C 93/18; C 93/18-Corr.1)</u>	62
27.1 <u>Nombramiento del Director General (C 93/18; C 93/18-Corr.1)</u>	
<u>PRESENTATION OF B.R. SEN AND A.H. BOERMA AWARDS FOR 1992 AND 1993</u>	
<u>REMISE DES PRIX B.R. SEN ET A.H. BOERMA POUR 1992 ET 1993</u>	64
<u>ENTREGA DE LOS PREMIOS B.R. SEN Y A.H. BOERMA PARA 1992 Y 1993</u>	
27.1 <u>Appointment of the Director-General (C 93/18; C 93/18-Corr.1) (continued)</u>	
27.1 <u>Nomination du Directeur général C 93/18; C 93/18-Corr.1) (suite)</u>	72
27.1 <u>Nombramiento del Director General (C 93/18; C 93/18-Corr.1) (continuación)</u>	

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(9 November 1993)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE (C 93/INF/14)</u>	
<u>DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCE (C 93/INF/14)</u>	106
<u>DECLARACION DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCIA (C 93/INF/14)</u>	
<u>INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE</u>	
<u>DECLARATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL A LA CONFERENCE</u>	115
<u>DECLARACION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO A LA CONFERENCIA</u>	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u>	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u>	126
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u>	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u>	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u>	126
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u>	
Italie, Germany, Liban, México, España, France, United States of America, Dominica, Philippines, Namibia	

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(9 November 1993)

<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)</u>	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL (suite)</u>	162
<u>DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)</u>	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)</u>	
- <u>DECLARATION DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)</u>	162
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u>	
(continuación)	
Myanmar, Australia, Sénégal, Brazil, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
<u>PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)</u>	
<u>QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)</u>	178
<u>PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)</u>	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
25. <u>Applications for Membership in the Organization</u> (C 93/19) (continued) - <u>Re-admission of South Africa to Membership</u> (continued)	
25. <u>Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation</u> (C 93/19) (suite) - <u>Réadmission de l'Afrique du Sud</u> (suite)	178
25. <u>Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización</u> (C 93/19) (continuación) - <u>Readmisión de Sudáfrica como miembro</u> (continuación)	
<u>Second Report of the General Committee</u>	
<u>Seconde rapport du Bureau</u>	178
<u>Segundo Informe del Comité General</u>	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	180
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATION DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	180
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Belgique	
<u>PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u> (continued)	
<u>QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u> (suite)	184
<u>PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u> (continuación)	
25. <u>Applications for Membership in the Organization</u> (C 93/19) (continued)- <u>Re-admission of South Africa to Membership</u> (continued)	
25. <u>Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation</u> (C 93/19) (suite) - <u>Réadmission de l'Afrique du Sud</u> (suite)	184
25. <u>Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización</u> (C 93/19) (continuación) - <u>Readmisión de Sudáfrica como miembro</u> (continuación)	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	186
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATION DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	186
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Chile, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Thailand, Denmark, Tunisie, India, Austria, Yemen, Nigeria	

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(10 November 1993)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	212
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	212
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Bahamas, United Kingdom, Korea Republic of, Malaysia, China, Bangladesh, Netherlands, Pakistan, Indonesia, Japan, Sweden, Mauritius, Hungary, Argentina, Jordan	

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(10 November 1993)

<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	260
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	260
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Kuwait, Barbados, Togo, Estonia, Israel, Finland, Syria, Cuba, Algeria, Zambia, Czech Republic, Romania, Venezuela, Norway, Malta, Cambodia, Niger, Saint Kitts and Nevis	

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(11 November 1993)

<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	312
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	312
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Trinidad and Tobago, Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Grenada, Cyprus	
<u>CEREMONY OF THE OATH OF OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ELECT</u>	
<u>CEREMONIE DE PRESTATION DE SERMENT PAR LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL ELU</u>	325
<u>CEREMONIA DE JURAMENTO DEL CARGO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL ELECTO</u>	
NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE NOVENA SESION PLENARIA (11 November 1993)	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	328
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	328
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Afghanistan, Laos, Ethiopia, Lithuania, European Economic Community, Cape Verde, Morocco, Saint Lucia, Sri Lanka	
<u>Third Report of the General Committee</u>	
<u>Troisième rapport du Bureau</u>	360
<u>Tercer Informe del Comité General</u>	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	361
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	361
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
United Arab Emirates, Portugal, Poland, Canada, Belize, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1993)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	380
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	380
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Cameroon, Bahrain, Bhutan, Colombia, Libya, Guinea Bissau, New Zealand, Burundi, Kenya, Nicaragua, Eritrea, Antigua and Barbuda, Albania	

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
11^a SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1993)

<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	420
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	420
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Cook Islands, Nepal, Ecuador, Lesotho, Bulgaria, Iraq, Mozambique, Republica Dominicana, Tanzania, Sudan, Malawi, Suisse	
<u>Fourth Report of the General Committee</u>	
<u>Quatrième Rapport du Bureau</u>	455
<u>Cuarto Informe del Comité General</u>	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	455
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	455
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS</u> <u>DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Croatia, Mali	

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
12ª SESION PLENARIA

(15 November 1993)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	464
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	464
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Haiti, Holy See, Viet Nam, Tonga, Congo, Greece, Ghana, Madagascar, Slovenia, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Turkey, Swaziland	

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESION PLENARIA

(15 November 1993)

<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	502
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	502
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Sierra Leone, Guyana, Guinea, Ireland, Oman	
<u>Fifth Report of the General Committee</u>	
<u>Cinquième rapport du Bureau</u>	514
<u>Quinto Informe del Comité General</u>	
<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u> (continued)	
<u>DEBAT GENERAL</u> (suite)	514
<u>DEBATE GENERAL</u> (continuación)	
- <u>STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION</u> (continued)	
- <u>DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION</u> (suite)	514
- <u>MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES</u> (continuación)	
Slovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Angola, Rwanda, Tchad, Fiji, International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), International Cooperative Alliance	

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
14ª SESION PLENARIA

(17 November 1993)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>Seventh Report of the General committee</u>	
<u>Septième rapport du Bureau</u>	538
<u>Séptimo informe del Comité General</u>	
<u>Tribute to the Director-General. Mr Edouard Saouma</u>	
<u>Hommage au Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma</u>	538
<u>Homenaje al Director General. Sr. Edouard Saouma</u>	

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
15ª SESION PLENARIA

(17 November 1993)

<u>Sixth Report of the General Committee (Election of Council Members)</u> (C 93/LIM/40); (C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1)	
<u>Sixième rapport du Bureau (Election des Membres du Conseil) (C 93/LIM/40)</u> (C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1)	578
<u>Sexto Informe del Comité General (Elección de los Miembros del Consejo)</u> (C 93/LIM/40); (C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1)	
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u>	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u>	579
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART I (FROM COMMISSION II)</u> (C 93/REP/1 Revision of C 93/II/REP/4; C 93/REP/1-Sup.1)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PREMIERE PARTIE</u> <u>(DE LA COMMISSION II) (C 93/REP/1 Révision du C 93/II/REP/4;</u> C 93/REP/1-Sup.1)	579
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE I (PROCEDENTE</u> <u>DE LA COMISION II) (C 93/REP/1 Revisión de C 93/II/REP/4;</u> C 93/REP/1-Sup.1)	
12. <u>Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95 (paras 1-24)</u>	
12. <u>Programme de travail et budget 1994-95 (par. 1-24)</u>	587
12. <u>Programa de Labores v Presupuesto para 1994-95 (párrs.1-24)</u>	
- <u>General (paras 1-2)</u>	
- <u>Généralités (par. 1-2)</u>	587
- <u>Aspectos generales (párrs. 1-2)</u>	
- <u>Approach (paras 3-8)</u>	
- <u>Approche (par. 3-8)</u>	587
- <u>Enfogue (párrs. 3-8)</u>	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
- <u>Programme Priorities</u> (paras 9-15)	
- <u>Priorités du Programme</u> (par. 9-15)	587
- <u>Prioridades del Programa</u> (párrs. 9-15)	
- <u>Technical Cooperation Programme</u> (paras 16-17)	
- <u>Programme de coopération technique</u> (par. 16-17)	587
- <u>Programa de Cooperación Técnica</u> (párrs. 16-17)	
- <u>Financial Framework</u> (paras 18-20)	
- <u>Cadre financier</u> (par. 18-20)	587
- <u>Marco Financiero</u> (párrs. 18-20)	
- <u>Budget Level</u> (paras 21-24)	
- <u>Montant du budget</u> (par. 21-24)	587
- <u>Cuantía del presupuesto</u> (párrs. 21-24)	
<u>Resolution on Budget Appropriations for 1994-95</u>	
<u>Résolution concernant les ouvertures de crédits</u> <u>pour 1994-95</u>	588
<u>Resolución sobre consignaciones presupuestarias</u> <u>para 1994-95</u>	
<p>SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 16ª SESION PLENARIA (22 November 1993)</p>	
<u>Eighth Report of the General Committee</u>	
<u>Huitième rapport du Bureau</u>	598
<u>Octavo informe del Comité General</u>	
IV. <u>APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u>	
IV. <u>NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u>	600
IV. <u>NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u>	
26. <u>Election of Council Members</u> (C 93/11; C 93/LIM/8; C 93/LIM/40; C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1)	
26. <u>Election des membres du Conseil</u> (C 93/11; C 93/LIM/8; C 93/LIM/40; C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1)	600
26. <u>Elección de miembros del Consejo</u> (C 93/11; C 93/LIM/8; C 93/LIM/40; C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1)	
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u> (continued)	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u> (suite)	603
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u> (continuación)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 2</u> (C 93/REP/2)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DEUXIEME PARTIE</u> (C 93/REP/2)	603
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 2</u> (C 93/REP/2)	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>Eighteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture</u> (para. 1)	
<u>Dix-huitième Conférence McDougall</u> (par. 1)	603
<u>18ª Disertación en memoria de McDougall</u> (párr. 1)	
<u>Address by His Excellency Oscar Luigi Scalfaro,</u> <u>President of Italy</u> (Resolution .../93) (para. 2)	
<u>Discours de Son Excellence Monsieur Oscar Luigi</u> <u>Scalfaro. Président d'Italie</u> (Résolution .../93) (par. 2)	603
<u>Alocución del Excmo. Sr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro,</u> <u>Presidente de Italia</u> (Resolución .../93) (párr. 2)	
<u>Presentation of the B.R. Sen Awards for 1992 and 1993</u> (paras 3-7)	
<u>Remise du prix B.R. Sen pour 1992 et 1993</u> (par. 3-7)	603
<u>Entrega de los Premios B.R. Sen para 1992 y 1993</u> (párrs. 3-7)	
<u>Presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award 1992-1993</u> (paras 8-10)	
<u>Remise du prix A.H. Boerma pour 1992-93</u> (par. 8-10)	603
<u>Entrega del Premio A.H. Boerma para 1992-93</u> (párrs. 8-10)	
<u>Oath of the Director-General</u> (para. 11)	
<u>Prestation de serment du Directeur général élu</u> (párr. 11)	603
<u>Juramento del Director General electo</u> (párr. 11)	
<u>Tribute to Edouard Saouma</u> (Resolution .../93 and Resolution .../93) (paras 12-14)	
<u>Hommage à Monsieur Edouard Saouma</u> (Résolution .../93 et Résolution .../93) (par. 12-14)	603
<u>Homenaje a Edouard Saouma</u> (Résolución .../93 y Résolución .../93) (párrs. 12-14)	
<u>Fiftieth Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture</u> <u>Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</u> (Resolution .../93) (para. 15)	
<u>Cinquantième anniversaire de l'Organisation des</u> <u>Nations Unies Pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture</u> (FAO) (Résolution .../93) (Par. 15)	603
<u>50º Aniversario de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas</u> <u>para la Agricultura y la Alimentación</u> (Resolución .../93) (párr. 15)	
1. <u>Election of the Chairman and Vice-chairmen of</u> <u>the Conference</u> (paras 16-17)	
1. <u>Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents de</u> <u>la Conférence</u> (par. 16-17)	603
1. <u>Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes de</u> <u>La Conferencia</u> (párrs. 16-17)	

2.	<u>Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee</u> (para. 18)	
2.	<u>Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs</u> (par. 18)	603
2.	<u>Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales</u> (párr. 18)	
3.	<u>Adoption of the Agenda</u> (para. 19)	
3.	<u>Adoption de l'ordre du jour</u> (par. 19)	603
3.	<u>Aprobación del programa</u> (párr. 19)	
4.	<u>Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items</u> (paras 20-36)	
4.	<u>Organisation de la session et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour</u> (par. 20-36)	603
4.	<u>Organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa</u> (párrs. 20-36)	
-	<u>Establishment of Commissions and Appointment of their Chairmen and Vice-chairmen</u> (paras 21-23)	
-	<u>Constitution des Commissions et nomination de leurs Présidents et Vice-Présidents</u> (par. 21-23)	603
-	<u>Establecimiento de las Comisiones y nombramiento de sus Presidentes y Vicepresidentes</u> (párrs. 21-23)	
-	<u>Resolutions Committee of the Conference</u> (paras 24-26)	
-	<u>Comité des résolutions de la Conférence</u> (par. 24-26)	603
-	<u>Comité de Resoluciones de la Conferencia</u> (párrs. 24-26)	
.	<u>Right of Reply</u> (para. 27)	
-	<u>Droit de réponse</u> (par. 27)	603
-	<u>Derecho de réplica</u> (párr. 27)	
-	<u>Verbatim Records</u> (para. 28)	
-	<u>Comptes rendus sténographiques</u> (par. 28)	603
-	<u>Actas taquigráficas</u> (párr. 28)	
-	<u>Verification of Credentials</u> (paras 29-30)	
-	<u>Vérification des pouvoirs</u> (par. 29-30)	603
-	<u>Verificación de credenciales</u> (párrs. 29-30)	
-	<u>Voting Rights</u> (paras 31-35)	
-	<u>Droit de vote</u> (par. 31-35)	603
-	<u>Derecho de voto</u> (párrs. 31-35)	
-	<u>Conference Timetable</u> (para. 36)	
-	<u>Calendrier de la Conférence</u> (par. 36)	603
-	<u>Calendario de la Conferencia</u> (párr. 36)	
5.	<u>Admission of Observers</u> (paras 37-40)	
5.	<u>Admission d'observateurs</u> (par. 37-40)	603
5.	<u>Admisión de observadores</u> (párrs. 37-40)	

-	<u>Observers from Applicants for Membership</u> (para. 37)	
-	<u>Observateurs des pays ayant demandé à devenir membres de l'Organisation</u> (par. 37)	603
-	<u>Observadores de los países que habían solicitado el ingreso en la Organización</u> (párr.37)	
-	<u>Admission of Observers from the Russian Federation. Ukraine and Moldova</u> (para. 38)	
-	<u>Admission des observateurs de la Fédération de Russie, de l'Ukraine et de la Moldova</u> (par. 38)	603
-	<u>Admisión de los observadores de la Federación de Rusia. Ucrania y Moldova</u> (párr. 38)	
-	<u>Liberation Movements</u> (para. 39)	
-	<u>Mouvements de libération</u> (par. 39)	603
-	<u>Movimientos de liberación</u> (párr. 39)	
-	<u>Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations</u> (para. 40)	
-	<u>Organisations intergouvernementales et internationales non gouvernementales</u> (par.40)	603
-	<u>Organizaciones intergubernamentales e internacionales no gubernamentales</u> (párr. 40)	
25	<u>Applications for Membership in the Organization</u> (párrs 41-44)	
25	<u>Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation</u> (par. 41-44)	603
25	<u>Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización</u> (párrs. 41-44)	
	<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART III (from Commission I)</u> (C 93/REP/3 Revision of C 93/I/REP/2 and C 93/I/REP/3)	
	<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - TROISIEME PARTIE</u> (émanant de la Commission I) (C 93/REP/3 Révision de C 93/I/REP/2; C 93/I/REP/3)	604
	<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE III (de La Comisión I)</u> (C 93/REP/3 Revisión de C 93/I/REP/2; C 93/I/REP/3)	
6.	(part of) <u>World Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook</u> (paras 1-27)	
6.	(partiel) <u>Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u> (par. 1-27)	604
6.	(parte) <u>Situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo</u> (párrs. 1-27)	
6.2	<u>World Food Security and Nutritional Status</u> (Resolution .../93) (paras 1 -12)	
6.2	<u>Sécurité alimentaire mondiale et situation nutritionnelle dans le monde</u> (Résolution .../93) (par. 1-12)	604
6.2	<u>Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y Estado Nutricional</u> (Resolución .../93) (párrs. 1-12)	

6.3	<u>World Agriculture Towards 2010</u> (paras 13-27)	
6.3	<u>L'agriculture mondiale à l'horizon 2010</u> (par. 13-27)	604
6.3	<u>La agricultura mundial hacia el 2010</u> (párrs. 13-27)	
8.	<u>Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development : Progress Report</u> (paras 28-42)	
8.	<u>Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural : rapport intérimaire</u> (par. 28-42)	604
8.	<u>Plan de Acción para la integración de la mujer en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural : Informe parcial</u> (párrs. 28-42)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IV (from Commission I)</u> (C 93/REP/4 Revision of C 93/I/REP/1; C 93/I/REP/1-Sup.1; C 93/I/REP/1-Sup.2)		
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - QUATRIEME PARTIE</u> (émanant de la Commission I) (C 93/REP/4 Révision de C 93/I/REP/1; C 93/I/REP/1-Sup.1; C 93/I/REP/1-Sup.2)		
		605
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE IV</u> (de la Comisión I) (C 93/REP/4 Revisión de C 93/I/REP/1; C 93/I/REP/1-Sup.1; C 93/I/REP/1-Sup.2)		
6.	<u>World Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook</u> (paras 1-16)	
6.	<u>Situation et perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u> (par. 1-16)	605
6.	<u>Situación y perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo</u> (párrs. 1-16)	
6.1	<u>State of Food and Agriculture</u> <u>- The Desert Locust Situation in West and Northwest Africa (Resolution .../93)</u> (paras 13-16)	
6.1	<u>Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture</u> <u>- Situation du criquet pèlerin en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Nord-Ouest (Résolution .../93)</u> (Par. 13-16)	605
6.1	<u>El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación</u> <u>- Situación en lo que respecta a la langosta del desierto en el Africa occidental y nordoccidental</u> (Resolución .../93) (párrs. 13-16)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART V (from Commission I)</u> (C 93/REP/5 Revision of C 93/I/REP/4)		
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - CINQUIEME PARTIE</u> (émanant de la Commission I) (C 93/REP/5 Révision de C 93/I/REP/4)		
		606
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE V</u> (de la Comisión I) (C 93/REP/5 Revisión de C 93/I/REP/4)		
7.	<u>Activities related to Environment and Sustainable Development</u> (paras 1-14)	
7.	<u>Activités relatives au développement durable et à l'environnement</u> (par. 1-14)	606
7.	<u>Actividades relacionadas con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible</u> (párrs. 1-14)	

7.1	<u>Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources (Resolution .../93) (paras 15-24)</u>	
7.1	<u>Révision de l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques (Résolution .../93) (par. 15-24)</u>	606
7.1	<u>Revisión del Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos (Resolución . . ./93) (párrs. 15-24)</u>	
7.2	<u>International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer (Resolution .../93 and Annex) (paras 15-24)</u>	
7.2	<u>Code international de conduite Pour la collecte et le transfert du matériel phytogénétique (Résolution .../93 et Annexe) (par. 15-24)</u>	606
7.2	<u>Código internacional de conducta para recolección y transferencia de germoplasma vegetal (Resolución .../93 y Anexo) (párrs. 15-24)</u>	
IV.	<u>APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)</u>	
IV.	<u>NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)</u>	608
IV.	<u>NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)</u>	
26.	<u>Election of Council Members (C 93/11; C 93/LIM/8; C 93/LIM/40; C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1) (continued)</u>	
26.	<u>Election des membres du Conseil (C 93/11; C 93/LIM/8; C 93/LIM/40; C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1) (suite)</u>	608
26.	<u>Elección de miembros del Consejo (C 93/11; C 93/LIM/8; C 93/LIM/40; C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1) (continuación)</u>	

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
17ª SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1993)

IV.	<u>APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)</u>	
IV.	<u>NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)</u>	618
IV.	<u>NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)</u>	
26.	<u>Election of Council Members (C 93/11; C 93/LIM/8; C 93/LIM/40; C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1) (continued)</u>	
26.	<u>Election des membres du Conseil (C 93/11; C 93/LIM/8; C 93/LIM/40; C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1) (suite)</u>	618
26.	<u>Elección de miembros del consejo (C 93/11; C 93/LIM/8; C 93/LIM/40; C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1) (continuación)</u>	

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
18ª SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1993)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u>	
<u>QUATRIEME PARTIE – NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u>	632
<u>PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u>	
27. <u>Appointments</u>	
27. <u>Nominations</u>	632
27. <u>Nombramientos</u>	
27.2 <u>Election of Independent Chairman of the Council</u> (C 93/15; C 93/15-Corr.1)	
27.2 <u>Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil</u> (C 93/15; C 93/15-Corr.1)	632
27.2 <u>Elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo</u> (C 93/15; C 93/15-Corr.1)	
27.3 <u>Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference</u> <u>to the Staff Pension Committee (C 93/16)</u>	
27.3 <u>Nominations des représentants de la Conférence</u> <u>de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel (C 93/16)</u>	632
27.3 <u>Nombramiento de Representantes de la Conferencia de</u> <u>la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (C 93/16)</u>	
<u>PART V - OTHER MATTERS</u>	
<u>CINQUIEME PARTIE - QUESTIONS DIVERSES</u>	
<u>PARTE V - OTROS ASUNTOS</u>	
28. <u>Date and Place of the Twenty-eighth Conference Session</u>	
28. <u>Date et lieu de la vingt-huitième session de la</u> <u>Conférence</u>	633
28. <u>Fecha y lugar del 28º período de sesiones de la</u> <u>Conferencia</u>	
29. <u>Any Other Matters</u>	
29. <u>Autres questions</u>	633
29. <u>Otros asuntos</u>	
- <u>IN MEMORIAM</u>	
- <u>IN MEMORIAM</u>	633
- <u>IN MEMORIAM</u>	
<u>PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)</u>	
<u>QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)</u>	634
<u>PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)</u>	
27. <u>Appointments</u>	
27. <u>Nominations</u>	634
27. <u>Nombramientos</u>	

27.2	<u>Election of Independent Chairman of the Council</u> (C 93/15/ C 93/15-Corr.1)	
27.2	<u>Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil</u> (C 93/15; C 93/15-Corr.1)	634
27.2	<u>Elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo</u> (C 93/15; C 93/15-Corr.1)	

NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
19ª SESION PLENARIA

(24 November 1993)

	<u>PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS</u> (continued)	
	<u>QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS</u> (suite)	654
	<u>PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES</u> (continuación)	
27.	<u>Appointments</u> (continued)	
27.	<u>Nominations</u> (suite)	654
27.	<u>Nombramientos</u> (continuación)	
27.3	<u>Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference</u> <u>to the Staff Pension Committee</u> (C 93/16) (continued)	
27.3	<u>Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la</u> <u>FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel</u> (C 93/16)	654
27.3	<u>Nombramiento de Representantes de la Conferencia de la</u> <u>FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal</u> (C 93/16)	
	(continuación)	
	<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u> (continued)	
	<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u> (suite)	655
	<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u> (continuación)	
	<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 6 (from Commission II)</u> (C 93/REP/6)	
	<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SIXIEME PARTIE</u> (émanant de la Commission II) (C 93/REP/6)	655
	<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 6</u> (de la Comisión II) (C 93/REP/6)	
9.	<u>Programme Implementation Report</u> (paras 1-17)	
9.	<u>Rapport d'exécution du Programme</u> (par. 1-17)	655
9.	<u>Informe sobre la ejecución del programa</u> (párrs. 1-17)	
.	<u>General</u> (paras 1-4)	
-	<u>Généralités</u> (par. 1-4)	655
-	<u>Aspectos generales</u> (párrs. 1-4)	
-	<u>Director-General's Introduction</u> (para. 5)	
-	<u>Introduction du Directeur général</u> (par. 5)	655
-	<u>Introducción del Director General</u> (párr. 5)	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
- <u>Chapter 1: Overview of FAO Action in 1992-93</u> (para. 6)	
- <u>Chapitre 1: Vue d'ensemble de l'action de la FAO en 1992-93</u> (par. 6)	655
- <u>Capítulo 1 : Panorama de las actividades de la FAO 1992-93</u> (párr. 6)	
- <u>Chapter 2: Resources</u> (paras 7-10)	
- <u>Chapitre 2 : Ressources</u> (par. 7-10)	655
- <u>Capítulo 2: Recursos</u> (párrs. 7-10)	
- <u>Chapter 3 : Selected Qualitative Features of Programme Delivery</u> (paras 7-10)	
- <u>Chapitre 3 : Quelques données qualitatives sur l'exécution du Programme</u> (par. 7-10)	655
- <u>Capítulo 3 : Algunos aspectos cualitativos de la realización del programa</u> (párrs. 7-10)	
- <u>Chapter 4 : Achievements of the Technical and Economic Programmes</u> (paras 7-10)	
- <u>Chapitre 4 : Résultats obtenus dans le cadre des programmes techniques et économiques</u> (par. 7-10)	655
- <u>Capítulo 4 : Logros de los programas técnicos y económicos</u> (párr. 7-10)	
- <u>Chapter 5: Development Support and Project Operations</u>	
- <u>Chapitre 5 : Soutien du développement et opérations au titre des projets</u>	655
- <u>Capítulo 5: Apoyo al desarrollo y operaciones de los proyectos</u>	
- <u>Chapter 6 : International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (ICPF/SARD): The Streamlining of Special Action Programmes and Improved Management of Field Activities</u> (paras 11-13)	
- <u>Chapitre 6: Programme-cadre de coopération internationale pour l'agriculture et le développement rural durables (PCCI/ADRD): la rationalisation des programmes d'action spéciaux et l'amélioration de la gestion des activités de terrain</u> (par. 11-13)	655
- <u>Capítulo 6 : Marco internacional de programas de cooperación para la agricultura y el desarrollo rural sostenibles (MIPC/ADRS): Agilización de los programas especiales de acción y mejora de la gestión de las actividades de campo</u> (párrs. 11-13)	
- <u>Supplement 1: Operational Activities for Development</u> (paras 14-16)	
- <u>Supplément 1: Activités opérationnelles de développement</u> (par. 14-16)	655
- <u>Suplemento 1 : Actividades operacionales en favor del desarrollo</u> (párrs. 14-16)	

<u>Future Versions of the Programme Implementation Report</u> (para. 17)	
- <u>Versions futures du rapport d'exécution du Programme</u> (par. 17)	655
- <u>Futuras versiones del Informe sobre la ejecución del programa</u> (párr. 17)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 7 (from Commission II)</u> (C 93/REP/7)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SEPTIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)</u> (C 93/REP/7)	656
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 7</u> (de la Comisión II) (C 93/REP/7)	
10. <u>Programme Evaluation Report 1992-93</u> (paras 1-17)	
10. <u>Rapport d'évaluation du Programme, 1992-93</u> (par. 1-17)	656
10. <u>Informe sobre la evaluación del programa de 1992-93</u> (párrs. 1-17)	
- <u>Part One - In-depth Review of Selected Programmes</u> (paras 7-10)	
- <u>Première partie - Examen approfondi de quelques Programmes</u> (par. 7-10)	656
- <u>Parte Uno: Examen en profundidad de determinandos programas</u> (párrs. 7-10)	
- <u>Part Two - Evaluation of Field Programmes</u> (paras. 11-13)	
- <u>Deuxième partie - Evaluation des programmes de terrain</u> (par. 11-13)	656
- <u>Parte Dos : Evaluación de los programas de campo</u> (párrs. 11-13)	
- <u>Part Three - In-Depth Review of Thematic Topics</u> (paras 14-17)	
- <u>Troisième partie - Examen approfondi de questions thématiques</u> (par. 14-17)	656
- <u>Parte Tres : Examen en profundidad de temas concretos</u> (párrs. 14-17)	
11. <u>Medium-term Plan 1994-99</u> (paras 18-42)	
11. <u>Plan à moyen terme 1994-99</u> (par. 18-42)	656
11. <u>Plan a Plazo Medio 1994-99</u> (párrs. 18-42)	
- <u>General</u> (paras 18-21)	
- <u>Généralités</u> (par. 18-21)	656
- <u>Aspectos generales</u> (párrs. 18-21)	
- <u>Director-General's Introduction</u>	
- <u>Introduction du Directeur général</u>	656
- <u>Introducción del Director General</u>	
- <u>Chapter 1: The Context of FAO's Action</u> (paras 22-26)	
- <u>Chapitre 1: Contexte de l'action de la FAO</u> (par. 22-26)	656
- <u>Capítulo 1: El marco de acción de la FAO</u> (párrs. 22-26)	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
- <u>Chapter 2: Cross-Sectoral Priorities</u> (paras 27-32)	
- <u>Chapitre 2: Priorités intersectorielles</u> (par. 27-32)	656
- <u>Capítulo 2: Prioridades intersectoriales</u> (párrs. 27-32)	
- <u>Chapter 3: Programme Priorities</u> (paras 33-38)	
- <u>Chapitre 3 : Priorités du Programme</u> (par. 33-38)	656
- <u>Capítulo 3: Prioridades programáticas</u> (párrs. 33-38)	
- <u>Chapter 4: Regional Issues and Priorities</u> (paras 39-40)	
- <u>Chapitre 4: Questions et priorités régionales</u> (par. 39-40)	656
- <u>Capítulo 4 : Problemas y prioridades a nivel regional</u> (párrs. 39-40)	
- <u>Chapter 5 : Resources</u> (paras 41-42)	
- <u>Chapitre 5 : Ressources</u> (par. 41-42)	656
- <u>Capítulo 5: Recursos</u> (párrs. 41-42)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 8 (from Commission II)</u> (C 93/REP/8)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE</u> (émanant de la Commission II) (C 93/REP/8)	656
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 8 (de la</u> <u>Comisión II) (C 93/REP/8)</u>	
13. <u>Procedure for Global Harmonization of Plant</u> <u>Quarantine</u> (paras 1-4)	
13. <u>Procédures pour l'harmonisation mondiale de la</u> <u>quarantaine végétale</u> (par. 1-4)	656
13. <u>Procedimientos para la armonización mundial de la</u> <u>cuarentena de las plantas</u> (párrs. 1-4)	
14. <u>United Nations FAO/World Food Programme Pledging</u> <u>Target 1995-96</u> (paras 5-11)	
14. <u>Objectif de contributions au Programme alimentaire</u> <u>mondial ONU/FAO, 1995-96</u> (par. 5-11)	656
14. <u>Objetivo de promesas de contribución al Programa</u> <u>Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO para el</u> <u>período 1995-96</u> (párrs. 5-11)	
- <u>WFP Proposed Pledging Target 1993-94</u> <u>(Resolution .../93)</u> (para. 11)	
- <u>Objectif de contributions au PAM pour la période</u> <u>1995-96 (Résolution .../93)</u> (par. 11)	656
- <u>Objetivo propuesto de promesas de contribución al</u> <u>PMA para el período 1995-96 (Resolución .../93)</u> (párr. 11)	
15. <u>Relations with Other Organizations</u> (paras 12-27)	
15. <u>Relations avec d'autres organisations</u> (par. 12-27)	656
15. <u>Relaciones con otras organizaciones</u> (párrs. 12-27)	
15.1 <u>Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to</u> <u>FAO</u> (paras 12-18)	
15.1 <u>Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des</u> <u>Nations Unies intéressant la FAO</u> (par. 12-18)	656
15.1 <u>Novedades recientes en el sistema de las Naciones</u> <u>Unidas de interés para la FAO</u> (párrs. 12-18)	

15.2	<u>Recent Developments in FAO' s Cooperation with Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations</u> (paras 19-27)	
15.2	<u>Faits nouveaux concernant la coopération de la FAO avec les organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales</u> (par. 19-27)	656
15.2	<u>Novedades recientes en la cooperación de la FAO con otras organizaciones intergubernamentales y no gubernamentales</u> (párrs. 19-27)	
	<u>Ninth Report of the General Committee (C 93/LIM/44)</u> <u>Neuvième rapport du Bureau (C 93/LIM/44)</u> <u>Noveno informe del Comité General (C 93/LIM/44)</u>	657
	<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 9 (C 93/REP/9)</u> <u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - NEUVIEME PARTIE (C 93/REP/9)</u> <u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 9 (C 93/REP/9)</u>	657
	<u>Statements by Heads of Delegations in the General Discussion</u> (para. 1) <u>Déclarations des Chefs de délégation au cours du débat général</u> (par. 1) <u>Declaraciones de los Jefes de Delegación</u> (párr. 1)	657
26.	<u>Election of Council Members</u> (paras 2-3)	
26.	<u>Election des membres du Conseil</u> (par. 2-3)	657
26.	<u>Elección de los Miembros del Consejo</u> (párrs. 2-3)	
27.	<u>Appointments</u> (paras 4-8)	
27.	<u>Nominations</u> (par. 4-8)	657
27.	<u>Nombramientos</u> (párrs. 4-8)	
27.1	<u>Appointment of the Director-General (Resolution .../93)</u> (paras 4-6)	
27.1	<u>Nomination du Directeur général (Résolution .../93)</u> (par. 4-6)	657
27.1	<u>Nombramiento del Director General (Resolución .../93)</u> (párrs. 4-6)	
27.2	<u>Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council (Resolution .../93)</u> (paras 7-8)	
27.2	<u>Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (Résolution .../93)</u> (par. 7-8)	657
27.2	<u>Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (Resolución .../93)</u> (párrs. 7-8)	
28.	<u>Date and Place of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference</u> (para. 9)	
28.	<u>Date et lieu de la vingt-huitième session de la Conférence</u> (par. 9)	657
28.	<u>Fecha y lugar del 28º período de sesiones de la Conferencia</u> (párr. 9)	
29.	<u>Any other matters</u> (para. 10)	
29.	<u>Autres questions</u> (par. 10)	674
29.	<u>Otros asuntos</u> (párr. 10)	

- <u>In Memoriam</u>	
- <u>In Memoriam</u>	674
- <u>In Memoriam</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 10 (from Commission III)</u> (C 93/REP/10)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DIXIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III) (C 93/REP/10)</u>	676
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 10 (de la Comisión III) (C 93/REP/10)</u>	
16. <u>Statutory Report on Status of Conventions and Agreements, and Amendments thereto</u> (paras 1-12)	
16. <u>Rapport statutaire sur l'état des conventions et accords et sur les amendements y relatifs</u> (par. 1-12)	676
16. <u>Informe reglamentario sobre el estado de las convenciones y acuerdos y de las enmiendas a los mismos</u> (párrs. 1-12)	
- <u>Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Director-General</u> (paras 1-4)	
- <u>Traités multilatéraux dont le Directeur général est dépositaire</u> (par. 1-4)	676
- <u>Tratados multilaterales depositados en poder del Director General</u> (párrs. 1-4)	
17. <u>Amendment to Rule XXXIV GRO regarding Terms of Reference of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) (Resolution .../93)</u> (paras 5-8)	
17. <u>Amendement de l'Article XXXIV (RGO) relatif au mandat du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ) (Résolution .../93)</u> (par. 5-8)	676
17. <u>Enmienda al Artículo XXXIV del Reglamento General de la Organización en relación con el mandato del CACJ (Resolución .../93)</u> (párrs. 5-8)	
18. <u>Amendment to Paragraph 10 of Appendix to Conference Resolution 46/57 (Part R of the Basic Texts) (Resolution .../93)</u> (paras 9-12)	
18. <u>Amendement au paragraphe 10 de l'annexe à la Résolution 46/57 de la Conférence (Section R des Textes fondamentaux) (Résolution .../93)</u> (par. 9-12)	680
18. <u>Enmienda del Párrafo 10 del Apéndice a la Resolución 46/57 de la Conferencia (parte R de los Textos Fundamentales) (Resolución .../93)</u> (párrs. 9-12)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 11 (from Commission II)</u> (C 93/REP/11)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - ONZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III) (C 93/REP/11)</u>	680
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 11 (de la Comisión III) (C 93/REP/11)</u>	

19.	<u>Other Constitutional and Legal Matters</u> (paras 1-29)	
19.	<u>Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques</u> (par. 1-29)	680
19.	<u>Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos</u> (párrs. 1-29)	
19.1	<u>Abolition of the Panel of Experts on Emergency Action Against the Desert Locust and Other Crop Pests and Abolition of the Advisory Panel on Epizootiology (Resolution .../93)</u> (paras 1-2)	
19.1	<u>Suppression du Groupe d'experts chargé des mesures d'urgence contre le criquet pèlerin et autres ennemis des cultures et suppression du Groupe consultatif sur l'épizootologie (Résolution .../93)</u> (par. 1-2)	680
19.1	<u>Supresión del Cuadro de Expertos en medidas de urgencia contra la langosta del desierto y otras plagas de los cultivos y supresión del Cuadro Asesor sobre Epizootiología (Resolución .../93)</u> (párrs. 1-2)	
19.2	<u>Draft International Agreement on the Flagging on Vessels Fishing on the High Seas (Resolution .../93 and Appendix ...)</u> (paras 3-14)	
19.2	<u>Projet d'Accord international sur l'attribution d'un pavillon aux navires pêchant en haute mer (Résolution .../93 et annexe ...)</u> (par. 3-14)	680
19.2	<u>Proyecto de Acuerdo internacional sobre el abanderamiento de los buques pesqueros que pescan en alta mar (Resolución .../93 y Apéndice ...)</u> (párrs. 3-14)	
19.3	<u>Cooperation Agreement between the Organization for the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Appendix ...)</u> (paras 15-19)	
19.3	<u>Accord de coopération entre l'Organisation du Réseau de centres d'aquaculture de la Région Asie et Pacifique (RCAAP) et l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) (annexe ...)</u> (par. 15-19)	680
19.3	<u>Acuerdo de cooperación entre la Organización para la red de centros de acuicultura de Asia y el Pacífico (NACA) y la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO) (Apéndice ...)</u> (párrs. 15-19)	
19.4	<u>Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (Resolution .../93 and Appendix ...)</u> (paras 20-29)	
19.4	<u>Accord portant création de la Commission des thons de l'océan Indien (Résolution .../93 et annexe ...)</u> (par. 20-29)	680
19.4	<u>Acuerdo para la creación de la Comisión del Atún para el Océano Índico (Resolución .../93 y Apéndice ...)</u> (párrs. 20-29)	

TWENTIETH PLENARY MEETING
VINGTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
20ª SESION PLENARIA

(24 November 1993)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u> (continued)	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u> (suite)	688
<u>ABROBACION DEL INFORME</u> (continuación)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 12</u> (from Commission III) (C 93/REP/12)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DOUZIEME PARTIE</u> (émanant de la Commission III) (C 93/REP/12)	688
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 12</u> (de la Commision III) (C 93/REP/12)	
20. <u>Audited Accounts</u>	
20. <u>Comptes vérifiés</u>	688
20. <u>Cuentas comprobadas</u>	
- <u>Regular Programme 1990-91</u>	
- <u>Programme ordinaire 1990-91</u>	688
- <u>Programa Ordinario, 1990-91</u>	
- <u>United Nations Development Programme</u>	
- <u>Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement</u>	688
- <u>Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo</u>	
. <u>World Food programme 1990-91</u>	
- <u>Programme alimentaire mondial 1990-91</u>	688
- <u>Programa Mundial de Alimentos, 1990-91</u>	
20.1 <u>Follow-up to External Auditors' Recommendations</u> <u>Resolution ... /93</u> (paras 1-4)	
20.1 <u>Suivi des recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes</u> <u>(Résolution .../93)</u> (par. 1-4)	688
20.1 <u>Aplicación de las recomendaciones del Auditor</u> <u>Externo (Resolución .../93)</u> (párrs. 1-4)	
21. <u>Scale of Contributions 1994-95 (Resolution .../93</u> <u>and Appendix ...)</u> (paras 5-6)	
21. <u>Barème des contributions 1994-95 (Résolution .../93</u> <u>et Annexe)</u> (par. 5-6)	688
21. <u>Escala de cuotas para 1994-95 (Resolución .../93 v</u> <u>Apéndice ...)</u> (párrs. 5-6)	
22. <u>Financial Position of the Organization</u>	
22. <u>Situation financière de l'Organisation</u>	688
22. <u>Situación financiera de la Organización</u>	
22.1 <u>Status of Contributions</u>	
22.1 <u>Situation des contributions</u>	688
22.1 <u>Estado de las cuotas</u>	

-	<u>Measures to Improve the Collection of Contributions</u> (Appendix ...) (paras 7-11)	
-	<u>Mesures visant à améliorer le recouvrement des contributions ordinaires (Annexe ...) (par. 7-11)</u>	688
-	<u>Medidas para mejorar la recaudación de las cuotas</u> (Apéndice ...) (párrs. 7-11)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 11 (from Commission III)</u> (continued)		
	<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - ONZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III) (suite)</u>	698
	<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 11 (de la Comisión III) (continuación)</u>	
19.2	<u>Draft International Agreement on the Flagging of Vessels Fishing on the High Seas (Resolution .../93 and Appendix ...) (paras. 3-14)</u>	
19.2	<u>Projet d'Accord international sur l'attribution d'un pavillon aux navires pêchant en haute mer (Résolution .../93 et Annexe...) (par. 3-14)</u>	698
19.2	<u>Proyecto de Acuerdo internacional sobre el abanderamiento de los buques pesqueros que pescan en alta mar (Resolución .../93 v Apéndice ...) (párrs. 3-14)</u>	
19.3	<u>Cooperation Agreement between the Organization for the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Appendix ...) (paras 15-19)</u>	
19.3	<u>Accord de coopération entre l'Organisation du Réseau de centres d'aquaculture de la région Asie et Pacifique (RCAAP) et l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) (Annexe ...) (par. 15-19)</u>	698
19.3	<u>Acuerdo de cooperación entre la Organización para la red de centros de acuicultura de Asia y el Pacífico (NACA) y la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO) (Apéndice ...) (párrs. 15-19)</u>	
19.4	<u>Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (Resolution .../93 and Appendix ...) (paras 20-29)</u>	
19.4	<u>Accord portant création de la Commission des thons de l'océan Indien (Résolution .../93 et Annexe ...) (par. 20-29)</u>	707
19.4	<u>Acuerdo para la creación de la Comisión del Atún para el Océano Índico (Resolución .../93 y Apéndice ...) (párrs. 20-29)</u>	

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 13 (from Commission III)
(C 93/REP/13)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TREIZIEME PARTIE
(émanant de la Commission III) (C 93/REP/13)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 13 (de la
Comisión III) (C 93/REP/13)

24.	<u>Other Administrative and Financial Matters</u> (paras 1-23)	
24.	<u>Autres questions administratives et financières</u> (par. 1-23)	709
24.	<u>Otros asuntos administrativos v financieros</u> (párrs. 1-23)	
24.2	<u>Personnel Matters</u> (paras 1-7)	
24.2	<u>Questions de personnel</u> (par. 1-7)	709
24.2	<u>Asuntos de personal</u> (párrs. 1-7)	
-	<u>Recent developments in the Activities of ICSC and</u> <u>the UN Joint Staff Pension Board</u> (paras 1-2)	
-	<u>Activités récentes de la CFPI et du Comité mixte</u> <u>de la Caisse commune des pensions du personnel des</u> <u>Nations unies</u> (par. 1-2)	709
-	<u>Ultimas novedades en las actividades de la CAPI v del</u> <u>Comité Mixto de Pensiones del Personal de las</u> <u>Naciones Unidas</u> (párrs. 1-2)	
-	<u>Staff Post Adjustment Problems arising from the</u> <u>Italian Lira Devaluation</u> (paras 3-5)	
-	<u>Problème d'ajustement de poste résultant de la</u> <u>dévaluation de la lire italienne</u> (par. 3-5)	709
-	<u>Problemas del ajuste por lucrar de destino derivados</u> <u>de la devaluación de la lira italiana</u> (párrs. 3-5)	
-	<u>Personnel Statistics</u> (para. 6)	
-	<u>Statistiques relatives au personnel</u> (par. 6)	709
-	<u>Estadísticas de los servicios de personal</u> (párr. 6)	
	<u>Statement of Staff Representatives</u> (para. 7)	
	<u>Déclaration des représentants du personnel</u> (par. 7)	709
	<u>Declaración del representante del personal</u> (párr. 7)	
24.3	<u>Commissary Accounts (Resolution .../93)</u> (paras 8-10)	
24.3	<u>Comptes du Groupement d'achats (Résolution .../93)</u> (par. 8-10)	709
24.3	<u>Cuentas del Economato (Resolución .../93)</u> (párrs. 8-10)	
24.4	<u>Other Matters</u> (paras 11-22)	
24.4	<u>Autres questions</u> (par. 11-22)	709
24.4	<u>Otros asuntos</u> (párrs. 11-22)	
-	<u>Assessed contribution of Czechoslovakia</u> (paras 11-14)	
-	<u>Contribution de la Tchécoslovaquie</u> (par. 11-14)	709
-	<u>Cuota de Checoslovaguia</u> (párrs. 11-14)	

-	<u>Payment by the European Economic Community to cover Administrative and Other Expenses arising out of its Membership in the Organization</u> (paras 15-23)	
-	<u>Païement par la Communauté économique européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation</u> (par. 15-23)	709
-	<u>Pago de la Comunidad Económica Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otra índole derivados de su condición de miembros de la Organización</u> (párrs. 15-23)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 14 (from Commission III)</u> (C 93/REP/14)		
	<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - QUATORZIEME PARTIE</u> (émanant de la Commission III) (C 93/REP/14)	709
	<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 14 (de la Comisión III)</u> (C 93/REP/14)	
23.	<u>Trust Funds/Support Costs Reimbursement</u> (paras 1-10)	
23.	<u>Fonds fiduciaires/Remboursement des dépenses d'appui</u> (par. 1-10)	709
23.	<u>Reembolso de los Gastos de apoyo/Fondos Fiduciarios</u> (párrs. 1-10)	
-	<u>Background</u> (paras 1-6)	
-	<u>Généralités</u> (par. 1-6)	709
-	<u>Antecedentes</u> (párrs. 1-6)	
-	<u>Conclusion</u> (paras 7-10)	
-	<u>Conclusion</u> (par. 7-10)	709
-	<u>Conclusión</u> (párrs. 7-10)	



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 93/PV/1

Twenty Seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(6 November 1993)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours

Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50

sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

OPENING OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH CONFERENCE SESSION
OUVERTURE DE LA VINGT-SEPTIEME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE
INAUGURACION DEL 2 7º PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA

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

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je déclare ouverte la vingt-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO.

C'est la neuvième fois, depuis 1977, que pareil honneur m'échoit; c'est aussi la dernière.

Notre Organisation à 48 ans; nous venons de fêter son anniversaire.

A sa naissance, elle comptait 34 Etats Membres; ils vont être demain 169, plus un membre associé.

A sa naissance, il y avait dans le monde environ 2 milliards et demi de bouches à nourrir; nous approchons aujourd'hui les 6 milliards.

A sa naissance, l'humanité sortait à peine de la guerre la plus meurtrière de tous les temps.

Il n'y a pas eu de conflagration mondiale depuis 1945, mais combien de millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants sont-ils morts, rien qu'au cours des quatre ou cinq dernières années, dans des guerres qui ne cessent d'ensanglanter la planète?

Combien de réfugiés et de personnes déplacées ont tout perdu - leur terre, leur maison, leurs moyens de subsistance?

Tirailés entre espoir et angoisse, nous voyons les bouleversements politiques se succéder à un rythme accéléré, entraînant presque toujours la désagrégation des structures administratives, économiques et agricoles.

La récession économique se prolonge dans tous les pays occidentaux; le chômage atteint des niveaux alarmants; dans les pays les riches, les poches de pauvreté s'élargissent.

On attendait des négociations multilatérales du GATT qu'elles apportent un peu plus d'équité dans les échanges mondiaux et des chances économiques accrues pour les pays du tiers monde; or, elles tournent à l'affrontement entre pays riches.

Pendant ce temps, l'Afrique s'enfonce dans la misère.

Pollution ici, et là dégradation des terres et désertification: partout, les atteintes à l'environnement et aux ressources naturelles se font chaque jour plus graves et menacent d'atteindre le seuil de l'irréversible.

Sombre tableau, direz-vous.

Sans doute, même si l'on voit çà et là s'allumer quelques lueurs de paix, s'amorcer une démocratisation, percer quelques signes de décollage ou de reprise économique.

Mais une chose me frappe, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués: parmi tous les points que je viens de citer, il n'en est pas un qui ne doit peser sur vos délibérations, qui ne concerne la FAO et n'appelle une action de sa part.

C'est dire l'importance exceptionnelle de cette vingt-septième session où vous allez arrêter les programmes de l'Organisation, définir les grandes orientations à moyen terme, confier à un nouveau Directeur général le soin de mettre en oeuvre vos décisions et de piloter le navire FAO à travers des eaux tumultueuses.

En ouvrant cette session et en vous souhaitant cordialement la bienvenue, je voudrais inviter instamment chacun et chacune d'entre vous à faire une pause de réflexion, à bien se pénétrer de la gravité de la mission qui lui incombe, à peser mûrement chaque décision puisqu'elles vont exercer une influence déterminante sur la vie et le destin de nos contemporains - ruraux ou citadins, riches ou pauvres -, mais également sur les générations futures.

Je vous souhaite donc des délibérations fructueuses non seulement pour le bien de l'Organisation, mais surtout pour l'humanité tout entière.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-chairmen
1. Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents
1. Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: La première des décisions qui incombent à la Conférence est d'élire le Président de sa vingt-septième session.

Conformément à l'Article XIV du Règlement général de l'Organisation. Le Conseil a approuvé la candidature de Son Excellence M. Seymour Mullings, Premier Ministre adjoint et Ministre de l'agriculture de la Jamaïque. Le rapport pertinent du Conseil vous a été distribué sous la cote C 93/LIM/1.

J'ai maintenant l'honneur de soumettre cette candidature à l'approbation de la Conférence.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I declare His Excellency, the Hon. Seymour Mullings elected as Chairman of the 27th Session of the FAO Conference. I congratulate him on his election and I also wish to congratulate the Conference in its wise decision. Mr Mullings's outstanding political career makes him particularly qualified to chair this important Session. As a

Member of Parliament and in the best political tradition of Jamaica, his exemplary service to his community has caused him to be re-elected at every election contested by his party during the past twenty-four years. As a Government Minister, he has displayed wisdom, skill and hard work in dealing with a succession of increasingly complex portfolios. The election of Mr Mullings will also enable us to draw on his long experience in dealing with the specific problems of an island country to which FAO attributes particular importance. Moreover, he will bring to our proceedings that gift for forging cooperation and unity out of diversity which is the hallmark of Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Mr Minister, we are pleased and proud to welcome you. I am certain that under your wise chairmanship the debates of this Conference will proceed smoothly and that important decisions will be taken. May I assure you that the Secretariat and myself will lend you our unfailing support in the performance of the important task that has been entrusted to you.

Mr Chairman, may I invite you to take your place on the podium in order to chair this Session.

Mr Seymour Mullings took the chair

M. Seymour Mullings assume la Présidence

Ocupa la presidencia el Sr. Seymour Mullings

Address by the Chairman of the Conference

Discours du Président de la Conférence

Discurso del Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: Mr Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am most pleased to accept the great honour that Conference has bestowed on me in electing me Chairman of this 27th Session.

The Conference is the supreme governing body of FAO and is also the major forum for the discussion of food and agriculture issues. As Chairman, I intend to facilitate this discussion by ensuring that all member countries have the opportunity to express their views. It is also my intention to ensure that meaningful resolutions are arrived at on issues which are of concern to us.

Jamaica, which I have the honour to represent, has been a member country of FAO since 1963 and my presence here in the capacity of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture is a continued expression of our support for this great Organization.

Founded forty-eight years ago the FAO has become the largest autonomous agency of the United Nations with a professional staff of over 2 000. Many have questioned whether this is too large a bureaucracy. We should not lose sight of the fact, however, that FAO has been reorganized and streamlined on a continuing basis to ensure that it continues to be effective. I therefore believe that in its forty-eight years of existence we have developed an organization which has served us well in implementing FAO's mandate.

This mandate to increase levels of nutrition and improve agricultural productivity in order to better the condition of rural populations, is

still relevant, today perhaps even more so, given the increasing threats to sustainable agricultural development.

As a truly neutral forum FAO is still best able to implement this mandate. This is attested to by the fact that FAO-assisted projects attract more than \$2 000 million per year from donor agencies and governments for investment in agriculture and rural development projects.

I am therefore confident, as we come to what can be regarded as acritical crossroads in the life of the Organization, that we have both the will and the determination to make whatever changes are necessary to ensure that FAO is even more effective and responsive to the increasing expectations of its member countries.

It is for these reasons that I would like to draw the attention of the Conference to the theme which was chosen for this Year's World Food Day -"Harvesting Nature's Diversity". This theme is of great significance since it aims at increasing the level of awareness to the threat posed to biodiversity by certain activities being carried out by mankind. It challenges us also to mobilize effective action to conserve the level of diversity which now exists, and to ensure that it is utilized by all the nations of the earth in an equitable and sustainable manner.

The diversity of life on this planet, including plants, animals and the ecosystems of which they are a part, acts as a buffer, stabilizing agro-ecosystems in the face of changing environmental conditions. It has taken 3 000 million years of evolution to achieve the present level of diversity and its loss would be a serious threat to our food security; and would undermine sustainable agriculture, rural development and environmental equilibrium.

The Conference must note that the very survival of the human race is being threatened by this reduction in biodiversity and the activities which give rise to it. Excessive land use and deforestation have increased desertification and soil loss at an alarming rate. In the last ten years, 154 million hectares of tropical forest, the main reservoir of biodiversity, have been destroyed. Moreover oceanic ecosystems are being poisoned by industrial and urban waste and destruction of marine habitats is reducing the genetic diversity needed for the survival of many species.

Sustainable agricultural development can only take place if biodiversity is safeguarded and this in turn can only be assured if there is more balance and equity in the use of the world resources so that the poor and hungry will not have to struggle so desperately, and sometimes destructively, to survive.

Recent Conference initiatives include the adoption of a world food security compact and an international code of conduct on pesticide distribution and use. This session of the Conference should achieve no less and must take concerted action in devising ways to reduce deforestation and to accelerate the development of sustainable agriculture in developing countries.

The achievement of this objective has serious implications for the Programme of Work and Budget. I urge the Conference to review this in a critical yet positive manner. In this context I would also urge that the Conference examine in detail the Programme Implementation Report for 1992-93. The period covered in this Report is of special significance since, hopefully, it marks the beginning of the end of the protracted period of

financial difficulties for FAO. It will also be imperative to observe how effectively the Organization has used the resources available to it. At the end of this process I hope we will be able to achieve consensus on the budget for 1994-95.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is not easy to find words adequate enough to pay tribute to the man who has faithfully and successfully guided the affairs of FAO for the past eighteen years. Dr Edouard Saouma is the sixth Director-General of FAO but has served the Organization in a much wider capacity. Beginning in 1955 he has served for nearly forty years as a member and leader of his country's delegation to FAO's governing bodies, including the Programme Committee; as deputy regional representative for Asia and the Far East; and as Director of the Land and Water Division.

Dr Saouma has been regarded throughout his career as a pioneer and a man of action in the struggle to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. Under his leadership, FAO has become more action-oriented in meeting the practical needs of its Member Nations. He is also known for achieving consensus on a wide range of complex political questions thus enhancing FAO's role as a neutral forum for reaching international accord on vital food and agricultural issues. As he prepares to take leave of FAO I am sure the Conference wishes to express profound gratitude to Dr Saouma and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavours.

Finally, it is also appropriate for me to commend the Director-General and the Conference Secretariat for the arrangements which have been made for the conduct of the Conference. I am confident that their hard work and professionalism will contribute greatly to the effectiveness of the Conference.

Once again, I thank the Conference for the confidence it has shown in me, I can only reiterate that I will strive to achieve a successful outcome which can set FAO on a productive and positive path to the 21st century. I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provide that the Nominations Committee shall propose to the Conference candidates for the three posts of Vice-chairmen of the Conference, the seven elected members of the General Committee of the Conference, and the nine elected members of the Credentials Committee. The Nominations Committee which has to make the proposals was elected by the FAO Council at its 104th Session held between the 2nd and 5th days of November. This Committee met on Friday 5th November and drew up its recommendations for the posts just mentioned. I shall now ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Mr Robert Andrigo of Canada, to place before the Conference the nominations agreed to by this Committee, starting with the three Vice-chairmen of the Conference.

Robert ANDRIGO (Chairman, Nominations Committee): In accordance with Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference: Majid-UI-Huq Minister for

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Food Control, Bangladesh; Jacques Laureau, Ambassador to FAO, France; Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Minister Plenipotentiary to FAO, Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of) .

CHAIRMAN: You have just heard the proposals of the Nominations Committee in respect of the three Vice-chairmen of the Conference. Are there any objections? Then these proposals are adopted.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee
2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs
2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales

Robert ANDRIGO (Chairman, Nominations Committee) : In accordance with Rule X of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference: Cuba, Fiji, Ghana, Lebanon, Malaysia, Netherlands and the United States of America.

CHAIRMAN: You have just heard the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee. Are there any objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: There being no objections, I consider these seven Member Nations to be elected to serve on the General Committee of the Conference.

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

Robert ANDRIGO (Chairman, Nominations Committee) : In accordance with Rule III of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference: Angola, Australia, China, Cyprus, Germany, Honduras, Nigeria, Philippines and Romania.

CHAIRMAN: You have just heard the nominations for the Credentials Committee. Are there any objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: There being no objections, I consider these nine Member Nations duly appointed to constitute the Credentials Committee of the Conference. That completes the report of the Nominations Committee. I should like to thank Mr Andriago and his Committee for having assisted the Conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have concluded the first part of the provisional agenda quite early. We are expecting to receive two very distinguished and eminent personages to be with us later this morning. Until 11.00, when they are expected to arrive, I ask that you take a short break, and we will resume at five minutes to eleven.

The meeting was suspended from 10.20 until 11.00 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 20 à 11 heures.

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.20 a las 11.00 horas.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Director-General, Excellencies, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to welcome in our midst two distinguished guests who have kindly agreed to honour this Conference with their presence, H.E. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, President of Italy, on the occasion of the regrouping of all FAO Headquarters staff at Caracalla, and H.E. Elias Hraoui, President of Lebanon, who will deliver the McDougall Memorial Lecture. We are indeed honoured to have these two eminent personalities, the Heads of State of two republics that border the Mediterranean Sea, each of which countries has a long history and culture dating back to the early days of Western civilization.

May I at this stage give the floor to the Director-General.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL (Langue originale italienne): Monsieur le Président, l'immense privilège de recevoir la visite du Président de la République italienne, S.E. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, s'accompagne du plaisir énorme d'accueillir une personnalité qui a su mériter l'affection de tout un peuple et le respect des observateurs du monde entier.

Nous savons, Monsieur le Président, que ce n'est pas un hasard si, au moment où l'Italie se trouve à un tournant décisif de son histoire, c'est justement à vous que l'on a demandé de la représenter auprès des plus hautes instances. Votre longue et attentive présence sur la scène politique italienne vous désignait tout naturellement à cette tâche difficile mais aussi exaltante dont vous vous acquittez admirablement.

Quand, en 1951, quelques années seulement après sa fondation, la FAO a dû choisir où situer son Siège permanent, personne ne pouvait imaginer la satisfaction qu'auraient éprouvée l'Organisation et l'ensemble de ses Etats Membres du choix de l'Italie. Non seulement la FAO a la privilège d'être située au coeur d'une des zones urbaines les plus admirables du monde mais elle bénéficie, de la part de l'Italie, d'une générosité qui ne s'est jamais démentie.

Au cours des dix-huit ans que j'ai passés à la tête de cette organisation j'ai pu apprécier - et, tout comme moi, ses organes directeurs - la régularité et la ponctualité avec lesquelles l'Italie a honoré ses engagements et les a même dépassés. Je me limiterai à rappeler que le Gouvernement italien n'a pas hésité à octroyer les fonds nécessaires pour rénover les bâtiments qui nous abritent. Aujourd'hui, nous allons procéder

à l'inauguration officielle des nouvelles constructions qui ont été réalisées grâce à l'immense générosité du pays qui nous accueille. Et c'est pour vivre ce moment historique dans la vie de l'Organisation que le Président Scalfaro nous honore de sa présence. L'Organisation pourra bientôt célébrer son cinquantenaire dans le Siège le plus beau, le plus moderne et peut-être le plus prestigieux de l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies.

Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie, nous vous remercions tous de tout coeur pour votre munificence et, par votre entremise, nous remercions également le Gouvernement et le peuple italiens.

CHAIRMAN: It is with very great pleasure that I now invite President Scalfaro to make his statement to the Conference.

ADDRESS BY H.E. OSCAR LUIGI SCALFARO, PRESIDENT OF ITALY

ALLOCUTION DE SON EXCELLENCE M. OSCAR LUIGI SCALFARO, PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE ITALIENNE

ALOCUCION DEL EXCMO. SR. OSCAR LUIGI SCALFARO, PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA ITALIANA

Oscar Luigi SCALFARO (Président de la République italienne) (Langue originale italienne): Je salue le Président de la République du Liban, Monsieur Hraoui. Je salue également et je remercie le Directeur général, Monsieur Saouma, qui me rappelait, il y a quelques instants, l'usucapion. Et cela m'a fait grand plaisir.

Nous sommes à la vingt-septième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO et je tiens à saluer tous ceux qui sont présents ici. Je me sens très honoré de m'adresser à une assemblée aussi solennelle, aussi représentative. Je formule des vœux pour les travaux de cette vingt-septième session de la Conférence, alors que nous allons également avoir le plaisir d'inaugurer de nouveaux locaux. Il y a une habitude moderne à laquelle je ne suis pas tellement favorable, personnellement, qui consiste à dire combien on a dépensé.

De toutes façons, je crois que tout le monde le sait: ces travaux ont coûté de 30 à 35 milliards de liras. Mais je trouve qu'il est peu délicat de le dire car c'est comme si, lorsqu'on fait un cadeau, on disait: "J'ai payé ce cadeau très cher". Je crois qu'il vaut peut-être la peine de faire une exception - j'y reviendrai plus tard - car c'est là un signe qui montre dans quelle mesure l'Italie tient à la présence à Rome de cette institution qui a tant de mérite sur le plan des valeurs humaines, valeurs riches et essentielles pour lesquelles chacun d'entre nous s'est engagé à se battre.

Il y a des mots très laids, impressionnants, qui sont déjà graves en eux-mêmes lorsqu'ils annoncent des faits qui se déroulent loin de nous. Car nous sommes si misérables que, plus un mal se trouve éloigné, plus il nous semble mineur; par contre, s'il est près de nous, il nous semble plus grave. Il s'agit là de toute la grande question de la participation des hommes aux souffrances des autres: prendre pour soi les souffrances des autres. Paroles tristes, paroles impressionnantes: la pauvreté - on pourrait également parler de la misère qu'engendre la dégradation de tout ce qui serait indispensable pour vivre - la pénurie, la faim, la soif. Quand on prononce ces mots, on pense immédiatement aux millénaires passés

mais il s'agit, au contraire, de maux actuels qui persistent dans un monde que l'on dit être le monde du bien-être. Aujourd'hui encore, alors qu'il y a une immense crise économique, ces maux restent présents non seulement face à tout le bien-être que l'on peut observer mais à ce qui représente un chef d'accusation: tous les gâchis, qui n'en finissent pas dans le monde entier.

La FAO représente une réponse à tous ces maux, une réponse humaine pleine de noblesse. Il s'agit sans doute du plus grand effort de solidarité universelle pour essayer de contrecarrer ces agressions qui vont à l'encontre de l'homme. Mais c'est surtout une réponse vivante et vitale, une réponse présente, actuelle, d'aujourd'hui. Ces près de 50 ans d'existence, au lieu de montrer les rides de la vieillesse, marquent une vitalité croissante - et cela nous émeut. C'est une réponse vive, une réponse appropriée; et j'utilise ce terme particulièrement fort car il implique toute la question du professionnalisme. Combien de progrès a fait la FAO dans ce domaine pour que les réponses à ces souffrances soient professionnellement les plus adaptées, les plus actuelles et les plus appropriées. Et il y a un autre terme que je voudrais utiliser: je dirai que la FAO est une réponse convaincue - et c'est cela qui me touche le plus profondément.

Je dirai tout d'abord que la FAO croit à ce qu'elle fait. Les gens qui travaillent à la FAO croient à ce qu'ils font. C'est là la grande force de toute l'action de la FAO. Combien de programmes d'urgence ont été mis sur pied? Combien de plans régionaux et interrégionaux ont été élaborés? Toute cette activité, que l'on peut exprimer en peu de mots, suppose une attention exceptionnelle à la réalité de ce monde.

Ce sont là autant de questions qui m'inciteraient à faire de plus longs commentaires, mais ne prenez pas cela comme une menace !

Je dirai simplement que ces questions concernent les principes essentiels de l'homme qui doit s'efforcer de répondre aux exigences, et que cette attention exceptionnelle à la réalité du monde qu'il doit prêter pour l'élaboration des programmes suppose avant tout la capacité particulière de s'adapter aux exigences les plus diverses, aux traditions les plus diverses de ceux qui, face à la même agression, ont une façon de réagir et de souffrir qui varie d'un peuple à l'autre, d'une région à l'autre, selon les traditions, selon les moments, ou la réalité historique de ces peuples.

Depuis 1981 jusqu'à maintenant, 140 projets ont été réalisés d'un coût global de 340 millions de dollars. Ce sont des chiffres face auxquels, en tant que citoyen de ce monde et non pas en tant que Président de la République italienne, je me sens obligé de dire merci, un merci riche d'humanité, un merci qui renferme toute mon émotion.

L'Italie a l'honneur de vous accueillir ici - vous l'avez rappelé tout à l'heure - depuis avril 1951 et l'Italie tient beaucoup à cet honneur. Lorsque, Monsieur le Directeur général, vous avez dit tout à l'heure que Rome était peut-être l'un des sièges les plus accueillants parmi tous les sièges d'institutions internationales, en tant qu'Italien je me suis senti profondément ému. Mais, je le répète, l'Italie a l'honneur de vous accueillir, et cet honneur elle le ressent profondément.

Nous devons nous occuper, en particulier depuis la Conférence de Rio l'année dernière, de la question du développement durable et de l'environnement. C'est un sujet qui nous paraît fondamental, essentiel.

Cette question met en cause tout le rapport entre l'homme et son environnement. C'est une question qui s'est toujours posée de fait, mais qui, face aux désastres provoqués par l'homme et que l'homme pourrait encore provoquer, a attiré l'attention toute particulière des chercheurs du monde entier. Je dirai même plus, il ne s'agit pas seulement du rapport de l'homme et de l'environnement, il s'agit du rapport de l'homme avec les autres hommes, car lorsqu'il porte préjudice à l'environnement ou qu'il le détruit en tout ou en partie, l'homme rompt le rapport humain qui existe avec ses semblables. Il porte préjudice à ses semblables, aux hommes d'aujourd'hui et à ceux de demain. La rupture de ce rapport, le déséquilibre de ce rapport, le non-respect de ce rapport représentent une négation particulièrement dure de la solidarité humaine.

L'Italie pense avoir fait son devoir à la FAO en ce qui concerne la solidarité. On sait que l'Italie dispose maintenant de moins de possibilités, mais puisque ce qui compte avant tout c'est la vérité, nous devons dire que l'Italie dispose de moins de possibilités en raison d'une pénible page concernant le secteur de la coopération. Néanmoins, nous pensons toujours qu'il faut être sincère, et s'efforcer de surmonter les situations négatives en les occultant est une erreur. Mais la volonté de collaborer, d'être actif, d'exprimer notre solidarité avec efficacité ne s'éteindra jamais et cela n'est pas lié aux oscillations des possibilités économiques et financières.

Cela m'amène à faire deux constatations.

La première nous rappelle à l'humilité. L'humilité est un produit rare de nos jours qu'on trouve difficilement sur les marchés humains. Pourtant, la réalité de temps en temps nous oblige à un rappel de ce point fondamental comme source de sagesse et de responsabilité. Quel est ce rappel? C'est la capacité, dans un monde où les technologies sont orgueilleuses et presque omnipotentes, de distribuer les biens de la nature pour les faire passer de ceux qui en ont trop à ceux qui n'en ont pas assez ou pas du tout, au point que leur vie est mise en péril. Quand je pense aux agrumes qu'on est obligé de détruire chaque année en Italie et notamment en Sicile, ou aux tomates que l'on détruit en Campanie, ou aux pommes de terre, ou lorsque je visite, comme je l'ai fait il y a quelques semaines, le Danemark où j'ai vu le problème de la pêche dans ce pays, alors qu'en même temps il y a au monde des enfants et des adultes qui meurent de faim je me dis, quelle que soit la puissance de nos technologies, que nous devons faire un acte d'humilité.

Vous me pardonnerez si je parle de cette façon, mais c'est comme si nous étions devant un plat qui déborde d'aliments que nous n'arrivons pas à absorber, mais que nous n'arrivons pas non plus à passer à notre voisin qui meurt de faim.

La deuxième constatation nous fait néanmoins espérer. C'est avec cette constatation que je vais en terminer et je vous prie de m'excuser si j'ai débordé quelque peu le temps qui m'était imparti.

L'espérance me vient de la pensée que j'ai citée au début, à savoir que la FAO y croit, y croit vraiment. La FAO dispose d'une vive tension idéale. Je crois que c'est la richesse la plus grande de la FAO. C'est là le secret de la FAO, c'est là le moteur vivant d'une véritable solidarité, cette tension idéale est la force de son succès. C'est là une certitude et pas seulement un espoir pour son avenir.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs, l'Italie est avec la FAO, l'Italie est dans la FAO pour que cette âme créatrice qui est sa force même n'ait jamais à s'éteindre.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Mr. President, we thank you for your statement which certainly illustrates your confidence in FAO and the constant and concrete support your country has provided to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

It would seem appropriate that we mark in a very special way this visit of President Scalfaro and the contribution that Italy has given to FAO over these many years. The most recent and tangible evidence of this is the new building at the Caracalla complex. This permits all Headquarters staff to be together for the first time since FAO came to Rome. For this we are extremely grateful to the President and the people of Italy. I am sure Conference will agree that an appropriate resolution should place on record our appreciation of this support and the landmark which we are celebrating on this very special occasion.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I therefore propose to submit a text to the General Committee for its consideration and for its transmittal to this Plenary. We thank you, Mr President.

Humberto CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Permítame felicitarlo, señor Presidente, por su elección como Presidente del 27° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO. Para todos los países miembros de esta Organización y para aquéllos que lo serán en breve, esta Conferencia es de suma importancia para el futuro de la FAO. Sabemos que con su experiencia y sabiduría la conducción de la Conferencia y sus resultados serán exitosos.

En nombre del Grupo de los 77 tengo el gran honor de apoyar el Proyecto de Resolución apenas mencionado por usted. Italia se ha caracterizado por su especial interés en las actividades de nuestra Organización. Su generosidad con la FAO nos ha permitido contar con las facilidades adecuadas para que tanto el personal de la Organización como los Representantes de nuestros Gobiernos, podamos desarrollar eficazmente nuestro trabajo.

Nos honra hoy la presencia del Presidente de la República de Italia, Excmo. señor Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, por la dignidad, la convicción y firmeza con que está conduciendo los destinos de su país.

CHAIRMAN: I call upon the delegate of the United Kingdom.

D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom) : It gives me very great pleasure to endorse the remarks which have just been made by the Chairman of the Group of 77. I do so on behalf of the OECD Group, and I believe I can make these remarks also on behalf of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

May I, first of all, Chairman, congratulate you on your appointment. The Chairman of the Group of 77 has just done so. It is a great pleasure for me to follow the Chairman of the Group of 77 in speaking and to be talking with the same voice. I think it is very important in this forum that we seek unity, that we seek to speak with the same voice. As the President of the Italian Republic has just said to us, we have an enormous task to perform, and I think, if we are to perform that task effectively, if we are to help this Organization to perform this task, we need to work together.

Chairman, congratulations on your appointment. I believe you have an extremely important task to perform. We have every confidence that you will do so extremely effectively. We thank you, Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for those very kind remarks. I certainly do appreciate them.

EIGHTEENTH McDOUGALL MEMORIAL LECTURE (by His Excellency Elias Hraoui,
President of Lebanon)

DIX-HUITIEME CONFERENCE McDOUGALL (par Son Excellence M. Elias Hraoui,
Président du Liban)

18° DISERTACION EN MEMORIA DE McDOUGALL (Excelentísimo señor Elias Hraoui,
Presidente del Líbano)

CHAIRMAN: The Conference will now listen to the Eighteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture, which this year will be delivered by His Excellency Elias Hraoui, the President of Lebanon.

Before the President commences his lecture, I would just wish to say that this is the eighteenth lecture of a series which started with that delivered by Professor Toynbee at the 1959 Conference. These lectures commemorate the late Frank Lidgett McDougall, who played a leading role in the foundation of FAO and the initiation of its activities. I wish to ask the Director-General to introduce this year's McDougall lecturer, who is no stranger to FAO. Indeed, for many sessions of the Conference Mr Elias Hraoui headed the delegation of Lebanon and for many years he played an active part in the building and strengthening of FAO. I now ask the Director-General to introduce Mr Hraoui.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL (Langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président de la République italienne, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, Monsieur le Secrétaire général de la Ligue des pays arabes, Excellences, Honorables Chefs des Délégations, Mesdames et Messieurs.

Nombreux sont les grands de ce monde que j'ai eu l'honneur de présenter de cette tribune en pareille occasion. Leurs contributions à tous ont justifié notre estime et répondu à nos attentes. De même que leurs idées sont devenues le meilleur acquis pour notre Organisation.

Toutefois, permettez-moi d'attribuer une valeur particulière à la Conférence d'aujourd'hui et à la personne du conférencier, Son Excellence Elias Hraoui, Président de la République libanaise, qui est l'Ami (avec A majuscule) de toute une vie. J'ai connu ce noble descendant d'une famille attachée à la terre par une longue tradition ancestrale du temps où il était cultivateur et j'ai appris à mieux le connaître lorsqu'en pionnier des coopératives agricoles, il s'employait à promouvoir une agriculture moderne.

Demeuré à l'écoute de l'appel de la terre, même pendant sa carrière parlementaire, à son élection au poste de Député, il préside la Commission de l'agriculture. Devenu Ministre des travaux publics, il garde un œil sur le patrimoine agraire, tout en veillant de l'autre à l'urbanisation du pays, faisant construire routes, ponts et canaux.

D'ailleurs, je ne saurais oublier de signaler le fait qu'il est un ami de longue date de notre Organisation. N'a-t-il pas en effet présidé 13 fois la délégation du Liban au Conseil et à la Conférence de la FAO?!

Nul n'ignore que le Président du Liban a reçu la responsabilité de gouverner le pays dans des conditions loin d'être idéales. En fait, c'est un lourd héritage politique, délicat à gérer, qui lui est ainsi échu.

Porté à la magistrature suprême par son mérite et surtout par son courage, il lui incombait d'entreprendre, de reconstruire, voire de reconstituer toutes ses composantes, à savoir l'homme, la société, l'économie et les institutions.

Mais, avant toute autre chose, il devait tout d'abord sortir le pays du borbier de la guerre pour le conduire à un havre de paix. Ainsi, son avènement est venu mettre un terme à un drame prolongé, consolidant la sécurité et ouvrant la voie à la marche vers la reconstruction. A ces défis internes, non des moindres, s'ajoutaient ceux posés au monde arabe, au sein duquel le Liban a toujours joué un rôle privilégié. Le Président du Liban, qui est un homme de paix et de justice, autant qu'il est un homme de courage, n'a manqué aucune occasion pour marquer son attachement à ces valeurs dans les limites qu'impose l'honneur national du Liban et de la nation arabe. Mais je pense que la Conférence que nous allons suivre avec beaucoup d'intérêt est à même de nous faire connaître davantage l'envergure de cette personnalité et la richesse de son expérience.

Merci.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Elias HRAOUI (Président de la République libanaise) (Langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président, je suis très heureux de pouvoir participer à cette réunion. Cela me donne l'occasion de mesurer l'importance que vous donnez à cette Organisation.

C'est également la preuve des liens entre l'Italie et le Liban qui sont à la base de la fraternité et du bien-être de tous.

Donc, encore une fois, merci au Président de la République italienne.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe, Excellences, Monsieur le Directeur général, Distingués délégués.

Je voudrais avant toute chose évoquer le pays d'où je viens, ce Liban à peine émergé des souffrances et des drames qui l'ont dévasté, et me faire l'écho de la joie de mon peuple face à sa renaissance et à son renouveau. C'est donc avec le plus grand plaisir que j'ai accepté l'invitation de mon ami de toujours, le Directeur général Edouard Saouma, qui a marqué si fortement de ses efforts et de sa riche personnalité l'histoire de cette Organisation, inlassablement appliquée à nous aider à mieux cultiver la planète Terre pour nourrir tous ses enfants et à stimuler le dialogue entre les pays nantis et ceux en voie de développement.

Mesdames et Messieurs, vous constituez l'Assemblée mondiale des responsables de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, et préfigurez mieux que tout autre le gouvernement mondial de la lutte contre la faim et de la gestion durable des ressources agricoles, halieutiques et forestières de notre Terre. C'est devant vous que je suis venu exprimer les pensées et les aspirations d'un homme issu de la campagne, élevé et enraciné dans la réalité rurale libanaise et au coeur même du monde arabe, au coeur d'une région qui sert depuis toujours de trait d'union entre les trois continents d'Europe, d'Asie et d'Afrique, dans le pays où se sont fondues les civilisations, les religions et les grandes valeurs de leurs peuples.

L'HUMANITE ETAIT TOUT ENTIERE AGRICOLE ET SE TRANSFORME SOUS NOS YEUX

Nous partageons tous, Monsieur le Président, cet enracinement dans la paysannerie - par nous-même ou à travers nos parents et grands-parents. Mais le monde a entrepris de se transformer à une échelle et à une vitesse jamais encore connues depuis que l'humanité cultive les plantes alimentaires et domestique les animaux. Ce bouleversement marque déjà fortement nos vies. Il est destructeur autant que créateur. Il nous incombe donc de comprendre, de maîtriser, de domestiquer cette révolution sauvage pour assurer à notre terre et à nous-mêmes les bienfaits du progrès, sans y perdre notre âme ni sacrifier cette nature qui nous fait vivre.

J'ai connu les villages où les travaux de l'année étaient rythmés par les saisons et ceux de la journée par le cours du soleil, où le paysan écoutait l'appel à la prière ou la cloche de l'église pour régler son labeur et prendre son repas; où l'on reconnaissait l'origine des gens à la couleur et au dessin du vêtement des femmes, et non pas encore à la plaque minéralogique de leur voiture.

J'ai aimé les villages où les collectivités avaient le visage humain du groupe des anciens, des fêtes en commun; où le métier du père était appris aux fils, où le savoir des mères était transmis aux filles; où la panoplie

des arts se déployait dans le cercle de la famille et du village -forgeron, musicien, barbier, tailleur, conteur, meunier.

Mais ne croyez pas que, pour moi, le passé était radieux. Je sais aussi que, dans ces temps, la transmission du savoir se faisait dans un océan d'ignorance; que la maladie et la mort étaient les principaux responsables de l'équilibre entre l'homme et son milieu.

Je sais que les pauvres outils de l'homme l'obligeaient à un effort harassant pour une maigre pitance; que les systèmes socio-économiques, les régimes féodaux prélevaient un impôt écrasant sur le travailleur des champs, bien plus qu'ils ne lui assuraient la tranquillité ou le bonheur.

Nous savons cela, nous savons ce que nous devons aux progrès de la science d'une part, et à ceux de la démocratie d'autre part. Mais j'ai voulu rappeler les richesses de jadis, afin de mieux souligner l'importance de la lutte pour les préserver ou les retrouver lorsque le monde moderne, dans sa course, les met en péril.

LES FORCES DU PROGRES ET LEURS NUISANCES

Cette évolution que nous vivons tous, il nous faut donc en évaluer les résultats et les multiples implications.

Nous avons découvert et libéré l'énergie fossile et celle contenue dans l'atome, mais nous commençons seulement à mesurer la gravité des pollutions et des déchets qui peuvent empoisonner la nature et nos vies.

Nous avons réalisé un réseau de communications qui pénètre dans des milliards de foyers à tout instant, mais nous ne savons pas protéger nos enfants et nos peuples d'une information hâtive ou manipulée, ni des spectacles abrutissants ou indignes, que la recherche de l'audience et des recettes publicitaires fait prévaloir trop souvent sur le souci d'éducation et d'enrichissement culturel.

Nous avons découvert les magies de l'informatique, nous avons confié bien des tâches à d'admirables machines, mais nous ne savons qu'offrir à tous les travailleurs que la rationalisation de la production met au chômage par millions chaque année.

Nous avons diffusé les pratiques industrielles dans tous les domaines, mais nous voyons l'uniformité gagner du terrain chaque jour, démolir notre patrimoine et les cultures de nos civilisations si riches par leur diversité, annihiler la spécificité des peuples et même leur identité.

Nous pouvons admirer la révolution industrielle, mais prenons garde à ses retombées négatives. De quel prix se paye l'effroi de l'homme devant la "machinisation"! Voyez par quels chemins il tente de retrouver son moi perdu, dans la drogue, la violence, l'intolérance ou le fanatisme.

Nous pouvons admirer la révolution scientifique et ses réalisations. Nos chercheurs et nos médecins ont accompli des prodiges inimaginables; ils ont acquis les moyens de préserver la vie contre les maux naguère fatals, d'alléger des souffrances intolérables; mais ils ont acquis aussi une capacité d'agir sur l'être humain dans sa nature génétique - et qui saura en régler l'usage pour nous épargner les conséquences monstrueuses, voulues ou accidentelles, de cette nouvelle puissance?

Respectons aussi le progrès technique, mais n'acceptons pas que la course aux technologies plonge le monde dans une consommation effrénée, au point de menacer nos ressources naturelles au lieu de les préserver. Il n'est pas permis non plus que l'écart s'accroisse entre les sociétés développées d'une part, et les sous-développées de l'autre, car la dégradation de celles-ci serait néfaste à tous.

L'ETRE HUMAIN: CENTRE ET BUT ULTIME DU DEVELOPPEMENT

Nous ne voulons pas sacrifier notre "être" au profit de ce que nous pouvons "faire". L'être humain doit toujours résider au coeur de nos actions.

L'être humain, c'est-à-dire l'homme et la femme. La femme qui - après Dieu -est porteuse de la vie. Elle est porteuse de la paix, porteuse du quotidien, de la nourriture, de l'éducation des enfants et de leur avenir. Nous sommes tous conscients des admirables réalisations de la femme dans les domaines de la politique, des arts, des lettres, des sciences et du service social, depuis qu'elle a progressé sur la voie de la récupération de ses droits.

Nous comptabilisons le produit national, la balance des paiements, les rendements et la productivité avec une précision jamais atteinte auparavant. Certes, nous devons faire face aux problèmes économiques qui pèsent de tout leurs poids sur notre vie ... Mais l'économie n'est qu'un moyen nécessaire pour développer l'être humain, rien de plus. Prenons bien garde à ne pas vider le contenant économique de son contenu social et politique.

Prenons bien garde donc à veiller au respect de l'individu et de ses droits, en tant qu'élément fondamental de la société, car l'être humain est le moyen le plus précieux de toute action en même temps que son but ultime.

LES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES - LES PROBLEMES GLOBAUX DEMANDENT UNE COOPERATION PLUS EFFICACE

Mais, si les gouvernants ont à assurer le bien-être et l'harmonie au sein de leurs peuples, ils ont aussi à gérer les relations entre les peuples. Celles-ci prennent désormais une dimension différente, du fait de la prise de conscience toujours plus vive qu'il y a réellement des enjeux planétaires et qu'aucun Etat n'est en mesure d'y faire face en dehors d'une coopération internationale universelle. La Conférence de Rio a bien montré la pertinence de cette idée.

Qu'il me suffise de mentionner certains de ces enjeux: la lutte contre la faim, les migrations internationales, le réchauffement climatique inquiétant, la déforestation, la pollution interne et transfrontière, la biodiversité, l'exploitation des ressources marines, la lutte contre la drogue, la résorption des grandes endémies.

En effet, d'une part, l'activité des hommes atteint une telle intensité, et ses effets s'accumulent de telle façon que leurs conséquences débordent désormais des frontières de chaque Etat et sont à l'échelle des équilibres globaux de notre planète.

D'autre part, les relations entre peuples et continents n'ont cessé de se multiplier, accroissant les interdépendances au point où même les plus

grands ensembles économiques s'interrogent sur leur capacité à rester maîtres de leur propre destin.

Nous sommes encore aux balbutiements de la coopération internationale et de la gestion globale; mais il est certain à présent que le choix n'est plus de savoir s'il est utile ou nécessaire de coopérer, mais bien comment coopérer.

Les relations entre peuples d'Europe et d'Asie, d'Afrique et d'Amérique sont aujourd'hui plus intenses, fréquentes et déterminantes qu'elles ne l'étaient au sein de chacun des grands empires du passé. Il est donc nécessaire de trouver de nouvelles formes de coordination et de coopération, et de mettre au point une relation équilibrée, dans laquelle chaque Etat voit respectées sa spécificité individuelle, sa souveraineté et son indépendance, tout en assumant les devoirs et contraintes de la vie en commun; peut-être devrais-je dire de la survie.

MIGRATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Mais l'examen sans verres déformants de l'état des relations entre peuples et nations nous montre quels progrès géants sont encore à accomplir pour nous hisser à la hauteur de l'enjeu. Echanges d'hommes, de capitaux, de marchandises sont autant de terrains où les motifs d'inquiétude demandent toute notre volonté de coopération pour être surmontés.

Si le brassage et le métissage des cultures et des ethnies ont été l'un des moteurs du progrès des civilisations, l'isolement au contraire a été un facteur de stagnation, sinon de régression. Mais l'histoire nous montre aussi que ces mélanges ont rarement été paisibles.

Il nous appartient donc aujourd'hui de savoir faire face dans le respect mutuel aux situations complexes découlant du déséquilibre entre les peuples, c'est-à-dire entre les situations de prospérité d'une part, et de carence d'autre part, avec toutes les difficultés résultant de ce déséquilibre.

AIDE AU DEVELOPPEMENT

On entend maintenant de-ci de-là cette idée que si des flux migratoires trop massifs peuvent mal être absorbés par les pays plus riches, l'amélioration du sort des pays plus pauvres diminuerait le besoin d'émigrer. Des capitaux dans un sens, ou des hommes dans l'autre, pour ainsi dire!

Certes, il n'y a là rien de nouveau, et les émigrants seront les premiers à préférer trouver les moyens de vivre sur leur propre sol, plutôt qu'entreprendre les risques et les déchirements du départ vers l'inconnu. Mais l'état des lieux dans ce domaine est pitoyable. Pays surendettés, investissements au plus bas, flux financiers inversés du Sud vers le Nord, vous savez tout cela.

Hier encore, la Conférence de Rio s'est penchée sur les actions à entreprendre pour un développement réel et durable. Elle a su en montrer la nature et la nécessité absolue. Elle a créé une prise de conscience jamais encore si vive et, au pied du mur, confrontée au devis des travaux, elle s'est voilé la face en le considérant inabordable.

On comprend que certains soient désabusés par les résultats décevants de l'aide au développement. Nous sommes confiants, cependant, que les espoirs placés en elle se concrétiseront bientôt.

Je ne vais pas ici répéter les critiques sur certaines mauvaises utilisations de l'aide au développement, sur son volume ou sur sa répartition. Certes, nul ne le conteste, elle est toujours en dessous du niveau souhaitable, soit 0,7 pour cent du revenu des pays les plus riches.

Je ne vais pas non plus m'attarder sur la dissémination des armes destructives, sur les sommes énormes du commerce des armes, bien que je trouve un parallélisme fascinant entre le commerce de la drogue et celui des armes, qui fondent leur profit sur le malheur et sur la mort. Mais ayant parlé des armes, il m'importe d'affirmer du haut de cette tribune internationale que le Liban et ses frères arabes sont promoteurs de la paix, d'une paix réelle et effective qui permette le retour sur leur terre de ses habitants, d'une paix complète par la liquidation totale des armes de destruction. Aucune guerre ne peut apporter aux hommes ce que leur promet la paix tant désirée. Notre région doit donner l'exemple de la construction de cette paix, afin que le monde entier, à commencer par le Moyen-Orient, puisse enfin consacrer ses efforts au progrès dans la sécurité pour toutes ses populations.

Pour contribuer au progrès économique et social, les agences internationales et les institutions financières, comme les banques régionales de développement, le FIDA, le Programme alimentaire mondial, et surtout la Banque mondiale, ont l'atout incomparable de leur caractère multinational, et cela leur confère une audience que leur compétence justifie pleinement. Elles ont acquis une autorité et une puissance d'intervention de plus en plus grandes au cours des années 80. Il est donc d'autant plus essentiel que leur compétence s'accompagne de modestie et leur autorité d'une indépendance absolue.

Les prescriptions d'ajustement ou de stabilisation économiques ont ceci de commun avec les prescriptions des médecins que leur difficulté à réussir ne peut être uniquement attribuée au mauvais vouloir des patients. Chaque médecin sait combien il doit prêter l'oreille à son client, et sa science n'est rien s'il néglige le malade pour ne soigner que la maladie.

LES MARCHES DES PRODUITS

De plus, on peut s'inquiéter de voir à quel point les efforts de coopération internationale sont restés inefficaces lorsqu'on en vient aux échanges commerciaux et aux marchés des produits.

Le commerce plutôt que l'aide, certes, nous en sommes tous convaincus -mais quel commerce? Dominé comme il l'est, dans les domaines d'intérêt essentiels pour les pays du Sud, et particulièrement ceux qui exportent des matières premières agricoles, par une poignée de firmes transnationales - dominé soit directement par leur pouvoir sur les marchés, soit indirectement par l'influence que ces firmes exercent sur leurs gouvernements -, le commerce international a en fait joué pour ces pays le rôle négatif d'un frein au développement.

C'est ainsi que la baisse des cours a fait perdre à de nombreux pays exportateurs en développement bien plus de ressources que celles que l'aide peut leur apporter.

Comment accepter plus longtemps pareil processus? On a même pu lire, dans les conclusions du Sommet du G7 à Toronto, que la hausse des matières premières serait un facteur d'inflation dangereux pour les pays industrialisés! Peut-on dire en termes moins voilés que les riches ont besoin que les pauvres restent pauvres?

Les interminables négociations du GATT sont présentées en ce moment comme l'ultime recours pour renverser la tendance négative des économies industrielles. Acceptons-en l'augure, sans nous bercer de trop d'illusions pour les pays pauvres.

Pourtant, l'exemple du STABEX, le Système de stabilisation des recettes d'exportation mis au point par la Communauté économique européenne dans le cadre de ses accords avec les pays ACP, est là pour montrer que les formules existent.

Etendre de tels dispositifs à d'autres pays et d'autres produits, mettre en place des mécanismes financiers et commerciaux équitables et solidaires constituent autant de thèmes pressants sur l'agenda de la coopération économique.

EVOCATION DES PAYS ARABES

Après avoir passé en revue certains thèmes internationaux, je suis heureux de retourner avec vous à cette famille arabe où j'ai mes racines, et dont la langue s'élève de cette tribune pour la première fois dans l'histoire des conférences McDougall. Or je suis frappé de voir à quel point les sujets que j'ai abordés de façon globale se retrouvent présents et pressants dans notre communauté.

Ce qui a marqué l'histoire récente de notre région, c'est la prise de contrôle nationale sur l'exploitation de ses richesses pétrolières.

C'est ainsi que dans cet ensemble de pays majoritairement pauvres au début des années 60, l'apparition de cette source de revenus a permis à beaucoup d'entre eux d'entreprendre leur modernisation et de réaliser une oeuvre de développement spectaculaire.

La répartition des hommes et des richesses sur le terrain a fait qu'entre pays arabes également, c'est par millions que des paysans, des ouvriers, des professeurs, des ingénieurs se sont expatriés là où les appelait le besoin de forces et d'intelligences supplémentaires pour mettre en valeur les ressources naturelles, construire les infrastructures et faire vivre les services nouveaux.

Les vicissitudes politiques et les guerres, dont notre région et mon pays, le Liban, ont souffert si douloureusement, ont asséné à ces populations émigrées leurs contrecoups violents.

Aussi le Moyen-Orient est-il au premier rang des régions du monde concernées par les mouvements de population avec, dans certains Etats, jusqu'au tiers ou davantage de travailleurs étrangers et, dans d'autres, des centaines de milliers de rapatriés à qui faire leur place, avec des campagnes drainées d'une part importante de leur jeunesse entreprenante allée chercher ailleurs un sort meilleur.

La mobilisation des richesses des pays mieux dotés en faveur de ceux plus défavorisés s'est aussi affirmée dès que cela a été possible. Les contributions arabes au soutien des objectifs du développement se sont traduites concrètement, insufflant une activité sans pareille dans tous les secteurs du développement arabe.

Le progrès des échanges de produits par un meilleur accès mutuel aux marchés s'est également affermi, grâce à des accords entre Etats et à des mesures pratiques, malheureusement parfois remis en question du fait de l'instabilité militaire et politique dont a souffert notre région.

REALISATIONS AGRICOLES ET MOBILISATION DE L'EAU

Notre population régionale a doublé, ce qui n'a pas empêché la situation alimentaire de s'améliorer considérablement. Les réalisations agricoles du monde arabe ont été spectaculaires, mais il est certain qu'il reste encore beaucoup à faire.

La production agricole est actuellement le double de ce qu'elle était il y a 30 ans, avec des succès extraordinaires comme celui de l'Arabie Saoudite devenue un pays exportateur de blé. Mais, à part une poignée de pays, nos ressources en terres cultivables sont maigres et limitées; les progrès effectués l'ont été au prix de gros efforts financiers, d'un dur labeur et de nombreux sacrifices; nos importations alimentaires croissent près de trois fois plus vite que la production agricole. Nous devons donc plus que jamais veiller à la durée des progrès accomplis.

J'ai choisi à cet égard de vous entretenir de l'eau dans nos pays. C'est la ressource la plus rare et la plus précieuse. C'est en mettant en valeur cette ressource que nous avons pu réaliser le progrès atteint, et c'est en en surveillant étroitement le bon usage que nous pourrions continuer à aller de l'avant.

Nous avons mobilisé les aquifères, nous avons domestiqué les cours d'eau et les pluies brutales, nous avons élevé des barrages, aménagé les lacs et les canaux, semé le désert de disques fertiles, de l'Atlantique à l'océan Indien. Mais sachons profiter de chaque goutte d'eau. Nous devons tout faire pour que chaque paysan respecte ce don du ciel et n'en gaspille rien; qu'il comprenne que, pour l'amener jusqu'à lui, il a fallu renoncer à satisfaire d'autres nécessités; qu'il accepte de contribuer à son tour à l'entretien des réseaux et au développement des infrastructures.

Qu'il apprenne à la doser au juste moment et dans la quantité nécessaire, en utilisant les techniques les plus efficaces. Je souligne ici les dangers de la salinisation, de l'alcalisation, de l'épuisement des aquifères et autres phénomènes qui font déjà leurs ravages dans plusieurs régions.

Notre région arabe aspire à devenir, dans le domaine de l'exploitation rationnelle de l'eau, un exemple à suivre et un laboratoire théorique et appliqué de la sage exploitation de l'eau.

Nos universités doivent former les ingénieurs, nos instituts les techniciens; nos services de vulgarisation doivent développer et diffuser pour chaque zone, chaque terrain, chaque culture, les méthodes de culture irriguée adaptées, qui nous sont indispensables et qui enrichiront le patrimoine commun.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous avons tous à l'esprit le milliard de nouveaux habitants qui s'ajoute chaque décennie à la population de cette planète qui semble rétrécir.

Nous avons tous à l'esprit que nos terres cultivables sont extrêmement limitées que beaucoup d'entre elles sont menacées de stérilité.

N'est-il pas alors éclatant que tous nos efforts doivent se concentrer sur le développement durable pour tous les hommes? C'est à cela que je vous exhorte, ce n'est qu'ainsi que nous pourrions atteindre la paix véritable, et non par les conflits, qu'ils soient habillés d'un cachet ethnique, confessionnel, idéologique ou économique.

Au lieu donc d'abdiquer devant ces difficultés, nous devons au contraire rassembler notre énergie et d'abord prendre acte de ce qui a été accompli jusqu'à maintenant. La Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, réunie ici même il y a presque un an, nous a montré à la fois l'étendue du drame de la faim - 780 millions de personnes touchées - mais aussi que ce nombre a décru, malgré l'accroissement de la population, depuis 20 ans que la FAO rassemble régulièrement les résultats de l'enquête alimentaire mondiale.

LE RÔLE DE LA FAO

Ces défis, vous êtes ici, nous sommes ici à la FAO pour y faire face. J'ai eu personnellement l'honneur de participer à cinq Conférences et douze sessions du Conseil de votre Organisation. C'est en connaissance de cause que je peux évoquer son rôle irremplaçable.

Rôle de forum universel où, sur un pied d'égalité, les Etats du monde industrialisé et du monde en développement construisent ensemble leur vision des problèmes à traiter, des moyens scientifiques et techniques que le progrès nous fournit pour y répondre, des formes de coopération à développer pour y parvenir plus vite et plus globalement.

Rôle aussi de réceptacle international et de banque mondiale de l'information statistique, scientifique et technique où sont rassemblées, cataloguées, analysées des données innombrables, fournies par vos pays avec l'appui des instituts de recherche et des missions d'expert.

Rôle, enfin, de réservoir de compétences dont, chacun à son tour, ses pays membres ont pu bénéficier, grâce à son activité d'assistance technique que pays donateurs et fonds multilatéraux financent, et à laquelle le Programme de coopération technique du budget ordinaire apporte une souplesse d'intervention qui en multiplie l'efficacité.

Voici les missions que vous avez confiées à la FAO et qu'elle a assumées inlassablement. Mais à Rome se trouvent aussi présents le FIDA et le Programme alimentaire mondial; je ne veux pas manquer de souligner combien mon pays se félicite de leur action au service du développement agricole et alimentaire.

Si la réalité des faits a voulu que la banque de l'investissement agricole, la banque de l'aide alimentaire et la banque des connaissances techniques soient réunies dans cette capitale, c'est pour la raison évidente de faciliter leurs relations avec les représentations nationales et entre elles-mêmes.

Il reste à se demander s'il est toujours aussi justifié que ces trois agences soeurs ne resserrant pas davantage leurs liens, et si leur cohésion accrue ne serait pas de nature à augmenter leurs potentiels et leurs capacités à affronter les enjeux formidables qui sont devant nous?

Monsieur le Président, mon cher ami Edouard Saouma, nous avons tous le sentiment que notre FAO est à un tournant de son histoire. Pendant 18 ans, ses activités, ses programmes et ses initiatives se sont caractérisés par l'efficacité et la ténacité, sous la direction de celui à qui les pays membres ont par deux fois renouvelé leur confiance.

Lorsque vous avez assumé la Direction générale de cette Organisation, je savais qu'il fallait que le Liban bénéficie des compétences techniques de la FAO pour éviter de devenir un mendiant affamé par suite de la guerre des autres menée sur notre sol. Le Liban ne voulait pas vivre d'assistance, mais lutter sur la voie de la renaissance et de la reconstruction. Je suis fier, comme Libanais, que ce soit un homme de génie de mon pays qui ait conduit la FAO dans ces moments. Je tiens à vous exprimer, cher ami Monsieur le Directeur général, mes sincères remerciements pour les efforts, pour l'énergie et la juste vision de l'essentiel que vous avez déployés, sans oublier vos nombreuses innovations et réalisations qui marqueront cette Organisation et qui profiteront à tous ses pays membres.

Vous avez eu à coeur, constamment, la fidélité au mandat que ses pères fondateurs ont confié à la FAO. Sous votre direction, elle a constitué, pour les pays du monde, le conseiller impartial, la vigie en alerte, l'amie de confiance.

En témoignage de la reconnaissance que nous, Libanais, et à travers nous les peuples des pays membres, devons à cette Organisation.

En marque de confiance pour son futur, pour le rôle qu'elle continuera à jouer dans la lutte contre la faim et dans la diffusion des connaissances pour un progrès agricole durable.

Au nom du Liban et des Libanais qui ont tenu, à l'occasion de la fin de votre mandat, à vous réitérer ainsi qu'à l'Organisation leur fidélité, j'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer qu'il a été décidé d'offrir à la FAO une salle de réunion, la Salle du Liban, qui manifestera à jamais notre attachement aux travaux et au rôle de cette Organisation. Elle a tant fait pour nos pays, et notamment pour le mien, s'empressant de lui fournir son assistance dans les moments les plus difficiles: nous lui en saurons toujours gré.

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, en vous remerciant de votre présence, je souhaite à votre Conférence un plein succès et à l'Organisation d'aller toujours fermement de l'avant. Elle saura, je n'en doute pas, se choisir le successeur qui lui assurera la poursuite de sa mission et fera entendre son message pour le plus grand profit de tous les peuples.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am certain that you would wish to thank the President of the Lebanon for the very inspiring, interesting and, indeed, informative lecture that he has delivered to us this morning.

His lecture has covered many subjects which have been exercising the minds, I am sure, of all the delegates attending this Conference. We wish to thank him for the very clear views and ideas he has expressed on the very many matters that he has discussed this morning, and I am certain that for a very long time the delegates here assembled will remember that excellent lecture given by President Hraoui this morning.

I am certain also that you would wish me to express our thanks to him, and the deep appreciation of the FAO for the gift he has donated this morning of the Lebanon Room, and I am certain that it will add to the FAO and will assist with the deliberations of this Organization. We wish to thank you very much, Mr President.

Simon CREAN (Australia): Mr Chairman, may I at the outset congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Conference. We look forward to working with you over the course of the next few days, for a successful outcome to this Conference.

On behalf of the Australian Government I am pleased to be here today to respond to the President of Lebanon's McDougall Memorial Lecture. I would like to thank you, President Hraoui, for your very fine contribution. It was a thought-provoking address. It was one that was delivered with conviction, with feeling and with the obvious experience that you have developed in previous roles associated with this Organization.

Frank McDougall, in whose name this lecture is given, was a founder of the FAO. He was an Australian. He was totally committed to much closer relationships between nutrition, agriculture and development. He was responsible for developing a number of specific programmes, including action into the control of infestation in stored grains, and also for developing the notion of technical assistance. Frank McDougall developed these ideas after a decision of the World Monetary and Economic Conference, to which he was a delegate, which in fact determined to restrict agricultural production in an already poverty-stricken world. In 1942, Frank McDougall seized the opportunity at a luncheon with US President Roosevelt to outline his idea of an international food and agricultural organization.

Whilst many people contributed to the thinking that led to the creation of the FAO, it was without doubt McDougall's idea that gave impetus to the process which finally saw this specialized agency of the UN come into being, in fact ahead of the UN itself. It is fitting that a lecture in his name sets the theme for the opening of conferences of the FAO, and I would like to pay tribute to President Hraoui's lecture. It was very ably given. It discharged the obligation that we were seeking of it, and it developed very effectively the theme that is on all of our minds : the theme of sustainable development, sustainable in economic as well as in environmental terms.

The responsibility for this Conference is to build on the foundations laid by the founders of the Organization and the themes that have been developed in the address. If we develop this, then there is a potential for the FAO to continue to make inroads into the dual problems of hunger and malnutrition. If we do that, we will continue to discharge the obligations of those who have entrusted in us the continuing work of this Organization.

Thank you, Mr President, for your very fine address. I wish you well, not only in terms of this Conference but indeed of the many problems that face your country.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

George LAMPTEY (Ghana) : Mr Chairman, I speak in the name of the African Group in extending congratulations to you on your assumption of this high office. We assure you of our total support during your tenure.

May I say to the President of the Lebanon that a long time ago you gave to the international community Edouard Saouma. Not all may have liked his style or method of administration of the FAO, but none can deny that in 18 years Edouard Saouma has led this Organization with courage, foresight and idealism. For those of us from the developing world, in particular, he has been a tower of strength in defence of our interests and steadfast in the pursuit of our objectives. In the twilight of his long stewardship it is fitting that the highest representative of the government and people of the Lebanon should be the one to speak to us this morning and share with us such words of wisdom. We thank you, Mr President, and through you we thank the people of the Lebanon.

If my African brothers and sisters would allow me, I would wish to inject a bilateral dimension for, being a Ghanaian, I cannot help but recall that the relations between the Lebanon and Ghana have been long and fruitful. More than a century ago many of your compatriots went to our country. They found a welcome there and they played a significant part in the development of our country. Today, many of my compatriots trace their descent partly from the Lebanon. They are continuing to play a significant role in the wellbeing of Ghana. It is in the name of the Ghanaian people that I ask you, Mr President, to convey thanks and appreciation to the friendly people of Lebanon.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: There may be other delegates who would wish to make an intervention, but I regret that in the light of the fact that both Presidents have to leave shortly, we have to bring this morning's Session to a close.

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 93/PV/2

Twenty-seventh-Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(6 November 1993)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 16.45 hours

Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 16 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 16.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

- 3. Adoption of Agenda
- 3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour
- 3 Aprobación del programa
- 4 Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items
- 4. Organisation de la session et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour
- 4 Organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa
- 5. Admission of Observers
- 5. Admission d'observateurs
- 5. Admisión de observadores
- IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS
- IV NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS
- IV NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES
- 25. Applications for Membership in the Organization
- 25 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation
- 25 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización

First Report of the General Committee

Premier rapport du Bureau

Primer Informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the tentative timetable for the Conference, the items before us this afternoon are numbers 3, 4, 5 and 25. These items are as follows: first, item 3, Adoption of Agenda, second, item 4, Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items; third, Admission of Observers and, fourth, Applications for Membership in the Organization.

As you were informed this morning, there was a meeting of the General Committee. General Committee has prepared its first report containing proposals on these items, as well as on other related arrangements.

I now propose that the Secretary-General read the first report of the General Committee. He will do this section by section for the Conference's consideration. This report is going to be available to all members on Monday morning as document C 93/LIM/6.

I will ask the Secretary-General to read the first section of the report.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The first item discussed in the meeting of the General Committee is as follows :

Agenda for the Session

The General Committee examined the Provisional Conference Agenda set forth in document C 93/1.

The Committee was informed that under item 7 "Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development" in addition to document C 93/10 there would be two draft resolutions submitted by the Council to the Conference in document C 93/28. In order to facilitate discussion by the Conference, the Committee decided that item 7 should have added to it (a) sub-item 7.1 "Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources" and (b) sub-item 7.2 "International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer".

The Committee was also informed that sub-item 19.1 should be entitled "Abolition of the Panel of Experts on Emergency Action Against the Desert Locust and Other Crop Pests and Abolition of the Advisory Panel on Epizootiology" to make it consistent with the title and content of the Draft Resolution submitted by the Council (C 93/LIM/20) , and that a new sub-item 19.4 "Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission" should be added in conformity with a recommendation of the Hundred and Fourth Council Session.

The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Provisional Agenda with the additional sub-items 7.1, 7.2, and 19.4 and the change in title of sub-item 19.1.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section of the report? Since there are none, I declare the section which has just been read to be adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session.

At its Hundred and Third Session, the Council formulated proposals concerning the organization and timetable for the Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference - proposals which were communicated to all Member Nations in document C 93/12. The Committee recommends that the Conference establish three Commissions to consider and report on Parts I, II and III of the Agenda.

The attention of the Conference is called to the fact that, in order to accommodate requests for speaking time by Ministers who will be in Rome only during the first days of the Conference, it may be necessary to prolong the General Discussion during those days to 13.00 hours in the morning and 18.30 hours in the afternoon. However, the morning and the afternoon meetings must start on time to obtain any benefit from prolonging the meetings. It is hoped that in this way all the speakers wishing to speak on Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 November will be able to do so. Should this prove impossible, an additional meeting could be planned for one evening. The duration of each intervention should not exceed 15 minutes.

The Committee recommends that the Conference approve the Tentative Timetable proposed by the Council with the above specifications. It is also understood that this Timetable may be subject to modifications in the light of progress made in the Plenary and in the Commissions.

CHAIRMAN: "Delegates, you have heard that section of the report. Are there any comments? As there are none, I declare this section of the report which has just been read to be adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Appointment of the Chairmen of the Three Commissions

In accordance with Rules VTI-I and XXIV-5(b) of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO) and as indicated in document C 93/LIM/1, the Council at its Hundred and Fourth Session proposed the following candidates for chairmanship of the Commissions:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| - Commission I | :H. Redl (Austria) |
| - Commission II | :M. Sinaceur (Morocco) |
| - Commission III | :A. Zemaitis (Lithuania) |

The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Council's proposal.

In accordance with Rule X-2(c) GRO the Committee recommends that the Vice-Chairmanship of the Commissions be distributed as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| - Commission I | P Karbasi (Iran Islamic Republic of) A.W.
Kazi (Pakistan) |
| - Commission II | C paranhos (Brazil)
P.R. Janus (Netherlands) |
| - Commission III | M Tabong (Cameroon):
J.P. Rivaud (France) |

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, are you all in agreement? I declare this section of the report to be adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Resolutions Committee

The Council at its Hundred and Third Session recommended the establishment of a Resolutions Committee of the Conference consisting of seven members, one from each FAO region. Its terms of reference are described in document C 93/12, Appendix D, as are the criteria which should govern the formulation of resolutions.

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

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| - Africa | Uganda |
| - Asia | Thailand |
| - Europe | Malta |

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Latin America and the Caribbean | El Salvador |
| - Near East | Iraq |
| - North | United States of America |
| - Southwest Pacific | New Zealand |

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

The Committee also recommends that the Resolutions Committee be chaired by the Representative of the Europe Region.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? There being no comments, I declare this section of the Report to be adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Admission of Observers from Applicants for Membership

As is customary, the Director-General has provisionally invited the applicants for membership to be represented by observers until a decision has been taken on their application. The Conference will no doubt wish to confirm the invitations in respect of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Eritrea, Kyrgyz Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section of the Report? If there are none, I declare it to be adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Admission of Observers from Russian Federation and Ukraine

The Director-General has received from Russia and Ukraine letters expressing the interest of the Governments in attending the Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference. Invitations to attend the Conference as observers were sent to the Governments concerned, pointing out, however, that they were subject to confirmation by the Conference, in accordance with the Principles Relating to the Granting of Observer Status to Nations (Basic Texts, Section L, para. B-1) which specify that Non-Member States of FAO may on request be invited "by the Conference ... to be represented by an observer at a session of the Conference". The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the invitations.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on the sections of the Report which have just been read? If there are none, I declare this section of the Report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY - GENERAL: Admission of New Member Nations

In conformity with the provisions of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization, the following Applications for Membership had been received by the deadline of 6 October 1993: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Eritrea, Kyrgyz Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Committee recommends that, should South Africa be re-admitted to membership of the Organization, the Conference should, by the act of admitting South Africa, be taken as having decided that its Resolution No. 38/63 should no longer be operative as from the date on which South Africa commences its participation in the Organization.

Under Article II-2 of the Constitution, the Conference decides on the admission of additional Member Nations by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present. "Votes cast" means votes for and against and does not include abstentions or defective ballots. Membership becomes effective on the date upon which the Conference approves the application.

The Committee recommends that the Conference hold the vote for the admission of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Eritrea, Kyrgyz Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Saturday 6 November. The result of the vote will be announced on the morning of Monday 8 November and the ceremony for installing the new Members will take place immediately afterwards. As is customary, the Chairman will welcome the new Members and each of them may make a brief statement. In order to gain time and not delay the work of the Conference, the Committee also recommends that this Plenary meeting begin at 09.00 hours and that only one country respond on behalf of each region.

The Committee further recommends that the vote on the re-admission of South Africa should take place on Tuesday 9 November.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section of the Report? If there are no comments, I declare this section of the Report to be adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Contributions of New Member Nations

In accordance with Regulation 5.8 of the Financial Regulations, the Conference determines the amount of the contribution to be paid by newly admitted Member Nations, beginning with the quarter in which the application is approved.

According to the established principles and customs, the minimum contribution due from these new members for the last quarter of 1993 and the advance to be made to the Working Capital Fund are listed in the document that will be distributed concerning the meeting of the General Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section of the Report? If there are none, I declare this section of the Report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Appointment of the Director-General

By the date established by the Council, i.e., 2 April 1993, nine nominations had been received for the post of Director-General. These nominations were notified to all Members by Circular Letter G/CF 4/2 on 26 April 1993. Subsequently the Government of Greece on 1 November 1993 informed the Secretary-General of the Conference that it was withdrawing the candidature of Constantin Politis. The text of the notification appears in document C 93/18-Corr.1. Accordingly, the nominees for the post of Director-General are:

- Salahuddin Ahmed (Bangladesh)
- Christian H. Bonte-Friedheim (Germany)
- Gerardus J.M. Braks (Netherlands)
- Edward P. Cunningham (Ireland)
- Jacques Diouf (Senegal)
- Geoff Miller (Australia)
- Rafael Moreno (Chile)
- Maharaj K. Muthoo (India)

Under the terms of Rule XXXVI-l(a) General Rules of the Organization, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election, it being understood that the appointment of the Director-General at a regular session shall begin and be effected within three working days following the opening date of the session, i.e., before midnight on the evening of Wednesday 10 November 1993. The election is by secret ballot. A candidate who obtains the simple majority of votes cast (abstentions not being counted) is elected.

The Committee recommends that the first vote for this appointment should be held on the morning of Monday 8 November 1993 immediately after the Plenary adopts the report of the Credentials Committee, as specified in document C 93/12 "Arrangements for the Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference".

The Committee further recommends that, if necessary, balloting should continue throughout the day until the Conference appoints a Director-General .

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section of the Report? If there are none, I declare this section of the Report adopted.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council

By the date determined by the Council, i.e., 3 September 1993, the following nominations had been received for the office of Independent Chairman of the Council :

-José Ramón López Portillo (Mexico)
-Ibrahim Adam (Ghana)

These Nominations were notified to all Member Nations by Circular Letter G/CF-4/3 of 10 September 1993.

Under the terms of Rule XXIII-1(b) GRO, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election. The Committee recommends that a secret ballot for this appointment take place on the morning of Tuesday 23 November 1993.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section of the Report? If not, I declare this section of the Report adopted.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Election of Members of the Council

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

The Committee accordingly recommends:

- (a). that the election begin on the morning of Monday 22 November; and
- (b) that nominations for the Council seats to be filled at the present session be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference (B-2 02) by 12.00 hours on Monday 15 November at the latest, to permit the General Committee to communicate to the

Conference the valid nominations received at least three working days before the date selected for the election in accordance with Rule XXII-10(d) GRO.

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

All relevant information concerning the seats for which nominations must be submitted, and forms for submitting nominations, will be found in document C 93/LIM/8.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section of the Report? There being none, I declare this section of the Report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Right to Vote

The General Committee notes that twenty-two Member Nations have not paid sufficient amounts of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference.

The Organization has sent many communications to each of these Member Nations and received replies from all but Yugoslavia.

The following Member Nations have advised the Organization that a payment has already been made and should reach the Organization shortly: Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe.

In accordance with previous practice, the Conference has considered that payments in transit, or firm undertakings on the part of the Member Nations to effect a payment during the course of the Conference, has constituted a sufficient basis on which to restore the right to vote of the Member Nations. Therefore, the Committee recommends that these three Member Nations be granted the right to vote at the Conference.

Article III.4 of the Constitution states: "A Member Nation which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the Conference if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years. The Conference may, nevertheless, permit such a Member Nation to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation".

The following Member Nations have requested special consideration and permission to vote under Article III.4 of the Constitution as cited above: Antigua and Barbuda, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Suriname.

The Committee recommends to the Conference that the ten above-mentioned Member Nations be granted the right to vote at the Conference.

Information received either directly from the governments or through FAO representatives indicates that further payments will be forthcoming in the near future from: Bolivia, Chad, Cambodia, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Niger, Seychelles.

The representative from Bolivia has also informed us that should the expected payment not materialize, it too would submit a request for special consideration.

As information is received by the Director-General from other Member Nations, either with regard to payments made or with regard to a request for special consideration by the Conference or a plan to liquidate their arrears in instalments, such information will be considered by the General Committee for further reporting to the Conference.

In the meantime, the Committee recommends to the Conference that all Member Nations in attendance be authorized to vote on Saturday 6 November 1993 on Item 25 of the Agenda (Applications for Membership in the Organization) and on Monday 8 November 1993 on Item 27.1 of the Agenda (Appointment of the Director-General) on the understanding that contacts with them shall be continued with a view to regularizing their arrears situation.

CHAIRMAN: Delegates have heard that section of the Report. Are there any comments?

None - so I declare that section of the Report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Of course, the decision is made and will also extend to the voting that will take place on Tuesday concerning the application for reappointment of South Africa. The next section is Right of Reply.

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

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

CHAIRMAN: All in favour? I declare that section of the Report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Verbatim Records Rule XVIII-1 GRO lays down that verbatim records shall be kept for all Conference plenary and commission

meetings. The right of delegates to check the accuracy of the record of their interventions is expressly recognized in Rule XVIII-2 GRO.

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

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

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

The Committee therefore recommends that the Conference continue to permit the insertion of such statements on condition that :

- (a) the Plenary or the Commission concerned is informed by its Chairman that a statement not actually delivered, or a substantive addition to a statement that has been delivered, is being inserted in the record;
- (b) the text handed over to the Chairman for insertion is in English, French or Spanish, the languages used in the verbatim records;
- (c) the provisional verbatim record containing the additional statement is circulated at least three days before the close of the Session; and
- (d) delegations attending the Session are able to avail themselves of the right of reply by having an opportunity to make, prior to the close of the Session, a statement relating to the additional statement.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on that section of the Report? There being none, I declare that section adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Statements by Heads of Delegations (General Discussion)

The Committee recommends that a list of speakers be published daily in the Journal of the Conference, in the order in which they will be called upon by the Chairman, and further recommends that statements be limited to a maximum of 15 minutes.

CHAIRMAN: All in agreement? As there are no comments, I declare that section adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY -GENERAL : Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations

The list of Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations which have been invited by the Director-General to be represented in an observer capacity at this session of the Conference is given in documents C 93/13 and C 93/13-Sup.I. The invitations sent to Intergovernmental Organizations with which FAO does not have a formal agreement and to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have consultative status with FAO are extended on a provisional basis and are subject to approval by the Conference.

After having reviewed this list, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the said provisional invitations.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section of the Report? If none, I declare it adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations

The Council recommended that, as at previous sessions of the Conference, observers from Non-Governmental Organizations be invited to attend an informal meeting, so that their advice and suggestions on the Organization's activities and programmes may be communicated to the Conference. It is suggested that this meeting take place on the morning and afternoon of Tuesday 9 November. The Committee recommends that the Conference accept this proposal.

CHAIRMAN: All agreed? If so, I declare this section of the report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY - GENERETARY - GENERAL : Attendance by Liberation Movements

In conformity with the suggestion made by the Council at its Hundred and Third Session, observers from the Palestine Liberation Organization and the

African Liberation Movements recognized by the OAU (African National Congress of South Africa, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania) have been invited to attend the Conference. The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm these invitations.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments? I declare this section adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Conclusion

Lastly, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm all the detailed arrangements for the session and that, except for the cases mentioned in paragraphs 6, 7, 17 and 23 above the normal working hours for the meetings of both Plenary and Commissions be 09.30 to 12.30 hours, and 14.30 to 17.30 hours. Night meetings may also be convened from 19.30 to 22.30 hours, if required. The Committee also invites all delegations to observe the working hours with the maximum punctuality.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments? If not, that section of the Report is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRMAN: This concludes the adoption of the first Report of the General Committee. As I mentioned earlier the text will be distributed on Monday morning as document C 93/LIM/6.

First Report of the General Committee adopted

Le premier rapport du Bureau est adopté

El primer informe del Comité General es aprobado

IV APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

25 Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued)

25 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre del'Organisation (suite)

25 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The Conference will now vote on the admission as Members of the Organization the following countries: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Eritrea, Kyrgyz Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

This vote is covered by Article II, paragraph 2 of the FAO Constitution which reads as follows: "The Conference may, by a two-thirds majority of votes cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present, decide to admit as additional members of the Organization, any nation which has submitted an application for membership and a declaration made in a formal instrument that it will accept the obligations of the Constitution as in force at the time of the admission." The document giving details of these applications is C 93/19.

In accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 of the FAO Constitution and under the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 80 Member Nations must be represented and present in the hall at this time. I am requesting the officer in charge of the election to carry out a count and to advise me as to the number of Member Nations present at this time.

The count has been taken and there are 132 delegations of Member Nations present in the hall. This means that we may proceed at once with the vote.

May I remind delegations that, in accordance with paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, once the voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with that vote.

In accordance with paragraph 9 (c) of Rule XXII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairman of the Conference appoints two tellers from among the delegates or representatives, or their alternates. In order to speed up the counting process, I should like to suggest we appoint two assistant tellers in addition to assist the tellers in their task. If there is no objection I request the delegates of Tanzania and Japan to serve as tellers for this election, and the delegates of Australia and Brazil to serve as alternate tellers. Will the delegates of Tanzania, Japan, Australia and Brazil kindly proceed to the voting area.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Aux fins du scrutin, les délégués recevront neuf bulletins de vote: un pour chacune des demandes d'admission. Ces bulletins portent trois cases marquées "oui", "non" et "abstention". Pour voter, les délégués feront une croix dans la case correspondant à leur choix.

Aux termes de l'Article XII, paragraphe 4 c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront comptés comme abstention.

Aux termes de l'alinéa d) de ce même paragraphe de l'Article XII, les bulletins de vote ne devront porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autres que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

CHAIRMAN: I would remind delegations at this stage that each voter will receive nine ballot papers, as has been indicated by the Secretary-General. While they will be stapled together, I can assure you that there will be nine to be completed by each voter.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the voting is completed. The tellers and alternate tellers have left the room to begin the counting of the ballots. As I indicated earlier this afternoon the results of the voting will be announced Monday morning. We shall be convening at 9.00 a.m. at which time the results of the balloting will be announced.

At that time also the ceremony of the admission of new members will take place.

Today's business is complete. I adjourn this meeting until Monday morning at 9.00 o'clock.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/PV/3

Twenty-Seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-Septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(8 November 1993)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.15 hours
Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 15
sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings. Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.15 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen I wish to declare open the Third Plenary Meeting of the 27th Session of the Conference. We had two good sessions on Saturday. We have had the benefit of yesterday. I hope that all delegates had a restful and refreshing week-end and feel invigorated to ensure that we pursue the business of the day with vigour and satisfaction.

Conference will recall that when we closed our meeting on Saturday evening we had concluded the vote on the applications for Membership. The tellers have completed the counting of the ballots and I should like to ask the Secretary-General to read the results.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS

PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES

25. Applications for Membership in the Organization (Result of Ballot and Admission Ceremony)
(continued)
25. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (Résultat du scrutin et cérémonie d'admission) (suite)
25. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (Resultado de la votación y ceremonia de admisión)
(continuación)

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je vais donner lecture du résultat du scrutin pour l'admission d'Etats Membres.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	142
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	11

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	128
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	131

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	88
------------------------------------	----

A R M E N I A

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Ms Janet BITEGEKO
(Tanzania)

Signature
Firma Mr K. KAWAKAMI
(Japan)

6.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	142
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	7

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	126
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	9
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	135

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	90
------------------------------------	----

C R O A T I A

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma Ms Janet BITEGEKO
(Tanzania)

Signature
Firma Mr K. KAWAKAMI
(Japan)

6.11.93
Date
Fecha

B. Linley, GIC
Elections Officer
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REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	142
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	9

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	128
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	132

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	89
------------------------------------	----

B O S N I A A N D H E R Z E G O V I N A

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma Ms Janet BITEGEKO
(Tanzania)

Signature
Firma Mr K. KAWAKAMI
(Japan)

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	142
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	139
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	139

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	93
------------------------------------	----

C Z E C H R E P U B L I C

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Ms Janet BITEGEO
(Tanzania)

Signature
Firma Mr K. KAWAKAMI
(Japan)

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Date
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REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	142
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	139
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	139

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	93
------------------------------------	----

E R I T R E A

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma Ms Janet BITEGEKO
(Tanzania)

Signature
Firma Mr K. KAWAKAMI
(Japan)

6.11.93
Date
Fecha

B. Linley, GIC
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
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REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	142
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	6

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	135
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	136

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	91
------------------------------------	----

K Y R G Y Z R E P U B L I C

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature
Firma Ms Janet BITEGEKO
(Tanzania)

Signature
Firma Mr K. KAWAKAMI
(Japan)

6.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	142
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	139
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	139

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	93
------------------------------------	----

S L O V A K I A

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Ms Janet BITEGEKO
(Tanzania)

Signature
Firma Mr K. KAWAKAMI
(Japan)

6.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	142
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	6

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	135
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	136

7. Majority Majorité Mayoria	91
------------------------------------	----

S L O V E N I A

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Ms Janet BITEGEKO
(Tanzania)

Signature
Firma Mr K. KAWAKAMI
(Japan)

6.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	142
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	12

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	125
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	5
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	130

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	87
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THE FORMER YUGOSLAV
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature

Firma Ms Janet BITEGEKO
(Tanzania)

Signature

Firma Mr K. KAWAKAMI
(Japan)

6.11.93

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GIC

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Director-General. May I now invite the new members to come forward.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: It is a very great pleasure for me to extend a warm welcome to these new Members as they enter into membership of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I wish to give the floor to the Director-General, who will address them.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je serai très bref. Je voudrai, à mon tour, souhaiter la bienvenue aux neuf nouveaux pays membres et les féliciter chaleureusement. Je suis certain que leur appartenance à la famille de la FAO non seulement apportera des bienfaits à nos populations, mais aussi enrichira et fortifiera l'Organisation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ashot VOSKANIAN (Armenia): On behalf of the Armenian government and Ministry of Agriculture, it is a great honour for me to express our gratitude for the election of the Republic of Armenia as a Member of your honourable Organization. We shall do our best to facilitate your noble mission to help the newly emerging countries in their agricultural and economic development.

The independence of our country has a history of only two years. During this short period of time much has been done towards the development of Armenian agriculture and the overall economic situation of the country. This has all been achieved in the face of the economic blockade which our country has suffered for the last four years.

Our first achievement was the land reform and privatisation of the lands which had formerly belonged to the collective and state farms (Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes). More than 90 percent of arable lands have been privatized, and 220 000 new agricultural enterprises and 5 000 cooperative farms have emerged so far. As a result of this, our people have been saved, despite the shortages of fuel and raw materials, from the most severe effects of the blockade. Agricultural productivity has doubled compared to 1990 and 1991. The entire production is not sufficient to meet internal needs but has saved the population from hunger.

We intend to change completely the structure of our agricultural policy from a collectivised system into a free and cooperative enterprise system. We need to change the agricultural educational system. We should re-organize the breeding system, seed planting, veterinary services, etc., so that they conform with the reality of the situation in Armenia. In general, the whole structure of the former system should be changed.

We hope our membership will also contribute to strengthening Armenia's relations with neighbouring countries, as well as with other former USSR republics and all other nations who stand ready to cooperate with Armenia, and we are open to any proposal for further cooperation in various fields. There is at the moment a special official FAO Mission in Armenia on irrigation and water problems. We hope that this mission will not be the last one and that there will be other FAO missions in Armenia.

As a newly independent country, Armenia pursues a peaceful policy. This policy was mentioned in the speech of our President, His Excellency Levon Ter-Petrossian during the United Nations General Assembly.

We highly appreciate the role of FAO in assisting our country. We consider our membership an important step forward for the development of agriculture, and particularly for agricultural extension projects.

We assume complete responsibility in this noble assembly which brings together different cultures and nations for the progress and development of humanity. Thank you once again.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ivan TARNAJ (Croatia): Having become a member of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the Republic of Croatia has joined the family of countries wishing to cooperate, within the international community, in the promotion of agricultural production and the improvement of the global food situation.

The Republic of Croatia and its agriculture look forward today to FAO'S understanding and assistance in order to be able, tomorrow, to assist all the member countries requiring help. In the restructuring of its agriculture and its post-war reconstruction, Croatia first of all looks forward to FAO's professional and technical help. Croatia has a sufficient number of well-trained and competent experts of different backgrounds, who, in cooperation with FAO specialists, can draft the best way towards a profitable, high-quality and environmentally-acceptable agricultural production in Europe.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to FAO and World Bank experts already engaged in two projects in the Republic of Croatia. We believe that this is a sign of trust and of interest in Croatia's agriculture. We also hope that these projects mark the beginning of long-term and successful cooperation, and that the Croatian delegation will be able to report the results achieved at the next conference.

As a full member Croatia will provide every support to all FAO activities.

We believe that the century-long experience of Croatia's agriculture, its European environment, major potentials, hard-working farmers and well-trained specialists can contribute to the work and activities of such an eminent specialized organization as the FAO. We, therefore, look forward to mutually beneficial future cooperation.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Josef LUX (Czech Republic): It is a great honour and pleasure for me to be the Head of the delegation of the Czech Republic for the 27th Session of the General Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at the time when just few minutes ago Member Nations of the Organization have agreed on the membership of our young Czech state in this largest specialized agency of the United Nations system.

Admission to FAO gives testimony about our political and professional interest in the implementation of the commitments and basic goals of the Organization in all of its Member Nations.

Following the above-mentioned fact, the Czech Republic as one of the successor states of the dissolved Czechoslovakia Federation wishes to follow the ideals with which Czechoslovakia participated in the foundation of FAO in 1945.

I am persuaded that the cooperation between the Czech Republic and FAO will be successful and advantageous for both the Organization and its Member Nations.

Finally, allow me on behalf of the Government of the Czech Republic to wish FAO and its 27th General Conference every success.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Tesfai GHZRMATION (Eritrea): On behalf of my Government, I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to all Member Nations of the Organization for supporting us in becoming an integral part of this family of nations.

As a predominantly agricultural country, we intend to make a brief presentation at the appropriate moment during the Conference. We attach particular value and significance to this membership of FAO. I should like to assure you that it is the intention of my Government to be an active partner in FAO, both by learning from the Organization's extensive experience, in our efforts to develop our rural economy, as well as by sharing our experience, limited as it may be, with our sister nations, through the various fora organized under the auspices of FAO.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Eftim ANCEV (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia): Allow me to express my pleasure and appreciation for the participation of the Republic of Macedonia at the 27th FAO Conference, as an equal member. Also, allow me, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr Kiro Gligorov, the President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia,

Mr Branko Crvenkovski, and myself, as head of the Macedonia delegation and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, to extend my greetings, and to wish the Conference success in its work.

The Republic of Macedonia is situated in south Europe and occupies the central part of the Balkan Peninsula. It is a crossroads of international traffic and trade communications leading to the south towards the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean and towards central and western Europe, to the north. The Republic of Macedonia is characterized by a Mediterranean climate in the south and along the River Vardar valley, a moderate continental climate in the east, and mountains in the west. Thus, the main features are long, hot and dry summers with temperatures up to 45°C and dry and severe winters with extremely low temperatures in some regions. A special characteristic of the climate in Macedonia is the extreme drought. I deeply believe that with membership of the Republic of Macedonia in the important and distinguished Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a new field for acquiring knowledge and experience and new horizons in the field of agriculture will be offered to us. I hope that we shall find common interests with all nations in the world in this field.

Applause

Applausissements

Aplausos

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Constantin G. POLITIS (Greece): I am speaking on a point of order. Along with other delegates, we have been happy to welcome new Member Nations within our Organization a few minutes ago. Amongst them was a state bearing the name "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". I draw your attention to the fact that just now the delegate did not use the accurate name of this new Member Nation of this Organization. I draw your attention to the fact that I request that the appropriate correction should be made to the Minutes of the Conference.

Lojze PETERLE (Slovenia): Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may I first of all congratulate the President of the Conference and the other Officers of the Conference on the election to their prestigious posts. We are sure that under their wise and skilful guidance the Conference will be brought to a successful end.

It is my great honour and pleasure to have the opportunity of addressing this General Conference on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia, a new Member Nation of FAO. I cordially thank all Member Nations for their support for our membership in the Organization.

Slovenia considers this event as a very important step toward its full integration in the international organization. With our admission to FAO, we have joined the large family of states which respect the principles underlying the welfare of all, famine extermination, solidarity, higher standards of living, sustainable development, environmental protection and other principles on which this Organization is based.

In addition to the classical development problems of the Third World, the international community has lately been increasingly confronted by issues such as global deterioration of the ecological balance, lack of a global strategy for the production and distribution of food, growing migration flows as a consequence of famine, increased demand for the provisions required by the growing number of refugees, and other matters.

Slovenia perceives FAO as a cornerstone organization in assuring respect for the rights of people to food. We expect further strengthening and adequate adjustment of the Organization to be able to respond efficiently to the growing needs of the world of today.

On this basis, Slovenia considers its admission to FAO as a token of special recognition as well as a commitment to do its utmost to contribute to the common values which FAO stands for.

We expect that, within the framework of the FAO programmes, our cooperation with FAO will speed up Slovenia's inclusion to economic integration, particularly in those areas in which FAO can render expert assistance.

We are confident that, together with other Member Nations of FAO which we are joining today, we will succeed in our common endeavours to create better conditions for our well-being and for the well-being of the coming generations.

Applause

Applaudisements

Aplausos

Peter BACO (Slovakia): Your Excellencies, Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour of addressing the 27th Session of the General Conference of FAO and to make a public presentation at FAO Headquarters for the first time.

I take the liberty of assuring you that the Slovak Republic at the point of its entry into FAO comes with a commitment to play an active role in the process of fulfilling the objectives of this important organization of the United Nations. I would like to mention the fact that Slovakia, within the former Czechoslovak Republic, belonged to initiators and co-founders of FAO. The evidence of the good relations of Slovakia to FAO is our extensive cooperation over many years. Hundreds of Slovaks actively contributed to the successful realization of many important FAO projects in various parts of the world.

Slovakia's relations with FAO follow from existing beneficial cooperation but we also have rich historical traditions. The agrarian culture provides the evidence of early agrarian production in the territory of Slovakia which extends back thousands of years. Experts know well that in the year 1762 Queen Maria Theresa decided that the Academy of Mining and Forestry would be founded in Banská Štiavnica. The Academy grew in size and in the year 1824 the Institute of Forestry, the unique and first institution of higher learning of this type in the world, was founded. Foresters from almost the whole of Europe have been studying there. The roots of these traditions reach to our present time.

Priorities of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with FAO are influenced by present conditions of transition of our agriculture to the market economy and they fully respect the conceptual aims of the policy of the government.

The following goals have priority:

- the revitalization of the reproduction process in the agro-industrial production;
- the support of privatization of the primary agricultural production and food production by means of institutional systematic measures;
- the technical and technological modernization of the food industry aimed at innovation of the food assortment and higher quality of nutrition; and
- the enhancement of the pro export responsibility of our agriculture.

We do not wish our cooperation with FAO to be one-sided. The Slovak Republic, with its experts, is ready to take action in those areas where we have our strong points. These areas may be the FAO projects in water management, forestry, veterinary medicine and services, the food industry and human nutrition. We can provide training of experts for developing countries and offer our modern education centres.

Allow me to express our thanks for the trust you have rendered to the Slovak Republic by voting for its becoming a member of FAO. Our country deeply appreciates this membership and considers it a great honour. I would like to assure you that Slovakia's activity in FAO will not be oriented only to national or subregional interests. We are convinced that food producers, whether they live and work in the north or south, in better agricultural and climate conditions or in worse ones, always have a topic for dialogue. There are many good reasons for mutual understanding in the process of solving the existing contradiction between relatively high food surpluses in economically developed countries and the almost catastrophic shortage of food in some developing countries of Africa and Asia, as well as some countries of Eastern Europe.

Existing activities of Slovakia in FAO and the results of mutual cooperation allow us to hope that in the future we will manage to successfully participate in the work of this organization and also by means of our membership in its Council for which we are interested in applying.

Let me declare the relationship of the Slovak Republic to FAO with the symbolical words of one distinguished Slovak, Daniel Lichardus, who is well-known for his achievements in the field of agriculture. He said: "For mankind the one who grows a slice of bread is more useful than the one who wins wars".

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: The delegates of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Kyrgyz Republic do not appear to have arrived yet.

I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate all those delegates who have delivered their maiden speeches in this forum. We hope to hear from the delegates of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Kyrgyz Republic at some opportune moment.

This concludes for today Item 25 of the agenda which brings our membership up to 168 Member Nations, one member organization and one associate member. Of course, this agenda item will remain open until the matter of South Africa has been settled.

We will proceed to the next item of business which is to hear the report of the Credentials Committee which Conference appointed on Saturday morning.

Adoption of Report of Credentials Committee

Adoption du rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Aprobación del informe del Comité de Credenciales

Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee): The Credentials Committee held its first meeting on 6 November 1993 at 16.00 hours and its second meeting on 8 November at 9.00 hours to examine the credentials of the delegations of members to the 27th Session of the FAO Conference.

The Committee commenced its work by selecting the delegate of Cyprus, Ambassador Poulides, as Chairman of the Committee.

In accordance with Rule III-2 of the General Rules of the Organization and the criteria established by previous committees, the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of the 165 delegations and found them to be valid.

The Member Nations to which these delegations belong are shown in the attached list. To date, four Member Nations have not registered: Yugoslavia, Central African Republic, Sao Tome, Bosnia Herzegovina. Any other credentials received will be examined by the Committee at subsequent meetings.

I give the list of members whose delegations have presented their credentials and which have been found to be in order: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, European Economic Community Member Organization, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal,

Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Then we have the list of the applicant nations: Armenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Eritrea, Kyrgyz Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and South Africa.

That is a total of 170.

CHAIRMAN: You have had the report from the Chairman of the Credentials Committee. Are there any comments?

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Hubert DE SCHRYVER (Belgique): M. le Président, je voudrais faire une courte communication. Au nom de la présidence en exercice de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit.

La présence à la Conférence générale d'une délégation zaïroise, menée par M. Massamba (Zaire), Vice-Premier Ministre, Ministre de l'Agriculture et du développement rural du gouvernement dirigé par M. Faustin Birindwa, n'implique aucunement que la Communauté et ses membres acceptent ce gouvernement. En effet, ce gouvernement n'est issu que d'un conclave politique composé uniquement de représentants de la mouvance présidentielle sans l'approbation du Haut Conseil de la République et par conséquent en dehors du processus de transition défini par la Conférence nationale souveraine.

CHAIRMAN: I have taken note of that comment from the delegate of Belgium.

Moomi TE AVELELA SAMBA (Zaïre): M. le Président, je viens de suivre les commentaires du délégué de la Belgique. C'est un pays ami. C'est son point de vue. Mais la délégation du Zaire, qui va assister à cette Conférence, a un plein pouvoir signé par le Président de la République du Zaïre, qui est aujourd'hui le Maréchal Mobutu Sese Seko et ce Président n'est contesté par personne.

Cela étant, en ce moment, c'est le représentant permanent du Zaïre auprès de la FAO qui dirige la délégation et je pense qu'il n'y a pas de problème. Je vous remercie M. le Président.

CHAIRMAN: Your statement has been noted.

Are there any further comments on the Report of the Credentials Committee? If there are none, I declare the Report of the Credentials Committee

adopted. I understand that this Report will be distributed later today as document C 93/LIM/7. This item with respect to the Report of the Credentials Committee is now closed.

ADOPTED

ADOPTÉ

APROBADO

27.1 Appointment of the Director-General

27.1 Nomination du Directeur général

27.1 Nombramiento del Director General

CHAIRMAN: We move to item 27.1, the appointment of the Director-General. There were nine candidates for the post as indicated in document C 93/18. However, as indicated in document C 93/18-Corr.1, the Government of Greece has withdrawn the candidacy of Mr Politis. Accordingly, there are now eight candidates, namely Mr Salahuddin Ahmed, Mr Christian Bonte-Friedheim, Mr Gerrardus J.M. Braks, Mr Edward Patrick Cunningham, Mr Jacques Diouf, Mr Geoff Miller, Mr Rafael Moreno, Mr Maharaj Muthoo.

The vote is governed by Art. VII.1 of the FAO Constitution, which reads as follows: "There shall be a Director-General of the Organization who shall be appointed for a term of six years. He shall be eligible for re-appointment". Delegates, the voting will be by secret ballot and, in order to be appointed, the successful candidate must obtain a majority of the votes cast as specified in Rule XXXVI-1 (b) of the General Rules of the Organization.

I now ask the Secretary-General to read the relevant instructions.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: M. le Président, les délégués vont être appelés un par un à se rendre aux urnes où ils recevront chacun un bulletin de vote portant la liste des candidats par ordre alphabétique. Pour voter, les délégués devront indiquer leur choix en marquant d'une croix la case correspondant au candidat choisi.

Aux termes de l'article XII, alinéa iv) c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront comptés comme abstention.

Aux termes de l'alinéa iv) d) du même article, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autre que celui par lequel s'exprime le suffrage, sous peine d'invalider le bulletin de vote.

Les scrutateurs qui seront désignés auront une autre fonction qui est de statuer, dans les cas douteux, sur la validité du bulletin de vote.

Je voudrais ajouter, pour l'information des délégués, que l'alinéa ix) f) de l'article XII en question prévoit la substitution du bulletin de vote rempli de manière défectueuse par un bulletin blanc, l'échange devant être effectué avant que le bulletin ne soit déposé dans l'urne.

Je vous remercie M. le Président.

CHAIRMAN: Under the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 85 Member Nations must be present in the hall at this time. I have requested the Officers in charge of the election to carry out a count and I am told that at this time there are at least 144 delegations of Member Nations present. We may therefore proceed to the vote.

May I remind you that in accordance with Rule XII-14 of the General Rules of the Organization, once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting.

In accordance with Rule XII-9(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairman of the Conference appoints two tellers from among the delegates, representatives or their alternatives. I will therefore request the delegates of Tunisia and Canada to serve as tellers for this election.

Hubert DE SCHRYVER (Belgique): M. le Président, j'avais préparé une intervention au nom des Etats Membres de la Communauté européenne et des Etats Membres du Groupe régional Europe pour vous demander de prévoir de brèves pauses de réflexion après l'annonce des résultats de chaque scrutin. Il n'est pas question de vouloir interrompre l'élection. Mais comme je ne pourrai plus, durant la journée, prendre la parole, j'ose espérer, M. le Président, que dans votre sagesse vous jugerez bon, à un moment donné de la journée, de cette longue journée, d'accorder aux délégations d'aller au moins se restaurer. Merci M. le Président.

CHAIRMAN: I have heard the comments of the delegate of Belgium. I believe that we are, indeed, in for a very long day. As Chairman, I would hope that we will conclude the election of the Director-General by early mid-afternoon. If we fail so to do, I should hope we will conclude in time to permit the Director-General to host his reception and to have a full turn-out of delegates. If we fail to come to a conclusion by that time we shall try to ensure we complete this item before we adjourn today's session. This would seem to indicate that so far as is possible we should have a continuing process.

It may be that during the course of the day everyone will find it absolutely necessary to have a short pause for reflection. The Chairman will get a sense of the feeling of the majority of delegates at that time, and will rule accordingly.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: The voting has now been completed and the tellers will withdraw in order to carry out the count of the votes.

In accordance with paragraph 9(g) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization "only the candidates or scrutineers appointed by the candidates may attend the count, but they shall not take part in the

count". Therefore, any candidate who does not attend the count personally may designate one scrutineer to do so in his stead.

Whilst counting takes place, we shall proceed with the presentation of the B.R. Sen and A.H. Boerma Awards for 1992-93.

PRESENTATION OF B.R. SEN AND A.H. BOERMA AWARDS FOR 1992 AND 1993

REMISE PES PRIX B.R. SEN ET A.H. BOERMA POUR 1992 ET 1993

ENTREGA DE-LOS PREMIOS B.R. SEN Y A.H. BOERMA PARA 1992 Y 1993

CHAIRMAN: It is time to present the B.R. Sen Awards for 1992 and 1993. This award was established by the Conference in honour of Mr. B.R. Sen, who was Director-General of FAO from 1956 to 1967. The Award is made annually to a field officer who has made a special contribution to the country or countries to which he or she was assigned.

The prize consists of a medal, a scroll, a cash prize of \$5 000 and a roundtrip for the winner and spouse to the Conference Session in Rome when the awards are distributed.

I will now ask the Director-General to introduce the winners and to present the B.R. Sen Awards.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: As you have just reminded the Conference, these awards are presented in honour of the late Dr B.R. Sen, Director-General of this Organization from 1956 to 1967.

Each year the award is bestowed on the field officer who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country to which he or she has been assigned.

On this occasion we shall be presenting the awards for 1992 and 1993.

The recipient of the 1992 award is Mr Sang-Kyun Choi, a citizen of the Republic of Korea.

He is chosen in recognition of his major contribution to the development of integrated watershed management in Myanmar.

By his pioneering efforts and able leadership, Mr Choi has motivated some 10 000 farmers to undertake improved community agroforestry and watershed management in remote and unsecured border areas, thereby generating income and alternative cash crops.

In endorsing the choice of Mr Choi for a Sen award, the Government of Myanmar has also recognized his dedication, his competence as well as his sincere and pleasant manner in involving farmers in all aspects of the project implementation.

For 1993, it is with particular pleasure that I introduce the awardee of the B.R. Sen Award being conferred, for the second time since its institution, to a woman: Ms Felicidad Lema Villareal.

Ms Villareal is a national of the Philippines.

She joined FAO in 1984 as FAO Regional Population and Rural Development Adviser, after 19 years of professional experience in her own country in promoting farmers' groups to improve their standards of living.

During her regional assignment in Bangkok, Ms Villareal was responsible for formulating, among others, seven important population projects in seven Chinese provinces.

In recognition of her unique contribution to the projects' development, the Chinese authorities requested the transfer of Ms Villareal to China in 1992 in order to ensure continued technical and management assistance.

Ms Villareal's role in the assessment and funding of rural township enterprises, and, above all, the establishment of self-help women groups who engage in savings mobilization and micro-enterprises, has given valuable support to improving the status of rural women through income-generating activities.

At the lowest village levels, she has been able to use indigenous cultural systems, linked to family or other local institutions, thus making a substantial contribution to sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

The Government of China, in endorsing the choice of Ms Villareal for this award, wishes to pay tribute to her untiring efforts, dedication and technical competence in support of rural women in improving their social and economic status.

CHAIRMAN: I now invite Mr Sang-Kyun Choi of the Republic of Korea to take the floor.

Sang-Kyun CHOI (PAO Staff): Mr Chairman, Director-General of FAO, Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, it is with profound emotion, humility and gratitude that I today receive the prestigious B.R. Sen Award for 1992. I wish here to specifically express to Dr Edouard Saouma, our esteemed Director-General, my sincere gratitude and thanks for the confidence he has placed in me by supporting and approving my candidature for this important award. Allow me also to pay special tribute to the late Dr B.R. Sen, who passed away last June. Receiving this prize today, which was established to honour the goals and ideals he served with great devotion, is indeed of special significance.

This prize is a great honour, not only for my family and myself, but also for the people of Myanmar in general, and the families in the project site in particular without whose cooperation this award would not have been possible. I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Government of the Union of Myanmar, especially to His Excellency the Minister for Forests and His Excellency the Minister for Agriculture for unreservedly endorsing my nomination and for their confidence in my work. I also wish to share this honour with my national counterparts.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen and colleagues, what we have done in Myanmar is but a small fraction of the overall efforts of our Organization to improve the living standards of the rural poor. Much more needs to be done, but the resources made available are steadily decreasing and the funds needed for development are unfortunately not always

channelled towards improving the living standards of the millions of rural poor around the world.

Finally, I wish to reiterate my sincere appreciation to all those who have made this award possible and would like to reassure you of my continued dedication to maintain the implicit confidence which both the Director-General and this Organization have placed in me by contributing, to the best of my ability, to the improvement of the quality of life of the rural poor.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Felicidad Laura VILLAREAL (FAO Staff): Mr Chairman, Director-General of FAO, Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, colleagues:

When Madame Song from Bai Xing village of Song Shu township, Minghe county in Qinghai province of China, was asked what the project has done for her, she responded:

"You do not need to ask that question - just look and see what has happened to us in our group. I can now read the newspaper with my 2 000 characters. I have become more conscious about my health because now I realize that this is my first capital. I have learned many good and important ideas about how to take good care of my children. My husband and I have decided that our two children are enough. He and I have started to plan beyond the usual "planting to harvesting" cycle. We now have a family life plan. My mother-in-law has a higher regard for me. Our lives are better. We have meat in our diet at least twice a week. We are able to undertake other economic activities besides producing grain and vegetables. I enjoy the challenge of going to the market and selling my goods. I have reached far away places, while before I was just around our farm with my donkey. I can now transact business with the bank, while before I had no idea of what goes on in that big building where only people with shoes and good clothes seemed to be allowed in, only to realize that it is nothing but our own small group "bank" in our savings and loan operation."

With tears in her eyes, Madame Song said, "I have found something which I did not know I had. I am my own person. The saying that women hold up half the sky now has a new meaning for me. My husband now has a better regard for me, while before he treated me like a hired hand. We have more conversations, meaningful and useful ones. "PO3" has given me a new start and it is now up to us to go further."

I believe Madame Song speaks for the millions of rural women, not only in China but of the world. The voices must be heard. I am here today because of them and on their behalf.

The honour which is being bestowed on me today, is both a privilege and a burden: a privilege because FAO has given me the opportunity to bring the voices of women like Madame Song to our consciousness; a burden because honour bestowed and accepted inevitably means responsibility. But I am grateful for both as they give me a renewed conviction of what Dag Hammarskjöld once said:

"What distinguishes the elite from the masses is only their insistence upon "quality". This implies a responsibility to all for all, to the past for the future, which is the reflection of a humble and spontaneous response to Life - with its endless possibilities and its unique present which never happens twice."

May this occasion renew our conviction that the poor, women in particular, have their aspirations and a right to be part of the "elite" in our society.

In closing, my special thanks of gratitude go to Dr Edouard Saouma, our Director-General, for his continued support and encouragement to the staff working in the field and for his efforts in ensuring that women are better represented in the Secretariat. My thanks also go to my colleagues in the Regional Office in Bangkok and in particular to the Government of China for unreservedly endorsing my nomination for this prize. Finally, I join my colleague Mr Sang-Kyun Choi in paying a special tribute to the late Dr B.R. Sen in whose name this prize was established.

As a Filipino, please allow me to end this reflection in my native language to express my gratitude. "Maraming salamat". Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

MYINT AUNG (Myanmar): Mr Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished guests, I have much pleasure in offering my personal congratulations to Mr. Choi on being conferred the B.R. Sen Award for 1992. It has been presented in recognition of his outstanding contribution to integrated watershed management in Myanmar.

As the national authority directly involved in Mr Choi's activities, I have added pleasure in his nomination. Mr Choi has been contributing his invaluable professional services as Chief Technical Adviser to watershed management projects in Myanmar since the early part of 1990.

Mr Choi was originally contracted for watershed management in the Kinda Irrigation Dam catchment area. His sincerity and dedication was highly recognized during the process. Mr Choi was, accordingly, further requested to shoulder responsibilities for watershed management in catchment areas related to hydropower, municipal water supply and sloping land agriculture. He was also called upon to assist in the establishment of a "Watershed Management Section" within the Forest Department and the development of programmes for agroforestry practices in the dry-zone areas of Myanmar. Currently, he is also additionally engaged in border areas integrated agriculture development, an extremely important assignment, for improving the environmental and socio-economic conditions of Myanmar's rural and national resources of the border areas.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to FAO for assigning Mr Choi and for providing invaluable technical assistance to our country's endeavours in this globally important task. Myanmar has been actively involved at national as well as

international level in ecological conservation activities. The successful implementation of the Myanmar FAO watershed management project reflects the political will of the Government of Myanmar and active participation of the people.

We remain deeply indebted to Mr Choi for his professional contribution to Myanmar. We look forward to his continuing assignment. At the same time we offer happiness and bliss to Mr Choi and his family on the occasion of deservedly winning the prestigious B.R. Sen Award for 1992.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

HUANG YONGNING (China) (Original language Chinese): First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, to congratulate Ms Villareal on her receiving the B.R. Sen Award. We firmly believe that Ms Villareal deserves the honour.

Since 1989 Ms Villareal has engaged herself in the UNFPA Finance Project for Women, Population and Development in China. From August 1992 onwards Ms Villareal stayed in China as a technical consultant for the project. She is hard-working. We are deeply impressed by her diligence and down-to-earth style of work. A number of times she herself went to some of the Chinese remote, poverty-stricken, mountainous areas to organize women there to take up embroidery and other handicraft-making and participate in agricultural production in an effort to raise the income level of rural women. Meanwhile, she also helped the relevant Chinese institutions train project management staff. Thanks to the implementation of this project, the income of women in the project area increased markedly and their economic and social status improved, thus promoting their deeper involvement in development activities.

No doubt this project brought about tangible economic and social impact. Therefore, the Chinese Government appreciates very much the efforts made by Ms Villareal in implementing the project and admires her dedication to the cause for which she works.

In conclusion, we would like once again to offer our congratulations to Ms Villareal. We look forward to seeing her making more outstanding contributions to the promotion of women's participation and development.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Tae-Soo KIM (Korea Republic of): Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks for the decision to give this year's B.R. Sen Award to Mr Sang-kyun Choi for his service to watershed management in Myanmar. The award given to Mr Choi is not only an honour for himself but a high honour for the Republic of Korea.

I am very proud of Mr Choi for his services to the people of Myanmar. I am sure that the B.R. Sen Award will be a very important occasion for many Korean experts who have strong motivations to work closely with the FAO in the years to come for the betterment of rural people, still fighting hunger and malnutrition throughout the world. We are pleased to say that we will collaborate with those countries who need our experience.

Mr Chairman, once again on behalf of the People of the Republic of Korea I would like to express my warm thanks to the FAO and to the people of Myanmar who have made the B.R. Sen Award possible for Mr Sang Kyun Choi.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Roberto S. SEBASTIAN (Philippines): The Philippine delegation is deeply honoured to have a Filipino woman as a recipient of the B.R. Sen Award. We understand that this is the first time a woman has been given this prestigious award and we are extremely pleased that this goes to a country-woman of ours. We join FAO in commending her work on Women, Population and Development and the Development of Communications in the People's Republic of China. This exemplifies the sharing of expertise in rural developments among developing countries which is an important cornerstone of FAO's mandate.

Once again we extend our warmest congratulations to Ms Felicidad Villareal.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: The A.H. Boerma Award is a biennial one given to a writer or journalist whose writing or production on radio or television is likely to have increased international awareness of the world food problem and measures leading to its solution. It consists of a scroll, a cash prize of US\$10 000 and a round trip to Rome for the winner and spouse.

I will now invite the Director-General to introduce the winner and to present the A.H. Boerma Award.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Merci M. le Président. Nous avons le plaisir de décerner le prix Boerma 1992-93 à Mme Franceline Oubda, jeune journaliste de la télévision nationale du Burkina Faso.

Ainsi donc deux femmes se sont vu attribuer deux prix sur trois aujourd'hui. J'espère que mon successeur étudiera la possibilité d'avoir un prix séparé pour les femmes et pour les hommes, sinon je suis certain que les femmes à l'avenir seront toujours gagnantes dans ces concours, parce qu'elles ont toujours démontré beaucoup de dévouement.

Mme OUBDA anime une émission de télévision, "Femmes et développement", d'une excellente qualité technique et journalistique, qui aborde les thèmes importants du développement sur leurs aspects économiques, sociaux et culturels à travers le regard des femmes.

L'émission constitue en quelque sorte un forum où les femmes sont invitées à raconter leur expérience, à discuter des problèmes de toute sorte qu'elles doivent affronter pour participer activement au développement, mais où elles peuvent aussi parler du succès des activités qu'elles ont mises sur pied, encourageant ainsi d'autres femmes à suivre leur exemple.

Ce témoignage des femmes sur leurs conditions de vie et de travail est d'autant plus fructueux qu'il est ponctué d'interventions de responsables politiques et de techniciens qui y sont conviés pour aider à trouver des solutions concrètes aux problèmes abordés.

L'émission "Femmes et développement" incite donc les autorités à mieux reconnaître la contribution potentielle des femmes dans le processus du développement du pays et à accroître le soutien communautaire aux mesures prises pour les aider dans leur tâche. Madame, vous avez su mettre votre compétence, votre talent et votre cœur dans ce projet ambitieux mais combien noble. Continuez, avec tout l'enthousiasme que vous y apportez, à donner la parole aux femmes et à les faire participer fructueusement au développement de votre pays. Nous vous félicitons chaleureusement et sommes heureux de vous remettre maintenant le prix du nom de mon prédécesseur.

Mme Franceline OUBDA (Journaliste de Burkina Faso): Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, honorables invités à la session biennale, c'est un réel plaisir pour moi aujourd'hui de prendre la parole à l'occasion de cette remise du prix A.H. Boerma pour dire qu'au-delà de ma modeste personne c'est l'Afrique tout entière et le Burkina en particulier qui viennent d'être honorés.

A l'instar de nombre de pays qui ont compris la nécessité de faire contribuer la femme au développement communautaire, le Burkina Faso, dans le cadre de sa politique d'autosuffisance alimentaire, accorde une place de choix à la femme et singulièrement à celle du monde rural.

Ce choix tient compte des potentialités et du dévouement de la femme rurale à oeuvrer pour participer pleinement au développement socio-économique malgré la précarité de ses conditions d'existence.

Mes oeuvres que vous venez de primer se veulent le reflet fidèle du vécu quotidien des femmes de mon pays et sans doute de la femme en Afrique. Le souci qui m'anime c'est d'être l'écho, à travers ce merveilleux outil qu'est la télévision, des nombreuses préoccupations, des attentes renouvelées et des angoisses existentielles des femmes.

Ces productions qui viennent d'être honorées portent également en elles les espoirs de ce qu'il est convenu d'appeler l'autre moitié du ciel. Elles sont le témoignage en images de mes soeurs, de mes mères et des femmes de ma génération. Ce sont ces femmes que vous avez encouragées et stimulées avec l'attribution de ce prix.

Mon souhait est que ce prix que je viens d'obtenir puisse susciter des actions concrètes sur le terrain en vue de permettre à la femme de mieux se prendre en charge. Pour ma part, en tant que communicatrice utilisant la télévision comme média, je m'engage résolument à porter toujours plus haut la voix des sans voix, celle des femmes à travers les images que je produirai. Pour cela, Monsieur le Directeur général, honorables invités, je plaide pour la cause des communicatrices doublement concernées par la cause de la femme, d'abord en tant que femmes et ensuite en tant que communicatrices. Ces femmes de l'audiovisuel sont toujours animées de grandes ambitions mais souvent limitées par les moyens compte tenu de la crise économique que traversent la plupart de nos pays. Les médias du sud ont déjà fait leurs preuves dans la mobilisation des ressources humaines pour la cause du développement; seulement, leurs élans sont freinés par le manque de moyens matériels et financiers. Un soutien dans ce sens insufflerait plus de dynamisme dans le rôle qu'ils sont appelés à jouer.

Avec votre permission, Monsieur le Directeur général, honorables invités, je voudrais dédier ce prix à son Excellence Monsieur Biaise Compaore, Président du Burkina, dont la politique a pris en compte la valeur de la femme comme élément incontournable dans le processus de développement.

Cette politique a permis à la femme du Burkina Faso de prendre en main son propre destin et de se mettre en avant-garde sur les fronts de bataille pour son émancipation réelle: Libération économique, sociale, politique, lutte contre la faim, etc.

C'est sans doute ces raisons qui m'amènent à prendre la parole devant vous aujourd'hui pour parler de mes soeurs du milieu rural dont le dynamisme n'est plus à démontrer.

Monsieur le Directeur général, honorables invités, tout en espérant que les conclusions issues de cette rencontre tiendront compte de la situation socio-économique de la femme, je souhaite plein succès à vos travaux.

Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Bruno Nongoma ZIDOUEMBA (Burkina Faso): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués, au nom de la délégation du Burkina Faso, je voudrais remercier la FAO pour le choix d'une ressortissante du Burkina Faso pour recevoir, cette année, le prix Boerma. La lauréate, Madame Franceline Oubda, est une journaliste bien connue au Burkina Faso où elle anime une émission très prisée des téléspectateurs burkina-be.

Cette émission "Femmes et développement", pour laquelle Madame Oubda est primée aujourd'hui, met l'accent sur la place de choix et le rôle moteur de la femme dans le processus de développement économique et social du Burkina et dans la recherche des solutions aux problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Nous sommes heureux de constater que l'impact de cette émission dépasse le cadre des frontières de notre pays et que son écho retentit dans des sphères aussi prestigieuses que la FAO.

A travers la personne de Madame Oubda, ce sont toutes les femmes du monde, et particulièrement les femmes rurales d'Afrique et du Burkina Faso, qui se sentent récompensées. Le Burkina Faso est très sensible au choix du jury et tient à exprimer officiellement à la FAO, par ma voix, sa reconnaissance et ses vifs remerciements.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

27.1 Appointment of the Director-General (continued)

27.1 Nomination du Directeur général (suite)

27.1 Nombramiento del Director General (continuación)

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL NOMINATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL NOMBRAMIENTO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	163
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	162
5. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	162
6. Majority Majorité Mayoría	82

Elected - Elus - Elegidos	Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	Eliminated - Éliminés - Eliminados
	MORENO, R. (Chile)	43
	DIOUF, J. (Senegal)	39
	MILLER, G. (Australia)	29
	MUTHOO, M.K. (India)	22
	BONTE-FRIEDHEIM, C. (Germany)	16
	BRAKS, G. (Netherlands)	9
	AHMED, S. (Bangladesh)	3
	CUNNINGHAM, E. (Ireland)	1

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Mr R. ANDRIGO
(Canada)

Signature
Firma Mr H. HAMDI
(Tunisia)

8.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

CHAIRMAN: We now have the results of the vote on the appointment of the Director-General. Since no candidate has obtained the majority of votes cast - that is, since no candidate has received 82 votes - we must proceed to a second ballot among all candidates. I should point out that in the event that no candidate obtains a majority of votes cast in the second ballot the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes in the second ballot will be eliminated as specified in paragraph 1 (b)(ii) of Rule XXXVI of the General Rules of the Organization.

May I ask the tellers to resume their places in the voting area so that we can immediately proceed to a second ballot.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: The voting on the second ballot is now complete. The tellers will withdraw in order to carry out the count of the votes.

I should just like to repeat that only the candidates or the scrutineers appointed by the candidates may attend the count, but they shall not take part in the count.

As in the first ballot, any candidate who does not attend the count personally may designate one scrutineer to do so in his stead.

The counting of the first ballot took approximately one hour. I have no doubt that the counting of the second ballot will take approximately the same time. I believe the next 60 minutes during which the votes are being counted will afford delegates the opportunity to refresh themselves.

The meeting was suspended from 12.15 to 13.30 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 12 h 15 à 13 h 30.

Se suspende la sesión de las 12.15 a las 13.30 horas.

CHAIRMAN: We will now resume the Third Plenary Session. You will recall that we adjourned for the second ballot to be counted.

I now have before me the result of the second ballot.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 2	APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL NOMINATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL NOMBRAMIENTO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	163
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	163
5. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	163
6. Majority Majorité Mayoría	82

Elected - Elus - Elegidos	Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	Eliminated - Éliminés - Eliminados
	MORENO, R. (Chile)	45
	MILLER, G. (Australia)	42
	DIOUF, J. (Senegal)	38
	MUTHOO, M.K. (India)	23
	BONTE-FRIEDHEIM, C. (Germany)	11
	AHMED, S. (Bangladesh)	2
	BRAKS, G. (Netherlands)	1
	CUNNINGHAM, E. (Ireland)	1

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Mr R. ANDRIGO
(Canada)

Signature
Firma Mr H. HAMDI
(Tunisia)

8.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, as specified in Rule XXXVI-l(b)(ii) of the General Rules of the Organization, the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes in the second vote will be eliminated. Two candidates have tied for that position, Mr Cunningham, Ireland, and Mr Braks, the Netherlands. In the meantime the Bangladesh delegation has informed us that it wishes to withdraw the candidature of Mr Salahuddin Ahmed who received two votes.

When we go to third ballot, therefore, the name of Mr Ahmed will not appear. In the meantime there will be consultation between the Netherlands' candidate and the Irish candidate as to whether there is going to be a voluntary withdrawal of one or both of them.

Ireland has withdrawn its candidate, Mr Cunningham. The Netherlands has withdrawn its candidate, Mr Braks.

Delegates, I have to announce that, consequent on the withdrawal of three candidates from the race, we will require a few minutes to re-print the ballot papers that will show the five candidates who remain. In other words, you will have approximately five minutes to consult, if necessary, and for the easing of tension. It will be five minutes before the ballot is ready. Relax for a moment.

The ballot papers containing the names of the 5 remaining candidates are ready. The candidates are as follows: Christian Bonte-Friedheim, Germany; Jacques Diouf, Senegal; Geoff Miller, Australia; Maharaj K. Muthoo, India; Rafael Moreno, Chile.

Will the tellers please take up their positions at the ballot station, please. I now invite the Secretary-General to call the delegates one by one.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: The results of the third ballot are in hand.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 3	APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL NOMINATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL NOMBRAMIENTO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	162
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	162
5. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	162
6. Majority Majorité Mayoría	82

Elected - Élus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Élus - No Elegidos		Eliminated - Éliminés - Eliminados	
		MILLER, G. (Australia)	47	BONTE-FRIEDHEIM, C. (Germany)	8
		DIOUF, J. (Senegal)	44		
		MORENO, R. (Chile)	43		
		MUTHOO, M.K. (India)	20		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Mr R. ANDRIGO
(Canada)

Signature
Firma Mr H. HAMDI
(Tunisia)

8.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

CHAIRMAN: These results mean that under Rule XXXVI-1 (b) (ii) of the General Rules of the Organization Mr Bonte-Friedheim is eliminated at this stage. There are, therefore, four candidates remaining in the race --Mr Geoff Miller of Australia, Mr Jacques Diouf of Senegal, Mr Rafael Moreno of Chile and Mr Maharaj Muthoo of India.

The ballot papers are ready. May I invite the tellers to go to the ballot stations. The Assistant Secretary-General will call the voters.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: I have the result of the fourth ballot and I regret to say that the result is still inconclusive.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 4	APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL NOMINATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL NOMBRAMIENTO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	161
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	161
5. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	161
6. Majority Majorité Mayoría	81

Elected - Elus - Elegidos	Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	Eliminated - Éliminés - Eliminados
	DIOUF, J. (Senegal) 58	MUTHOO, M.K. (India) 8
	MILLER, G. (Australia) 55	
	MORENO, R. (Chile) 40	

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Mr R. ANDRIGO
(Canada)

Signature
Firma Mr H. HAMDI
(Tunisia)

8.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

CHAIRMAN: What these results mean is that the candidate from India, Mr Muthoo, has been eliminated from the race. There are three candidates remaining, Mr Moreno of Chile, Mr Miller of Australia and Mr Diouf of Senegal.

I recognise the delegate of Ghana.

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): At this stage of the proceedings, in the name of the African group, I ask for a brief adjournment in the proceedings to allow for a short consultation.

K.M. KANGAI (Zimbabwe): I should like to second the motion by Ghana.

José Antonio OCAMPO GAVIRIA (Colombia): Nosotros queremos apoyar, señor Presidente, la moción y solicitamos que sea de una hora.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no objections, I intend to support the request for a short break. It is now 15.50. We will break until 16.45.

Constantin G. POLITIS (Greece): I think the Africans are very nice people who can finish their business more speedily, in half an hour. I feel that we are being over-burdened by expecting a whole hour. I move that we have a half-hour break at the most.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: It seems to be the will of the majority of the delegates that we break for half an hour. We will adjourn until 16.25.

The meeting was suspended from 15.55 to 16.40 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 55 à 16 h 40.

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.55 a las 16.40 horas.

CHAIRMAN: There are three candidates remaining in the race for Director-General. Under the Rules there are two ballots that shall be held among the three remaining candidates. Should one of those three secure a majority of all the votes cast, that candidate shall have been elected to the post of Director-General. Should none of the three candidates obtain a majority, a second ballot will be necessary, the reason being that none of the three candidates will be eliminated at the next ballot.

The next ballot is going to be the fifth ballot and the candidates are: Mr Jacques Diouf, Senegal; Mr Geoff Miller of Australia and Mr Rafael Moreno of Chile. May I ask the tellers to go to the voting booths so we can commence the fifth ballot.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: The results of the fifth ballot are now available.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 5	APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL NOMINATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL NOMBRAMIENTO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	162
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	162
5. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	162
6. Majority Majorité Mayoría	82

Elected - Elus - Elegidos	Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	Eliminated - Éliminés - Eliminados
	DIOUF, J. (Senegal) 71	
	MILLER, G. (Australia) 60	
	MORENO, R. (Chile) 31	

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Mr R. ANDRIGO
(Canada)

Signature
Firma Mr H. HAMDI
(Tunisia)

8.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

Juan Agustín FIGUEROA YAVAR (Chile): Señor Presidente, cumpla con el deber de anunciar oficialmente el retiro de la candidatura de Don Rafael Moreno. El fundamento de la decisión del Gobierno de Chile nace del acuerdo presidencial emanado de la voluntad del Presidente Patricio Aylwin de Chile y el Presidente Abdou Diouf de Senegal. Este acuerdo, de fecha 2 de junio del año en curso señala en el párrafo pertinente: "Dado que tanto Chile como Senegal presentaron un candidato al cargo de Director General de la FAO, con el apoyo de los países de América Latina y el Caribe y de la Organización para la Unidad Africana, respectivamente, ambos Presidentes concluyeron en que los esfuerzos por llevar a buen término ambas candidaturas deberían realizarse en un espíritu de no confrontación, sino de concertación y consulta permanente, con el objeto de llegar a un acuerdo para que uno de los candidatos del mundo en desarrollo sea el nuevo Director General de la FAO. Estimamos que de ese modo se garantizaría una mayor preocupación por los graves problemas que presenta al respecto el mundo en desarrollo."

En esta oportunidad solemne quiero expresar en nombre de mi Gobierno los agradecimientos a aquellos países que en las sucesivas rondas nos han apoyado con gran lealtad y manifiesto espíritu de amistad. Quiero señalar entre ellos, muy particularmente a los países de América Latina y el Caribe, a España, Portugal y a Italia, a países de Europa del Este, del mundo árabe, de África y de Asia.

Quiero también señalar que este acuerdo celebrado entre Chile y Senegal nos impulsa a hacer un caluroso llamado a los que han sido nuestros seguidores en esta elección para que sigan el camino que nosotros estamos trazando y en consecuencia presten su entusiasta apoyo a la candidatura de Senegal, para así asegurar la buena y correcta dirección futura de esta importantísima Organización.

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, you have all heard the statement by the leader of the Chilean delegation announcing the withdrawal of Mr Rafael Moreno from the race. What this means is that it is therefore unnecessary to have a second ballot with three candidates. That means that we shall proceed to a sixth ballot in which the candidates will be Mr Jacques Diouf of Senegal and Mr Geoff Miller of Australia. We are in the process of having the ballot forms prepared with the names of those two candidates. As soon as they are ready we will proceed to vote for the sixth time.

Roberto ABDENUR (Brazil): On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group I would ask for a brief pause so that we can have a meeting of our own to discuss the continuation of this election.

Felipe SOLA (Argentina): Como punto de orden para apoyar la petición de mi colega del Brasil en el sentido de tener en este momento una pausa para negociaciones que consideramos importantes y necesarias en este momento.

Sadeq Amin ABU-RAAS (Yemen) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, I do not think that we ought to have too many breaks in the session. In my opinion, we should proceed straightaway and not put the next ballot off.

José Antonio OCAMPO GAVIRIA (Colombia): Quiero respaldar la moción que hizo Brasil en nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe.

Mario NUFIO GAMBRO (Honduras): Honduras apoya la moción de Brasil, apoyada también por Colombia.

Juan Rafael LIZANO SAENZ (Costa Rica): Costa Rica apoya, señor Presidente, y cree que es absolutamente necesario el receso, y apoya la moción de Brasil.

CHAIRMAN: We have heard some recommendations for a short break so that there may be consultations before the final poll. As we approach the finishing line it certainly would be appropriate for some time to be given for consultation. It is now nineteen minutes to six. I am going to rule that we have a break and resume at 6 o'clock sharp.

The meeting was suspended from 17.40 to 18.00 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 40 à 18 heures.

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.40 horas a las 18.00 horas.

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is now resumed. Shortly before the break there was an announcement of the withdrawal of the candidature of Mr Rafael Moreno of Chile. This leaves two candidates in the race and, as we enter the sixth ballot, it appears as if this could be the final ballot. If I were to liken the remaining candidates to race horses, I should probably say that they were in the final furlong, or maybe within shades of the finishing post. Be that as it may, I now invite the tellers to proceed to the voting booths so that the Assistant Secretary-General can invite delegates to poll their votes.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: I understand that you have all voted and that the tellers have gone to count the ballots. We hope that they will return shortly and that we shall be in a position to announce the result of the sixth ballot before too long.

There are times when sharp political analysts can properly call a result before it is announced or indeed before the votes are counted. Just in case this has not happened, I wish to give you the results of the sixth ballot.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 6	APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL NOMINATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL NOMBRAMIENTO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	162	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	162
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	162
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0	6. Majority Majorité Mayoría	82

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos		Eliminated - Éliminés - Eliminados	
DIOUF, J. (Senegal)	90	MILLER, G. (Australia)	72		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escuradores

Signature
Firma Mr R. ANDRIGO
(Canada)

Signature
Firma Mr H. HAMDI
(Tunisia)

8.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

CHAIRMAN: In view of the fact that Mr Jacques Diouf has secured 90 votes, he is declared the winner of the contest. May I invite him to join us on the platform at this stage.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: It gives me great pleasure to be the first to congratulate Mr Diouf of Senegal upon his election to the post of Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This certainly must be one of the most keenly contested elections, any of us in this hall - maybe most of us - have ever witnessed or, indeed, taken part in.

Both the candidates and the supporting delegations have conducted themselves in a very orderly and dignified manner befitting this noble Organization of which we are Members. Therefore, I would wish to heartily congratulate not only Mr Jacques Diouf who has emerged the victorious candidate, but all the other candidates. They fought a good fight and they carried themselves with a decorum worthy of the Member Nations they represented. May I express my hearty thanks to all the delegates assembled here who gave their full cooperation and support to ensure the voting and the counting of the votes proceeded as smoothly and as quickly as they did. I would like to say a special word of thanks to the tellers and, indeed, to all the election officers.

At this stage, may I invite Dr Edouard Saouma to say his piece.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: M. le Président, je suis très heureux d'avoir un successeur et je suis particulièrement content de l'avoir en la personne de M. Diouf. Comme vous l'avez dit, cette élection s'est déroulée dans une atmosphère agréable, sereine, dénuée de polémiques; et tout le mérite vous en revient, M. le Président. Je voudrais féliciter également les délégués qui ont maintenu cette atmosphère agréable. Je voudrais exprimer à mon tour toute ma sympathie à tous les candidats qui ont souhaité me succéder. Un seul devait réussir, ce fut M. Jacques Diouf. Rappelez-vous qu'à l'issue des élections de 1987, ici même, le candidat africain n'a pas été élu. L'Afrique a alors dit: "Nous reviendrons." Et voilà que l'Afrique est revenue après six ans..

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Je connais bien M. Jacques Diouf. J'ai collaboré avec lui pendant plusieurs années lorsqu'il était Secrétaire exécutif de l'Association pour le développement de la riziculture en Afrique de l'Ouest. Puis, beaucoup de mes collègues l'ont côtoyé à l'occasion de sa participation à nombre de comités importants, comme le Groupe consultatif sur la recherche agricole internationale. Nous avons la même formation, figurez-vous. Jacques Diouf est diplômé de l'Ecole nationale d'agriculture de Grignon; moi, je suis diplômé de Montpellier. Donc nous avons une formation universitaire semblable. Vous avez dû noter que M. Diouf, comme le montre son curriculum

vitae, a l'avantage de posséder une compétence dans différents domaines, que ce soit dans l'administration, dans le domaine scientifique, le domaine politique ou le domaine diplomatique. Sa connaissance de deux langues très importantes va lui faciliter beaucoup la tâche. Je suis sûr qu'il saura diriger le bateau et le mener à bon port. Je voudrais assurer le nouveau Directeur général de ma sympathie, de mon amitié et de l'appui de tous mes collègues du Secrétariat. Je lui formule mes meilleurs vœux de succès, car son succès sera aussi le mien. Je vous remercie M. le Président.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: There are a number of delegations who have indicated their wish to speak. I am thinking of the delegations of Senegal, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, India, Lebanon, Syria, Australia, Morocco, France, the United States and a large number of others, but at this stage I think I ought to ask the newly elected Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, to say a few words.

Jacques DIOUF (Directeur général élu): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les ministres, honorables chefs de délégations, chers amis, par la grâce de Dieu, il vous a plu aujourd'hui de m'élire au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Je me dois de remercier tous ceux qui ont contribué à cette élection et, d'abord, mes frères d'Afrique, les Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement d'Afrique qui m'ont fait confiance en me désignant à Dakar, en juin 1992, candidat unique de l'Afrique au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Je dois donc remercier tout particulièrement mon Président, le Président Abdou Diouf, qui a présenté ma candidature à ses pairs et obtenu cette décision unanime.

Mes remerciements vont aussi à mes frères des pays arabes qui ont été à mes côtés, à mes frères des Caraïbes, à mes frères de l'OCI, de l'Asie, du Pacifique, de l'Europe et de l'Amérique latine. Je dois tout particulièrement rendre hommage aux candidats de l'Inde et du Chili qui, avec élégance, ont décidé de se retirer et d'appuyer ma candidature. Je leur sais gré de ce geste de solidarité dont je mesure la qualité.

Je dois remercier aussi le Directeur général, Edouard Saouma, qui a eu la lourde responsabilité de diriger pendant 18 années cette institution si vitale pour les populations de notre planète Terre. J'ose espérer pouvoir bénéficier de l'offre qu'il a bien voulu faire de se mettre à ma disposition pour m'aider dans cette tâche difficile qui m'attend.

Je voudrais aussi remercier les représentants de tous les Etats Membres ici présents. Il y a eu une compétition et, à la suite de cette compétition, le Directeur général a été choisi. Mais que tous sachent que j'ai la ferme intention de servir l'ensemble de la communauté internationale et de respecter l'idéal d'universalisme de cette institution des Nations Unies.

Je mesure aussi le poids de la fonction de Directeur général de la FAO quand on est dans un monde de cinq milliards de personnes, qui va atteindre six milliards en l'an 2000 et neuf milliards en l'an 2030. Je mesure le poids qui pèse sur la fonction de Directeur général lorsqu'on sait qu'aujourd'hui il y a 780 millions de personnes qui n'ont pas accès à la

nourriture. Je mesure ce poids lorsque je pense aux 192 millions d'enfants au-dessous de cinq ans qui sont dans une situation de déficit protéique et énergétique et qui souffrent dans différentes parties du continent.

Je voudrais donc vous lancer un appel, à vous tous qui avez participé à la désignation du Directeur général de la FAO, pour qu'ensemble nous travaillions pour relever le plus grand défi de l'unanimité, qui est le défi de la faim.

Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: There are many distinguished delegates who have indicated a wish to speak - Senegal, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, India, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, the United States of America, Costa Rica, and many others. I hope you will permit me first to call upon the delegate of Australia, who was a final candidate in the race with Mr Jacques Diouf, to make the first intervention, and I will then proceed to ask the other delegations to speak.

Simon CREAN (Australia): Mr Chairman, thank you, on behalf of the Australian delegation, for the opportunity to speak at this stage. It has been a long day and I do not intend to take a long time. I congratulate Mr Diouf on his successful campaign and the fine way in which he fought it. It was a long series of battles and it was fought right down to the wire.

To those who supported our candidate, our deepest appreciation to you, but, if I can say so on behalf of those who did support our candidate, the result is now known, we fully support the decision of the Conference of FAO, we look forward to working with Mr Diouf as the new Director-General and we commit our full support to continuing the activities of FAO.

We congratulate Mr Diouf and wish him every success.

Moustapha NIASSE (Sénégal): Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs.

Des voix plus autorisées que la mienne parleront tout à l'heure au nom du continent africain, parce que, comme vous le savez, cette candidature était une candidature africaine que l'Afrique a projetée, que l'Afrique a défendue, et que l'Afrique a conduite avec la solidarité des autres nations. Si aujourd'hui cette victoire de la démocratie est enregistrée, c'est d'abord au nom de l'Afrique que le secrétaire général de l'OUA, le Docteur Salim Ahmed Salim et Monsieur George Lamptey, coordinateur du Groupe africain, diront mieux que moi les mots de remerciements au nom de l'Afrique.

Mais en qualité de chef de la délégation du Sénégal, j'ai l'obligation agréable de dire quelques mots à l'adresse de l'Assemblée, d'abord, au nom du Président, Abou Diouf, Président de la République du Sénégal, qui a accepté avec plaisir de présenter la candidature du Docteur Jacques Diouf

et de la recommander à l'Organisation de l'Unité africaine qui l'a parrainée au nom du peuple sénégalais et du Gouvernement sénégalais. Quant au secrétaire général de l'OUA, Ahmed Salim, qui a conduit les démarches et les contacts, je voudrais lui rendre hommage devant l'Assemblée tout entière et lui rendre notre reconnaissance et notre considération.

Le Docteur Jacques Diouf était le candidat de l'Afrique. A compter de ce jour, il est et il sera le Directeur général de la FAO tout entière, c'est-à-dire de tous les pays membres et de tous les peuples qui vivent dans ces pays.

Vous savez tous qu'une élection comme celle-ci qui suit une longue procédure, n'est possible qu'à la suite de contacts longs et patients. A l'occasion de ces contacts, nous avons identifié une grandeur d'esprit et une générosité de la part du Docteur Muthoo et de la délégation de l'Inde, pour la façon dont la candidature de l'Inde a été retirée et la façon dont ce retrait a été présenté. Nous en tirons une grande satisfaction et nous rendons hommage à l'Inde, à la délégation indienne, et au Docteur Muthoo.

Dans le même esprit, nous ne saurions oublier le Docteur Moreno, qui, longuement, patiemment, depuis plusieurs mois, a entrepris, comme les autres candidats, des démarches, ajoutées aux démarches de son pays, et qui, aujourd'hui, solennellement a déclaré ici qu'il retirait sa candidature, respectant ainsi les dispositions du 5 juin 1993 signées à Dakar par le Ministre des affaires étrangères et moi-même pour un désistement mutuel au cas où, à la fin du scrutin l'une des candidatures serait mieux placée que l'autre.

Je ne saurais oublier les groupes régionaux africains et aussi les pays arabes, les pays asiatiques, les Caraïbes.

Il faudrait que vous me permettiez de citer l'exemple qu'a constitué depuis de longs mois l'action du Docteur George Lamptey, notre ami, notre frère, notre camarade.

On a pu penser que cette candidature était d'abord la candidature de George Lamptey. Il est juste, il est normal, et c'est avec sincérité que nous le disons, qu'ensemble nous lui rendions hommage aujourd'hui pour l'action qu'il a menée sous l'égide du Groupe africain à la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, deux phénomènes dominant aujourd'hui le monde. C'est d'abord la mondialisation de l'économie, et donc de la crise. Ce sont ensuite les grandes mutations qui marquent l'évolution du monde. Entre les deux rives de ce cours d'eau, le monde doit relever le défi des temps modernes, et l'humanité doit retrouver son identité originelle. L'humanité doit retrouver cette identité qui est de jouir de la nature, qui est de jouir des bienfaits dont le monde est doté depuis des millions d'années, en protégeant l'environnement, en nourrissant les populations, en les soignant, en les éduquant. Il faut que cela soit fait dans la paix, dans l'unité, dans la solidarité, par la concertation dans l'amitié et dans la concorde.

CHAIRMAN: In order to accommodate the many Member Nations who have expressed the desire to speak, may I appeal to all those whom I shall recognize to be as brief as they possibly can be on this occasion.

Abdullah AL-MUSAED (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): Mr Director-General, on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I should like to congratulate you most warmly on your election as Director-General of FAO. I hope you will have every success in fulfilling and discharging this heavy duty. We pledge to offer you every help and assistance. We have complete trust and confidence that you have the ability and competence to discharge your duties for the benefit of all.

Before I end these words, I should like to thank the man who, at the head of this Organization, has represented our area in the best way possible, Dr Edouard Saouma. We do indeed owe him a great debt. He has achieved many things, including the Technical Cooperation Programme. We wish him every success in the future.

Balram JAKHAR (India): Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. This has been a friendly match, and the winner is there. We must all congratulate him. I know that this is for the greatest good of the Organization and that our brother, Mr Diouf, will do what is needed of him. I also know that he will follow in the illustrious footsteps of his predecessor, Mr Saouma. We had decided that one of us should be there. I hope that Mr Diouf will fill the void and keep the flag flying for all peoples throughout the world who are in such dire need.

I again congratulate Mr Diouf. I wish him every success and assure him that he will have fullest cooperation from all of us.

Adel N. CORTAS (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Au nom de mon pays, le Liban, qui a des liens si chaleureux et si étroits avec le Sénégal, j'aimerais féliciter mon ami, mon frère, Jacques Diouf, à l'occasion de sa brillante élection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Monsieur le Directeur général, j'aimerais vous assurer que mon pays vous donnera toute l'aide que vous pourrez en attendre pour les projets et les programmes que vous mettrez en oeuvre dans l'avenir.

En outre, je félicite l'Afrique pour son succès dans cette lutte amicale, et je tiens à féliciter le tiers monde auquel elle appartient.

Enfin, j'aimerais vous féliciter particulièrement parce que vous appartenez à la même école que moi. Vous venez de Grignon et moi aussi, j'ai été élève de Grignon. Je suis plus âgé que vous, et, si j'ai un espoir à formuler pour l'homme qui a fréquenté la même école que moi, c'est qu'il puisse maintenir les réalisations, les succès auxquels nous avons assisté dans notre Organisation. J'ai eu l'honneur de travailler dans cette Organisation pendant 23 ans, et je sais quels ont été les succès et les réalisations auxquels nous sommes arrivés. Je fais vœu pour qu'il en soit de même à l'avenir et que l'Organisation continue de connaître les mêmes succès.

Enfin, j'aimerais remercier et féliciter tous ceux qui ont participé à cette campagne pour l'élection du Directeur général, les candidats qui n'ont pas gagné, mais qui ont su se retirer avec grâce. Je tiens donc à les féliciter, et en particulier mes collègues, Muthoo et Moreno qui m'ont accompagné pendant toute une vie.

Je voudrais aussi, Monsieur le Président, vous féliciter de votre grande sagesse et de la façon dont vous avez su mener à bien nos travaux.

Aujourd'hui, grâce à votre expérience, à votre sens de l'humour, nous avons pu arriver à ce résultat et je vous en remercie.

Zine El Abidine SBBTI (Maroc) (Langue originale arabe): Je voudrais féliciter Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour son élection au poste de Directeur général de l'Organisation. C'est un honneur pour tous les pays africains, pour tous les pays arabes et les pays en développement. Je sais que le Directeur de l'Organisation utilisera tous les moyens possibles pour qu'elle joue son rôle, qu'elle s'acquite de la tâche de soutien aux PUD, pour soutenir les pays en développement, en coopération avec les pays industrialisés.

Nos félicitations vont donc à notre frère Jacques Diouf, sans pour autant oublier tout ce qu'a fait au cours des 18 années précédentes notre ami Edouard Saouma, qui a donné à notre Organisation sa dimension actuelle avec le rôle qu'elle joue dans le monde. Je renouvelle mes félicitations à Monsieur Jacques Diouf, et j'espère que ses travaux dans l'avenir seront couronnés de succès. Je suis sûr qu'il parviendra à n'acquitter de ses fonctions de la meilleure manière possible. Nous sommes tous prêts à coopérer avec lui avec enthousiasme, le même enthousiasme avec lequel nous avons travaillé pour son élection aujourd'hui. Nous connaissons les problèmes auxquels le monde fait face aujourd'hui: l'explosion démographique, les problèmes de nutrition. Ce sont des problèmes très graves. Nous redisons encore une fois à notre frère que nous sommes avec lui que nous le soutenons de toutes nos forces, et avec tout notre enthousiasme.

Assad MUSTAFA (Syria) (Original language Arabic): I should like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your patience and on your wisdom in presiding over these six rounds of balloting which have allowed us to elect Mr Jacques Diouf as the new Director-General of this Organization. On behalf of the group of Arab nations that I represent at this Conference, and on behalf of my government, I should like to offer my most sincere congratulations to the Director-General elect.

I should also like to express my joy at seeing that so many countries have placed their trust in you, Mr Diouf. This is proof of your competence, of your qualities, of your skill and of your knowledge. We know that you merit the trust of many millions around the world.

I should also like to pay the greatest tribute to Dr Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of the Organization. We thank him for all of his efforts over the last 18 years, which have meant, of course, that he is the person so many of us have trusted during those years. We all know full well all of the achievements made during those years under Dr Saouma.

For the future, both our differences and our common ground allow us to hope that this Organization will profit, will make progress and that a great deal of what has been done is the result of all the efforts undertaken by the international community. Once again, we should like to thank Dr Saouma.

For this post we wanted someone who would merit and be worthy of leading the work of this Organization, which is a very noble one. We are convinced, Mr Jacques Diouf, that you are the ideal person to respond to the aspirations of so many millions, all of whom you have mentioned, stating that you would be serving them.

I would also like to congratulate and say to those candidates who were not successful that we appreciate their democratic spirit.

We would also like to wish Mr Jacques Diouf every success for the future. We are at your disposal and, of course, give you our full support from the Arab region. We would like to join the African group and all countries in the international community in supporting you.

Richard E. ROMINGER (United States of America): Today we have seen democracy at work. We have been fortunate to have a large number of excellent candidates for the position of Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization. All of these candidates have campaigned very hard and have earned the respect and admiration of all FAO member countries. Each one of them has contributed to the dialogue on FAO's future and helped to shape our vision of that future.

We would also like to thank the current Director-General, Mr Saouma, for all the good work he has done for the Organization in the past 18 years.

However, now that the voting has been completed and member countries have made their choice, the United States of America and Canada would like to congratulate Mr Diouf and pledge him our support and cooperation as the new Director-General of FAO. He will prepare this Organization for the next century.

Juan Rafael LIZANO SAENZ (Costa Rica): Sr. Director General, Sr. Director electo, para los que venimos de países democráticos hoy ha sido un ejemplo de lo que es el derecho a elegir y ser electo. Yo me siento muy bien y creo que todos los que estamos aquí, de haber tenido una Asamblea tan exitosa y haber llegado a resultados como los de hoy.

Sr. Jacques Diouf, me impresionó su discurso y me impresionó su propósito de que este mundo no tenga mas niños con hambre y yo creo que si Ud. en su período y todos los que estamos unidos a la FAO lográramos eso en los próximos seis años, habríamos hecho la historia que el mundo necesita.

Ahmed Ali GENIEF (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): On behalf of the Republic of Sudan, I should like to extend my congratulations to our brother, Jacques Diouf. I should like to congratulate him on his election as Director-General Elect of this Organization. We believe that this is a choice which he deserved, because choosing Jacques Diouf from Africa is a great honour for black Africa, for that black continent.

This is also proof of the confidence and trust which is placed in the Third World, that the Third World can run the affairs of this Organization. This indicates a considerable transformation and a source of great pride for Africa, but at the same time a great responsibility that we have to shoulder vis-à-vis world agriculture and food. We know that Mr Diouf is able to run the business of this Organization. After this great contest, he has now been elected and we believe that he is the ideal person to run this Organization.

Edouard Saouma has managed the Organization for 18 years. Our brother, Edouard Saouma, has all the merits because he has allowed this Organization to develop to its present level of excellence and to be an Organization

which attracts so many candidates, which in turn has allowed Mr Diouf to be elected. We believe that the last 18 years which have elapsed are now years which can be built on in a positive fashion, particularly now that we are going through difficult times. We need a lot of determination and a lot of will, so that the mission of this Organization can be put into effect: that is to say, to serve the poor of the world and develop world agriculture.

We should like to extend our fraternal greetings to Jacques Diouf. We are prepared to give you all the assistance you need in your task. After these ballots we consider that you are indeed the person who will serve the whole of mankind.

Geoffrey Lee MILLER (Australia): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for recognizing me personally on this occasion.

Mr Jacques Diouf, from the bottom of my heart you have my deepest congratulations on your success in this campaign.

I should also like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the people of Africa. This is indeed a day of celebration for Africa. I must say to you honestly that I hoped on this particular occasion to be sitting where you are sitting. Having said that, I knew that, if I had been sitting where you are sitting, then I would be taking on an extraordinarily daunting challenge. I am sure you feel in your own heart exactly the same way as I would have done had I been in your position.

You are following in the footsteps of Edouard Saouma, whom I still regard as a very good personal friend and for whom I have the greatest respect. This institution has been built into a great institution, in no small part because of the hard work that he has put into it and the many battles that he has fought over the past 18 years.

It is now passing into your hands. We have had a very good election contest. You are Director-General and I am unemployed! I wish you well. I congratulate not only you but the whole team from Africa who stood behind you. During the campaign I visited 20 African countries. I enjoyed every one of those visits. There is a daunting challenge to be taken on in Africa, but I know that there are many hundreds of thousands of African leaders and professionals who are taking up that challenge. I am glad that you are the one to succeed Edouard Saouma, if it could not be me, and I wish you all the best.

I would also like to congratulate all the competitors who contested this event with us. I think we had a very good, clean, long, hard marathon. The marathon is over. You have broken the tape and may God bless you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, I hope you will agree with me that Conference is extremely indebted to Mr Geoff Miller for those very gracious remarks.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): First, I want to thank the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Senegal for his kind words about me and Mrs Lamptey.

Secondly, I want to express gratitude to Mr Moreno and Mr Muthoo and the groups that supported them for the attitude they took when we approached them for support during the course of these difficult elections.

I also want to thank the whole assembly here for supporting the African candidate.

I speak in the name of the African Group here in expressing these thanks. From the moment that we started this campaign I had one conviction, that in the end Jacques Diouf would be the Director-General of FAO. If I was unbending in my dealings with all the other candidates who came to my office or here to appeal for support, and if I was unbending in my support for Jacques Diouf, it was because I felt it was just and equitable that a continent which has the largest bloc of nations in this Organization, for which everything is agriculture and which is trying for the third time for the post of Director-General, should have the support of the Organization.

I was sure that in the end the Member Nations here would come to the same conclusion. I thank you.

It has been a long drawn-out battle but, as all of you have noted, it has been fair and it was won fairly.

I thank my African brothers because, as I told them yesterday, other candidates may be seeking jobs, wanting to do something, but for Africa it is to reclaim a heritage. We wanted to send a message from here today that the marginalization of Africa will now be stopped.

I want the Secretary-General of the OAU who is present here to go back to Addis Ababa and tell our Heads of State that the message I took to them in Cairo has been delivered and that today we have won an historic victory. We now have an African Director-General.

Mr Director-General, I have had many discussions with you on this matter. I have told you of my knowledge of Jacques Diouf. I repeat that Jacques Diouf is going to be a very worthy successor to you. Jacques Diouf is going to be, as he told you, a universal Director-General. He will be a Director-General for all the poor, for all who suffer and for all those who have no food to eat today. In the name of Africa, I thank this Assembly.

Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): The Egyptian delegation and the Egyptians who are at the head of the OAU would like to congratulate Jacques Diouf who is an OAU candidate because it is through our Organization that we have decided on this candidacy. We are very aware of the needs of all countries in the world. It is an awareness of those needs which has allowed him to serve countries throughout the world.

We have to say that we will be good partners. We will allow him to do everything necessary to fight against hunger in the world.

I would like to present my congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma for all the efforts he has undertaken on behalf of this Organization over the last 18 years.

Marwan R. KAMAL (Jordan) (Original language Arabic): Allow me personally and on behalf of the Jordanian delegation to offer my warmest congratulations to the new Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, on his victory in the elections. We are certain that his great expertise, his great sagacity and his conviction and determination to lead this Organization are going to make him the perfect person to follow in Dr Saouma's steps.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is looking forward to greater cooperation with this Organization under the new Director-General whom we salute heartily. We shall exert every effort in order to make the path easier for him so that we may all benefit.

It is incumbent upon me to point to the great spirit which all the candidates displayed in this contest. I hope they will have every success in the future. May God's peace and blessings be upon you all.

Jerry GANA (Nigeria) : I would like to take this historic opportunity to congratulate the Director-General elect. We are delighted that, with your experience you are qualified, competent and cultured. We know that you are going to do an excellent job as Director-General of FAO.

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, indeed on behalf of the Government and peoples of Nigeria, we congratulate you. We wish you a very fruitful term of office. We do hope that you will generate the team work that will create hope for the hopeless and food for the hungry. May you continue in this place the excellent tradition of leadership in such a way that many parts of the world will feel the impact of this centre of excellence. Congratulations.

Ahmed AL-THANI (Qatar) (Original language Arabic) : In the name of God the Merciful and Benevolent, Mr President and Mr Director-General, on behalf of the State of Qatar, I would like to congratulate the newly elected Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf. I hope he will have every success in shouldering his responsibilities at the head of this Organization.

I would like to thank Dr Edouard Saouma on the wonderful achievements that we have all witnessed during the past 18 years.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Au nom du Gouvernement français qui vient d'adresser immédiatement un message à M. Diouf, je voulais féliciter M. Diouf pour son élection et le saluer, parce qu'il est ce qu'il est, avec toutes les qualités qu'on lui connaît et qu'il a prouvées tant dans ses fonctions gouvernementales que dans ses fonctions financière smultilatérales, je le rappelle.

Nous le saluons aussi parce qu'il est sénégalais, c'est-à-dire venu d'un pays ami du nôtre.

Nous le saluons enfin parce qu'il est un Africain qui connaît les besoins des pays en développement et qui aura à coeur d'y répondre.

Monsieur Diouf, vous pouvez compter sur le soutien actif de mon pays pour vous aider à mener à bien la lourde tâche qui vous attend.

Je voudrais saluer MM. Muthoo et Moreno, qui ont eu une élégance très rare dans les enceintes internationales, pour la manière dont ils se sont comportés. Et enfin, j'ajouterai bien entendu un mot à mon ami M. Saouma pour lui dire combien nous sommes heureux que s'établisse une continuité entre lui-même et M. Diouf.

Laszió VAJDA (Hongrie): Je voudrais bien féliciter M. Diouf pour son élection comme Directeur général de la FAO.

Je voudrais bien aussi féliciter l'Ambassadeur Lamptey du Ghana qui avait dirigé la campagne de M. Diouf avec une grande professionnalité et qui avait aussi l'intention d'établir des liens parmi les représentants des pays d'Europe centrale et orientale et M. Diouf.

A travers des documents et des contacts personnels, nous avons l'impression que M. Diouf a du bon sens et des sentiments pour les problèmes de toutes les régions agricoles du monde.

Nous espérons aussi que la région de l'Europe centrale et orientale, où l'agriculture est en transition et connaît des problèmes qui y sont connectés, recevra l'attention nécessaire de la part du nouveau Directeur général. Nous sommes prêts pour une collaboration fructueuse.

LIU JIANG (China) (Original language Chinese): First, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation and in my own name, to offer congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf on his excellence and on his appointment as the new Director-General of FAO.

The Chinese Government has always paid great attention to the role played by FAO and has always kept close contact with FAO.

We have noted that Dr Saouma during his term of office has done a great deal for FAO and for agriculture in the world. Under his leadership we have implemented many plans of action to promote agricultural centralization, etc. All this has revitalized FAO's activities and has played an important role in giving more support to developing countries.

We believe that the new Director-General, Mr Diouf, with his able leadership and rich experience will lead FAO to make more contributions in eradicating poverty and in solving the problems of the world's food and agricultural situation, especially in helping developing countries to develop their agriculture. The Chinese Government will, as always, offer its full support to FAO's activities. We are willing, together with other Member Nations, to make our contribution to the world's food and agricultural development.

CHAIRMAN: We are receiving an increasing number of requests from speakers wishing to make interventions. I sense too that there are other delegates who would wish to make their intervention after they have had a rest.

Before we adjourn I will take a couple more speeches and may I ask delegates to be as brief as possible.

I will call on the delegate of the United Kingdom to speak and then the delegate of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to close the evening's proceedings.

N.B. HUDSON (United Kingdom): On behalf of the OECD countries, I should briefly and simply like to join other delegations in recalling all the notable work that Dr Saouma has undertaken over the past 18 years, in congratulating Mr Jacques Diouf on his election, and in offering commiserations to the losers in a fine and well-run contest.

I would like to put on record that the new Director-General will have our fullest support in the tasks that lie ahead, as of course will the Organization of which he will be the Head.

Allan CRUICKSHANK (St. Vincent and the Grenadines): On behalf of the countries representing the Caribbean community, I would like to congratulate my friend and brother on his election to this very prestigious United Nations organization. We are pleased to be associated with his victory. We feel confident that he will discharge his responsibilities with excellence, impartiality and authority, in the same manner that his predecessor, Dr Edouard Saouma, has in the past 18 years or so. Please be assured of our fullest cooperation. The journey you have started today could be long and successful if you do the right things for the Member Nations.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Le Gouvernement de la République de Madagascar voudrait par la voix de sa délégation ici présente féliciter très chaleureusement Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour sa brillante élection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO.

Cette victoire de Monsieur Jacques Diouf n'est pas seulement la sienne propre mais aussi et surtout de tous les pays africains, de tous nos peuples qui luttent contre la pauvreté, la faim, la malnutrition et la marginalisation.

Nous pouvons maintenant dresser la tête car nous sommes fiers, et cette fierté nous la défendons envers et contre tous, si besoin en était, nous y parviendrons en soutenant vigoureusement les actions de notre nouveau Directeur général; soyez en assuré M. le Directeur général. Que Dieu vous garde !¹

Costas PETRIDES (Cyprus) : Mr Chairman, I wish to convey, through you, the warmest congratulations of my Delegation to Mr Jacques Diouf of Senegal for his election as the new Director-General of FAO. His election to this important post is surely a great honour for his country Senegal and Africa, but, also for the large family of the developing countries, which are counting on the assistance of FAO.

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

We have listened with great interest to the brief statement of Mr Diouf, following the announcement of the election results and we do realize that the new Director-General of FAO is well aware of the problems and challenges facing this Organization, as well as the pressing needs for nutrition and sustainable agricultural development in many of Member Nations.

I wish to assure the new Director General, Mr Diouf, of our active support and cooperation for the successful implementation of the difficult task he is undertaking.¹

K.M. KANGAI (Zimbabwe): Mr Chairman, the Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, may I take this opportunity to join other delegates, on behalf of the Government and people of Zimbabwe, to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf on his appointment as the incoming Director-General of the FAO.

I have known him personally and have had a chance to discuss agricultural issues with him. He has an impressive understanding of agricultural problems in Africa and worldwide. He has participated in capacity-building initiatives in Southern Africa and it is our sincere hope that we will continue to give him maximum support in this regard.

We appreciate the magnitude of the challenges that lie ahead of him, and I am confident that he will live up to them.

In congratulating M. Diouf I cannot fail to appeal to all nations to give their maximum support both financially and technically, as the success of the Organization hinges on our joint efforts.²

Toketel FORSSIDO (Ethiopia): Ladies and Gentlemen as Ethiopia plays a leading role in the unity of Africa and stands for its principles; at this juncture, on behalf of my Government and its delegation I would like to express my heart-felt congratulation to Mr Diouf upon his election as Director-General and to all who stood for this cause.

Ethiopia, being one of the founding members of FAO, admonishes the objectives of this important Organization, upholds its principles and her support to a stronger FAO is unswerving!

After having travelled a long distance for almost 50 years our Organization, for the first time, has made a history by placing an African on the drivers seat. My country is thankful indeed to this world community for the trust made not only to Mr Diouf, but to Africa as well. It is our hope and wish that Mr Diouf will drive the vehicle safely into the year 2000 with all the boarding members well-fed!

Election has been won. It is also over. Now the important agenda of FAO remains. The task ahead for the newly elected Director-General is extremely tough and challenging too. It requires that all member countries along with their regional organizations including OAU, ECA, OECD, Group 77, and others

¹ .Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

² Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

should work hand in hand. To this end OAU, an organization that contributed Jacques Diouf should take a leading role in mobilizing its member nations and all other regional bilateral and multilateral organizations to meet FAO's objectives.

Let us come together, pull our efforts and resources to overcome poverty. Ethiopia will be in the forefront to stand alongside of the newly elected Director-General as he strives to meet the challenges (of our time) facing food and agriculture.¹

Milad Abdessalam HMEYLA (Libya): Mr Chairman, my delegation seizes this opportunity to congratulate you and your friendly country on your appointment as Chairman of the FAO General Conference in its 27th Session. Your broad-mindedness and knowledge shown in the proceedings of the Conference are good indications that this appointment was an excellent one.

Mr Director-General elected, you were elected as a Director-General of FAO to succeed Mr Edouard Saouma whose efforts and strife to achieve the goals of FAO for the long period of his management, leaving valuable achievements and success which will facilitate the way for his successor who will take over the responsibilities of safeguarding such achievements for the benefits of the Member Nations.

This appointment comes in the right time. You are up to this important international post. We promise you to stand hand in hand with other benevolent Member Nations, consolidating and supporting you to achieve human goals in fighting poverty and hunger in our world and in conserving its natural resources for coming generations.¹

Carlos TORRES MANZO (México): La delegación de México felicita afectuosamente al Excelentísimo Señor Jacques Diouf por su elección como Director General de la FAO. Su formación, su experiencia en cuestiones del desarrollo, de la agricultura y de la alimentación, pero sobre todo su calidad y calidez humana son atributos del Señor Diouf que le permitirán guiar nuestra organización de manera firme para hacer frente a los retos del fin de siglo. Al darle una calurosa bienvenida, el Gobierno de México reitera su apoyo irrestricto al nuevo Director General y le desea el mayor de los éxitos en su gestión.¹

Simon ZUKAS (Zambia) : May I on behalf of Zambia and on my own behalf congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf on his success in being elected our new Director-General.

We thank the outgoing Director-General for supporting Zambia in the year of drought, and look forward to work with the incoming Director-General in making Zambia not only self-sufficient in food, but also to become a Breadbasket for our Region which still has several countries with food shortage.

¹ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Our congratulations also go to the unsuccessful competitors who fought a fair fight for our support - they retain our respect. Thank you Mr Chairman.¹

Hiroaki KISHI (Japan): Mr Chairman we accept with a great pleasure the result of the election of the new Director-General held yesterday, and wish to express our hearty congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf as Director-General of this important organization, to which Japan attaches a great importance.

We believe Dr Diouf will be able to address a lot of challenges facing this Organization, and discharge his responsibilities for the purposes of FAO with his able leadership and wisdom.²

Charles C. STOLL (Canada): La délégation américaine a déjà félicité Monsieur Diouf de son élection comme Directeur général de la FAO au nom de la région nord-américaine. Mais comme nous notons que de nombreuses délégations ont choisi de s'exprimer de façon particulière à ce sujet, le Canada est heureux de joindre la voix à celle de tous ses collègues qui ont tenu à féliciter Monsieur Diouf de son accession aux hautes fonctions et lourdes responsabilités de Directeur général de la FAO. Les liens étroits qui unissent le Canada et l'Afrique de même que l'appartenance commune du Canada et du Sénégal à la francophonie accentuent ce plaisir.

L'élection de Monsieur Diouf a été acquise dans le cadre d'un processus démocratique. Le Canada donne donc son plein appui au nouveau Directeur général et entend travailler avec lui de façon constructive à la poursuite des objectifs de la FAO et à son adaptation aux nouveaux défis auxquels notre organisation doit faire face. Tous nos vœux de succès accompagnent notre nouveau Directeur général, Jacques Diouf.²

Francis M. KANGAUDE (Malawi): Mr Chairman, on behalf of my delegation I would like to convey the sincere congratulations and best wishes of the Government of the Republic of Malawi to Mr Jacques Diouf on his election to the position of Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Mr Diouf is well known to us in Malawi and we recognize his good qualities, excellent qualifications and capabilities. We believe he is the man to replace Mr Saouma to run the affairs of FAO to the satisfaction of the needs of its member countries.

We would like to assure Mr Diouf that Malawi will cooperate with him and support him in his task.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate and to thank Mr Edouard Saouma on his successful completion of eighteen years of duty as Director-General of FAO. Malawi benefited much from FAO's programmes as

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

² Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion du procès-verbal.

result of his personal attention to our needs. I wish him a happy retirement. Thank you.¹

Karl Erik OLSSON (Sweden): On behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country Sweden, I want to extend my warmest congratulations to the Director-General elect, Mr Jacques Diouf. I also want to congratulate the entire African group. The election of an African to this post marks an important milestone in the history of this Organization. It is a difficult task he is called to take on. Let me assure you that the Nordic delegations stand ready to cooperate actively to make the task as easy as possible.²

Tennyson Roscoc G. WELLS (Bahamas): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, I heartily congratulate the Director-General-Elect, Mr Diouf, on his well-fought and well deserved victory. I also wish to congratulate the candidates from Chile, Australia and India on their courageous fight together with the other candidates.

After meeting and talking with the new Director-General, the Bahamas believe that he is the right person in the right place at the right time. We believe that he understands the needs of the poor and the developing world, and that he understands the need for cooperation between the developing and the developed world and would be able to harmonize their respective interests in terms of trade, technical and financial assistance and aid.

We wish the Director-General-Elect every success, and may God bless him, the FAO and all the distinguished Delegates and Representatives assembled here.²

M. MAJIDUL-UL-KAQ (Bangladesh) : Bangladesh would like to add its warmest congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf on his election to the post of Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The elections were heavily contested but in the best traditions of democratic elegance and style. We are sure that Mr Jacques Diouf with his proven administration capability and political skills, will be an adroit Captain to steer us forward and ahead in the turbulent waters of the turn of this century. We wish him all success and Godspeed.²

Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland) : Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland, I thank you for allowing me this brief opportunity to congratulate our Director-General-Elect Mr Jacques Diouf, a son of Africa, for winning this election. We rejoice with him, we rejoice for him, we rejoice for Africa and for the developing world at large.

Through his competence and vast experience in the field of agricultural development, Mr Diouf has shown that Africa is not only ready to win hard contests like this one, but will further demonstrate that he is capable to direct and manage this noble Organization for the good of all mankind. There is no doubt that under his leadership FAO will deliver the goods in

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

² Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

such a manner that the whole world will feel the real pulse of this UN Organization.¹

Ivan TARNAJ (Croatia): Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Republic of Croatia appreciates this opportunity for being able to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf, excellent winner in the very hard and very fair race for the post of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

As the new Country admitted to the FAO yesterday, we are able to share deep and warm feel of hope and victory with African countries. Africa was the winner for the post of Director-General of FAO, Croatia together with other admitted Countries was the winner in seeking the full membership in FAO, and Democracy was winner in this hall.

Our warm congratulations and support to the new Director-General of FAO -Mr Jacques Diouf!¹

Issa KALANTARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): Mr Chairman, thank you very much for giving me the floor. On behalf of myself and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to H.E. Mr Jacques Diouf as the new Director-General of FAO. Mr Director-General we all are aware that the global food situation in general and in some of the Third World countries in particular is bleak and badly in need of care and consideration. The responsible body is nowhere but Food and Agriculture Organization, whose Directorship is now within your hands.

I have no doubt that under your wise and competent leadership this vessel shall be oriented to a most secure and safe shore so that all the nations feeling themselves stranded can benefit a respectable and decent life.

Excellency Diouf once more please accept my sincere best wishes for your being deservedly elected as the Director-General of FAO and I would like to draw your kind attention that the Islamic Republic of Iran shall do its utmost endeavour to flourish this outstanding body of the United Nations ever after. I wish you all the success and prosperity in this career.¹

Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola) : Je voudrais joindre ma voix à celles qui vous ont félicité à l'occasion de votre élection à la tête de la 27ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Je suis convaincu que grâce à votre expérience et votre sagesse des résultats positifs, comme celui d'hier, seront atteints pour le bien de l'humanité en général et des pays en développement en particulier. Ces félicitations s'adressent également aux membres élus du Bureau.

Monsieur le Président, avant de passer au sujet qui est inscrit à l'ordre du jour, je voudrais d'abord m'acquitter d'une lourde tâche. Grâce à un homme, mon pays a reçu toute l'assistance technique nécessaire de la FAO malgré la situation que toute la Communauté internationale connaît. Mon pays remercie vivement celui qui a mis presque deux décennies de sa vie à la disposition de l'agriculture mondiale. Grâce à sa bravoure, son savoir faire, ses qualités intellectuelles, il a marqué la FAO. Il s'agit du

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

Dr Edouard Saouma, notre Directeur général sortant. Des voix mieux autorisées et mieux imaginées que la mienne pourront qualifier cet homme. Une fois de plus l'Angola dit merci au Dr. Saouma. Ma délégation vous souhaite plein succès dans vos projets futurs.

Au nouveau Directeur général, Dr Jacques Diouf, digne fils de l'Afrique, nous présentons également toutes nos félicitations et lui souhaitons plein succès dans ses nouvelles fonctions. L'Angola, mon pays, se met à votre disposition pour vous apporter tout l'appui nécessaire.¹

Mohamed BEN RAJEB (Tunisie): Je voudrais, au nom de la République tunisienne, féliciter Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour son élection comme Directeur général de l'Organisation. Nous lui souhaitons tout succès dans l'exercice de ses fonctions à la tête de la FAO.

Nous sommes confiants que Monsieur Jacques Diouf, ce fils du continent africain confronté à des problèmes graves en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation, sera doté d'une sensibilité toute particulière pour appréhender les préoccupations de la communauté des nations en ce qui concerne le développement de l'agriculture au niveau mondial.

En conséquence, Monsieur Diouf saura, sans doute, veiller à la réalisation des nobles objectifs de notre Organisation, à savoir combattre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.²

R.A. AKHUND (Pakistan) : On behalf of my delegation and the people and the Government of Pakistan, I wish to convey our very warm felicitations to Mr Diouf on his election as the new Director-General of FAO.

Pakistan, which is essentially an agricultural country, has had a long and meaningful relationship with FAO. We are grateful for the close collaboration and assistance from this world body in the efforts of my Government to improve the productivity and production of crops. We look forward to FAO's continued role in our agriculture and economy under the wise and enlightened leadership of Mr Diouf. On our part, we will continue to provide all possible assistance to FAO in its endeavours to improve the conditions in this sector throughout the world, more specifically in the developing countries.

In extending our greetings to the newly elected Director-General, we wish to reiterate our unqualified support for FAO and would like to assure Mr Diouf of our whole-hearted support and cooperation.²

CHAIRMAN: The third meeting of the Conference now comes to an end. We rise and we will re-assemble for the fourth session tomorrow morning at 9.30.

The meeting rose at 20.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 20 h 00.

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.00 horas.

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

² Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/PV/4

Twenty-Seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-Septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(9 November 1993)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours

Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50

sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

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

Monsieur le Président,
Excellences,
Mesdames, Messieurs,

La Conférence de la FAO, sommet de l'agriculture mondiale, se réunit tous les deux ans. Deux ans, c'est bref; à certains égards, on pourrait croire que notre dernière session date d'hier à peine. En même temps, l'histoire, dans notre accélération incontrôlée, a entassé en deux ans une telle masse d'événements et de changements que parfois nous aurions presque l'impression de ne plus vivre dans le même siècle.

Du dépaysement au désarroi, il n'y a qu'un pas. Nous peinons à comprendre et à analyser ce qui se passe, et nous craignons d'être submergés par un flot d'événements sur lesquels nous ne parvenons plus à assurer notre prise. Est-ce à cause des médias qui concentrent notre attention sur le spectaculaire? Toujours est-il que nous sommes portés à percevoir d'abord l'aspect tragique de notre époque. Et il faut bien constater, hélas, que notre temps regorge de tragédies.

Parmi les plus meurtrières, il faut d'abord citer les guerres, internes ou externes, les unes médiatisées à l'extrême, les autres tout à fait ignorées, qui pendant ces deux années ont semé à pleines mains la mort, la destruction, la souffrance et la misère: guerre du Golfe; hécatombe dans l'ex-Yougoslavie, où éclate l'impuissance de la communauté internationale; Somalie, où l'on voit que l'aide humanitaire elle-même peut connaître de sanglantes dérives; marches caucasiennes de l'ancien empire soviétique - Arménie, Azerbaïdjan, Géorgie - que déchirent des affrontements entre communautés ethniques ou religieuses; Haïti, malheureux pays que sa pauvreté ne met pas à l'abri d'autres malheurs. A cette litanie déjà trop longue il faut ajouter les conflits mal éteints ou qui se rallument sans cesse au Cambodge, en Angola, au Mozambique, au Libéria, ailleurs encore.

La conjoncture économique ne nous présente pas un tableau beaucoup plus réconfortant. Les pays industrialisés subissent une récession obstinée. Les entreprises ferment l'une après l'autre, le chômage s'étend, des familles toujours plus nombreuses tombent au-dessous du seuil de pauvreté, la cohésion sociale se défait, les fléaux de la délinquance et de la drogue se répandent. Dans les pays de l'Est, l'ordre ancien s'en est allé, mais rien n'est encore venu le remplacer. Là où l'on espérait un passage harmonieux à l'économie de marché, le chaos règne; la production industrielle et agricole est complètement désorganisée, le ravitaillement se fait mal, la misère et la faim gagnent du terrain, l'anarchie et la criminalité prolifèrent. Que dire du tiers monde? Les prix des matières premières qu'il exporte étant moins rémunérateurs que jamais, il connaît un appauvrissement général et s'enfonce dans la dette. Les quelques "nouveaux dragons" qui prospèrent apparaissent comme l'exception qui confirme la règle. Là où l'on a entrepris de grands efforts d'ajustement structurel, ce sont les plus démunis qui en font les frais. Les pauvres se multiplient en Amérique latine. L'Afrique semble en perdition.

On avait coutume de dire que les riches ne cessaient de s'enrichir tandis que les pauvres s'appauvrissaient. Ce n'est plus tout à fait exact: les

pauvres continuent de s'appauvrir, mais les riches sont aujourd'hui moins riches.

Tout le monde se débat pour survivre, dans la frénésie du chacun pour soi et sans se soucier des générations futures. Le travail au noir, l'évasion fiscale et le manque de civisme des particuliers trouvent un écho dans la concurrence sauvage, les pratiques de dumping et le protectionnisme farouche des nations nanties, qui se livrent des guerres commerciales sans merci. Au moment où la menace du feu nucléaire paraît enfin conjurée, les anciens pays socialistes bradent des quantités énormes d'armements sans trop se soucier de qui les achète et, dans leur faim d'énergie, ils continuent d'exploiter des dizaines de centrales atomiques vétustes qui sont de véritables bombes à retardement, et de faire tourner des usines terriblement polluantes. Le tiers monde continue de réagir à la pauvreté par une démographie explosive; plus que jamais, "le lit de la misère est fécond", comme disait Josué de Castro voici quelque 40 ans. Il en résulte une exploitation dévastatrice des ressources naturelles, mais aussi des flux migratoires d'une ampleur jamais atteinte; à cette émigration souvent clandestine dans le sens Sud-Nord vient d'ailleurs s'ajouter un flot de migrants Est-Ouest. Dans le même temps, on recourt à tous les expédients possibles: trafic des stupéfiants et autres commerces illicites.

Sommes-nous donc en train d'assister aux soubresauts d'une civilisation à l'agonie? Gardons-nous de sombrer dans le pessimisme systématique; à côté, et parfois au coeur même de ces tragédies, l'espérance fait briller çà et là de timides rayons. Avec la naissance de l'Erythrée en tant qu'Etat, l'Ethiopie semble en passe de retrouver la paix. C'est aussi sur les voies de la paix dans l'équité raciale que l'Afrique du Sud s'est résolument engagée, et je salue ici les deux grands leaders dont le prix Nobel de la paix vient de récompenser les efforts. En Amérique latine, le dialogue démocratique commence à prendre le pas sur l'insurrection armée.

Enfin, l'espoir d'une coexistence pacifique n'apparaît plus comme une chimère dans la région du Proche-Orient, si cruellement éprouvée depuis près d'un demi-siècle.

Dans l'ordre économique, les difficultés et même les souffrances que connaissent d'innombrables familles ne doivent pas nous empêcher de voir que beaucoup de pays d'Asie et d'Amérique latine progressent vigoureusement, commencent à faire reculer l'inflation et à se dégager peu à peu du marasme et de l'endettement.

Pour ce qui concerne plus directement notre Organisation, les remarquables progrès de la production agricole dans nombre de pays ont redressé des situations naguère critiques; le Bangladesh a accédé à l'autosuffisance en blé et en riz; le Viet Nam est devenu exportateur; si les chances de paix se matérialisent, on peut espérer que le Cambodge va émerger.

On sait que la fureur des hommes réduit des populations entières à la disette et que les envois de vivres représentent une forme première de l'aide humanitaire. Si douloureuses que soient ces situations et si impérieuse que soit l'obligation d'y porter remède, il faut en même temps constater que le monde ne connaît pas en ce moment de famines dues à des calamités naturelles, et que la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle apparaît dans l'ensemble un peu moins préoccupante.

Parmi les signes positifs enregistrés depuis votre dernière session, les plus importants et les plus porteurs d'espoir sont sans aucun doute les

deux grandes réunions internationales qui ont marqué l'année 1992. Je veux parler, bien entendu, du Sommet de la Terre, la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement qui s'est tenue à Rio de Janeiro en juin, et de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, organisée conjointement par la FAO et l'OMS et qui s'est déroulée en décembre à Rome, dans cette salle même où nous siégeons.

Il n'entre pas dans mon propos de vous exposer en détail ce qui s'est passé dans ces deux assemblées mondiales; beaucoup d'entre vous ont participé activement à l'une ou à l'autre, la presse et les médias en ont largement rendu compte, et vous êtes saisi de rapports et de documents exhaustifs durant cette Conférence. Je voudrais simplement évoquer ici les instruments internationaux d'une portée immense qu'elles ont adoptés.

Le Programme "Action 21", fruit de la Conférence de Rio, constitue une véritable charte du développement durable et de la sauvegarde du milieu naturel. Je suis heureux de rappeler que l'essentiel des dispositions qu'il propose concernant l'agriculture, les forêts et les pêches reprend les conclusions formulées par la Conférence de den Bosch sur l'agriculture et l'environnement, que nous avons organisée conjointement avec le gouvernement des Pays-Bas; sur la base de ces conclusions, vous avez d'ailleurs vous-mêmes décidé en 1991 de lancer un Programme-cadre de coopération internationale pour l'agriculture et le développement rural durables.

Comme vous le savez, la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition a adopté une Déclaration mondiale et un Plan d'action qui définissent les grands objectifs nutritionnels et les moyens à mettre en oeuvre pour s'en rapprocher. Je me bornerai à rappeler leur caractère fortement intersectoriel et multidisciplinaire; à côté des dispositions visant l'accroissement de la production vivrière, les réseaux de distribution ou la prévention des maladies de carence, la Déclaration et le Plan d'action invitent les pays à revoir leurs politiques dans des domaines aussi divers que l'emploi et le revenu, le logement, l'instruction publique, les équipements collectifs, etc., le tout en faisant une grande place à la participation populaire et à la lutte contre la pauvreté.

Ainsi donc, les objectifs et les stratégies définis par la CNUED et la CIN ne s'articulent pas seulement entre eux; ils se rattachent à de nombreuses prises de position antérieures de la communauté internationale. Je pense en particulier aux grands textes adoptés ici même par la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural et la Conférence mondiale sur les pêches, au Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire, au Programme d'action forestier tropical et aux engagements et codes de conduite dont nous avons pris l'initiative touchant les pesticides, les ressources phytogénétiques, etc. A travers la diversité des sujets, tous ces textes convergent vers une finalité unique: favoriser le plein épanouissement de l'homme dans un rapport harmonieux avec la nature.

Tel est, esquissé à grands traits, le cadre dans lequel se situe la vingt-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Sur beaucoup des éléments que j'ai mentionnés tout à l'heure, l'Organisation ne peut exercer aucune action directe, mais ils constituent l'environnement de son travail et contribuent à en façonner l'orientation. Je ne citerai à cet égard qu'un seul exemple, celui des prix des matières premières, qui nous fournit sans doute le meilleur des paramètres pour mesurer l'état de santé des pays pauvres. Depuis plusieurs décennies, ces prix accusent une tendance à la baisse en valeur réelle mais, au cours des 10 dernières années, ils ont

même diminué en dollars courants: de moitié environ pour Le café, de plus d'un tiers pour le cacao, d'un quart environ pour le thé et le coton. Or, il s'agit là, je le répète, de prix courants; la baisse apparaîtrait bien plus forte encore si l'on tenait compte de l'inflation. Il y a plus: dans le même temps, les prix des produits qu'importent la plupart des pays du tiers monde ont doublé, si bien que le pouvoir d'achat de leurs exportations ne représente plus qu'une faible fraction de ce qu'il était il y a 10 ou 15 ans. Quelle économie pourrait survivre à une pareille dégradation des termes de l'échange?

La FAO ne peut agir par elle-même sur le cours des matières premières et notamment des produits tropicaux qui sont fixés par le seul jeu des forces du marché, c'est-à-dire en fait par la loi du plus fort. Chacun sait que les pays producteurs se trouvent dans une position de faiblesse que leurs difficultés et leur endettement ne font qu'aggraver et qu'en réalité ils n'ont pas la parole. Il n'en reste pas moins que l'Organisation intervient de toutes les manières possibles pour essayer de remédier à cette situation aussi dangereuse qu'inéquitable: en s'efforçant de sensibiliser les gouvernements et l'opinion mondiale à la nécessité de mettre en place un système international de prix stables et rémunérateurs, en préparant des études solidement documentées sur le commerce et les prix des produits agricoles, en contribuant à l'élaboration et à la remise en vigueur des accords de produits, en apportant son concours à la CNUED et au GATT pour tout ce qui concerne le volet agricole des négociations menées sous leur égide.

Il était inévitable que les grands événements de ce monde et les tendances majeures de l'économie marquent de leur empreinte les orientations politiques sur lesquelles vous êtes appelés à vous prononcer, et au premier chef le Programme de travail et budget qui va déterminer les activités de l'Organisation pendant les deux prochaines années et modeler leur évolution future par le biais du Plan à moyen terme qui constitue son prolongement naturel. Je dirai d'emblée que le Programme de travail et budget pour 1994-95 est placé sous le signe de la contradiction: contradiction entre les contraintes et les besoins, entre le nécessaire et le possible.

Déjà immenses, les besoins ne cessent et ne cesseront de grandir. D'abord à cause de l'expansion démographique; même en limitant notre horizon aux 25 prochaines années, nous pouvons compter que la population du globe aura encore augmenté de trois milliards d'êtres humains qu'il va falloir d'abord nourrir en doublant la production alimentaire mondiale, mais aussi loger, soigner, instruire, employer; 3 milliards de personnes à qui il va falloir assurer un niveau de vie décent, en veillant au respect de leur dignité et en leur donnant la possibilité de contribuer pour leur part au bien-être général. Le tout, bien entendu, sans causer à l'environnement des dégâts irréparables et en préservant la base de ressources.

En effet, ce n'est pas seulement la multiplication des bouches à nourrir qui fait croître les besoins. C'est aussi la nécessité de veiller à la sécurité alimentaire et d'améliorer les niveaux de nutrition; de perfectionner les institutions et les infrastructures; de favoriser l'avènement d'un ordre économique plus équitable; de lutter contre la pauvreté des personnes et des nations; d'aider les pays en développement à se libérer de la dette et à enclencher un processus de progrès; de contribuer à la réorganisation de l'économie et de l'agriculture dans les pays déstabilisés par l'effondrement du système soviétique; de protéger durablement notre milieu naturel - la terre, les eaux, les mers,

l'atmosphère et la foisonnante diversité des espèces biologiques qu'elles renferment.

Les priorités de l'Organisation sont toujours établies en fonction des orientations que définissent nos organes délibérants - comités techniques, conférences régionales, Conseil -, compte tenu de ce que peuvent dicter les circonstances. Pour 1994-95, le Programme de travail et budget que je propose porte en outre, dans toutes ses parties, l'empreinte de la CNUED et de la CIN, mais aussi celle d'autres réunions qui se sont tenues ou vont se tenir dans- leur sillage, notamment la Conférence sur la pêche responsable organisée par le Mexique avec notre concours, ou la future conférence technique internationale pour la conservation et l'utilisation des ressources phytogénétiques.

Je crois superflu de rappeler que les problèmes de la nutrition et de l'environnement tiennent depuis longtemps une place de premier plan dans nos programmes. La mission qui nous incombe en ce qui concerne le suivi de la Conférence de Rio et de la CIN projette un éclairage nouveau sur ces activités et met en évidence leurs liens avec l'ensemble de nos travaux. Tout se tient; les lignes d'action découlant de ces assises mondiales ont présidé au choix de nos priorités dans tous les domaines techniques et économiques.

Cette approche donne encore une autre dimension aux besoins dont je parlais à l'instant. Essayer de se faire une idée des moyens qu'exige la mise en oeuvre des principes et stratégies formulés par les deux conférences, c'est s'exposer au vertige. On a estimé que l'application intégrale des politiques et mesures énoncées dans Action 21 demanderait quelque 120 milliards de dollars par an. Nous n'avons pas osé chiffrer ce que coûterait la mise en pratique de toutes les recommandations émanant de la CIN.

De tels coûts dépasseraient-ils donc les possibilités de la communauté humaine? Le chiffre de 120 milliards de dollars est certes impressionnant, mais en réalité il ne représente guère plus que le dixième des dépenses annuelles que le monde a consacrées aux armements pendant les années 80. Si nos sociétés ont pu supporter de tels coûts pour assurer leur défense ou leur domination en construisant des armes capables de détruire la planète est-il inconcevable de penser qu'elles pourraient affecter une fraction de ces sommes à la cause du progrès humain indivisible?

Même si le coût financier de l'entreprise ne semble pas hors de la portée d'une humanité vraiment consciente des enjeux, la possibilité de répondre à tous les besoins que je viens d'évoquer demeure subordonnée à toute une série de conditions si difficiles à réunir qu'elle constitue une véritable gageure. Pour nous limiter à la production alimentaire, il s'agit de la doubler en cultivant moins de terres, sans empoisonner l'environnement et en préservant la base de ressources. Problème qui s'apparente à la quadrature du cercle. Cela exigera des technologies qui restent à inventer et dont il faudra assurer la bonne utilisation, non seulement par les grands industriels de la production agricole, mais aussi par des centaines de millions de petits paysans peu instruits. Il faudra éviter de mettre en culture des terres marginales qui s'épuiseraient vite, et s'accommoder de superficies réduites par le développement urbain et industriel, la construction de logements, d'installations destinées aux activités sociales et de voies de communication. Il faudra encore régler les problèmes d'érosion, de salinité, de gestion de l'eau, de pertes avant et après

récolte, et éviter aussi bien les mauvaises pratiques agricoles que les dérapages possibles des biotechnologies et de l'utilisation des intrants.

A l'immensité des besoins répond la très grande responsabilité qui incombe à la FAO d'aider les pays en développement à se nourrir. Mais l'exercice de cette responsabilité se heurte à des contraintes terriblement fortes. Comme toutes les organisations internationales, la FAO se trouve prise dans un étai budgétaire dont les mâchoires ne cessent de se resserrer depuis 1986. Le grand élan qui a conduit les gouvernements à adopter l'Action 21, puis la Déclaration mondiale et le Plan d'action de la CIN, n'a pas été jusqu'ici assez puissant pour les décider à dégager les crédits dont nos institutions auraient besoin pour mettre en oeuvre la part des activités qui leur revient et que l'on attend d'elles. Il n'y a pas de commune mesure entre nos responsabilités et les moyens mis à notre disposition. Entre le nécessaire et le possible, l'écart se creuse.

Dans ces conditions, la préparation du Programme de travail et budget devenait un exercice relevant de la haute voltige: comment concilier des exigences aussi contradictoires. Comment, sans sacrifier des activités essentielles, faire la place voulue au suivi de la CNUED et de la CIN dans le cadre d'un budget d'austérité et en l'absence de ressources extrabudgétaires spéciales. Pour ajouter à la difficulté, les nouvelles modalités applicables aux opérations de terrain par le PNUD nous ont obligés à transférer au budget ordinaire bon nombre de postes financés jusque-là au titre des dépenses d'appui.

Bien à contrecœur, je me suis résigné à proposer un budget qui ne prévoit aucune augmentation nette par rapport à l'exercice précédent. Ce n'est pas que je me sois converti au dogme de la croissance zéro: j'estime toujours que l'augmentation des besoins justifierait une croissance nettement positive, d'autant que nous allons avoir à servir une dizaine d'Etats Membres de plus. Le choix que j'ai fait m'a été dicté par plusieurs considérations: le souci de ne pas imposer une charge excessive aux pays pauvres qui ont déjà beaucoup de mal à s'acquitter de leur quote-part; le désir de ne pas laisser à mon successeur une situation difficile en risquant de provoquer, comme cela s'est produit en 1991, un décalage entre le montant du programme approuvé et celui des crédits ouverts; enfin, la volonté d'éviter à tout prix une bataille budgétaire qui diviserait la Conférence lors d'une session si importante, où il me paraît essentiel que le budget soit adopté à l'unanimité et non pas seulement par consensus. Je crois en effet nécessaire que le nouveau Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, puisse prendre le départ avec l'appui unanime des Etats Membres. Si l'on songe qu'en 1975 la Conférence avait adopté à l'unanimité, pour l'entrée en fonctions d'un nouveau Directeur général, un budget comportant une augmentation de 50 pour cent, est-ce trop demander que de l'exhorter aujourd'hui à voter unanimement un budget à croissance zéro?

Malgré cette stagnation - qui équivaut en fait à un recul -, nous nous sommes efforcés de préparer un Programme de travail et budget répondant aux besoins les plus immédiats qu'ont fait apparaître les deux grandes conférences de 1992. Dans une mesure hélas insuffisante mais correspondant au maximum de nos possibilités, nous avons renforcé en fonction d'Action 21 un grand nombre des programmes et sous-programmes du chapitre 2, qui définit nos activités techniques et économiques. De même, pour le suivi de la CIN, nous n'avons pas seulement prévu de renforcer les activités de la Division de la nutrition, mais aussi celles d'autres unités qui s'occupent de sécurité alimentaire, de commercialisation, etc.

Pour renforcer certaines activités sans majoration globale du budget, il faut trouver l'argent ailleurs, c'est-à-dire procéder à des suppressions ou à des réductions. D'aucuns estiment que l'on pourrait réduire les dépenses administratives, dégraisser les effectifs, supprimer certains de nos programmes, qu'ils jugent trop nombreux. J'inviterais volontiers ces critiques à regarder la réalité de plus près.

Depuis mon entrée en fonctions, nous n'avons cessé de comprimer les dépenses d'administration et de soutien, au point que nombre d'Etats Membres, estimant que nous allions trop loin dans cette direction, nous ont mis en garde à plusieurs reprises. Je suis fier d'avoir économisé sur nos frais de gestion de grosses sommes que nous avons pu affecter à des activités de fond, mais la rançon de cette politique est qu'il n'est plus possible de transférer aux programmes techniques des ressources prélevées sur les secteurs administratifs ou de soutien; de fait, rien que pour conserver le même niveau d'efficacité, nous allons devoir majorer quelque peu les crédits alloués à certains de ces secteurs.

Quand j'entends parler de dégraissage de nos effectifs, je me demande où l'on pourrait y trouver de la graisse. Les dépenses de personnel absorbaient plus des trois quarts du budget en 1974-75; elles représentent aujourd'hui à peine un peu plus de la moitié. Malgré la croissance des activités et la création des bureaux dans les pays, il y a aujourd'hui moins de postes du cadre organique qu'en 1975; de plus, beaucoup de ces postes sont restés vacants pendant des années, faute de ressources pour les pourvoir ou de candidats valables qui soient prêts à accepter les conditions que nous pouvions offrir.

Nos programmes sont-ils trop nombreux? Je voudrais qu'on m'en cite un seul qui soit inutile. Passés au crible par les comités techniques, le Comité du programme et le Comité financier, le Conseil et la Conférence elle-même, ils ont été approuvés dans leur totalité. Dans mes propositions initiales pour 1994-95, je n'en avais pas moins envisagé des coupes dans certains programmes - forêts, pêches, Programme de coopération technique. Cette idée souleva un tel tollé que nous avons dû non seulement rétablir les montants antérieurs, mais même proposer des augmentations nettes pour ces activités.

Où avons-nous trouvé l'argent? Nous avons, bien à contrecœur, diminué les montants affectés à d'autres programmes techniques et économiques, notamment en tirant tout le parti possible des économies de personnel que permet l'informatisation. Nous avons réduit les crédits destinés aux représentants de la FAO et aux bureaux régionaux. Mais surtout, en raison des changements intervenus dans les modalités de notre coopération avec les institutions financières - et notamment la Banque mondiale -, nous avons proposé une réduction sensible des crédits alloués aux activités liées à l'investissement, et en particulier à notre Programme de soutien à l'investissement.

Je passe outre mes remarques sur les négociations que nous avons en ce moment avec la Banque mondiale puisqu'elles vont se poursuivre.

Je regrette aussi de n'avoir pu inscrire au budget des crédits plus importants pour la formation du personnel, alors que l'évolution accélérée des sciences et des techniques justifierait l'envoi de nombreux fonctionnaires à des stages de formation ou de recyclage. Si l'on songe que certaines entreprises n'hésitent pas à consacrer à cet objet des crédits

pouvant atteindre 5 pour cent de leur budget total, les montants que nous pouvons lui affecter apparaissent dérisoires.

Quoi qu'il en soit, mes propositions ont reçu l'approbation du Comité du programme, du Comité financier et du Conseil, même si la question de leur financement n'est pas encore réglée à la satisfaction générale. Le Programme de travail et budget va être encore une fois examiné par la Commission II avant de vous être présenté pour adoption définitive. Je le recommande chaleureusement à votre approbation, car je le crois nécessaire, intimement- lié à la mise en oeuvre des stratégies définies par la Conférence de Rio et la CIN, et donc partie intégrante d'un effort indispensable à la survie de l'humanité. Tout y est utile, il ne laisse place à aucun gaspillage. Vous qui m'avez tant de fois manifesté votre confiance, je vous demande une dernière fois de me la donner en approuvant à l'unanimité les propositions qui vous sont soumises et dont dépend l'avenir de la FAO.

Je peux vous dire que ce Programme de travail et budget va vous coûter beaucoup moins que celui de 1992-93 et que les contributions en dollars seront inférieures. Je pense que ceci est unique dans les annales de la FAO. Si nous regardons les contributions que vous devez verser aux budgets d'organisations spécialisées du même niveau que la FAO - je pense à l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et au Bureau international du travail dont les budgets biannuels ont déjà été approuvés - nous voyons que vos contributions pour 1994-95 vont être supérieures à plus de 10 pour cent de ce qu'elles étaient pour 1992-93. A la FAO vous aurez à payer 10 pour cent en moins.

Du reste, le Programme de travail et budget ne constitue pas un cadre rigide; il se prête aux accommodements que peuvent nécessiter l'apparition de problèmes imprévus ou les besoins des Etats Membres. Mon successeur ne va pas se trouver ligoté dans une camisole de force; il disposera d'une certaine marge de manoeuvre pour diriger une institution qui, dans le système des Nations Unies, se place au premier rang - non seulement parce que la nourriture est le premier des besoins de l'être humain, mais aussi parce que la nutrition et l'environnement concernent tous les habitants de la Terre et que 80 pour cent d'entre eux, qui peuplent le tiers monde, ont un intérêt vital à l'action que nous menons en matière de production et de commerce agricoles, de sécurité alimentaire et de développement rural.

Pour assurer l'exécution de ce Programme, j'ai conscience de laisser à mon successeur une équipe de haute valeur, parfaitement rodée et possédant toutes les qualités voulues en matière de programmation et d'administration aussi bien que d'analyse et de technique. Elle a fait de grandes choses: elle en fera encore.

Rien ne peut mieux illustrer la façon dont elle sait répondre aux sollicitations les plus urgentes et les plus imprévues que les succès remportés contre la lucilie bouchère ou les récentes invasions de criquets pèlerins. Rien n'atteste mieux sa compétence que les travaux sur l'agriculture et le développement durables qui ont trouvé leur expression dans les conférences de Den Bosch et de Rio de Janeiro, ou encore la contribution décisive qu'elle a fournie à la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

Au moment de quitter mes fonctions, je suis heureux et fier que cette équipe dispose désormais de locaux et de moyens de travail à la hauteur de sa mission. Tout en demeurant au coeur d'un site urbain qui est sans doute

le plus beau du monde, la voici réunie dans un même ensemble d'édifices, auquel va pouvoir s'ajouter un bâtiment supplémentaire, ce qui devrait amplement couvrir nos besoins pour les 20 ou 25 prochaines années. Nous devons ces installations à la générosité de notre pays hôte, et le Président de la République italienne nous a fait l'honneur de venir les inaugurer. Je suis sûr que la Conférence tiendra à lui exprimer, comme je l'ai fait moi-même, la profonde gratitude de l'Organisation.

De même, nous disposons maintenant d'un équipement efficace qui représente le dernier-cri de la bureautique et de l'informatique. Un système de communication sophistiqué permet à chaque agent d'être relié à tous par téléphone et par courrier électronique. Des dizaines de banques de données peuvent fournir à chacun, de façon quasi instantanée, des renseignements dont la recherche absorbait auparavant un temps précieux. Là encore, je veux remercier le Gouvernement italien de son importante contribution à l'acquisition et à la mise en place du matériel. Le développement des réseaux opérationnels doit beaucoup au travail acharné de mon regretté collègue Milan Trkulja, Directeur de la Division des Statistiques, qui s'y est consacré jusqu'à son décès prématuré. Permettez-moi de saluer ici la mémoire de ce grand serviteur de la communauté internationale, qui avait assuré pendant huit années la présidence du Comité du programme avant d'entrer au Secrétariat.

Voici donc notre FAO matériellement et moralement préparée à affronter les défis du 21^{ème} siècle. Tout ce que je vous ai dit aujourd'hui - et aussi tout ce que j'ai cherché à faire au long de ces 18 années - atteste la conscience aiguë que j'ai de l'ampleur de ces enjeux et de leur importance capitale pour le développement harmonieux et même pour la survie de l'espèce humaine.

Dans cette perspective, les travaux de la session qui commence me semblent revêtir, s'il se pouvait, plus de valeur encore qu'à l'accoutumée. Je souhaite de tout coeur que, sous la conduite éclairée de votre Président, ce Sommet de l'agriculture mondiale se déroule dans un climat de dialogue, de compréhension réciproque et de concertation confiante qui lui permettra de porter les fruits qu'en attendent les ruraux du monde entier, mais aussi tous les habitants de notre vieille et toujours jeune planète.

Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: We have had a most impressive statement from the Director-General. It has been a comprehensive statement in which he painted a vivid picture of the social and economic situations in the world today. He proceeded to examine the role that FAO will need to play in discharging its functions against that particular backdrop. In the final analysis, he has assured us that FAO is materially and morally ready to fulfil its very important mandate.

The Director-General has examined the constraints against which FAO operates and has sought your support for the unanimous support of the budget which will be placed before you - a zero growth budget, he has

pointed out, in a situation in which the demands on FAO are constantly increasing if it is successfully to discharge its mandate.

The groundwork has been laid by the Director-General in his statement for a full debate during this and following sessions on the role that FAO has to play. I now call on the Independent Chairman of Council, Mr Antoine Saintraint, to make his statement to the Conference.

INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE
DECLARATION DU PRÉSIDENT INDÉPENDANT DU CONSEIL À LA CONFÉRENCE
DECLARACION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO A LA CONFERENCIA

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Président indépendant du Conseil): Il m'appartient, après le remarquable discours du Directeur général, Edouard Saouma, en ma qualité de Président indépendant du Conseil, de vous faire rapport des activités de votre Conseil et de son Président durant ces deux dernières années.

Je diviserai mon exposé en deux parties :

- la première tendant à fournir une synthèse des activités du Conseil ; les questions de principe que la Conférence doit examiner se trouvent toutes reprises dans le projet d'ordre du jour de la Conférence, déjà adopté ;
- la seconde partie me donnera l'occasion de vous faire part d'un certain nombre de considérations qu'après avoir exercé mes fonctions j'estime devoir faire. Ces considérations proviennent des conclusions que j'ai pu tirer de ma présidence au cours des deux mandats et de ma participation aux diverses sessions des comités restreints du Conseil.

Votre Conseil, Monsieur le Président, a tenu quatre sessions importantes depuis la dernière conférence de novembre 1991 : la 101ème, 102ème, 103ème et 104ème session du Conseil. Comme de coutume, lors de la 101ème session, il fut procédé aux différentes élections des comités restreints : Comité du Programme, Comité financier, Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, et il fut procédé aussi aux élections des membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM.

Durant l'année 1992, en ma qualité de Président du Conseil, j'ai pu suivre les différentes conférences régionales de la FAO : en février à Delhi, pour la Région Asie-Pacifique, en mai à Téhéran, pour la Région Proche-Orient, en juillet à Accra, pour la Région Afrique, en août à Prague, pour la Région Europe et enfin, en septembre à Montevideo, pour la Région Amérique latine et Caraïbes. J'ai pu mesurer l'importance considérable de la dimension régionale des activités de la FAO dans le monde. Je crois profondément que le rôle des bureaux régionaux est essentiel et devra être renforcé dans l'avenir avec des moyens financiers plus importants.

Le Conseil a tenu une session brève mais très dense en novembre 1992 et a pu se pencher sur toutes les questions importantes qui ont fait l'objet d'un rapport très exhaustif.

Les rapports des 64ème et 65ème sessions du Comité du Programme et des 73ème et 74ème sessions du Comité financier furent longuement examinés, ainsi que les rapports des 58ème et 59ème sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Des progrès importants purent être

enregistrés dans le domaine des pêches internationales, principalement en ce qui concerne la pêche responsable et le régime juridique de la pêche en haute mer.

Seul, un amendement, tendant à incorporer dans le règlement financier les dispositions des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence concernant le compte de réserve spécial, n'a pu aboutir devant l'obstruction faite par une petite minorité des Membres du Conseil : la Conférence étant souveraine, ces résolutions ont la même portée et valeur que les règlements financiers, mais il eut été plus clair d'incorporer les décisions prises dans le règlement d'ordre financier de l'Organisation.

Lors de cette session, des progrès purent être enregistrés en ce qui concerne la création d'un groupe consultatif sur le programme d'action forestier tropical ; j'ai personnellement beaucoup travaillé à préparer une décision favorable, qui fut prise lors de la session de juin 1993.

Durant la 103ème session de juin 1993, le Conseil a examiné les rapports d'une série de Comités : Sécurité alimentaire mondiale, Agriculture, Pêches, Forêts, etc. Les rapports des 75ème et 76ème sessions du Comité financier, ainsi que les rapports des 66ème et 67ème sessions du Comité des Programmes furent également examinés.

Le Programme 1992-93 fut étudié dans le détail ainsi que le projet de Programme de travail et budget 1994-95.

La création du groupe consultatif du PAFT fut décidée à l'unanimité. Il ne reste qu'à trouver le financement pour permettre le démarrage des activités du groupe et l'on peut espérer que ce sera possible dans un avenir pas trop lointain.

Le rapport de la 67ème session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques fit l'objet d'un examen approfondi et, grâce à la constitution d'un Comité technique, des progrès sérieux purent être actés en ce qui concerne le projet d'accord sur l'attribution d'un pavillon aux navires pêchant en haute mer. Lors de sa dernière session de début novembre, votre Conseil a déjà soigneusement préparé la 27ème session de la Conférence de la FAO, actuellement en cours.

Pendant sa 104ème session, votre Conseil, Monsieur le Président, a examiné entre autres les rapports de la 68ème session du Comité des Programmes et de la 77ème session du Comité financier. Elle a aussi étudié le rapport de la 61ème session du CQCJ.

Grâce au travail effectué dans une atmosphère qui fut toujours extrêmement franche, ouverte et agréable, votre Conseil a pu, ces deux dernières années, prendre dans la sphère de ses compétences une série de décisions importantes et préparer pour la Conférence des résolutions dont il sera discuté dans les jours qui viennent et qui, j'en suis convaincu, pourront faire l'objet de résolutions rencontrant l'accord de la grande majorité, si pas de l'unanimité des Membres de la FAO.

Le Programme de travail et budget 1994-95 fit l'objet de très longues discussions. Toutes les explications ont été fournies avec patience et minutie ; toutes les questions ont reçu réponse. Je ne puis que remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO car il a accompli une tâche que seuls ceux qui ont pu suivre l'élaboration du budget depuis février 1993 à ce jour apprécieront réellement.

Le Conseil de la FAO a fait face dans des conditions difficiles à une tâche, parfois ingrate, mais passionnante, car elle a réellement "collé" à la vie de l'Organisation. Je n'en dirai pas plus. Les excellents rapports publiés à l'issue de chacun des Conseils sont des documents de référence importants qui méritent d'être consultés et de l'être souvent. Ils m'ont permis d'être bref dans ce rapport succinct que je viens de vous présenter et me permettront d'être un peu plus long dans la seconde partie où, comme je vous l'ai signalé, je vous fais part de quelques considérations, peut-être trop sommaires mais qui, je l'espère, constitueront des pistes de réflexion-pour le Conseil et ses organes subsidiaires dans l'avenir.

J'en viens maintenant, Monsieur le Président, à cette seconde partie de mon exposé que je voudrais la plus concrète et opérationnelle possible.

Les circonstances de la vie ont fait qu'avant d'être élu en 1989, au terme d'une compétition qui fut pour moi parfois assez pénible, j'ai pu durant trois années exercer les fonctions d'Ambassadeur, représentant permanent auprès des Organisations des Nations Unies à Rome. J'ai appris à connaître, petit à petit, notre Organisation : ses points forts, ses points faibles, au fil d'une patiente et longue recherche. Monsieur le Président, j'ai entendu tellement de jugements à l'emporte-pièce, rencontré tant de personnages ayant tout vu et tout compris et portant des jugements définitifs sur l'Organisation, sans en connaître rien, ou si peu! Tant de fois j'ai entendu parler de la lourdeur des agences spécialisées des Nations Unies, de leur pesanteur et de leur incapacité à répondre aux défis que doit affronter notre monde. J'ai moi-même, dans le passé, partagé cette approche. Monsieur le Président, j'ai vécu plus de dix ans dans le continent africain, plus de huit ans en Amérique latine et j'ai beaucoup voyagé en Asie. J'ai cru en la coopération bilatérale, avant d'assister à sa progressive décomposition, à son effondrement quasi total et complet, dans des nostalgies d'un passé définitivement révolu. Récemment encore, on me parlait des discussions et discours stériles et vains des grandes assemblées des Nations Unies où l'on perdait tant de temps à des jeux ne débouchant sur rien de précis, de concret ni d'opérationnel.

Cependant les problèmes de notre planète et la dimension des enjeux m'ont profondément convaincu de la faillite totale des relations uniquement bilatérales et, par mon expérience du système multilatéral, j'ai compris qu'il reste la seule voie possible pour l'établissement de stratégies d'ensemble et de vision globale des problèmes. La coopération internationale, même pour ceux qui n'y croient pas, même pour ceux qui n'y croient guère, s'impose parce qu'aucun pays ne peut plus vivre en autarcie et parce que chaque problème doit nécessairement se régler dans une vision globale.

J'ai toujours, en ce qui me concerne, été effrayé par la dimension du fossé qui sépare les discours et déclarations d'intention des actes, et j'ai rarement trouvé la traduction des concepts et idées en actions et opérations. On se gargarise de mots, on discute des grands problèmes, on parle de développement durable et, dans l'incapacité de prolongements concrets dans des projets et programmes qui impliquent des sacrifices importants, on établit des commissions. Qu'en résulte-t-il, de ces séminaires, de ces caucus, de ces shows, sans suivi et très souvent sans lendemain? Les démocraties parlementaires vivent dans des perspectives à court terme, quatre ans, cinq ans, six ans parfois, en bref la durée de mandats parlementaires ou présidentiels.

Le système multilatéral a essentiellement comme tâche de poursuivre une vision à long terme. C'est la grandeur et l'immense difficulté que rencontre une organisation comme la nôtre qui, jusqu'à présent, a pu maintenir ses deux caractéristiques essentielles : être opérationnelle et rester démocratique.

La FAO, qui est un centre d'information et de renseignements unique au monde, est aussi un forum technique et politique sur tous les grands problèmes de l'agriculture, de la forêt, de la pêche et de ses prolongements naturels, principalement "environnement et nutrition". La troisième mission de la FAO, après sa tâche de documentation et d'information, et sa mission de forum technique et politique, est bien sûr le programme de terrain dont on a beaucoup parlé dans ces locaux, depuis que le Directeur général a donné le meilleur de lui-même pour faire de l'Organisation autre chose qu'un centre d'études et de documentation au service de certains ... mais un centre capable de répondre sur le terrain par des projets et des programmes à toutes les interpellations qui se posent avec acuité dans le monde.

J'ai souvent dit que les projets et programmes de terrain étaient la vie, le sang et le moteur de notre Organisation. Je crois aussi, profondément, qu'à force de dire et de redire un certain nombre de vérités fondamentales, certains messages, ou éléments de message, finissent par passer. J'ai pu noter en quatre ans un changement de mentalité. Plus personne n'oserait mettre en cause ouvertement le programme de terrain, le programme de coopération technique, la représentation de la FAO dans les différents pays du monde. L'interpénétration entre les niveaux scientifiques et techniques des différents services techniques de la FAO et les programmes de terrain sont d'une telle évidence qu'on peut se demander comment on a pu en discuter pendant tant de temps. Peut-on une seconde imaginer l'existence d'un service valable dans le domaine vétérinaire, dans le domaine du service de la nutrition des plantes, dans le domaine du service des eaux, du service des sols, de la pêche, de la forêt, de la sécurité alimentaire, de la nutrition... sans prolongements sur le terrain dans des activités précises, concrètes, de qualité et apportant, de façon désintéressée (ce que les coopérations bilatérales ne font quasi jamais), les transferts de techniques et de technologie de pointe.

Le programme de terrain ne peut vivre sans un siège fort, compétent et expérimenté, et le personnel du siège ne peut avoir aucune valeur sans être impliqué et imbriqué dans des programmes de terrain.

Le seul reproche que je pourrais éventuellement adresser à notre Organisation est de donner parfois un poids trop grand (et cela provient des lourdeurs administratives) à certaines divisions de support et de soutien qui, au lieu d'être des leviers d'activités, constituent certains freins.

Les grandes difficultés financières qu'a connues l'Organisation ont empêché le renouvellement du personnel qui doit pouvoir garder sa grande compétence et son niveau de formation, sans cesse amélioré, ce qui n'est plus, hélas, possible dans l'immédiat. Il faudra pouvoir faire en sorte que tous les Membres de notre Organisation soient conscients des responsabilités qu'ils portent et, si certain pays ne s'estiment pas capables d'assumer certains pourcentages de contribution, il me paraît préférable que ce pourcentage soit diminué, mais qu'il soit effectivement honoré. La vie internationale nécessite que les obligations souscrites par les Etats ne soient pas soumises uniquement à des rouages nationaux, mais qu'elles relèvent du

respect d'un droit international, qui s'élabore doucement, dans beaucoup de heurts, de déchirements et de difficultés, mais qui devra, demain, régir notre vie en commun.

Je ne peux pas, en traitant de l'interdépendance des activités du siège et du programme de terrain, ne pas évoquer l'interrelation existant également sur le plan budgétaire entre le programme ordinaire et le programme de terrain. J'ai entendu bien souvent des plaidoyers demandant, au nom de la transparence, que le programme ordinaire ne puisse financer le programme de terrain, ce qui, bien sûr, montre que certains n'ont rien compris encore aux fonctions et responsabilités de notre Organisation. Il ne s'agit en effet pas seulement de moyens financiers, mais principalement de transfert de connaissances, de compétences et d'intelligence, qu'il est difficile ou impossible de peser en moyens monétaires.

Si une part de programme ordinaire sert à des programmes de terrain, tant mieux! Et je dis à tous ceux qui veulent, au nom de la transparence, refuser des moyens financiers du programme ordinaire pour des programmes de terrain, et ils sont quasi tous des représentants de pays n'ayant pas de programmes en fonds fiduciaires, qu'ils vont à contre-courant des orientations fondamentales de la FAO et de tout l'esprit qui, il y a bientôt un demi-siècle, a présidé à sa création. Je ne puis que leur conseiller la relecture du préambule de notre Acte exécutif, et de dire, une fois de plus, que les moyens financiers mis à la disposition de notre Organisation sont absolument dérisoires par rapport aux besoins du monde. Le budget ordinaire de la FAO, pour deux ans, représente moins que le budget de coopération d'un an d'un petit pays comme le mien, qui ne parvient pas à l'utiliser avec un minimum d'efficacité! Rappeler que la population de notre planète (cela a déjà été fait si souvent) va passer de 5 à 8 milliards en moins d'un quart de siècle, rappeler que la population du monde s'accroît de 250 000 personnes par jour, rappeler qu'un milliard d'êtres humains souffrent de sous-alimentation ... cela a déjà été dit et redit dans cette salle. Un jour, j'ai dit, je m'en souviens, lors d'une Conférence de la FAO, que le commerce de l'alimentation de quelques espèces de petits animaux domestiques (chats, chiens, canaris) représente un montant immensément plus important que les moyens budgétaires et extrabudgétaires de la FAO! J'ai souvent souffert d'entendre certains discours prononcés par d'aucuns, défendant des positions égoïstes moralement insoutenables. Je respecte les hommes et les femmes qui les défendent, mais lutterai sans relâche pour combattre des privilèges révolus.

Que de fois n'ai-je pas entendu dire que les pays riches connaissaient aussi leurs difficultés, mais peut-on décemment comparer la situation d'un pays ayant un produit national par tête d'habitant de 18 000 dollars avec la situation d'un pays dont le PNB par habitant n'atteint pas les 600 dollars.

Que de fois n'ai-je pas entendu défendre, en des groupes informels, groupes de pression défenseurs d'intérêts des puissants de ce monde parler de la croissance zéro. Cette contradiction interne des termes recouvre bien des égoïsmes et des refus de la construction solidaire de la planète. La croissance zéro est non seulement une non-croissance, mais c'est surtout un recul permanent, conscient, constant, face aux besoins qui ne font qu'augmenter.

Je n'ai pas entendu beaucoup de voix s'élever contre ce concept de croissance zéro, qui est un non-sens total et qui relève du domaine de l'absurde. On assiste, alors que des moyens financiers, de plus en plus

considérables, échappent quasi totalement aux pouvoirs nationaux et se meuvent avec la rapidité de l'électronique au-delà de toutes frontières, à une série de replis, d'égoïsmes frileux, frisant l'indifférence la plus complète. Qu'on est loin maintenant des engagements internationaux de consacrer 0,7 pour cent du PNB à la coopération internationale! Les problèmes ne font qu'augmenter : pollution, dégradation de l'environnement, croissance des mégapoles, besoins de secours d'urgence ... et les moyens ne font que diminuer.

Quelques rares pays ont atteint l'objectif fixé il y a un quart de siècle. Ils remettent hélas, trop souvent en cause leurs engagements, et ceux qui n'ont jamais atteint l'objectif, ne font même plus l'effort nécessaire à l'amélioration de la situation. On assiste du reste pour le moment, à un glissement effrayant des moyens qui devraient être affectés au développement vers des opérations dites "humanitaires", en réalité des opérations de police qui financièrement sont de plus en plus difficilement couvertes.

Pour justifier le maintien d'un budget multilatéral réduit, j'ai entendu régulièrement certains membres de l'Organisation déclarer qu'il fallait fixer des priorités. Jamais, au grand jamais les groupes de réflexion informels n'ont pu établir quels étaient les domaines prioritaires par rapport aux domaines moins prioritaires, ou non prioritaires, ou aux secteurs à éliminer. Il est facile de faire des déclarations fracassantes sur la priorité à réserver à certains secteurs à la mode, encore faut-il aussi avoir le courage de déterminer ce que l'on peut négliger, réduire, ou même supprimer. La seule proposition concrète que j'aie entendue en quatre ans était de réduire le nombre de gardes, ce qui était une proposition plutôt farfelue!

Je sais qu'à l'heure actuelle, compte tenu de l'extraordinaire diffusion des moyens de communication et d'information beaucoup se posent la question de savoir s'il est encore possible et raisonnable, de poursuivre une aide au développement, et s'il ne vaudrait pas mieux concentrer les moyens sur l'aide alimentaire, les secours d'urgence et le problème de la dette, pour colmater des brèches, et mieux préparer le futur. On oublie trop souvent que les pays dits "développés" ont connu des siècles de luttes intestines, de divisions, de déchirements, de famines, de violations des droits de l'homme. Aussi, malgré le matraquage des images télévisées, appartient-il à des organisations comme la nôtre de poursuivre leur tâche de développement, malgré les difficultés, tout en évitant soigneusement de prendre en otage des populations en se servant des crédits de coopération, comme moyens de pression politique. C'est une des grandes leçons que j'ai tirées de l'enseignement et de la vision d'un de mes prédécesseurs (on a déjà cité son nom, le Directeur général l'a cité), mort il y a 20 ans, Josué de Castro, qui a lutté toute sa vie pour l'amélioration du sort de la paysannerie du monde. L'on parle tant, à l'heure actuelle, des droits de l'homme, et l'on fait si peu pour permettre à l'être humain de satisfaire à sa première nécessité: se nourrir. Qu'a-t-on fait pour répondre à l'appel pressant lancé en ce qui concerne la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence et l'amélioration des moyens de stockage par des procédés modernes, qui permettraient des réponses rapides à des situations de famine? Il en est de même du commerce international. On en a beaucoup parlé dans cette enceinte mais l'on oublie trop souvent que le commerce mondial concerne une partie si réduite de la population de ce monde. Quarante-sept pour cent du commerce international se fait pour 10 pour cent de la population du monde. Ne serait-il pas temps de faire un examen de conscience, et de voir pourquoi certains organismes dans lesquels on a

placé tant d'espoirs ne peuvent fonctionner. Je songe au Fonds commun des matières premières qui dispose de moyens dérisoires, et dont se retirent déjà des pays importants. Je me souviendrai toujours des réactions négatives et même violentes de ces pays auxquels je reprochais de se retirer d'organisations des Nations Unies. La solidarité dans le système multilatéral doit être globale et l'on ne peut imaginer être présent dans certaines organisations quand on y a intérêt, et être totalement absent quand on risque de devoir consentir certains sacrifices. J'ai fait, Monsieur le Président, en suivant les travaux des Comités restreints et en y participant, des expériences peu ordinaires. Le simple fait de donner une information objective dans toute sa crudité était considéré par certains comme une immixtion politique intolérable dont on estimait même qu'il n'y avait pas lieu d'en faire état.

J'ai dit qu'une des caractéristiques principales de notre Organisation, est d'être parvenue à rester démocratique. Que le pays soit riche ou pauvre, qu'il soit grand ou petit, il a le droit de faire entendre sa voix, il a le droit de faire valoir son point de vue et sa vision. Dans les pays démocratiques le milliardaire, comme le citoyen le plus pauvre, ont les mêmes droits politiques. Aussi je crois que le consensus recherché sur les questions délicates et litigieuses ne peut être l'expression de ce que j'ai appelé et que j'appelle "le commun dénominateur de la médiocrité". Le consensus pour certains est devenu ou devient une sorte de droit de veto pour arrêter et casser la volonté d'une très large majorité. Il y a un danger certain de voir la démocratie internationale barrée et enrayée par l'établissement d'une "soi-disant" règle du consensus. Celle-ci est impossible à atteindre si l'on veut faire face aux-grands défis du monde, transcender les égoïsmes nationaux et permettre plus de justice dans une économie mondiale où ne peut régner la loi de la jungle, c'est-à-dire: de la domination du faible par le fort.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai durant ces dernières années vécu un certain nombre de problèmes précis et concrets qui ont été abondamment discutés et qui ont été tranchés sans équivoque et de manière claire par la Conférence, organe supérieure de l'Organisation. Je citerai sans vouloir être exhaustif: le coefficient d'abattement pour mouvement de personnel, l'existence et le fonctionnement du Compte de réserve spécial, l'affectation des arriérés de contribution, ... sur tous ces sujets des décisions nettes ont été prise à une très large majorité, sur la base de documentation précise et de fourniture d'explications détaillées, cent fois répétées. Nonobstant, inlassablement certains lobby préoccupés essentiellement par la réduction des moyens d'action de l'Organisation, remettent en cause régulièrement des décisions prises démocratiquement en cette enceinte. La procédure de prise de décision doit, Monsieur le Président, rester démocratique. Ce serait saper les fondations de l'Organisation que de ne pas y veiller constamment.

J'ai vécu ces dernières années au sein de la FAO une période passionnante. Une période, où on a beaucoup parlé de réformes, de revues, de revitalisation à la fois de l'Organisation et de ses organes directeurs. On n'améliorera pas le fonctionnement des comités restreints si les pays ne sont pas conscients qu'ils doivent y déléguer des hommes et des femmes de grande classe et de qualité, ouverts sur le monde, généreux et progressistes, ce qui n'est, hélas, plus toujours le cas, à l'heure actuelle. Il en est de même pour le personnel du siège (et cela existe dans toutes les organisations internationales). Très souvent, des pays cherchent à se débarrasser d'éléments médiocres en les casant dans des organisations

internationales où seuls devraient se trouver les tout meilleurs éléments des Etats Membres.

J'ai souvent dit que la grande richesse de l'administration de la FAO provenait de la qualité de ses membres, de l'extraordinaire diversité des langues, des cultures, des traditions. Aussi faut-il lutter contre le népotisme et cette tendance de certains pays à vouloir se débarrasser de gêneurs en leur proposant un poste important dans le secteur multilatéral.

Ce secteur doit continuer, comme il l'est actuellement, à être occupé par des éléments, hommes et femmes, de très grande qualité.

L'esprit multilatéral nécessite aussi une grande souplesse dans l'application des quotas.

On a beaucoup parlé de la réforme du système des Nations Unies et de la coordination des efforts de toutes les organisations internationales. J'ai étudié les plans de ceux qui se sont imaginé qu'il était possible de construire un édifice par le sommet et non par sa base. J'ai assisté à la crise profonde du PNUD, dont les conséquences sont si lourdes pour la FAO. Créer un Conseil de développement au sommet est un "non-sens" dans la mesure où, dans des domaines de la compétence de l'organisation, tout le monde s'occupe de tout et spécialement des sujets d'actualité. Environnement, développement durable, suivi de Rio, forêts, bois tropicaux, promotion de la femme, groupes de populations cibles, etc.

Les Nations Unies doivent se servir des grandes agences spécialisées en déterminant le plus précisément possible leur aire de compétence. Celle de la FAO est claire et nette, aussi est-il si regrettable de voir que certains problèmes (je prendrai l'exemple des forêts) sont discutés dans tant d'enceintes différentes, et qu'on en arrive à vouloir créer de nouveaux organes pour répondre à des missions qui sont l'essence propre de notre Organisation.

On pourrait bien sûr parler de ce thème d'abondance, mais je manquerais à tous mes devoirs si je n'évoquais pas la coordination indispensable des organismes s'occupant d'agriculture et surtout de ceux situés à Rome. J'ai déploré et je déplore que le Programme alimentaire mondial ait voulu se constituer en agence de développement séparée de la FAO alors qu'incontestablement les activités du programme sont complémentaires et interdépendantes. Certains pays ont, pour satisfaire de mesquines ambitions personnelles, contribué à couper tous les fils unissant notre Organisation au programme alimentaire. N'y avait-il pas aussi l'idée de pouvoir utiliser comme arme ce qui ne peut qu'être et rester une aide et un secours? Je sais qu'un jour il faudra renouer ces liens sectionnés. L'éloignement physique bien loin au fond de la Via Laurentina est déplorable; j'espère quand même que le PAM continuera à tenir ses grandes réunions à la FAO. Dans la négative, ce serait la victoire très précaire et provisoire de ceux qui ont voulu le divorce et l'éloignement. Il sera difficile, très difficile de renouer les liens, mais il faudra, un jour, s'atteler à cette tâche.

Ne faudrait-il pas, aussi, revoir les statuts et le fonctionnement du FIDA qui, de banque de développement, s'est constitué en agence de développement, prétendant apporter des solutions techniques sans en avoir les compétences, même si le Fonds dispose de moyens importants. Organiser tous les ans une grande conférence de gouverneurs, une série de manifestations sur les sujets les plus divers, en prétendant ainsi trouver une formule magique pour améliorer le sort des plus pauvres parmi les

pauvres, ne permet pas de remplir modestement sa tâche, qui devrait être d'assurer le financement de bons projets et programmes en parfaite articulation avec une agence opérationnelle comme la nôtre. Consentir des prêts en devises convertibles même à des conditions extrêmement douces ne peut que contribuer à alourdir la dette du tiers monde et placer un certain nombre de pays, qui devront rembourser en devises convertibles, dans une position impossible.

Améliorer le sort de la femme rurale, permettre aux paysans de mieux satisfaire à leurs nécessités n'a pas permis et ne permettra pas de générer des monnaies transférables. Peut-être faudrait-il que les pays, dans les différentes enceintes internationales, qui souvent sont représentés par des personnes différentes, sachent que la coordination ne se fera jamais que sous l'égide d'une autorité et d'un responsable. La coordination est une de ces tartes à la crème dont on parle beaucoup, mais il faudra du courage pour recentrer le rôle de la FAO cotuteur du Programme alimentaire mondial, et dont le FIDA devrait devenir, conformément à sa mission essentielle de Fonds de développement, un financier important. Ne faudrait-il pas repenser ce rôle en articulation avec le destin futur du centre d'investissement, où le rôle de la Banque mondiale et de l'AID devrait être clairement précisé.

Il en est de même en ce qui concerne l'articulation avec le Groupe de la consultatif recherche agronomique internationale où, à l'heure actuelle, chaque centre suit la politique décidée par sa direction propre, sans nécessairement s'adapter aux priorités des besoins du monde. Le rôle du Comité consultatif technique du GCRAI devrait être repensé pour permettre une meilleure articulation avec l'Organisation.

J'en arrive maintenant, Monsieur le Président, avant de conclure, à vous parler de la grande espérance qu'avait suscitée l'adhésion à la FAO d'une organisation d'intégration économique régionale, en l'occurrence la Communauté européenne. Lors de la Conférence de 1991, la CEE, grâce aux modifications des Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation, fut admise à devenir membre à part entière de celle-ci. Une très longue négociation avait été menée et j'avais pu y participer de manière très active. La grande majorité des membres de l'Organisation soutint cette demande d'adhésion, moyennant la promesse de voir la Communauté participer activement aux programmes et projets de terrain de l'Organisation. Nous sommes conscients que nous vivons dans un monde unijambiste où il est nécessaire que des groupes comme le groupe européen, qui représente beaucoup plus que le tiers des contributions à la FAO, puissent jouer un rôle actif. Hélas, deux ans après cette adhésion, peu de progrès ont été réalisés. Un accord de coopération a pourtant été signé, ainsi qu'une convention sur les modalités pratiques et budgétaires de l'application de l'accord, en adoptant la méthode facile et pratique des fonds fiduciaires.

La Communauté souffre incontestablement de langueur, et la lourde machine administrative, divisée en une multitude de Directions générales, n'a pu répondre à l'immense espérance qu'avait suscité la présence à part entière de l'entité politique européenne à la FAO.

Un mécanisme de coordination fut mis en place à Bruxelles, sous l'égide de la Direction générale des relations extérieures avec une réunion hebdomadaire. Ce mécanisme a progressivement permis d'assurer peut-être une meilleure coordination mais je crois qu'il n'en est pas sorti tout ce que nous aurions pu espérer.

Pourtant, quittant les horizons d'un pré carré élargi, limité aux anciennes colonies de ses Etats Membres, la Communauté européenne, en dépassant les nationalismes étroits de ses composantes, pourrait jouer un rôle essentiel dans tous les secteurs d'activité de l'Organisation. Je dois avouer une très grande déception et même un certain sentiment de frustration. Compte tenu des promesses faites et des engagements pris, je ne pourrai que passer le flambeau à mon très prochain successeur, le nouveau Président indépendant du Conseil, que vous élirez en fin de cette Conférence. Je lui demanderai, avec beaucoup d'insistance, de veiller, en lui rappelant les engagements pris, à ce que la présence de la Communauté au sein de la FAO et du Conseil ne soit pas que symbolique, ne se limite pas à des discours reflétant le consensus de douze Etats Membres obtenu par un nivellement par le bas. Une présence enthousiaste et dynamique appuyée par les moyens financiers très importants dont l'Europe dispose doit permettre demain de mieux faire face au formidable défi que jamais dans le passé le monde n'a connu. Je crois pouvoir espérer que la Communauté politique européenne pourra contribuer efficacement à un développement harmonieux, condition de notre survie.

Je termine cet exposé, peut-être trop long, mais loin d'être complet. Je n'ai pas évoqué par exemple l'important rôle nominatif de la FAO, sa fonction de catalyseur, de conseil aux gouvernements. Je n'ai probablement pas assez souligné le rôle du paysan du tiers monde et la nécessité de réfléchir à la place qu'il doit occuper.

J'aurais dû aussi souligner le rôle des bureaux nationaux et régionaux de la FAO et insister sur une décentralisation indispensable vers les bureaux régionaux qui devraient voir leur mission élargie.

Je me dois d'adresser mes remerciements aux amis qui, en 1989, ont soutenu ma candidature au poste important de Président de votre Conseil. Merci aussi à la majorité de la communauté internationale qui m'a fait confiance et m'a élu. Merci à tous ceux qui ont combattu ma candidature, me forçant ainsi à rencontrer leurs argumentations, à préciser ma pensée et à développer une vision qui pourra, peut-être, faciliter quelque peu l'accomplissement de la tâche formidable que doit assumer notre Organisation. Le monde progresse dans beaucoup de divisions et d'affrontements. Il progresse et progressera aussi dans la solidarité, la fraternité et le souci constant du mieux-être des plus pauvres et des plus démunis. J'ai beaucoup aimé le qualificatif "d'indépendant" attribué à la fonction que j'ai exercée. L'indépendance n'est ni la neutralité, ni l'impartialité. Je crois avoir été souvent partial, mais si je le fus c'est dans la ligne qui me fut tracée par beaucoup de mes prédécesseurs. J'ai tenté ainsi de contribuer quelque peu au maintien des orientations définies par l'Acte constitutif de notre Organisation.

"Chacun est responsable de tout devant tous" a écrit Dostoïevski dans son grand roman Les frères Karamazov. C'est dans cet esprit que j'ai travaillé modestement et c'est cette vision que je souhaite voir partagée par chacun d'entre nous.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Saintraint, for your very stimulating statement. You remarked at the close that you had not covered all the subjects on which you would wish to have had the opportunity to speak. However, in fact, in the early part of your statement you gave proper account of your stewardship since we last convened two years ago, and a full report of the work of the FAO Council.

In the second part of your statement, you came out in strong defence of FAO as a multilateral organization capable of responding to all the challenges which will- arise.

I think Conference will agree that your statement was a frank one. It was a statement in which you spoke plainly, you spoke feelingly and in which you gave us much food for thought.

I would encourage all those delegates who did not avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing firsthand the statement of the Independent Chairman of the Council, to be certain that they get a copy, so that they can read and inwardly digest it. It will be of assistance to every delegate assembled here at this Conference.

I wish to thank you very much, Mr Saintraint, for your excellent, powerful and hard-hitting statement.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Constantin G. POLITIS (Greece): I want to express my congratulations and deep appreciation for the excellent speech of the Independent Chairman of the Council.

I am obliged to draw the Chairman's attention to this matter. It is a point of order. There was one inaccuracy which most probably slipped inadvertently into his speech. He was speaking about the European Community and mentioned the relationship of the Member States of the ex-colonies. He was speaking in very general terms. I want to draw his attention and the attention of the honourable delegates to the fact that there are some members of the European Community which have never been colonial powers, especially my own country, Greece. We have never been a colonial power. On the contrary, Greece has always been on the side of people struggling for their liberation and has paid a considerable price for its principal policies.

CHAIRMAN: We are grateful for that comment from Greece. We have taken note of your intervention.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Entendemos, señor Presidente, que en esta cuarta Sesión Plenaria del día de hoy de esta Conferencia en la cual el señor Saouma decía que era la cumbre de la agricultura y la alimentación mundial, hemos tenido la oportunidad, como usted ha recalado, señor Presidente, de oír dos magistrales piezas oratorias de contenido humano y de realidad política existente. Por lo cual, en nombre de mi Delegación, las intervenciones del señor Saouma y del señor Saintraint las calificamos

de magistrales por su sentido práctico de la realidad de un mundo complejo y difícil en el que vivimos.

Nosotros entendemos, señor Presidente, que ambas declaraciones deben ser repartidas en todos los idiomas oficiales, y no solamente en el verbatim, que lo recogería solamente en una lengua. Por su importancia, que usted recalcó, señor Presidente, creemos que ambas declaraciones deben ser repartidas en esta Conferencia en los distintos idiomas oficiales.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

DEBAT GENERAL

DEBATE GENERAL

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

CHAIRMAN: I am advised that the statement of the Director-General is already available in all languages. I do hope that that of the Independent Chairman of the Council can be made available in all languages so that delegates will have the opportunity of reading it.

We will now begin the general discussion proper.

I will give the floor to the Heads of Delegations who have requested speaking time in advance, as listed in today's order of the day. You will recall that Conference agreed to the Council's suggestion that Heads of Delegations, as at previous sessions, limit their statements to a maximum of 15 minutes. We have many requests for speaking time. This is really the only way to proceed. I would refer you to paragraphs 19-23 of document C 93/12 which we approved on Saturday, 6 November. In order to help speakers, there are two lights on the lectern. The white light will come on after 12 minutes and the red one after 15 minutes.

In view of the large number of speakers and the limited time at our disposal, may I appeal to you all to limit yourselves to the 15 minutes indicated.

Alfredo DIANA (Italie): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Messieurs les délégués, je suis particulièrement heureux et honoré de prendre la parole à l'occasion de cette Conférence en qualité de représentant du gouvernement du pays où siège la FAO depuis plus de quarante ans.

Permettez-moi avant tout d'exprimer mes plus vives et chaleureuses félicitations au nouveau Directeur général de l'Organisation, personne dont tout le monde connaît la grande expérience et les qualités professionnelles et humaines; je lui souhaite très sincèrement le meilleur succès dans l'exercice de ses fonctions d'une si haute responsabilité.

Notre appréciation la plus sincère et nos remerciements les plus vifs vont aussi à M. Edouard Saouma, le Directeur général sortant, qui a fortement contribué pendant dix-huit ans à la croissance de l'Organisation et à la politique de soutien social et économique des pays en développement. je

voudrais lui souhaiter de tout coeur le même succès dans les activités à venir.

J'aimerais, de même, souligner les excellents résultats atteints par la FAO au cours de l'année 1992, bien que les disponibilités financières soient restées, au fond, inchangées par rapport à la période précédente.

Je ne peux pas manquer, enfin, d'exprimer mes félicitations à l'égard du programme de travail qui nous est proposé pour les deux années à venir; malheureusement, ce programme devra se confronter à un bilan pratiquement inchangé.

Malgré cette situation défavorable, j'espère toutefois qu'on puisse faire face, comme je l'ai déjà mentionné à l'occasion de la récente Journée mondiale de l'alimentation aux croissants défis qui nous sont imposés par l'augmentation progressive de la population mondiale et par les besoins alimentaires de plus en plus dramatiques qui en sont la conséquence.

Je voudrais maintenant vous présenter brièvement les deux lignes directrices fondamentales qui sont à la base de la politique italienne en matière d'assistance aux pays en voie de développement.

D'une part, notre pays s'efforce de donner une suite concrète, dans les limites du possible, à deux principes étroitement liés, c'est-à-dire le "Good Governance" et le "Institution building".

Dans ce cadre, le soutien italien - qui depuis 1992 se monte dans l'ensemble à 0,31 pour cent du PIB - s'oriente principalement vers trois secteurs que nous avons considérés comme prioritaires.

Premièrement, ce sont les programmes qui visent l'organisation, la restructuration et l'amélioration des appareils administratifs locaux: notre objectif est celui de favoriser, là où les conditions le permettent, la réalisation des processus de décentralisation administrative.

Deuxièmement, notre philosophie de l'aide au développement nous conduit à soutenir des initiatives susceptibles d'introduire des éléments de "certitude du droit" dans l'action des pouvoirs publics.

Et enfin, il faut mentionner les efforts visant à favoriser la mise en place et le développement des petites entreprises locales, que nous jugeons être un facteur déterminant pour une croissance équilibrée.

D'autre part, l'Italie considère comme son propre devoir - et ceci en plein accord avec l'action des principaux pays industrialisés et des organismes multilatéraux de coopération - d'intervenir avec des aides économiques là où l'on se trouve en présence de situations de crise politique; néanmoins, il faut remarquer que l'assistance bilatérale aux pays en voie de développement s'est progressivement réduite ces dernières années, au profit d'aides de type plutôt multilatéral.

Il est évident que la nécessité d'un cofinancement des programmes trouve sa principale raison d'être dans les problèmes de bilan résultant des persistantes crises économiques.

Il existe cependant d'autres motifs qui ont induit l'Italie à préférer l'aide fournie par l'intermédiaire des grandes organisations multilatérales: nous avons estimé, en effet, que l'émiettement excessif des

interventions pouvait, d'un côté, réduire, et dans certains cas voir rendre vaine l'efficacité de l'effort financier.

D'un autre côté, nous avons considéré qu'en ce qui concerne la gestion, l'efficacité et les contrôles de l'utilisation correcte des fonds disponibles, de plus grandes garanties pouvaient être offertes par les structures opératives des organismes tels que la Banque mondiale et le Fonds monétaire international.

Nous savons que ces derniers, dans le cadre des efforts visant à soutenir les économies des pays en voie de développement, se servent, entre autres, de fonds particuliers. Il s'agit de fonds destinés essentiellement à faciliter les arrangements structurels, considérés comme indispensables pour certains pays qui doivent faire face à de persistants problèmes de la balance des paiements. C'est le cas par exemple, des fonds alloués par "Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility", auxquels l'Italie participe de manière considérable.

Néanmoins - et je ne fais qu'exprimer une idée personnelle -, je pense que des projets bilatéraux de coopération, qui soient gérés conjointement par le pays donateur et le pays bénéficiaire, puissent revêtir une utilité incontestable, surtout dans le secteur agricole et agro-alimentaire.

Il faudrait d'ailleurs réaliser de tels programmes tout en utilisant des technologies moins sophistiquées, et qui puissent en même temps s'adapter aux besoins, aux traditions et aux capacités d'assimilation des populations assistées.

Du côté italien, de toute manière, nous continuons à encourager et à favoriser une action de coordination de l'aide bilatérale avec celle multilatérale, dans le cadre des comités consultatifs opérant auprès des organismes internationaux que je viens de citer.

L'allusion que j'ai faite au secteur agricole et à celui de l'alimentation m'induit à prononcer encore quelques mots pour rappeler les aspects les plus saillants de la collaboration entre l'Italie et la FAO pendant ces dix dernières années.

Entre 1982 et 1992, la contribution italienne a permis de financer plus de 130 projets pour une valeur globale de quelque 340 millions de dollars.

Pour la bonne réalisation et la gestion correcte d'un programme de si grande haleine, il est naturellement nécessaire d'adopter une approche innovatrice; c'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons prévu, dès les premières phases de la détermination de chaque projet jusqu'au dernier stade de leur évaluation finale, une intense et étroite collaboration entre la FAO et la Coopération italienne.

C'est dans cette perspective qu'a été constitué un Comité consultatif ITALIE/FAO qui a les caractéristiques d'un organe conjoint d'orientation du Programme et qui se réunit avec une périodicité annuelle.

Il existe, à côté du Comité, un "Panel technique" ITALIE/FAO. Ce dernier est un organe dont les fonctions sont de veiller sur la bonne application des principes qui sont à la base de la formulation de chaque projet, d'en évaluer l'efficacité et de proposer des interventions possibles pour le futur.

A partir de 1990, le Comité consultatif a considéré comme prioritaires les projets concernant la sauvegarde des forêts et du milieu, la sécurité alimentaire, le soutien institutionnel aux organes régionaux ou nationaux des pays en voie de développement qui ont la responsabilité de planifier le développement agricole.

Dans ce cadre, parmi les projets les plus significatifs auxquels nous avons donné la priorité, je peux citer le "Tropical Forestry Action Program" dont la finalité est un développement économique équilibré dans le milieu forestier-en Argentine et en Angola, et le Programme d'action sur la sécurité alimentaire, focalisé au Laos et au Viet Nam.

En ce qui concerne le soutien institutionnel, celui-ci a été mis en oeuvre avec succès dans des projets:

- en Albanie, pour adapter le Ministère de l'agriculture aux nouvelles conditions socio-politiques et économiques du pays;
- en Amérique du Sud, pour soutenir les politiques de programmation du développement agricole et de l'aquaculture;
- en Chine, pour mettre au point une méthodologie de recensement agricole à réaliser sur l'ensemble du territoire national.

De même, d'autres initiatives plus en relation avec les techniques productives ont été mises en marche. Je cite, par exemple, l'amélioration de la production de semences en Amérique du Sud et la diffusion de l'utilisation des fertilisants en Ethiopie.

Ce ne sont là que quelques projets de coopération les plus significatifs que l'Italie a soutenus, en les finançant partiellement ou entièrement, pour favoriser la réalisation de l'autosuffisance alimentaire de certaines zones particulièrement défavorisées.

Pour les années à venir, la Coopération italienne dans le secteur agro-alimentaire a aussi l'intention de promouvoir des programmes de plus en plus focalisés vers le domaine de la protection de l'environnement.

Nous désirons, de cette manière, donner une suite concrète aux indications de la Conférence de Rio de Janeiro, dans l'esprit de sincère solidarité qui a toujours marqué l'action de mon pays à l'égard des nations moins favorisées.

Permettez-moi, enfin, Messieurs les délégués, de souhaiter que cette Conférence sache trouver des réponses appropriées aux besoins vitaux d'une si grande partie du monde, tout en confirmant la pleine disponibilité de l'Italie à continuer de jouer son rôle.

Merci de votre attention.

Jochen BORCHERT (Germany): Ten months ago I took over the office of Minister of Agriculture from my predecessor, Minister Kiechle. I would like to continue the traditionally good cooperation with the FAO. I am pleased to have this opportunity to be able to speak to you at this Conference, all the more so since the FAO family has become considerably larger. I wish to extend to you, especially to the new members of the FAO, the best wishes of the Federal Government.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you on your election. I wish you every success in chairing this Conference.

The Conference elected a new Director-General yesterday. It is therefore especially important to me to thank you sincerely, Mr Saouma, as the outgoing Director-General, for your tireless efforts and for the good and trustful cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany. You gave the FAO a new impetus, and over many years you shaped its image and the orientation of the FAO. I wish you the very best for your future.

I would also like to congratulate the new Director-General on his election. We hope that under your guidance it will be possible to bring the serious problems in the areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well as in the food sector closer to a solution. We wish you every success in this great task.

In the future, Germany will also continue to work constructively in the various bodies within the FAO.

It is indeed distressing when the media show us pictures of starving people, of people who have to fight for their daily bread, of people whose only goal is to secure the necessities of life. It is of great concern to us if we see the devastating consequences of environmental destruction. Human distress, exploitation and destruction of nature, are all sad realities. All people, especially those who live in wealth and affluence, are called upon to help to solve these problems. In the relationship between developing and industrialized countries it is necessary to overcome the field of tension between hunger and affluence, between poverty and wealth.

The UN Conference on Development and the Environment - UNCED - which was held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, clearly declared its position on this issue. Allow me to refer to some of the areas touched upon. At the UNCED Conference in Rio, for the first time world-wide principles were established for the management and conservation of forests. The Federal Government makes every effort to ensure that these principles will be regulated under international law to be binding on all. Because this is in our view an effective approach to finally achieving progress worldwide in forestry conservation. Due to its technical competence FAO can assume an important task of coordination and help to improve international cooperation in the joint implementation, but also in the further development of the forest decisions taken in Rio.

We therefore welcome the planned strengthening of the forestry sector within FAO. In fishery policy as well it is especially important to fill the framework with concrete measures which was established by UNCED for the use and conservation of fishery resources. Germany will fully support these measures. In this connection, I would like to thank the FAO for its great commitment.

On the 16th October the FAO celebrated the World Food Day and it was held under the motto "Harvesting Nature's Diversity". That is an important theme because since the beginning of this century there has been a considerable reduction in the genetic diversity of agricultural crops. The situation is similar for animal breeds. Genetic diversity is still much greater in developing countries than in industrialized ones, but it is also under threat in the developing countries. We should not merely bewail the losses but we must realise the causes and take appropriate measures in order to reverse the trend, because the poor in rural areas depend on biological

resources for 90 percent and biological diversity provides in addition a protective system for our planet. It is at the same time an important prerequisite in order to improve with the aid of breeding yields, quality and the resistance of crops to nutrient and water deficits as well as to diseases and pests.

The UNCED Conference in Rio also had a strong impact on this sector which led to the Convention on the Conservation of Biodiversity. The document on activities relating to sustainable development and environment submitted by FAO to this Conference session provides an excellent basis for discussions on this subject.

I have already referred to the field of tension between hunger and affluence. The imbalance caused by natural, political and economic conditions cannot be overcome just by redistribution, in the form of aid, for example. On the one hand, it is difficult owing to the partly different consumption habits to ensure food in the long run in line with requirements.

On the other hand food aid would hamper the economic development and self-initiative of recipient countries and establish the dependence on industrialized countries. Food aid should therefore be used only as an emergency measure, especially in those areas afflicted by natural catastrophes, war and expulsion. Germany supports the efforts of the FAO and provides in these cases substantial bilateral food aid. In addition to bilateral aid, we help to relieve emergency situations within the framework of the European Community and multilaterally through the WFP. Our main goal in development cooperation continues to be to provide help for self-help. Therefore, we concentrate on projects which aim at rural development to fight against poverty and to increase agricultural production for food security.

The EEC agricultural policy is again and again accused of adding to the problems of the developing countries. In my opinion, in this across-the-board way this accusation is not justified.

The fact is that in the member countries of the Community and in all the Western industrialized countries technical progress has brought about a huge rise in productivity which has not only provided food security, but has also led to agricultural over-production and has caused environmental and structural problems.

There is no question about it: as far as the European Community is concerned, the agricultural policy of the Community has favoured this development.

In this context, and in view of the problems caused by the surpluses in the Community, the Community decided last year to carry out a far-reaching reform of its agricultural policy which will involve a substantial reduction of price support for important products and part of the arable land will be set aside on a compulsory basis. Adjustment requirements within the framework of this reform are substantial, especially in the east of Germany.

Here, a radical structural change has taken place in agriculture since the realization of German Unity in 1990. This far-from-complete process is being observed with great interest by many countries, in particular in the previously centrally-planned countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The

Federal Government is aware of its responsibility and therefore supports the economic reform process also in those countries.

International agricultural trade can also greatly contribute to solving worldwide agricultural problems, and in this connection high hopes are being set on the termination of the GATT negotiations. In 1992, Germany was by far the largest importer of agricultural products at US\$44.6 billion, and was in fourth place with agricultural exports of US\$23.7 billion. In its trade with third countries - countries outside the EEC - German agricultural exports were worth US\$7.5 billion but imports were US\$14.5 billion, 51 percent of all imports from third countries came from developing countries. The agricultural trade deficit of Germany with developing countries amounted to US\$5.9 billion.

These figures show how closely Germany is bound into world agricultural trade. Therefore, it is in the interest of our agriculture to achieve a prompt and successful outcome of the GATT negotiations. Certain protective interests must, however, be safeguarded. Finally, all countries will benefit from a conclusion of the GATT negotiations, that means from a strengthening of international trade, in particular also the developing countries.

The goal of FAO is to strive for a higher standard of living, improved nutrition, and to overcome hunger. Germany will continue to support FAO in these efforts. I wish every success to this year's Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Adel N. CORTAS (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs,

J'ai l'honneur de participer à cette vingt-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO au nom du Liban. Je saisis cette occasion pour vous présenter, Monsieur le Président, nos chaleureuses félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection à la tête de cette session. Vous êtes à la hauteur de cette haute fonction, car vous jouissez d'un talent et de qualités indéniables. Vous avez de plus une grande expérience dans les affaires de cette Organisation.

Je voudrais saluer Monsieur le nouveau Directeur général de cette Organisation pour son élection à la tête de cette Organisation. Comme je l'ai déjà souligné hier, ces félicitations s'adressent également à l'Afrique et au tiers monde de manière générale, car M. Diouf est le meilleur représentant de ce continent. Nous sommes convaincus qu'il sera le meilleur soutien pour le tiers monde. Qu'il soit sûr que mon pays, le Liban, apportera toute sa contribution au bien-être et au succès de cette Organisation.

Vous n'êtes pas sans savoir, Monsieur le Président, que mon pays a connu des moments douloureux. En effet, l'agriculture, les ressources forestières et halieutiques ont été fortement touchées, l'infrastructure totalement détruite et les agriculteurs complètement démunis. De plus, les exportations agricoles vers nos marchés traditionnels se sont effondrées sans que nous puissions trouver des marchés alternatifs. Les institutions

chargées du développement agricole ont été soit démantelées, soit transférées. Il était donc nécessaire de procéder à une reconstruction de tout le pays. Pour cela, mon pays sollicite l'assistance de la communauté internationale des Etats amis, mais surtout celle de la FAO. Monsieur le Président, nous avons examiné le Programme de travail et budget pour l'exercice 1994-95. Nous avons aussi examiné le rapport du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. Nous avons participé aux travaux de la cent quatrième session du Conseil. Et ma délégation voudrait émettre les observations suivantes quant au Programme de travail. D'abord, nous appuyons le budget tel qu'il est proposé par le Directeur général. En effet, ce budget, tel qu'il est soumis, c'est-à-dire sans aucune augmentation par rapport au budget de 1992-93, est le minimum nécessaire pour garantir la poursuite des programmes, des projets et des activités de l'Organisation. Surtout que nous savons que les budgets d'autres organisations des Nations Unies ont enregistré une hausse nettement supérieure à celle du budget de la FAO sans qu'il y ait désapprobation de la part des Etats Membres. Pourquoi donc priver la FAO d'une part modeste et l'empêcher de développer, de renforcer ses programmes et projets qu'elle met au service des peuples les plus démunis du tiers monde?

Deuxièmement, nous appuyons l'augmentation proposée pour les projets de pêche, de la santé animale, des ressources forestières, ainsi que pour la protection de l'environnement, afin de parer à la désertification. A ce sujet, nous voudrions rendre hommage à l'Organisation pour le rôle qu'elle a joué lors de la CNUED qui s'est tenue à Rio de Janeiro et dans le suivi des recommandations qui visent à renforcer la relation agriculture-environnement et garantir une agriculture durable.

Troisièmement, nous voudrions souligner le rôle que la FAO joue avec l'OMS dans le suivi des recommandations de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, tenue en décembre 1992. Vous n'êtes pas sans savoir, Mesdames et Messieurs, que le Programme de travail et budget a concentré son attention sur le rôle de la femme dans le développement rural. Et c'est là une heureuse initiative du Directeur général dans ce domaine essentiel, car la femme est l'élément efficace et actif dans les zones rurales de tous les pays en développement. Elle représente la plus grande part de main-d'oeuvre dans la production agricole et alimentaire, ainsi que dans la commercialisation.

Monsieur le Président, en vue de notre appartenance au monde arabe et convaincus de l'allégeance à notre nation arabe, nous accordons la plus haute importance à la conservation de la langue arabe, à son développement et à sa diffusion dans toutes les activités de l'Organisation et ce, dans le Programme de travail et budget actuel ainsi que dans tous les programmes qui seront mis sur pied à l'avenir par le nouveau Directeur général de l'Organisation.

En ce faisant, nous ne rendons pas seulement service à la langue arabe qui le mérite, mais également à l'Organisation et à la diffusion des activités de celle-ci à l'ensemble du monde arabe, composé de 22 Etats arabes, qui représentent un quart de milliard d'habitants.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation de mon pays partage l'opinion de toutes les autres délégations qui ont exprimé leurs souhaits au cours de la cent quatrième session du Conseil concernant l'importance de la participation des agriculteurs et travailleurs ruraux au développement agricole et rural. Nous exprimons tout notre appréciation et rendons hommage à la mémoire du regretté Josué de Castro qui a présidé le Conseil

de l'Organisation en 1955. Josué de Castro avait prévu depuis 40 ans l'importance de cette participation. Il a été le pionnier qui a élaboré un plan spécial à cet effet, plan qui a été adopté par la suite par cette Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, c'est un grand honneur pour mon pays, le Liban, que Son Excellence le Président de la République libanaise, M. Elias Hraoui, ait prononcé cette année la dix-huitième Conférence Mc Dougall. Lors de la l'inauguration de la vingt-septième session de la Conférence, Son Excellence avait participé aux travaux de l'Organisation et du Conseil et ce, tout au long de 12 sessions. Nous sommes fiers de ces excellentes relations qui existent entre mon pays, le Liban, et la FAO et ce, depuis sa fondation jusqu'à ce jour. Lorsque Son Excellence le Président de la République a prononcé la Conférence Mc Dougall en citant les liens étroits entre le Liban et la FAO, il a parlé au nom de tous les Libanais et a exprimé leurs espoirs ainsi que leur appréciation, leur reconnaissance et leur respect pour cette Organisation qui leur est très chère.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, à l'occasion de la fin du mandat de M. le Directeur général, notre frère et ami, M. Edouard Saouma, nous lui souhaitons le plein succès. Il a été au service de cette Organisation pendant 31 ans, dont 18 ans au poste de Directeur général, il s'est pleinement acquitté de sa tâche au service de la communauté internationale et au service des agriculteurs et de ceux qui souffrent de par le monde. Je suis fier, du haut de cette tribune, de rendre hommage à ce qu'a accompli une éminente personnalité de mon pays au service de l'Organisation, au service de l'agriculture et du monde en développement. Il me faudrait beaucoup de temps pour énumérer les qualités et les succès de cet homme. Nous souhaitons au nouveau Directeur général le plein succès, en espérant également qu'il conservera les acquis réalisés par M. Edouard Saouma et ce, pendant 18 ans de travail incessant en tant que Directeur général de la FAO. Nous voudrions, avant toute chose, conserver le programme de coopération technique, le renforcer et l'élargir. Nous souhaitons également accorder une grande importance à la représentation de l'Organisation dans les pays membres et à la place de la langue arabe au sein de l'Organisation, et nous accordons également de l'importance au suivi des décisions de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, la Conférence mondiale des pêches, la Conférence des forêts, le Pacte international de la sécurité alimentaire, la Conférence mondiale de la nutrition, toutes initiatives heureuses du Dr. Saouma qui ne devraient pas être laissées de côté. Si j'ai un espoir à exprimer au nouveau Directeur général, c'est de conserver cette mission, de la poursuivre dans le même esprit qui a inspiré notre frère et ami, Edouard Saouma.

Cher ami Edouard, je dis ceci en toute modestie et également en toute fierté. Vous vous êtes pleinement acquitté de votre tâche et vous avez rendu service à votre pays, ainsi qu'à la communauté internationale. Mon pays est fier de vous, de ce que vous avez donné et, comme l'a dit Son Excellence le Président Hraoui lors de son allocution, vous avez porté fidèlement la mission de la générosité; vous avez été fidèle aux pères fondateurs de cette Organisation; vous avez été fidèle aux attentes de cette Organisation, celle-ci vers qui se sont tournés tous les regards du monde, et qui est devenue un conseiller intègre, un observateur éveillé, ainsi qu'un ami digne de confiance.

En conclusion, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais exprimer ma foi, ma confiance en cette Organisation et mon attachement à celle-ci, que

j'ai servie personnellement pendant 21 ans, avant d'assumer mes responsabilités de Ministre de l'agriculture libanaise. C'est l'Organisation mère et la première au sein des Nations Unies, c'est la première organisation qui s'occupe des pauvres et de ceux qui souffrent de par le monde. C'est la seule organisation qui a pris pour slogan ce qu'a dit l'Imman Ali Ben Abi-Taleb: "Dieu impose aux riches de réserver une part de leur fortune aux pauvres, car le bien-être des nantis se réalise aux dépens des plus démunis".

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Carlos TORRES MANZO (México): Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, distinguidos delegados, señor Director General, señoras y señores. Reciba usted, señor Presidente, la felicitación de mi Delegación por su nombramiento para elegir los trabajos de este período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Estamos convencidos de que su reconocida experiencia y habilidad política nos permitirán lograr los objetivos que nos hemos planteado.

La delegación de México saluda con beneplácito al nuevo Director General de este Organismo, señor Jacques DIOUF, su elección ha sido una muestra de la madurez que ha alcanzado la FAO para concertar y garantizar los intereses de los Estados Miembros y de las distintas regiones del mundo. Estamos convencidos de que con el nombramiento del señor Diouf, la FAO tomará un nuevo ímpetu que le permitirá cumplir cabalmente con su alta responsabilidad internacional.

La ocasión es propicia para reiterar a su nuevo Director General el apoyo irrestricto del Gobierno de mi país a su gestión para los próximos seis años.

Deseamos destacar la alta calidad profesional y técnica de todos y cada uno de los candidatos que contendieron para la Dirección General, su participación en la acogida al nuevo Director General.

El Gobierno Mexicano desea también dejar constancia de su más amplio reconocimiento a la fructífera labor realizada por el Excelentísimo Doctor Edouard Saouma durante los últimos 18 años, período en el cual siempre encontramos en la Oficina de la Dirección General al hombre talentoso y comprometido con su altísima responsabilidad.

El profundo proceso de transformación en el que ha entrado la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, cuyos rasgos definitorios son la eficiencia y la flexibilidad, plantea a la comunidad internacional el reto de llegar al más amplio consenso sobre el tipo de Organización que queremos en el futuro, desafío al cual también debe responder la FAO. Por ello, creemos firmemente que éste es un momento histórico para que las Naciones Unidas otorguen la más alta prioridad a la solución de los problemas del desarrollo.

La emergencia de un nuevo mundo ha obligado a adecuarse a un contexto dinámico contra la relación de fuerzas, contra la propia ONU como a los Organismos especializados entre los que se encuentra la FAO, es un hecho

que las armas han dejado de ser factor de equilibrio entre las potencias, ahora sus relaciones se establecen bajo criterios financieros y comerciales y muchos países se encuentran en el margen de estas decisiones y, sin embargo sufren sus consecuencias de manera inevitable. La gran mayoría de las naciones se han visto obligadas a ajustar sus políticas a las condiciones que emplean en una economía internacional cada vez global e interdependiente y en constante cambio.

México ha pugnado por que la reforma de las Naciones Unidas y en particular, la restructuración de los órganos del sector económico y social del sistema se enmarquen y conduzcan con base a los principios y directrices adoptados por el consenso, por la Asamblea General en sus Resoluciones 45/264 y 45/177. Sólo mediante un estricto apego a dichos principios se logra el objetivo fundamental de la reforma de la ONU, hacer más eficiente y efectivo el papel de la Organización en la solución de los problemas del desarrollo y simultáneamente fortalecer todo el sistema para que cumpla con sus objetivos y propósitos de la Carta en materia de cooperación internacional para el desarrollo.

Esto requiere la aplicación de un enfoque integrado, sobre todo en materia de políticas y programas de cooperación económica internacional.

Así, las propuestas tendientes a mejorar el funcionamiento y eficacia de las Naciones Unidas deben contemplar, no sólo los aspectos financieros con la eficiencia en la utilización de los recursos, sino también deben considerar los principios de la Carta, especialmente el de la igualdad soberana de los Estados en el proceso de toma de decisiones, y sustentarse en un genuino y real interés político de los países por resolver los problemas que afectan a la Organización.

Con ello contribuiremos a fortalecer la vida democrática de la ONU. Asimismo, deben respetar la competencia y atribuciones de cada uno de los órganos, organismos y organizaciones del sistema.

En este contexto, nuestro país apoya la elaboración de una nueva agenda para el desarrollo, que en el plano universal permita reorientar los trabajos de las Naciones Unidas en materia de progreso y desarrollo económico y social; que en el nivel institucional, propicie la participación coordinada en materia económica de los distintos órganos del sistema, mediante mecanismos de vinculación que eviten duplicar funciones o desperdiciar recursos, y que en lo funcional, contribuya a crear las condiciones internacionales favorables para acelerar el crecimiento y el desarrollo social de los países en desarrollo sobre una base sostenible y de largo plazo. Sin embargo, este propósito requiere lograr un consenso sobre la modificación de la estructura de la Organización e impulsar la cooperación multilateral para el desarrollo sobre la base del beneficio mutuo, el interés común y la corresponsabilidad.

Esto implica atender con base en un enfoque integral, las cuestiones de educación, salud, alimentación y nutrición, desarrollo industrial, transferencia de tecnología, comercio internacional, solución de la deuda externa, financiamiento, inversión, así como los nuevos temas como la protección del medio ambiente, el comercio de servicios, la protección de la propiedad intelectual y otros.

Por eso, el Gobierno mexicano se ha pronunciado porque los problemas del desarrollo sean atendidos mediante un enfoque integral.

Pensamos que el desarrollo económico y social es uno de los objetivos prioritarios y debe otorgársele ese carácter en todos los foros internacionales.

La labor de la FAO en los próximos años debe reiterar, en los hechos, que la cooperación internacional tiene una gran validez por sí misma en un ambiente que propicie un diálogo universal, transparente y constructivo que facilite la conjunción de una nueva asociación solidaria para la promoción del desarrollo.

Para todos es evidente que es muy difícil conservar la estabilidad política y la paz, si antes no se resuelven los problemas de carácter económico y social. La parte fundamental de esa estabilidad está representada por los aspectos de seguridad alimentaria y por los niveles de nutrición.

Para coordinar la política mundial contra el hambre y la malnutrición, se requieren instrumentos internacionales dotados de autoridad sin que lesionen la soberanía de los países. De aquí la importancia de la FAO, organismo que proyecta esquemas de acción multilateral respetando, en todos los casos, las leyes e instituciones que se han dado cada uno de los estados que la forman.

Para este nuevo esfuerzo que la FAO deberá emprender próximamente, México se ofrece a participar activamente en el desarrollo de la nueva estrategia y compromete, como siempre, su acción cooperativa.

Coincidimos con el Dr. Saouma en que existe una enorme distancia entre las necesidades crecientes de la humanidad y las posibilidades limitadas de la FAO. Por ello consideramos que debemos hacer un esfuerzo por consolidar la reforma y los logros de mayor eficiencia alcanzados gracias al trabajo infatigable del Director General.

El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1994-95 sienta las bases para tal consolidación, que permitirá a la FAO transitar hacia las altas responsabilidades que afrontará en el próximo siglo.

Hace 48 años al fundarse la FAO se establecieron cuatro objetivos muy claros y definidos, que nos permitimos recordar:

- elevar los niveles de nutrición y vida de los pueblos bajo su respectiva jurisdicción;
- mejorar el rendimiento de la producción y la eficacia de la distribución de todos los alimentos y productos alimenticios y agrícolas;
- mejorar las condiciones de la población rural;
- y contribuir así a la expansión de la economía mundial y a liberar del hambre a la humanidad.

Después de tantos años estos fines no han sido alcanzados a plenitud, por lo que los objetivos que dieron origen a nuestra Organización continúan teniendo plena validez. Por lo que sigue siendo urgente fortalecer el trabajo para avanzar en su consecución.

Podría parecer contradictorio que, por una parte, se proponga modernizar nuestro organismo y, por la otra, se sugiera retomar el mandato original. No existe tal contradicción. Con el paso de los años y la dinámica

mundial, la complejidad de los nuevos problemas han obligado a la FAO a diversificar sus acciones y a modificar sus sistemas operativos. Por lo tanto, sin olvidarnos de sus principios primigenios, los cuatro principios básicos, debemos modernizar las funciones y las estructuras de nuestra institución.

Debemos ser sumamente cuidadosos en el fiel cumplimiento de los mandatos de los organismos internacionales, de lo contrario, se corre el riesgo de quedar marginados, como sucede con el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, cuya existencia se encuentra en deliberación.

Ahora queremos referirnos a la experiencia de México en su esfuerzo por alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria, elevar los niveles nutricionales de la población en general, y erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición.

De ninguna manera seremos exhaustivos, simplemente queremos exponer, en líneas generales, la experiencia del sector agrícola, dentro de la economía en proceso de ajuste estructural.

En la actual administración, México recuperó la autosuficiencia en la producción de sus alimentos básicos. Ahora contamos con excedentes exportables. No ha sido fácil, nos hemos sometido a medidas de rigurosa disciplina económica que han impactado a la sociedad en su conjunto y que, afortunadamente, ya han dado resultados positivos.

Los resultados a nivel macroeconómico son positivos; la economía en su conjunto está creciendo. Se ha logrado el saneamiento de las finanzas públicas; se mantiene la inflación a niveles de un solo dígito; la responsabilidad productiva recae fundamentalmente en los sectores social y privado; se ha liberalizado el comercio y se busca una mayor participación en los mercados internacionales.

En el sector primario de la economía se han dado los siguientes pasos fundamentales: se modificó el marco legal, otorgándole a los productores la seguridad de la posesión y propiedad de sus tierras; se creó un esquema de fomento a la producción de productos básicos, mediante un sistema de "precios de garantía"; y, recientemente, se ha puesto en marcha un paquete de apoyo financiero directo y en efectivo a los productores, tomando como base la superficie de su tierra y su volumen de producción.

Este importante programa "PROCAMPO", se coordina con el Programa Nacional de Solidaridad, creado por el Presidente, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, para combatir la pobreza extrema, promoviendo acciones inmediatas que inciden en el bienestar social de los más necesitados y motivan su participación.

Como todos ustedes saben, México, Canadá y los Estados Unidos, se encuentran próximos a integrar la zona de libre comercio más grande del mundo, con cerca de 380 millones de consumidores.

México sostiene que en el intercambio internacional justo, se finca una de las principales llaves para obtener un desarrollo permanente y sostenible. Lo está demostrando en los hechos al abrir sus fronteras de manera unilateral. Mi delegación desea manifestar su preocupación por la adopción de nuevas medidas proteccionistas en el marco internacional.

A grandes rasgos, ésta es la política y la acción que el Gobierno y el pueblo de México han adoptado durante los últimos años para procurar el desarrollo social y económico en el nuevo contexto internacional.

Finalmente, deseamos agradecer a los distinguidos delegados de los países miembros de la FAO la oportunidad para compartir sus experiencias nacionales y sus posiciones políticas respecto al futuro de nuestra Organización.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

José LOIRA RUA (España): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, deseo poner de manifiesto el alto honor que para mí supone intervenir en este foro de análisis y debate de la situación de la agricultura, la pesca y la alimentación a nivel mundial.

Quiero felicitar en nombre de mi Gobierno al nuevo Director General de la FAO, Señor Jacques Diouf, que la Conferencia acaba de elegir, deseándole grandes éxitos en el desempeño de su nueva función y asegurándole la tradicional colaboración de España con la FAO.

Asimismo, deseo agradecer al Señor Edouard Saouma la gran labor realizada a lo largo de estos 18 años en los que ha dirigido la Organización, período en el cual se han realizado numerosos progresos en el trabajo y en los objetivos de la FAO.

Deseo dar la bienvenida a los países que acaban de ingresar en la Organización y expresar nuestro deseo de que su incorporación contribuya a mejorar los niveles de bienestar en el mundo.

Quiero destacar que los profundos cambios que se están produciendo en el panorama internacional, realzan más, si cabe, la importancia de organizaciones como la FAO donde la práctica totalidad de los países de la Comunidad Internacional discuten democráticamente y adoptan decisiones tendentes a combatir el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo.

Entre el gran número de actividades relevantes en las que la FAO ha sido protagonista o ha desempeñado un papel importante, en el período 1992-93, me inclino a destacar tres que señalo por su importancia: la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición; la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo, y la Conferencia de Pesca Responsable.

Conscientes de que es una tarea de todos contribuir a aliviar la situación en la que se encuentran los pueblos de buen número de naciones, mi país viene colaborando decididamente con la FAO en distintos campos de actividad, tanto a nivel técnico y científico como financiero y de formación.

Quisiera también, como es lógico, hacer un breve comentario sobre algunos de los importantes temas que van a ser objeto de análisis en esta Conferencia.

Agradecemos el esfuerzo realizado por la FAO para ofrecer una visión de la agricultura a comienzos del próximo siglo en el documento "Agricultura: hacia el año 2010" del que cabe destacar las previsiones en relación con la agricultura de los países en desarrollo.

En el mismo orden de cosas, creo necesario valorar el impulso que desde la FAO se viene haciendo para potenciar las producciones agrícolas y ganaderas en las zonas geográficas más necesitadas de nuestro Planeta, de forma que tales alimentos sirvan, junto con otras medidas, a alcanzar uno de los objetivos básicos de nuestra Organización: la seguridad alimentaria.

Dado el interés que para España representan los recursos fitogenéticos, deseo expresar nuestro reconocimiento a la FAO por la función que ha desarrollado en este campo. La Organización fue pionera en despertar la conciencia mundial ante la amenaza que supondría para la humanidad la pérdida irreparable de estos componentes esenciales de la biodiversidad.

Por medio de la FAO se han ido estableciendo los hitos de un sistema mundial para la conservación y utilización sostenible de los recursos fitogenéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación. Toda esta labor forma parte de un proceso que tiene por objeto salvaguardar la diversidad biológica y promover su utilización duradera.

Este esfuerzo debe continuar y España considera que tal como recomienda la Resolución 3 del Acta Final de Nairobi, debe fortalecerse dicho sistema mundial de recursos fitogenéticos de la FAO y armonizarlo con el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica.

En consecuencia, consideramos de suma importancia que se revise el compromiso internacional de recursos fitogenéticos, de acuerdo con el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica, y apoyamos una estrecha colaboración entre la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y el Comité Intergubernamental del Convenio.

Debe ser una labor de todos sensibilizar a la opinión pública de la importancia de la biodiversidad y, en este sentido, debemos congratularnos del acierto de la FAO por haber elegido este tema de la celebración en este año de 1993 del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

La biodiversidad tiene también para nuestro país un interés prioritario, por ser España el país de Europa que alberga una mayor diversidad de especies tanto vegetales como animales; así pues, estaremos presentes en aquellos proyectos que se refieran al manejo de los recursos naturales y la ordenación del territorio establecida con bases ecológicas. Consecuentemente mi país aprobó en 1989 una ley para la conservación de los espacios naturales y de la flora y la fauna silvestre.

Por nuestra condición de país mediterráneo, estamos poniendo reiteradamente de manifiesto nuestra preocupación por los problemas de medio ambiente y su relación con los bosques, principalmente en aquellos aspectos que se trataron en la Conferencia de Río, sobre cambio climático, desertificación, biodiversidad y deforestación.

Hemos defendido la necesidad de establecer convenios que vinculen a todos los países del mundo con estos temas, en particular un convenio mundial sobre los bosques, que constituye una cuestión pendiente.

En este sentido, hemos cumplido todos los trámites internos para la ratificación del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica y participamos activamente en la negociación del futuro Convenio sobre Desertificación. La importancia que atribuimos a estas acciones y nuestro compromiso con ellas, nos ha llevado a proponer la ciudad de Sevilla como sede de estos convenios.

En nuestro país nos hemos comprometido a luchar contra la desertificación por medio de ambiciosos planes para controlar la erosión de las cuencas, disminuir los efectos de los incendios forestales y recuperar la cubierta vegetal en los terrenos desnudos.

El Proyecto Lucdeme desarrolla una metodología en este sentido y estamos dispuestos a hacer partícipes de nuestra experiencia a los demás países de la cuenca mediterránea y otras partes del mundo que se encuentren en situación similar a la nuestra.

En defensa del bosque apoyamos las resoluciones de la Conferencia de Helsinki sobre la Necesidad de la Ordenación Sostenible de los Bosques, tanto en los países con bosques tropicales como en los países industrializados, porque consideramos que buena parte de lo que las Naciones Unidas califican como catástrofes naturales, pueden reducirse incrementando las superficies boscosas. Todo ser humano tiene derecho a una alimentación suficiente y saludable y la Comunidad Internacional, los organismos internacionales, los gobiernos y los poderes públicos, deben reconocer este derecho y actuar en consecuencia contribuyendo a hacerlo efectivo.

En íntima relación con los contenidos de la Declaración de Barcelona se encuentra la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición. En este sentido, quisiera resaltar que los regímenes alimenticios tradicionales y muy especialmente la dieta mediterránea, basada en cereales y legumbres, frutas y hortalizas, pescado, aceite y vino, también son un factor importante en el mantenimiento de la salud humana y supone al mismo tiempo una mejor utilización de las materias primas disponibles.

A España le preocupa el alejamiento progresivo de la dieta mediterránea y por extensión de las dietas tradicionales en otros ámbitos. En consecuencia, los organismos internacionales deben apoyar y potenciar la producción de aquellos alimentos tradicionales cuyo consumo es favorable desde el punto de vista nutricional.

La seguridad alimentaria es un objetivo permanente de la FAO. España quiere desde esta tribuna renovar su compromiso solidario con toda la comunidad internacional, y, particularmente, con los países más desfavorecidos para contribuir conjuntamente en aquellas líneas de actuación que permitan la disminución del hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

Debemos por tanto apoyar la gran labor que realiza el Programa Mundial de Alimentos con el que mi país viene colaborando habitualmente en diversas ayudas de emergencia.

Quiero aprovechar esta ocasión para poner de manifiesto el firme propósito de mi Gobierno de continuar con esta colaboración en el campo de la ayuda alimentaria.

Compartimos plenamente la necesidad, que la FAO ha hecho suya, en cuanto a la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo, de especial relevancia en los medios rurales. Todos los proyectos que acerquen a la mujer campesina a una mejor formación, a su acceso directo al crédito, a su implicación en el manejo de los recursos productivos, en definitiva a eliminar desigualdades seculares, cuentan y contarán con nuestra comprensión y apoyo.

La actividad pesquera, cuya importancia social y económica es indudable, nunca ha estado exenta de problemas, tanto en la conservación y gestión de

los recursos, como en la adecuación de las estructuras y la correcta ordenación de los mercados pesqueros.

Actualmente estos problemas, en lugar de presentarse aisladamente, han coincidido en el tiempo, produciendo una interacción negativa que ha agravado aún más la situación. Esta situación exige un análisis y planteamiento global de la problemática para poder así encontrar soluciones igualmente globales.

Por esta razón, España, como país con gran tradición pesquera, ha apoyado siempre el papel de la FAO en este ámbito, para forjar una nueva mentalidad internacional, fruto de una toma de conciencia colectiva de que la sostenibilidad de la actividad pesquera sólo es posible en el marco de un esfuerzo común y responsable, por medio de la cooperación internacional, honesta, comprometida y eficaz.

Deseo manifestar el importante trabajo realizado por la FAO en la elaboración de un Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable que asegure la conservación de los recursos vivos marinos y garantice la sostenibilidad de esta actividad, con el compromiso por parte de todos los países que pescan, de ejercer la actividad pesquera, tanto a nivel nacional como internacional, de forma responsable.

Señalo como hitos fundamentales en este sentido los dos últimos períodos de sesiones del Comité de Pesca de la FAO, la Segunda Conferencia Mundial de Ministros de la Pesca de La Jirafa, la Conferencia Internacional sobre Pesca Responsable de Cancún, la propia Conferencia de Río, las Consultas Técnicas sobre Alta Mar de la FAO y la Conferencia de Nueva York sobre stocks transzonales y especies altamente migratorias.

Destaca asimismo la aprobación por el último Consejo de la FAO del Texto del Acuerdo para promover el cumplimiento de las medidas internacionales acordadas de conservación y gestión para los buques que faenan en alta mar. Ahora bien, lo anterior, que representa un logro importante en la elaboración del Código de Conducta, es únicamente una parte del mismo. Por ello, y para consolidar y reforzar este proceso, España apoya la iniciativa recogida en el Documento C 93/LIM/23, y estima que en esta Conferencia debemos adoptar la decisión apoyada por el Consejo de aplicar la vía rápida a la discusión y formulación de los Principios Generales de este Código.

Con esta finalidad, España propone que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio tenga en cuenta las necesidades de financiación para llevar a cabo estos trabajos.

Quisiera finalmente en este capítulo, destacar la importancia que concede España al Consejo General de Pesca en el Mediterráneo. Mi país considera que este organismo regional debe consolidar y fortalecer sus funciones de gestión y conservación, lo que requiere dotarlo de los recursos necesarios que hagan posible su óptimo funcionamiento.

Antes de terminar deseo aludir a una cuestión de gran importancia para el relanzamiento del comercio mundial : me refiero a las negociaciones en curso de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT.

Un marco justo, equilibrado y razonable para desarrollar el comercio tendrá cuantiosos beneficios para las economías de los países en desarrollo, que verán como se facilita la apertura de los mercados mundiales a sus producciones y simultáneamente podrán solicitar del mercado aquellos

productos que necesiten para proseguir en la senda del desarrollo sostenible. Los países desarrollados, con el fomento de los intercambios podrán mantener un ritmo de expansión en beneficio del desarrollo.

Estamos interesados en lograr el acuerdo final de la Ronda, y la agricultura, en sentido amplio, desempeña un papel importante en las negociaciones. Pero el carácter global del futuro acuerdo exige que se obtenga un equilibrio entre sectores económicos, entre áreas comerciales y entre países de uno u otro ámbito geográfico.

Es necesario, por lo tanto, el esfuerzo de todos para alcanzar este equilibrio que evitaría grandes problemas que podrían poner en peligro, por largo tiempo, la estabilidad de los mercados y el beneficio para la población mundial.

Termino, señor Presidente, haciendo votos por el éxito de la Conferencia, para que consiga resultados que beneficien al conjunto de los pueblos y en esa perspectiva la delegación española colaborará como en ocasiones anteriores.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Jean PUECH (France): Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Directeurs généraux, Mesdames, Messieurs les Ministres, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs les Délégués,

Je suis heureux de prendre la parole à cette tribune, dans l'enceinte de cette Organisation dont les activités, dans ces années 1990 si troublées par les désordres économiques et par les guerres civiles, revêtent un caractère absolument prioritaire puisqu'elles concernent la survie même de certaines populations.

Certes, des situations se sont améliorées à l'est de l'Europe, notamment de nouveaux pays industrialisés sont venus rejoindre ceux qui peuvent aider les moins avancés.

Mais les sujets de préoccupation restent fort nombreux.

Les disparités entre régions s'aggravent de même qu'entre groupes de populations à l'intérieur souvent du même pays; c'est le cas des plus pauvres et aussi des réfugiés subissant ces situations inacceptables qui jettent sur les routes, par faim ou par peur, des centaines de milliers de pauvres gens qui n'atteignent pas toujours le camp ou la ville qu'ils perçoivent confusément comme un havre possible et dans lesquels ils formeront quasiment tous une sous-population incapable de s'insérer dans des circuits économiques modernes.

L'analphabétisme et la malnutrition ne permettent pas en effet à ceux qui en sont les victimes de devenir les vrais acteurs d'un minimum de développement.

L'augmentation de la population mondiale, que votre Organisation évalue elle-même à presque un tiers à l'horizon 2010, va imposer une mobilisation encore plus grande de l'aide au développement, alors que, déjà, l'augmentation des aides d'urgence pose problème à la Communauté internationale qui tente de s'organiser le mieux possible pour y faire face malgré le coût élevé de l'extension du rôle de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.

Dans ce contexte d'interdépendance croissante entre les Etats mais aussi entre les différents secteurs d'intervention économique et sociale, et tout particulièrement dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, l'objectif prioritaire doit être un appui au développement fondé sur une concertation étroite avec les Etats et avec les populations concernées.

Cet objectif ne peut être atteint que dans des conditions de paix qui permettraient de réaffecter progressivement les ressources financières à la santé, à l'alphabétisation, à la production, en un mot au développement des pays vers lesquels converge une aide d'urgence, certes indispensable, mais qui s'insère encore mal dans de véritables programmes de réhabilitation des forces morales et physiques des populations touchées.

Il faut donner à l'ONU, dès que possible, une véritable capacité de fédérer les efforts de développement et d'établir des conditions de l'aide universellement admises, les règles d'organisation sociale les plus élémentaires, notamment celles qui concernent les enfants, étant le socle nécessaire des soutiens de demain.

Pour cela la refonte du système économique et social des Nations Unies doit être poursuivie, de manière à faire disparaître toute concurrence entre les organisations, à les coordonner et à les faire agir en cohérence dans leurs domaines respectifs.

Pour améliorer l'efficacité des activités opérationnelles de développement, il faut donner au Conseil économique et social les moyens de remplir sa mission de coordination, au niveau central, de l'ensemble du système. Cette coordination doit se réaliser vis-à-vis des fonds et programmes, mais aussi des institutions spécialisées de la famille des Nations Unies, comme l'OAA.

Une véritable concertation doit être instaurée entre les pays bénéficiaires de l'aide et les donateurs bilatéraux et multilatéraux avec l'élaboration de programme unique par pays ou par régions, notamment entre grandes agences, le PNUD jouant le rôle coordonnateur qui lui est déjà assigné mais qu'il faut revaloriser et renforcer.

Certes les ressources de la production agricole mondiale permettent de nourrir toutes les populations du globe et même de faire face au spectaculaire accroissement démographique et à l'explosion urbaine annoncés mais, comme vous le savez, les disponibilités vivrières restent très faibles alors que l'accroissement de ces disponibilités vivrières est, pour des centaines de millions de personnes vivant en milieu agricole, le seul moyen de lutter contre la faim mais aussi contre la pauvreté.

La Conférence de Rio a donné un formidable élan. Il nous appartient aujourd'hui, en dépit d'une conjoncture difficile, au nord comme au sud, de continuer à porter ce mouvement pour parvenir à une synergie entre environnement et développement durable.

Il est donc nécessaire de donner aux agriculteurs des pays, en développement des garanties indispensables à la préservation d'une agriculture viable, là où c'est encore possible, pour éviter au moins l'exode, et pour que l'agriculture serve de socle au développement du pays. Dans le même esprit: il convient d'aider ces pays à mettre en oeuvre des méthodes de gestion et d'exploitation durables et rationnelles des forêts, tant pour répondre la demande domestique qu'aux besoins d'exportation.

Il s'agit là d'une préoccupation essentielle.

Mais il serait irréaliste par ailleurs et dangereux dans le contexte d'évolution démographique évoqué de ne pas maintenir une production agricole suffisante dans les pays à sols et climats favorables pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Gardons-nous de faire de l'aide alimentaire une nouvelle arme internationale; ne décourageons pas les agriculteurs des pays donateurs à continuer à travailler et à produire car nous avons et nous aurons besoin de leurs efforts.

Faisons en sorte que les agriculteurs se rencontrent et échangent leur savoir-faire technique tout en apprenant à organiser des structures de concertation et d'organisation professionnelle.

Nous avons aussi besoin de trouver un équilibre raisonnable dans les règles régissant, sur le plan international, les échanges commerciaux agricoles et agro-alimentaires.

A cet égard, les négociations actuelles du cycle de l'Uruguay sont tout à fait déterminantes. Comme vous le savez, la Communauté européenne et tout particulièrement la France ont fait connaître leur sentiment et leur position sur ce sujet.

Pour résumer, je dirai que notre politique dans ces négociations est conduite par une seule préoccupation, d'éviter qu'un accord commercial international et multilatéral puisse déboucher sur une remise en cause du formidable potentiel agricole européen dont le monde a besoin, et tout particulièrement les pays les moins avancés.

Je voudrais enfin souligner qu'adoptant une réforme de sa politique agricole commune et notamment en introduisant le gel des terres comme instrument de régulation de l'offre - et on sait ce que cela peut représenter comme contraintes aux agriculteurs - l'Union européenne a démontré son souci de participer à une meilleure organisation des productions et des marchés au niveau mondial.

Quant à l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, quel rôle peut jouer cette formidable structure dans ce monde où tant d'améliorations restent à apporter et où tant de tensions se manifestent?

Malgré les difficultés financières qu'elle a rencontrées ces dernières années, l'OAA a su maintenir un potentiel remarquable de compétence et de capacité d'expertise et a su honorer le caractère universel de sa mission.

Sous l'impulsion donnée par le Secrétariat général des Nations Unies, l'OAA à la capacité de répondre aux défis du développement car, en effet, l'Organisation dispose d'atouts considérables:

- les grands Programmes Agriculture, Pêches et Forêts sont les piliers de son expertise et permettent d'accumuler des connaissances essentielles;
- l'OAA a un rôle majeur et incontesté dans la recherche du consensus international sur l'exploitation durable et la conservation des ressources végétales et animales. Je citerai les Codes de conduite et les Conventions Pêches et Ressources phylogénétiques ainsi que le Codex alimentarius;
- enfin, l'Organisation est le forum d'échanges privilégiés concernant l'agriculture et l'alimentation au plus haut niveau politique comme au niveau technique;
- enfin, elle EST suffisamment souple pour s'adapter à des défis nouveaux comme l'aide aux pays en transition, aux pays d'Europe centrale et orientale et aux nouvelles républiques d'Asie centrale.

La France considère que ces points forts confèrent à l'Organisation des atouts de premier ordre pour qu'elle affirme son identité et se fasse reconnaître comme le pivot de l'action internationale pour une augmentation des productions agricoles qui respectent l'environnement et pour la sécurité alimentaire. Sur ce dernier point, l'Organisation dispose d'outils remarquables d'observation de la situation alimentaire mondiale et d'alerte rapide, outils irremplaçables que le monde entier utilise et que l'OAA se doit de préserver.

N'oublions pas cependant la responsabilité des Etats Membres dans la qualité du travail fait dans les Conseils et les Conférences et leur responsabilité financière, car l'OAA ne peut rendre de bons services qu'en s'appuyant sur un budget régulièrement approvisionné. Les Etats qui ne payent pas ou payent avec beaucoup de retard leurs contributions sont responsables d'une partie des insuffisances qu'ils dénoncent parfois eux-mêmes, par ailleurs. Cette situation n'est pas acceptable surtout quand elle est créée par des pays solvables.

L'OAA doit, malgré ces difficultés, éviter la dérive vers un fonctionnement à la carte en mettant les programmes de terrain en phase avec les priorités fortes du Programme ordinaire ainsi qu'elle s'apprête à le faire. Cela est indispensable, surtout pour les projets sur fonds fiduciaires, si on veut éviter le détournement des principes de base de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, c'est-à-dire les principes de neutralité et d'universalité.

Les domaines d'excellence de l'OAA sont connus, ce sont ceux-là mêmes qui permettent de donner au développement agricole et alimentaire des bases solides :

- recueil et élaboration de données de base telles que les statistiques et le cadastre;
- développement institutionnel et réglementaire;
- promotion de réseaux de recherche;
- formation et appui aux Etats Membres dans ces domaines et transfert des connaissances issues des grands programmes.

Sur ces bases, une concertation par pays, s'inscrivant dans une politique mondiale de développement entraînant une interdépendance étroite de tous les intervenants, devient donc indispensable.

Cette concertation doit se faire notamment sur deux plans :

- le plan de la problématique du développement, en établissant la concertation avec les autres agences spécialisées (PNUE pour l'environnement, PAM pour la réhabilitation des capacités de production);
- le plan économique et financier, en recherchant des axes de travail communs avec les autres donateurs bilatéraux et multilatéraux au niveau de chaque pays ou au niveau régional.

Mais les organisations multilatérales, aussi puissantes et efficaces soient-elles, ne peuvent agir seules.

Tous les membres de l'OAA se doivent de définir des priorités incontestables et d'adhérer à un code de conduite qui définisse les conditions à remplir pour recevoir l'appui de l'Organisation.

Je ne voudrais pas terminer cette intervention sans rendre hommage à l'action "ardente" menée par M. SAOUMA, Directeur Général pendant ces dix-huit dernières années, dans les circonstances économiques, politiques et financières difficiles que chacun connaît.

Son approche des problèmes du développement agricole s'est appuyée sur les principes directeurs qu'il a définis récemment lui-même, ceux d'universalité et de neutralité entraînant le respect de tous ceux que concernait son action.

Qu'il en soit infiniment remercié.

Il appartiendra au nouveau Directeur général, M. Jacques DIOUF, que j'ai le grand plaisir de féliciter aujourd'hui, d'assumer, avec le soutien actif de tous, la lourde tâche de faire fructifier le bel héritage laissé par son prédécesseur et de s'attacher à sélectionner les branches d'activité les plus riches d'avenir, rationalisant ainsi la répartition des ressources disponibles, pour répondre, en perspective au moins aux besoins de populations qui doivent de plus en plus maîtriser elles-mêmes leur propre destin.

Monsieur le nouveau Directeur général, tous nos vœux vous accompagnent et la France sera la partenaire toujours attentive et active telle qu'elle l'a toujours été.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Richard E. ROMINGER (United States of America): Mr Director General, Mr Chairman, fellow delegates, my purpose in speaking here this morning is simple. I have come to pledge to you, on behalf of the Clinton Administration, that the United States will dedicate new energy and renewed commitment to reaching the goals of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

We pledge ourselves especially to the ongoing battle against hunger that sadly persists in so much of the world.

Those who work at the higher political levels in government or in the United Nations system can become removed from the people we serve. But in person or on TV we have all seen the look in the eyes of women who have lost children to hunger and disease. We have seen the senseless and confused faces of refugees who have walked for days in search of food on bloody and swollen feet.

We must always remember. We must not let hunger become an abstraction, a statistical phenomenon distant from our daily lives. We must remember... remind ourselves that hunger is a face of fear, of pain, and also of hope that someone will care and that something will be done.

Secretary Espy and I have designated the elimination of hunger as our highest priority. I pledge that USDA will work to ensure that there is food for all - not just for the people of the United States, but for the people of every country. The idea that there are literally 800 million people who go hungry, who worry about their next meal, is something that offends us deeply.

Feeling offended by the spectre of hunger is important, but it is not enough. Today, I would like to share some thoughts - three strategies - that I believe may help all of us make further strides down the arduous road to eliminating hunger.

First, we must make food a priority in economic planning. We must give agriculture far greater emphasis in development strategies, especially in Africa and Asia.

To begin this effort, donor nations must find ways to reverse the relative decline in development assistance devoted to agriculture. During the 1980s, external assistance to agriculture dropped by more than a third. Assistance to agriculture in the developing countries now stands at only 14 percent of the total assistance they receive from donor nations.

When we envision an effective international development strategy, we see one that focuses on agriculture first, then on the countryside and the needs of the rural poor.

We also envision the benefits of such a strategy. It would - first and foremost - contribute greatly toward ending hunger. It would help to curb the incessant flow of people into the major cities of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In our vision of an effective international development strategy, the developing nations themselves must shoulder much of the responsibility. They must resist political and social pressures to devote too much of their public funds to urban centres and industrialization projects.

They must put more resources into rural areas, or their cities will become intolerable nightmares of poverty and crime. Developing nations that have accorded agriculture high priority - Sri Lanka, Costa Rica and China, for example - have made real progress in curbing hunger and rural poverty. All culture begins with agriculture - agriculture is the basis for civilizations and viable economies.

Second, we must - quite simply - change the way we think. That is correct. We must stop the north-south polarity in the way we think - the "us" versus "them" approach that has frustrated global efforts to come to meaningful agreement on everything from trade to the environment.

Politics follows economics. It time we recognized politically what has long been recognized economically: the economic fortunes of the north and south are more closely intertwined than ever before. Some of the closest economic ties lie in agriculture.

The sheer scale of the economic partnership between the United States and the developing world is impressive. The U.S. buys more than one-third of its imports - US\$175 billion worth - from developing countries.

This partnership is particularly strong in the food sector. Farmers in the developing world produce more than half of the food that we Americans import. And more than 40 percent of our food exports goes to the people of developing nations.

Yet, despite this clear economic partnership, the terms of trade in the 1980s were not kind to farmers of developing countries. Price drops in real terms for agricultural exports were more severe for the less developed nations.

Prices for their agricultural exports declined by an average 39 percent - compared to 19 percent for farm producers in the developed world.

The pressures from these losses make it very difficult for the developing nations to use their resources in sustainable and environmentally sound ways. The farmer who can barely feed his family does not have the luxury of looking to the future. He will not ask, "How can I best preserve the environment for the next century?" He will only worry, "How can I best feed my children today?"

Stronger economic ties between north and south are essential to wage effectively this ongoing battle against hunger and poverty. Further expansion in global trade is crucial to the well-being of this planet. This is especially so for the developing nations. They need an expanded and more equal role in world agricultural trade, a role that we sincerely hope and expect will be a principal outcome of the Uruguay Round.

A successful Uruguay Round will help the developing countries to build their export opportunities. Completion of the Uruguay Round will mean lower tariffs overall, conversion of tariff barriers into tariffs, lower levels of subsidized exports and reduced internal supports that distort trade.

The United States has fought hard for each of these objectives since the start of the Uruguay Round in 1986. We recognize - and other major exporters recognize - that these changes could create difficulties for some of the least developed countries and some developing countries that are net food-importing. We are aware of these special needs. For this reason, the draft final act requires reduced obligations for such nations and specifically addresses the need to continue food aid.

The message that I bring from President Clinton is this. The President remains fully committed to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations by December 15th. We must - all of us, all countries,

developing and developed - work diligently and in harmony to meet this goal in the short time that remains.

Third, the battle against hunger and poverty requires nothing less than a renewed commitment and dedication by all nations to the United Nations system.

The Clinton Administration believes in the ideals of the UN system and is working toward its revitalization. We have looked in the past - and will continue to look in the future - to the United Nations to take the lead in attacking some of the most complicated and explosive political and economic problems.

The International Conference on Nutrition - held here last December - strongly endorsed the right of the United Nations to intervene to bring an end to famine brought on by civil strife. We support and applaud that endorsement.

Ultimately, we believe, the precedent set in Somalia will be positive and hopeful. Perhaps we could have done better, moved earlier. But the fact remains - we made the right choice. Much of the credit for lessening the suffering in that ravaged land must go to the UN system - in particular the World Food Program - and to nongovernment groups like the International Red Cross, Crescent, CARE, and Doctors without Frontiers.

We congratulate the World Food Program on its 30 years of service to the world's poor.

We are proud that the United States was instrumental in founding the Program in 1963. We are gratified by the continuing support it has gained worldwide from both food aid donors and recipients.

The United States has long sought effective and meaningful cooperation on global food issues. Fifty years ago, President Roosevelt hosted the first UN Conference on Food and Agriculture. From this Conference came the inspiration to found the FAO.

A half century later, FAO continues to strive to counter serious threats to global agriculture. Scores of animal and plant species are lost to us each day; overly intense farming damages our environment and threatens the health of our people. Yet the demand to produce more food is constant, unceasing - each day there are a quarter of a million more mouths to feed.

To confront these challenges, the FAO must change and adapt. Like all of our countries, it must continually do more with limited resources.

Director-General Saouma ends his stewardship at a time when the FAO is fiscally sound and has laid the foundation to take on these challenges. The FAO has, for example, started initiatives in nutrition, plant and animal genetic resources, and sustainable development.

On behalf of the Government of the United States, I wish to thank the Director-General for his intense and personal dedication to the FAO. Mr. Saouma, we appreciate your tireless efforts on behalf of the Organization during your eighteen years of service.

The technical and economic challenges facing the FAO and world agriculture are tremendous. In the next three decades we will need to boost food supply

by nearly 70 percent - just to maintain the food consumption levels we have today.

We also need to conserve our production soils. The good work that FAO has done in reducing soil erosion, desertification, and salinization must be continued. In the United States, we are also working to prevent our best soils from being paved over for housing subdivisions and commercial centres.

We will look to the FAO to play a strong role in many areas - harmonizing sanitary and labelling standards through the Codex Alimentarius which, in turn, will help world food trade, promoting sustainable production policies in the use of our forest and fisheries resources, and combating the rapid loss of diversity in plant and animal genetic resources.

We are losing 300 animal breeds each year. More than half of the animal breeds that existed in Europe at the start of the twentieth century will no longer exist at its close. There is a growing sense of unease - and rightly so - that the bulk of the world's food supply derives from just 20 plant species, only eight animal and five bird species.

We know too well that we cannot meet all of the challenges facing agriculture - we cannot conquer hunger - before the beginning of the new millennium.

But we can - and of this I am confident - make greater technological progress and lower the percentage of people who go hungry before the year 2 000.

We all know too well that many of the underpinnings of hunger are very deeply rooted within ourselves - in political conflicts, in ethnic and racial discrimination, in religious hatreds, and in sexism. This is the dark side of hunger and dealing with it will be our most difficult task.

Whether we care to admit it or not, hunger is often the economic symptom of the disease of bigotry that lingers - pervasive - within our societies.

Whether we act willfully out of hate or simply look away in neglect, we bear some guilt for that discrimination ... and the hunger that is its result.

To those who question our responsibility, I urge them, as I urged you at the start of my talk, to remember the faces of hunger - the gaunt faces of Muslim children in Sarajevo, the malnourished young mothers in southern Sudan and the refugees from civil war in Armenia and Georgia, and some of the faces that many of us see on our streets, even in lands with surplus food.

In the nearly two decades since the World Food Conference and its grand pronouncements on forging a new world without hunger, our progress has been slower than hoped - far too slow for the tens of millions who have since died of hunger. This has not been a failure of science and technology, but a failure of political will and compassion. We can never truly help the poor until the day we feel their poverty as our poverty, their hunger as our hunger. When that day comes - and only then - will we succeed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Maynard JOSEPH (Dominica): Mr President, on behalf of the -delegation of Dominica, I am honoured to congratulate you and your country, Jamaica, on your election as President of the 27th Session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Conference. I am particularly pleased that this distinguished position is held this year for the first time by a national of a CARICOM country, and I have no doubt that your intellect and wide experience as one of the Caribbean's outstanding diplomats will ensure excellence in the performance of your duties. I assure you Mr President, of the full cooperation of my delegation in your conduct of the affairs of the Conference. Permit me immediately to express the concerns of my country at this prestigious gathering. I intend to be brief in my statement. Hence I wish to come to the point as quickly as possible.

Dominica, with the usual assistance of the FAO, has developed and is now implementing the Agricultural Sector Plan (1993-95). The plan seeks to achieve the following goals: (1) to improve the quality of the life of the rural people in Dominica; (2) to achieve expansion in export earning; (3) to raise the standard of living through greater income and employment creation; (4) to meet the nutritional requirement of the general population; (5) to foster economic stability through diversification, and (6) to maintain the production potential of agricultural resources and to preserve the environment.

The development policy hinges on agricultural diversification as a means of cushioning the economy against the risks of external and internal shocks. Efforts are directed at improving the productivity and competitiveness of bananas while at the same time pursuing the diversification programme.

The plan gives prominence to the expansion of non-traditional exports and to import substitution. It calls for investment in the development of livestock, fisheries, forestry/agroforestry and environmental management. Particular attention is being paid to the strengthening and coordination of institutional support.

It is by no means an accident that bananas occupy the top position in the list of priorities for the Commonwealth of Dominica. The Dominican economy is entirely dependent at present on the banana industry and on favoured access to our traditional markets in Europe. The banana industry, so vital to the survival of the Dominican people, is under serious threat by the major banana producers of Latin America, although the Windward Islands industry accounts for only 2 percent of the world's production of bananas.

The threat to the banana industry in Dominica threatens the fundamental human rights of its people and the collapse of the industry will lead to economic collapse, social upheaval and political disaster. The same is true for the other Windward Islands of St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with consequential effects on the other Members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

Dominica calls on the international community to support Dominica and the other Windward Islands in their efforts to ensure the survival of the economy and the protection of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights of the people in those islands. Particularly, I call on our Latin American neighbours to honour the spirit of the Declaration of Managua, and to take into account the severely adverse impacts on the economies of the OECS Member States that their policies on bananas, not as critical to their economies, are likely to have.

I believe that the FAO can and should assist in this very-critical matter, given the good record of the Organization in my country. Not only can it provide guidance to our countries on the issue of the protection of Windwards banana industry but it can assist in fostering amicable relations among all members of the banana-producing Latin America and Caribbean group so as to promote a common understanding and goals for the continued survival of our industries.

In recent times FAO, has been consistent in its efforts in assisting the development of the agricultural sector and the diversification programme being pursued. Between 1983 and 1992, a total of 22 projects have been implemented in Dominica, most through the TCP mechanism of the FAO, for which we are grateful.

Recently, considerable attention has been paid to the development of small island states such as Dominica and the ever-present threats of destruction to their fragile environment and the sustainability of agriculture. The call for careful and planned production must constantly be made and every assistance provided to countries such as ours when limited technical manpower in particular makes the need for external assistance, both financial and technical, ever more important.

Critical issues such as greater investment, attitudes, labour, research, mechanization, training, reorientation in agriculture, the hostile global environment, trade pacts that fail to create equal opportunities must be addressed and not ignored.

The fisheries sector plays an important social and economic role in small coastal states like Dominica. It contributes to food security, foreign exchange, employment and development of rural communities as occurs in many developing countries. Despite the threats of the world's declining marine resources due to overfishing, we are linked to the belief that the ocean is the last frontier for our nation. We are preparing for our turn to begin to explore to the optimum of that resource, conscious of all the measures related to "responsible fishing" and the conservation of endangered fish species. We are adapting and developing techniques to make our fishermen and fisherfolk more efficient at what they do.

We have strengthened our institutional base and have concentrated on the training of our fisheries personnel. It is our wish to continue along these lines. With these developments we want the continued promotion of TCDC (technical co-operation between developing countries) initiatives.

We have introduced appropriate management plans, development plans, and fisheries legislation in keeping with standards set by the UN/FAO. We have developed our capacity in aquaculture with the culture of prawn and tilapia fish species. There is good potential for future expansion. We are thankful to FAO for the assistance rendered in the past in the above areas, much of which have been in the area of technical cooperation projects (TCP), a programme we pray will, and must, continue.

We remain concerned as to the degree of attention now granted to the Eastern Caribbean/Lesser Antilles region vis-à-vis that given to the larger Latin and South American Region. There is need to extend much of the programmes which are being initiated into the eastern Caribbean. The Caribbean sea is regarded by some as a barren desert. This should not be used to divert attention from our needs and our determination to develop our fishing industry. As a small state which has demarcated its exclusive

economic zone (EEZ), Dominica needs the capacity to monitor and control what goes on in that marine space. Therefore assistance is required in the form of basic equipment to execute the appropriate surveillance.

Mr President, distinguished delegates, the Food and Agriculture Organization has given timely assistance to Dominica in promoting the wise use of its forest and wildlife resources. Recent assistance has focused on forest legislation, forest inventory, forest management and the well-publicized Tropical Forestry Action Programme.

We are happy that the necessary data have been compiled and the appropriate management plans have been developed. Now the necessary funding is to be mobilized to ensure that the forestry sector optimizes its contribution to our national development. Forestry impacts most forcefully on the rural communities by creating jobs, providing raw materials and conserving genetic material. Whenever rural development is in harmony with nature there is bound to be meaningful progress, since such development is expected to be sustainable.

The rural folk in Dominica depend on proper forest management to be able to continue to reap benefits such as the abundance of wildlife in the open hunting season, timber for shelter and fuelwood, herbs and plants for medicinal purposes, an abundance of water and effective soil conservation, among others. The Tropical Forestry Action Programme in Dominica was designed to capture the views of a wide cross-section of the population, especially persons in the rural communities. A number of projects have been identified, all designed to improve the quality of life of Dominicans. I must, Mr President, therefore express my concern about the general slowness in which the Tropical Forestry Action Programme has actually progressed, especially in the organization of the necessary financing of the various projects identified. It is therefore with great anticipation that we await the allocation of financial resources to implement the Tropical Forestry Action Programme in Dominica.

The global concerns so forcefully expressed in Rio last year for special attention towards the forestry resource in particular need tangible expressions of support by the wealthier industrialized countries, who, incidentally, have contributed to much of the global environmental situations existing today, through the funding of forestry and environmental enhanced projects.

Mr President, Dominica has been, and will continue to be, the nature-island. Visitors to our shores marvel at the green landscape and the abundance of natural beauty which abound everywhere. Forests, rivers, waterfalls, wildlife, lakes, sulphur springs and unique features are in abundance. Historic sites, marine resources and a rich culture provide great diversity to the tourism industry. It is very clear why forest and fisheries management are so important to Dominica. Forest resources, and to a lesser extent fisheries resources, provide the backbone to the tourism development programme. The development of tourism is part of the overall programme to diversify the national economy, to be less dependent on agriculture. Dominica has established national and marine parks to support the tourism industry, as well as to promote sound environmental management. Eco-tourism is alive in our blessed country. The establishment of marine reserves will further consolidate our position as a nature destination.

There is no doubt that Dominica has developed slowly. However, slow development has worked to our advantage, since costly mistakes have been

avoided. The country is virtually unspoilt and the opportunity now exists to become a world model in terms of sustainable development. A number of international agencies have recognized the value of Dominica as an international heritage, given the rich diversity of plant and animal life and the number of endemic species found on the island. While we are eager to share these resources with our visitors and researchers, we jealously guard against the over-exploitation which has inflicted untold damage on some of our neighbouring islands.

The strategy to develop the tourism sector makes provisions for linkages with the agricultural sector. The use of local foods in the food and beverage business is another important aspect of our tourism industry. In providing such effective links, Dominica should avoid the migration of rural folk into the cities and towns. Many books have been written about the negative impacts of such migration into cities on the agricultural sector of many developing countries.

Mr President, what I am outlining to this prestigious gathering is the integrated approach to national development which has gripped Dominica, an approach to development which has at its cornerstone the participation of all sectors of the population. The private and public sectors, nongovernmental agencies and the public at large make their contribution to national development. Dominica has a strong tradition of local government, cooperative endeavours and self-help schemes, which are the envy of many developing countries.

The drive towards national development to foster economic growth caters for the development of the human resources of the country, a well-nourished and educated population is essential for long-term economic development. The Food and Nutrition Council has made tremendous strides in sensitizing the public in matters related to balanced diet. The Council has also provided for the nutrition of the underprivileged through various programmes, especially the School Feeding Programme, funded by the World Food Programme. Dominica will soon be approaching the FAO for assistance in adopting a national nutritional plan which will guide the nation on food and nutrition matters.

The role of women in national development is not overlooked in Dominica. In recent times, women in Dominica have occupied top positions, such as Prime Minister, Speaker in the Parliament, Mayor and Judge. The present Prime Minister, Dame Eugenia Charles, who could not make it here for this Conference, has been in office for the last 13 years, and continues to perform outstandingly. Women play important roles in agriculture, education, health, local government, services, manufacturing and trade. The rest of the world can learn a great deal from Dominica in the area of Women in Development.

Mr President, I take this opportunity to thank the FAO for coming to Dominica's assistance in the past. On behalf of the delegation of Dominica, I thank the outgoing Director-General for his distinguished term in office. On the same note, we look forward to the new Director-General's term with the customary high expectations.

My country is prepared to face the challenges that are brought about by the changes in the global environment. However, Dominica is unable to meet these challenges on its own and calls on the assistance of the international community, especially the FAO, to assist us in meeting these challenges. The role of small island states in world affairs may not have

been prominent in the past, but this is changing rather quickly. Small island states are beginning to make an impact in world affairs, and this should be encouraged and supported.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Dominica, I thank the Republic of Italy for hosting this historic Conference.

I thank you so much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Roberto S. SEBASTIAN (Philippines): At the outset, we wish to congratulate you, Mr Minister Mullings, on your election as Chairman of this Conference.

We meet at a time when the world community presses onward to the year 2000 with a mixed sense of optimism and anxiety. While we pin much hope on the wave of democratization that has swept across many countries, we also view with apprehension and sympathy the turmoil and difficult adjustments these "societies-in-transition" must surmount. While the end of the Cold War bolsters our confidence in the viability of "laissez faire", we must nevertheless deal with the lingering recession which continues to bedevil the economies of developed and developing nations alike. And, while we rejoice at the world's increasing capability to produce more than enough food to feed its burgeoning population, we are alarmed by the persistence of hunger and malnutrition in many developing countries as they cope with the vicious cycle of rapid population growth, worsening poverty, and environmental degradation.

These turn-of-the century ironies serve to underscore the urgency of stronger and more focused global cooperation to ensure food security for all, achieve more stable and open markets, and protect the sustainability of the earth's resources. FAO has the capability and the potential to play a unique role as a catalyst for global action to address these pressing concerns. As it opens a new chapter under the stewardship of a new Director-General, the Organization faces the challenge of maximizing its comparative advantage as a forum for developed and developing nations to arrive collectively at common solutions to food and agricultural issues, as a nexus for the exchange of statistical and scientific information among countries, and as a broker of technical assistance provided to member countries through bilateral and multilateral funding. Indeed, these are the cornerstones of FAO's mission which President Hraoui of Lebanon underscored and commended to Member Nations as he opened this important 27th FAO Conference. We are convinced that judicious management and deployment of the Organization's financial and human resources in accordance with these mandates entrusted to FAO by Member Nations will bolster donor countries' confidence in its ability to discharge its unique role as a catalyst and facilitator of agricultural and rural development. We are faced with the reality of declining contributions to FAO from major donor countries as a result of intractable global economic difficulties, and yet we have seen the cost of supporting a large bureaucracy increase through the years. As FAO turns a new leaf, therefore, my delegation calls for more vigorous efforts to streamline its organization, strengthen its field programmes, and decentralize its services to enable it to respond more quickly and more efficiently to the growing needs of its developing member countries.

We support FAO's Medium-Term Plan and its Programme of Work and Budget. We commend the Plan's focus on actions to abolish hunger and malnutrition within the larger context of sustainable agricultural development.

In particular, we applaud the follow-up actions to the International Conference on Nutrition, specifically the allocation of increased resources to the Nutrition Division and the Food Security Assistance Scheme. These priorities further encourage our government to abide by its commitments to the ICN, foremost of which is the implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition launched in July 1993.

We also join other delegations in adding our support to the follow-up measures to Agenda 21, specifically the implementation of the Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as the sub-programmes on land management, conservation of plant and animal genetic resources and crop protection, including the broader adoption of integrated pest management approaches. We call for more substantial international collaboration and networking in these areas.

The Philippines would undoubtedly benefit from such collaboration as it embarks on a renewed bid to modernize agricultural production through what we call the "Key Production Area" strategy, an agricultural diversification approach whereby crops are grown in areas best suited agroclimatically for those crops.

Infrastructure support, appropriate post-harvest facilities and marketing assistance would then be focused in these key production areas to optimize the use of scarce resources and boost farmers' returns from their investments. Through this strategy, we hope to attain food security, if not food self-sufficiency, in our main staples, build up our cattle and dairy industries from scratch, and improve the range and quality of our export products.

Indeed, FAO's emphasis on the optimal and prudent utilization of agricultural resources inspires us to continue refining our strategies in order to improve agricultural productivity, increase farm income and enhance the global competitiveness of our exports, while conserving the sustainability of our forest, marine and land resources.

We are gratified by FAO's recognition of the crucial role that agricultural planning and policy analysis play in charting the course of rural development and growth. This is underscored by the budgetary increases for the sub-programmes on statistical processing and analysis, global perspective studies, as well as agricultural planning assistance under the Technical Cooperation Programme.

We in the Philippines particularly appreciate the TCP project currently being undertaken to strengthen our analytical capability in the Department of Agriculture to assess the implications on the agricultural sector of macro-economic and structural reforms. We are especially concerned with the development of appropriate safety nets to cushion the impact of trade liberalization on our farmers and fisherfolk even as we strive to put in place the rural infrastructure they sorely need to become competitive.

This brings me to the issue of agricultural trade protectionism, an issue that is of fundamental concern to agricultural exporting countries like the Philippines. It is clear that our shared aspiration for "more trade rather than aid" for developing countries hinges on the removal of protectionist

trade barriers and the achievement of a more balanced and open global trade regime for agricultural products. The Philippines, therefore, joins other Cairns Group countries in calling once more for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round by mid-December, with a satisfactory agreement on agriculture.

In conclusion, my delegation commends Director-General Edouard Saouma, for having steered FAO towards a more substantive, people-oriented and environment-friendly perspective, having provided his distinct brand of pro-active leadership through the many challenges and crises that confronted the Organization during his incumbency.

Let me also once more extend our congratulations and support to Ambassador Jacques Diouf as he assumes his place at the helm of this Organization. We wish him the best as he guides the Secretariat and field staff in giving substance to the goals and priorities laid out by Member Governments during his six-year term.

CHAIRMAN: This intervention brings us to the end of this Session. Before we rise I would ask the Assistant Secretary-General to make an announcement.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: Namibia has asked for its statement to be inserted in this morning's verbatim record. Thank you for your cooperation.

Anton VON WIETERSHEIM (Namibia): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is my singular honour and a distinct pleasure to have been accorded this opportunity to share a few thoughts with you on this important Organization of ours, the FAO.

Mr Chairman, Namibia, a newly independent nation, joined the FAO recently, but our association with this Organization is a longstanding one. During the relatively short period of Namibia's independence, the FAO provided us with invaluable assistance in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

There is no doubt that the FAO possesses the technical capacity to render the requisite assistance to the member countries, for this we must give the Organization credit.

The Technical Cooperation Programme is a very valuable mechanism which enables the FAO to respond rapidly when required, to encourage pilot operations and to provide bridging finance in key projects. However, when projects have been identified and formulated, there is not always the guarantee that such projects will be founded on a sustainable basis. This is an area of serious concern to us, and I would prefer to see a continuation in terms of the funding of TCP studies/projects to carry them through to fully fledged projects. This is an area which we should pay undivided attention to in the future.

Mr Chairman, a few years ago, we used to talk about development, today we talk of sustainable development. The issues of genetic resources conservation as well as bio-diversity have gained prominence in recent years. This is a reflection upon our experiences along the development path

we have hitherto traversed. The FAO is competent in these issues and we shall expect it to provide the necessary leadership in this area.

On the other hand, if we want to be relevant to our people, particularly to the rural poor, we must conduct our business in such a manner which is acceptable to them. First of all, we must involve them and, secondly, we must build up local capacity. On the former issue, there is certain sensitivity about it within the FAO. Nevertheless, in the latter respect, we still have a long way to go. Technical consultants are welcome when they are really needed, and indeed we acknowledge the fact that they provide a valuable service.

However, we must also learn to use local consultants or mixed, counterpart teams to build up local capacity. After all, they are much more familiar with the prevailing local situation. If the incumbent skills are there, let us apply them. This is also an effective way of developing our own people and will contribute to sustainable development in the long run. I am looking forward to a situation where the FAO uses more local consultants, if and when the necessary skills and expertise are available, in order to build up national capacities.

Mr Chairman, this Organization of ours has thus far persevered, but it can only survive the tough times ahead if it can adjust to diverse and demanding circumstances. It must consistently strive to make itself relevant to those whom it's serving. In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like to express my sincere wish that the FAO remains relevant to its Member States. I am confident that it can rise to such a challenge.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.¹

CHAIRMAN: Conference will no doubt recall a decision to deal with the admission of South Africa at some time today. In all probability this will be dealt with this afternoon at about 4.00 o'clock. I urge all Member Nations to have at least one delegate present at that time, to deal with this important event of the admission of South Africa to membership of FAO.

The meeting rose at 13.35 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 35.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.35 horas.

¹.Statement inserted in the verbatim record on request



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 93/PV/5

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(9 November 1993)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours

Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50

sous la présidence de M. Sevmour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sevmour Mullings. Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATION PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: -Ladies and gentlemen, the Fifth Plenary meeting is called to order, and may I without further hesitation invite the distinguished delegate of Myanmar to take the floor.

MYINT AUNG (Myanmar): I have the great honour to offer my warm and sincere congratulations to Mr Seymour Mullings on his election as Chairman of the 27th Session of the FAO Conference. We are fully confident that he will steer the Conference to a fruitful conclusion.

At the same time, kindly permit me also to convey my delegation's heartfelt congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf on his appointment as the next Director-General of the FAO. He carries with him a rich and distinguished background in the management of agricultural development, and FAO is fortunate to have attracted a person of Mr Diouf's stature.

Equally, I wish to join other Member States in offering my delegation's extreme gratitude to the outgoing Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, for his invaluable and outstanding contributions to the ideals of the Food and Agricultural Organization.

Mr Chairman, it has been ascertained that the trends in agricultural production remained mixed during the past biennium. Food production recovered strongly in some countries. In some developing countries, however, food production growth barely managed to keep ahead of population growth. On the other hand, food production continued to progress satisfactorily in the heavily populated regions of Asia. The varying scenes were at the same time punctuated with floods, drought and civil strife. As a result, food security remained critical in some parts of the world.

These grave food shortages vividly portray the need for nations to remain constantly engaged in concerted measures for increasing agricultural production. The approach obviously will have to vary from country to country.

The Union of Myanmar is still endowed with substantial natural resources and a very favourable land-man ratio. Under the new market-oriented economic structures in Myanmar, both foreign as well as the indigenous private sector have been allowed to participate in land development for agriculture, livestock, poultry farming, long-term crops and aquaculture. A Central Land Authority and a National Commission for Environmental Affairs administer the process of opening up new lands. Land development measures include not only fallow land and waste culturable land but also land submerged under water in deltaic and deep-water areas. In the deep-water areas, we have successfully introduced Integrated Paddy-Fish Cultivation Systems which are compatible with deep-water ecosystems. Our research and development efforts have similarly been transferred on to commercial scales within the last couple of years. It is my pleasure to inform this august gathering that the successful implementation of such an agricultural

production system has led to increased food production in the form of cereals, fruits and vegetables, and fish and poultry from the unutilized deep-water areas.

The Government is also encouraging and fully supporting the private sector to play the major role in those economically viable investment ventures. Currently, most of the new developments remain confined to perennials such as rubber, oilpalm, cashew and horticultural crops.

The increased production of most major annual crops, however, will be enhanced by maximizing production in existing areas, through multiple cropping. In the quest for higher paddy production, the emphasis will be on stepping up the cultivation of summer paddy. Over 0.8 million acres of summer paddy were successfully double-cropped during 1992-93, and we are taking measures to increase it to 4 million acres during the current year. It is anticipated that, as a result, the annual production of paddy alone will increase from the current 13 million to 17 million tons. Similar measures were taken for other annual crops as well. The Government has made major efforts for the provision of adequate irrigation water, the provision of agricultural input supplies and increased small-scale agriculture mechanization, the acceleration of technology transfer and the research and development of appropriate crop varieties. We trust that our efforts, to a certain extent, will be contributing towards global food requirements.

We have also pursued with interest the report of the 103rd session of the Council of FAO. We have noted that matters relating to a number of important topics have been referred to this Conference. In the matters of forestry, there is the establishment of a Consultative Group on the Tropical Forests Action Programme. One of the terms of reference for the Consultative Group has been the assessment and generation of funds for National Forestry Action Plans. It is a highly significant aspect, and we hope the Consultative Group will be able to strengthen the flow of international funding resources necessary for achieving the goals and objectives of National Forestry Action Plans.

The FAO has all along accorded invaluable support to our forestry resources management, and we deeply appreciate the assistance rendered. We remain committed to the continued practice of sound forest principles and capacity build-up. During the past biennium, a new Forest Act with more appropriate legal structures was enacted, and now serves as a strong deterrent in preventing and discouraging unnecessary pressure on the environment and timber resources. The export of logs has also been significantly reduced. In lieu, investment in value-added goods, with reliance on raw materials, within the annual allowable cuts have been promoted. We also still strictly adhere to the "Myanmar Selection System", which constitutes one of the timbering practices least disruptive to the environment and biodiversity. At the same time, we remain engaged in the introduction of "Sloping Agricultural Land Technology" in watershed areas, and agro-forestry practices in the dry zone. Incidentally, I have great pleasure to mention that Mr Sang Kyun Choi, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to integrated watershed management in Myanmar, has been awarded the 1992 B.R. Sen Award. The Government of Myanmar, within its limited resources, is trying its best in the conservation of the natural environment, including watershed areas. In this regard, our delegation would like to once again express our warm appreciation and high recognition of the invaluable contributions made by Mr Choi and FAO in our endeavours. We hope for FAO's continuing support and assistance in all these aspects.

Other significant aspects have been the recommendations for the conservation and use of plant genetic resources and the rational management of marine and inland fisheries resources. It is understood that measures are to be undertaken through the voluntary Codes of Conduct. As an agricultural country, we attach extreme importance to both aspects.

The 2 800 kilometre long coastal waters of Myanmar are still endowed with rich fishery resources. There exists an annual maximum sustainable yield of about 1.05 million metric tons. The annual captures at present, however, amount to only about 0.59 million metric tons. In order to develop its potential, fishing rights in specific areas have been granted to neighbouring states for harvesting our still under-exploited resources. The operations are being carried out in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Our marine fisheries are a potential source of food and foreign exchange; and we welcome FAO's efforts in promoting further safeguards for sustaining the productive capacity of the world's fisheries resources. The Livestock and Fisheries Sector constitutes an important component in Myanmar's national economy. We appreciate FAO's continuing support to these sectors, and in particular for the assistance rendered in the implementation of five TCP projects the last biennium.

We have also taken note of the programme priorities outlined in the Medium-term Plan 1994-99. It provides a balanced approach to the problems of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and we hope the necessary resources required for their implementation will be made available. We also hope that FAO's up-dated study "World Agriculture - Toward 2010" will serve as a spur for further international efforts in increasing global food production.

Meanwhile, commodity prices of several major agricultural exports of developing countries continue to decline. Conversely, the prices of agricultural inputs have increased. The growth of the world economy also is still sluggish. Similarly, the multilateral trade negotiations for more liberal and equitable trade remain stalled. The trends in no way have been rewarding to developed and developing countries.

However, it has been encouraging that there has been overall increased food production, in spite of setbacks in the world economy. At the same time it is not a matter for complacency. The world's population continues to grow. In turn, the demands for more food follow suit at increasing levels, and in conjunction, aspirations for better material benefits gather momentum. By the turn of the century the challenges could be quite formidable, and it will be the duty of all nations to be prepared to rise to the occasion. We also hope for FAO's continuing guidance in all these aspects.

Simon CREAN (Australia): May I again congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the chair of this 27th Session of the FAO. Australians have twice previously had the honour of holding the position and are confident that you will carry out your duties effectively and bring credit to yourself, your country, and your region.

I would also like to take the opportunity of welcoming the many new FAO members, and to pay tribute to the outgoing Director-General. For an unprecedented eighteen years' service, Mr Saouma has acted and directed the FAO in such a manner that he has left a solid foundation on which those following in his footsteps may build.

Australia has had a close association with the Organization since its inception and remains firmly committed to the objectives of FAO. As I said yesterday, we look forward to working with the new Director-General, Mr Diouf, in progressing the efforts of FAO to meet the food and nutritional needs of the world's growing population. This Conference serves to emphasize the challenges we have before us. It provides an ideal opportunity for each of us to discuss what we are doing individually and what we can do collectively through FAO to address them.

Over the past three decades world food supply per person has been trending steadily upwards. On a global basis there is sufficient food available to provide the entire world population with an adequate diet. However, there are significant differences in the level of food availability between regions, especially between the major developed countries of Europe and North America and the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

There is no single direct solution to this problem. The FAO does however provide a universal forum for both developing and developed countries to work together and develop initiatives that secure, sustain and develop the agricultural base. We must share our experiences and technical expertise, the complementarities we all have, to develop more effective programmes and better target our resources. It is comforting to see the recognition being given in FAO's work to the importance of agricultural research in increasing the world's food production. I am pleased to see the proposed increase in resources for research included in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

We can all share in the benefits of being involved in international agricultural research. The benefits are by no means confined to the developing world. For instance, around three quarters of Australian wheat sown today uses genotypes derived from international research. The value of increased wheat productivity since the varieties were introduced in 1974 is conservatively estimated at US\$2 billion.

Mr Chairman, the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices is a critically important issue not only for Australia but for all FAO member countries.

Our reputation as an efficient agricultural producer is well known - as is our ability to produce clean, quality food products.

Preserving this reputation is vitally important particularly with the growing emphasis at home on building on our traditional agricultural strengths and expanding the range of food products for both the domestic and export markets.

As Minister for Agriculture I have worked hard to develop a range of Government programmes that focus on Australia's natural strengths and provide a basis for securing, sustaining and developing the country's natural resource base.

Our rural industries are responding to the challenge to expand local and international markets, which is not only good for the economy, but, importantly, it creates jobs. Meeting this challenge has served to remind us of the importance of more effectively managing our land, our water and

our vegetation resources. In Australia we have developed a national strategy for ecologically sustainable development which provides a framework of pursuing the integrated management of our natural resources. It has many elements, in particular the establishment of a National Land Care Programme. This programme involves the three levels of government in our country, together with the rural communities working in partnership, developing approaches to improve the management of our natural resource base. This successful partnership with the community augurs well for similar models in member countries, and we certainly stand ready to share our experiences with you.

The rapid growth in the land care movement in the past few years reflects not only the community's concerns about the environment but also the importance placed on securing the future of Australian agriculture. With this in mind, Australia supports the high priority given by FAO in its future work on the need to focus on sustainability and the implementation of outcomes from UNCED. This includes the implementation of Agenda 21 and matters relating to the International Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Convention on Climate Change and work towards to an international instrument to combat desertification. We believe that in undertaking this work FAO should establish strong links with other UN bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, to avoid duplication and to ensure effective delivery of programmes within the overall UN system. It is also important that available resources are effectively targeted. The focus should be on providing the basic tools from which individual countries can develop their own approaches to address their own individual country problems.

Australia will soon complete a national strategy for the conservation of biological diversity. It will provide an effective framework, involving all sectors of the community, for the conservation and sustainable use of our biological resources. We are also operating fully in the follow-up to UNCED and with FAO and other agencies to develop policies which allow equitable sharing of genetic resources.

Australia is, of course, a signatory to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. We have set up a network of eight plant genetic resource centres responsible for conserving the sources of most important field and pasture crops. We have also developed links with other similar resource centres around the world. Another international contribution by Australia is the recent work by its scientists on indicators of agricultural sustainability. This work is being considered with interest by FAO for application in Asia, by the World Bank for project assessment and by the OECD for use by member countries. It may lead to future internationally agreed indicators.

Efforts to improve the environment and sustainable development are something we have in common with many in this Conference today, and I reiterate our preparedness to work with you, to share the experience and develop the solutions.

FAO's emphasis on the facilitation of agricultural trade in its work programme is vitally important. In particular, FAO's activities associated with global harmonization of plant quarantine have our full support. We see them as complementing proposals under GATT for improving market access. We should also like to emphasize the support which Australia gives to the work of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and in particular the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It is a fine example of what can be

achieved through the close cooperation of the UN agencies. The work is most important to agricultural trade. The draft agreement on sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures in the Uruguay Round foresees a critical role for FAO in agreeing on internationally acceptable standards.

The interaction between trade in agricultural products and the environment is a growing concern, and, as I mentioned earlier, Codex processes have become responsive to environmental concerns. In this regard, Australia has been very pleased to lead the work on developing Codex guidelines for organic foods moving in international trade.

FAO has, in accordance with its charter, focused its attentions on improving fisheries production and has achieved many successes in this field. The natural limits to global fish stocks do, however, mean that future FAO programmes must direct their attention to the sustainable management of fishery resources. Australia welcomes recent FAO initiatives to address the need for sustainability in fisheries production at both the national and international levels. Global awareness of the problem caused by over-fishing has been heightened by the closure of some extremely valuable and historically productive international fisheries.

In our region we continue to maintain an active role in developing sustainable fisheries management and we participated in the recent FAO Consultation on Interaction in Pacific Tuna Fisheries which brought together specialists to review the status of this resource and to set in train collaborative research programmes.

Forests and their management continue to be an important issue for many Member Nations, and for FAO itself. At the Rio Earth Summit, the endorsement of the non-legally binding Statement of Principles on Forests demonstrated the commitment of all nations to promoting conservation and sustainable management of all the world's forests.

We have seen FAO respond promptly to the challenge of UNCED by integrating the outcomes into its programmes and priorities. The core of the UNCED challenge is the achievement of sustainable management for all forests, whether tropical, temperate, or boreal. Tropical timber producers have already committed themselves to achieving this goal, and an increasing number of non-tropical producers, including Australia, have now given balance to the commitment by making the same commitment regarding their own forests. Having already achieved management for sustained yield, Australia is now committed to achieving sustainable management for all forest values.

This goal will be no less a challenge for FAO. With its acknowledged expertise in forestry, it will be expected to take a leading role in assisting members to achieve this target.

Australia is playing a major part in changing forestry land-use patterns in the Asia-Pacific Region through our Development Assistance Programme and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. We were involved in the creation of the Centre for International Forest Research, which is based in Indonesia.

Increased productivity through developments in research, improvements in infrastructure and application of appropriate technologies, as well as generally promoting sustainable agricultural practices, will be the major challenges for FAO in the next millenium.

Finally, I want to refer to the Uruguay Round. because we Relieve that the best assistance package for FAO member countries is a successful conclusion to that Round. There is no more important an issue for this Conference than the 15 December deadline - and I stress this is a real deadline. We must seize this critical opportunity for addresssing many of the challenges we face in the food and agricultural area. The World Bank and OECD have recently estimated that a Round outcome based on the Draft Final Act would provide net benefits to the world economy as high as US\$ 213 billion, and yet, despite these potential gains, the conclusion of the Round remains under real- threat, not the least from some industrial countries that stand to benefit most from a broadly-based successful outcome.

As Australia and the Cairns group have consistently made clear, a successful conclusion to the Round must include a genuinely trade-liberalizing outcome on agriculture. Any thought of agriculture being set aside in order to conclude interim or partial agreements must be firmly rejected. Comprehensive tariffication must be part of the access package. There can be no exceptions to tariffication if we are to achieve an equitable result with improved access for all products in all markets.

There is an urgent need also for final acceptance of all the agricultural trade provisions of the Draft Final Act, including quantity and budgetary reductions in export subsidies, commitments on trade-distorting domestic support and endorsement of the negotiated agreement on sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures. Any further attempt to weaken the Draft Final Act's provisions will seriously jeopardize an acceptable outcome on agriculture.

Action must be taken to progressively eliminate those policies which have encouraged over-production in many industrial countries. Only then will we be able to do something about a policy environment which currently permits the OECD countries to annually transfer to their farm sectors around US\$354 billion from government budgets and from consumers, forced to pay higher prices for their food.

The Cairns Group, which is made up of 14 non-subsidizing countries, has been an effective force in GATT. That Group met together again today to urge the conclusion of the Round. Australia has played a significant leading role in the Cairns Group, and one of the achievements has been to ensure that developing country interests were heard in the negotiations. Special and differential treatment for developing countries and provisions for dealing with the possible negative impacts of a Round outcome on net food importing countries are examples of what the Cairns Group has been able to pursue.

Whilst it is clear that all food-exporting countries would gain from higher world prices as a result of a Round outcome, FAO rightly has a special interest in the situation for food-importing developing countries. In recognition of a possible short-term impact of a Round outcome on these countries, the Draft Final Act contains a declaration which is aimed specifically at their needs. Developed countries will need to carry out expeditiously their commitments under this declaration.

Australia, instrumental in the foundation of FAO, strongly urges member countries to solidly support a conclusion to the Uruguay Round. It is time we not only considered our own interests but the global interest. As members of FAO, we grapple with enormous challenges in search of solutions

to global problems. It is only through effective trade liberalization that we can vigorously pursue the challenges of world poverty.

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

Moustapha NIASSE (Sénégal): Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, au nom de la délégation sénégalaise, je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, et féliciter également tous les membres du bureau, pour votre élection à la Présidence de cette 27ème session de la Conférence de la FAO. L'efficacité avec laquelle vous conduisez les travaux me conforte dans la conviction que nous atteindrons sans doute tous nos objectifs.

Mon pays, le Sénégal, s'honore que ce soit sous votre présidence, celle d'un pays ami, la Jamaïque, qu'un de ses fils le Dr Jacques Diouf, se voit confier les destinées de notre Organisation. Je voudrais encore une fois et solennellement remercier l'ensemble de la communauté internationale, l'Afrique, le Tiers Monde en particulier, pour la confiance placée dans ce candidat de l'Afrique.

Mon pays, le Sénégal, voudrait par ma voix témoigner toute sa gratitude à tous les pays membres de la FAO pour cette marque de confiance à l'Afrique en général, et au Sénégal en particulier. Croyez-moi, nous ne ménagerons aucun effort pour mériter cette confiance.

Par ailleurs, nous sollicitons le soutien constant de tous pour le succès du mandat confié au Dr Jacques Diouf. Comme il vous l'a lui-même dit hier, il demeurera le Directeur général de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale, au service de laquelle il consacrera désormais toute sa compétence, son énergie et son dévouement.

Certes, le tiers monde et l'Afrique l'ont dès le départ soutenu. Mais nous savons qu'il a été élu par l'ensemble de la communauté internationale pour le progrès de notre Organisation.

Au demeurant, notre hommage s'adresse donc à l'ensemble de cette communauté internationale, pour laquelle Jacques Diouf demeure dès aujourd'hui le Président de tout le monde.

Je voudrais également saluer tous ceux qui se sont présentés et qui ont accepté volontiers de se retirer au profit de notre candidat et qui ont donc contribué à son élection.

M. le Président, honorables délégués, notre assemblée se réunit à une période de profonde crise et de récession économique sans précédent. En effet, la faim et la malnutrition, l'explosion démographique, la sécheresse, la désertification, la dégradation continue de l'environnement, les guerres, pour ne citer que ces fléaux, connaissent une ampleur de plus en plus grande mettant sérieusement en danger notre Planète.

Les politiques économiques sectorielles sous-régionales, nationales et internationales, doivent de plus en plus s'intégrer pour tenir compte d'une mondialisation toujours croissante des problèmes socio-économiques, ce qui

met évidemment en évidence une interdépendance planétaire .toujours plus forte. A cet égard, les problèmes du monde rural, qui occupent le plus grand nombre de nos populations, ces problèmes demeurent de plus en plus prioritaires. Plus de 750 millions de personnes n'ont pas accès à la nourriture. Celle-ci est surproduite par ailleurs dans certains de nos continents. La répartition de la richesse du monde, comme vous le voyez, n'obéit pas toujours aux règles de l'équité. Dans moins de 40 ans, notre Planète comptera plus de 9 milliards de bouches à nourrir.

C'est dire que la FAO devra mesurer aujourd'hui la responsabilité qui est la sienne pour se restructurer, se réorganiser et s'adapter à ces nouvelles mutations, à ces nouvelles exigences.

La FAO devra donc, avec tout le monde, en effet, de plus en plus se préoccuper d'actions concrètes sur le terrain et éviter d'être une superbureaucratie qui produit plus de papier que d'aliments.

Nul doute que nous avons les capacités et les compétences nécessaires pour atteindre ce but.

Nous formulons le voeu que cette vingt-septième Conférence prenne les décisions dans ce sens, M. le Président.

Et pour terminer, M. le Président, honorables délégués, je voudrais enfin remercier le Directeur sortant, M. Edouard Saouma, pour les progrès importants qu'il a fait accomplir à la FAO pendant son mandat.

Le chef de l'Etat du Sénégal, le Président Abou Diouf, son Premier Ministre, son gouvernement et l'ensemble du peuple sénégalais tout entier, sont très reconnaissants à M. Saouma pour tout l'effort qu'il a consenti pour le progrès et pour la paix dans le monde.

M. le Président, quant à vous-même, mon pays, le Sénégal, comme je l'ai dit au début, s'honore de voir un fils de la Jamaïque présider cette session, une session pour laquelle nous nourrissons l'espoir encore une fois qu'elle s'attachera à mettre en place des politiques et des programmes conformes aux exigences de l'heure et qui contribueront sans aucun doute à la paix et à la prospérité dans ce monde.

Je vous remercie tous de votre aimable attention.

Roberto ABDENUR (Brazil): Let me first extend my congratulations to Your Excellency on your election to the chairmanship of FAO's Twenty-seventh Conference. As the representative of a country from the Latin America and the Caribbean Group, I am particularly pleased with the choice of a Caribbean politician of Your Excellency's calibre and authority to chair this important Conference. I am confident that, under your wise leadership, our work will yield productive and far-reaching results.

I would also like to present my congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf, who will soon assume the post of Director-General of our Organization and to formulate my most sincere and warm wishes of success in his mission, no doubt an arduous one. I can, as of now, assure him of the full cooperation of the Brazilian Government.

May I at this point register the profound recognition and appreciation of the Brazilian Government for the work carried out by Dr Edouard saoum in

his long and fruitful stewardship, a period in which FAO's activities grew in scope and significance in spite of the obstacles it had to face and the deep changes in the world scene.

Let me also express our praise and gratitude for the work undertaken by Ambassador Antoine Saintraint in the chairmanship of our Council. His lively personality and humanistic views on the problems of underdevelopment and hunger will be greatly missed.

Through the expansion of mass-media, we are now confronted daily with dramatic pictures, recorded in the four corners of the earth, of emaciated human beings in barren landscapes, where everything seems to be lacking, except suffering. Harsh as these pictures are, they represent only a segment of the overall assault on human dignity perpetrated by hunger, misery, malnutrition and the consequences thereof. While events in the past few years have brought about important alterations in many aspects of our lives, the situation I have just described seems impervious to change. Yet, change it we must. We have the duty of facing squarely the problem of extreme poverty.

The international community has made considerable progress in its efforts to avert the scourge of war; it must now strive to marshal political will and material resources in order to save succeeding generations from the scourge of hunger, malnutrition and misery. It is no longer acceptable that concepts like food security do not find their way into implementable schemes. It defies the most fundamental tenets of human behaviour that in some parts of the world food should be stockpiled in increasingly large amounts, at a staggering cost and to the point of rotting, while elsewhere millions of people are starving.

The expansion of the agricultural production in the developing countries has not been accompanied by a corresponding generation of income. This explains the persistence of hunger. Many developing countries, Brazil among them, have a highly dynamic agriculture for export, while displaying, at the same time, large pockets of absolute poverty.

In this context, it is incumbent upon FAO to highlight the study of mechanisms in the agricultural area to bring about significant increases in the generation of employment and income, so as to provide everyone in the world with the means to acquire food.

In the same vein, I wish to underline the importance of the International Conference on Nutrition convened by FAO last year as an event which raised world awareness of malnutrition in a most effective manner.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro last year, played a crucial role in furthering international acceptance of the need to combine development strategies with environment protection. This is clearly reflected in the concept of sustainable development.

We believe that the non-binding declaration of principles on forests adopted at UNCED, together with FAO's mandate in the field of forests, provide an adequate framework to tackle the complex issue of how to ensure the best approach to conservation and the fullest possible contribution of forestry to national economies. We would welcome the strengthening of FAO's activities in the support of national capacity in the field of forestry, particularly in relation to national forestry action plans and programmes.

I would also like to stress the important contribution of FAO and its Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to the preparation of the Rio Conference and, particularly, to the incorporation of valuable principles related to genetic resources into Agenda 21 and into the Convention on Biological Diversity. Brazil will actively participate in the follow-up process of UNCED that is to be undertaken within FAO by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, for which close collaboration between the Commission and the governing body and the secretariat of the international Convention on Biological Diversity will be of utmost importance.

One of the most important areas within FAO's sphere of competence is certainly the generation and transfer of technology.

FAO must continue to play a major role in providing technical cooperation and transferring the necessary technology to all developing countries. We believe high priority must be given to strengthening the research and technology programme and the corresponding technical cooperation projects.

Brazil today faces complex economic and social problems. It must introduce structural adjustments and reduce inflation without sacrificing economic growth. But today's Brazil is proud of being an actively democratic country, where the enjoyment of political freedom is at the service of an ample and unhindered debate focused on the revision of worn-out patterns of economic development and on the search for greater social justice.

The Brazilian society and the government, united in an unprecedented nationwide campaign, are today firmly determined to put an end to this tragic situation. The awareness and the mobilization in favour of emergency measures have grown to increasingly significant levels throughout the country, from large cities to the smallest villages in the countryside.

In May last, at the public act held to set up the National Food Security Council, President Itamar Franco pointed out that "poverty being the result of man's selfishness, only the solidarity of the most sensible people can usher in times of justice and well-being for all. Society is being mobilized to rescue one of its parts from poverty and, in so doing, save the whole of itself."

Such words carry a clear message. Overcoming hunger in Brazil and in other developing countries is primarily a task incumbent upon the very societies affected by this scourge. Any attempt at shifting to external factors the main responsibility for the problem would be grossly inappropriate. Hunger stems, above all else, from unjust social structures which must be changed without delay. In our country, the administration echoes the cry of the people, in full awareness of the pressing need for measures leading to a better structure for national income distribution.

At the same time, it is essential not to lose sight of the undeniable fact that doing away with hunger in the developing world will depend also, and to a large extent, on an international environment which is favourable to the strengthening of their production capacity in the field of agriculture and livestock. It does not make sense for the developing countries to strive to reduce distortions in their agricultural policy while developed ones insist on maintaining unfair trade barriers and subsidies which cause serious damage to the whole structure of international production and marketing in the agricultural sector.

As regards Brazil, its highly productive and diversified agricultural sector currently generates US\$40 billion yearly, almost 11 percent of Brazil's GDP, and employs almost 13 million people, nearly 23 percent of the labour force. Exports of agricultural and livestock products account for US\$13 billion of foreign exchange revenue, nearly 35 percent of our yearly exports in value terms. These data would be substantially higher if we threw in figures for agribusiness, which total roughly a third of the US\$400 billion plus making up our GDP,

The comparative advantages enjoyed by the Brazilian agricultural producers would allow them to maintain a strong competitive stance on international markets, were it not for the protectionism and extraordinarily high level of subsidization that developed countries resort to as a way of defending their largely inefficient agricultural sectors.

It is imperative, therefore, that the international community advance toward the liberalization of world trade in agricultural products and the elimination of subsidies by satisfactorily concluding Gatt's Uruguay Round.

We follow with great apprehension the final phase of the ongoing negotiations. I cannot but register our concern about the risks involved in a failure of this Round or the attainment of unsatisfactory results in the field of agriculture.

Gathered in Santiago, Chile, in October, the heads of state and heads of government of the countries making up the Rio Group have made a strong appeal to the industrialized countries in order that the Uruguay Round be satisfactorily completed before the end of this year. They stressed that the draft final act constitutes the base for the completion of the trade negotiations and expressed their deep concern with the attempts to weaken that text.

I am not overstating it if I say that the importance of the Uruguay Round goes well beyond the economic and trade aspects. Its results will have a decisive impact on the very structure of the international order in the years to come. That explains our concern and apprehension at the difficulty experienced by the United States and the European Community in the negotiations on agriculture, even on the simplest commitments. We call upon those countries to join the developing ones in a decisive effort to ensure a complete success of the Uruguay Round.

Finally, let me dwell briefly on one important aspect of the expected outcome of the Uruguay Round, namely the new rules covering trade in agriculture. There is room for a significant contribution by FAO in assisting developing countries to adapt to these rules. In particular, developing countries would benefit greatly from a study of the nature and range of permissible subsidies, as well as of the extent to which they can be resorted to under the new regime.

In the same vein, we must stress our deep concern at the depressed levels of commodity prices on the international markets over the past four or five years. Not only has this not been translated into lower prices to the final consumer in developed countries, but it has had nefarious social consequences in the producing countries.

Brazil has worked tirelessly in the search for an understanding on the question of recovery of commodity prices. We must recognize, however, that today the consuming countries' level of interest and political will to work

together with producers toward mutually satisfactory solutions are dwindling. Consequently, it becomes sometimes necessary to resort to producers' agreements, as was the case in coffee, in order to correct the distortions of the market.

Before concluding my statement, I cannot fail to recall that this year we observe the twentieth anniversary of the passing away of the eminent social scientist Josue de Castro, former independent president of FAO's Council and a scholarly analyst of the problem of hunger in Brazil and the world at large. I pay here a sincere and moving tribute to his memory and to his pioneering work.

Nearly half a century after the publication of his work, through which he strived to awaken the conscience of the world to the ethical, economic and political absurdity of hunger, we acknowledge with sadness that this condition has not disappeared. Regrettably, it has expanded alarmingly in many parts of the world. In the past forty years, despite undeniable progress in technology, mankind has not found definitive answers to its greatest challenges - hunger and malnutrition. Poverty took hold and, with it, pain and suffering.

It is my fervent wish that the work of this Conference will contribute in a decisive manner to break the vicious circle of poverty, so that Josue de Castro's research and analysis may one day become no more than a notable historical reference for future generations.

CHAIRMAN: May I inform Conference that at the conclusion of the next presentation we will interrupt the debate to return for a brief moment to Item 25 which deals with the addition of new members to the Organization.

Allan CRUICKSHANK (St. Vincent and the Grenadines): I am indeed honoured once again to be afforded the opportunity to address this most important gathering, not only as Minister of Agriculture of my country, St Vincent and the Grenadines, but also in my capacity as Chairman of the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Agriculture of the Caribbean Community.

We are very proud to have the most senior, experienced and distinguished Minister of Agriculture in the Caribbean the Honourable Seymour Mullings, Deputy Prime Minister of Jamaica, as Chairman of this Conference. We are very proud of his performance so far. It seems to me that each day he is getting stronger and better. I am a little worried that if this was a permanent position, we might have lost him from the Caribbean for a little while. This Twenty-seventh Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization is of critical importance to our nations as we attempt to address the burning issues related to agricultural development and world food production and security.

The events which have shaped our world since the political changes in Eastern Europe have been nothing short of dramatic. New nations have since become members of the FAO family bringing with them corresponding demands on the resources of the Organization.

We have witnessed the realignment of forces as superpower-political tensions dissipate, paving the way for greater cooperation among nations in

non-military activities, particularly in technology and for other developmental purposes.

At this stage I want to welcome the new members who have joined us during this session.

While there have undoubtedly been positive developments in the utilization of science and technology for furthering human development, we, however, cannot blind ourselves to the many problems which still confront many nations, particularly those of the developing world.

Conflicts, political turmoil and wars of all sorts have plagued us and millions of people are suffering, especially children.

The phenomena of drought, famine, poverty and hopelessness in diverse parts of the globe, have occasioned greater demands for humanitarian aid and the diversion of resources away from developmental purposes.

It must be remembered that a hungry man is an angry man and hunger and affluence will always be at war. It is our duty, therefore, to pay very close attention to the causes of many of these wars.

As we approach the 21st century, the challenges are enormous but not insurmountable. The FAO has a mandate to confront those problems related to agricultural development and work toward solving them. We, as individual members, have a critical role to play in this entire process if we are to promote agricultural development.

The agricultural sector of my country continues to be the most important sector of the economy in terms of foreign exchange earned, employment generated and percentage contribution to Gross Domestic Product. Our single most important cash crop is bananas. In a situation where 50 percent of country's export earnings hinge on banana sales, one can immediately appreciate our concerns for the survival of this industry.

The new régime governing the banana trade with the European Community is now in place and St Vincent and the Grenadines, and indeed the entire Windward Island producers, have been undertaking the necessary adjustments in the banana industry in order to meet the annual quota requirements of the European Community.

I wish publicly to express my gratitude and that of the Government and people of St Vincent and the Grenadines to the European Community for honouring its commitment under the Lomé Convention in respect of Protocol 5.

While we continue to restructure our agricultural sector and pursue our programme of agricultural diversification, we are mindful of the fact that bananas, our major export earner, must continue to play a critical role in this whole process. The strategy, therefore, is to diversify around bananas, bringing marginal lands now under bananas, into production with other crops.

The development of agriculture is a key issue in the development of my country.

The policy of my Government hinges on the twin issues of land reform and agricultural diversification. In this respect the role of the sector is fivefold:

1. The production of food for domestic consumption
2. The production of exports for generating foreign exchange
3. The production of inputs for the agro-industry
4. The generation of employment
5. The generation of domestic savings

All five are central to the achievement of the overall goal of improving the living standards and social well-being of the entire population.

In order for us to achieve these objectives, we have had to be very deliberate in our approach. Recognizing our limited resources and lack of economies of scale, we have, over the years, developed programmes and projects which, to a large extent, have increased our ability to provide for our people.

We wish to thank FAO in every respect for the support given to us in our drive to this end.

In particular, I wish to mention the Fisheries and Forestry Development Programmes which are well advanced and are rendering great assistance to the people of my country. I wish to thank the Japanese and Canadian Governments for the assistance given to us in this respect, in addition to the technical support given to FAO and all other agencies. The development of the livestock industry is very much on the cards, and the Programme for the eradication of the *Amblyomma variegatum* from the entire Caribbean, an FAO-funded project, is indeed welcome. It is of special interest to all of us in the Caribbean.

We should not allow food aid to act as a substitute to farmers, genuine farmers, poor rural farmers, women in particular, who are prepared to work faithfully and honestly to produce food to eat and sell to fulfil their physical and financial needs. FAO will have to use its resources and skill to look very carefully at this issue.

I wish now to focus my attention on the wider CARICOM Region and what we have been doing in terms of agricultural development. Let me say first of all that the falling and volatile prices of the major export commodities of the Caribbean countries, as well as the threat to their traditional trading arrangements, have encouraged the governments of the region to pursue policies of agricultural diversification. Despite this, the sector continues to be dominated by one or two major export crops which make a sizeable contribution to most economies in the region.

The sector faces several problems and constraints which impede its growth at the domestic level. These include the pursuit of inappropriate sectoral and macroeconomic policies, structural problems and institutional constraints which provide disincentives to the development of the sector.

Historically, the countries of the Caribbean Community have exported their major agricultural produce to markets in which they received preferential treatment. The concessions offered to ACP states under the Lomé Convention have made it possible for the countries to market their traditional export crops such as rice, sugar and banana, without the fear of losing our very small but significant share of the market for primary goods to larger

producers, non-ACP competitors. The global trend toward free trade poses a threat to the continuation of these special arrangements which for so long have facilitated the survival and development of our agricultural sector and indeed the very survival of our economies.

The fact is, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for economies of our size and nature to survive without some form of arrangement which takes into account the important role of agriculture in the development of our countries as well as the needs/peculiarities of agricultural development in small states such as ours.

We appreciate fully the urgency with which we will have to adjust our economies to meet the demands of the new global economic order. Indeed, it is our goal to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture in our countries to be better able to participate in a liberalized economic environment. The process, however, is gradual and the pace of change very slow. Moreover, increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of agricultural enterprises, which have traditionally depended on preferential markets, involves a complete restructuring and rationalization of activities to achieve our stated objectives. While we are trying to make the change, if we are getting low prices or no prices, I see the change as being almost impossible.

Policy changes and reforms at the international level can do much to assist us in the process of change and adjustment. We look forward to the completion of the Uruguay Round of the GATT with the hope that the level of support and protection to agriculture offered by developed countries will be reduced.

While we in the developing countries are urged and sometimes forced into reforming our economies toward more open economies and structural adjustments which create more favourable conditions of trade, our counterparts in the developed countries continue to use, and in some cases fight to maintain, protective measures such as export and input subsidies, border restrictions on imports and domestic support schemes, all of which are known to have distortionary effects on free trade.

Developing countries are effectively barred from using those measures both because of the policy reforms mentioned earlier and the tremendous costs involved.

The effects of those reforms on subsistence agriculture is particularly significant as most of the rural poor depend extensively on subsistence farming for both income and employment. It is important, therefore, that we continue to observe and, where necessary, alleviate the impacts of these structural reforms.

Our failure to assist vulnerable groups such as the rural poor is also likely to increase indulgence in practices harmful to the environment with serious consequences which will make it difficult to break the cycle of poverty and malnutrition.

In the context of the Caribbean Community, the alleviation of rural poverty and the development of the rural economy continue to be important issues in the thrust toward development. We intend to seek assistance for human resource development programmes and all other programmes that will help to develop our special island state economies.

Mr Chairman, we in the Caribbean Community are very cognisant of the tremendous challenges before us on the road to self-sustained development, and we have in the past demonstrated our ability to confront challenges and advance our development process. We will continue jointly to address our common problems. However the assistance of the international community will be vitally important. The FAO will be called upon to play a central role in this process.

I wish to conclude by expressing my country's as well as CARICOM's appreciation for the valuable assistance rendered by the FAO to us over the last few years, especially during the period of the leadership of Dr Edouard Saouma in very difficult economic, political and financial circumstances.

I wish also to congratulate the new Director-General, Mr Diouf, and I wish to invite him as early as possible to the Caribbean, especially next year when we intend to host a special conference in Barbados on Small Island State Development.

I sincerely hope that the capacity of the FAO to provide assistance will improve. As a region, we are committed to ensure that the mandate of this Organization is fully realized. Let us all continue to renew our commitment and let every country represented here today do what is expected of it. Let us work together to solve the problem of hunger and malnutrition, and the deprivation of our poor and hungry people.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

25. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued)

-Re-admission of South Africa to Membership

25. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (suite)

-Réadmission de l'Afrique du Sud

25 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación)

-Readmisión de Sudáfrica como miembro

Second Report of the General Committee

Second rapport du Bureau

Segundo Informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: I indicated not long ago that we would return to Item 25 which we had not concluded on Saturday, to complete the admission of new members to the Organization. The General Committee had its third meeting about midday, and I would now ask the Secretary-General to read its report.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: With reference to its first report of 6 November 1993 on the admission of new Member Nations, the Committee reaffirmed its position on the re-admission of South Africa and recommends to the Conference that a secret ballot on this item should take place on Tuesday 9 November 1993 at 16.00 hours. The General Committee, bearing in mind the current status of South Africa within the United Nations Organization, further recommends that should the Member Nations vote in favour of the re-admission of South Africa, the Conference should thereby decide to re-admit South Africa as a member of the Organization, with full

participation rights, to take effect as from the date on which the transitional Executive Council is instituted and commences functioning.

That ends the report of the General Committee.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to advise you that the wording of the resolution to this Conference is the wording that has been agreed on by all parties dealing with the matter of the admission of South Africa to this Organization. The procedure for voting on this matter will be exactly the same as that followed on Saturday when we first examined the Agenda Item and when we admitted nine new members. The quorum is 85 and I am informed that there are at least 118 delegations in the room. Accordingly, we may proceed with the voting.

Is everyone in favour of the report of the General Committee? If so, the report of the General Committee is accepted. We shall therefore proceed to the voting.

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): Mr Chairman, before we proceed to the vote, I would like to bring to the attention of all members of the Conference that the African Group, on the basis of support for this resolution, conveyed by the African National Congress and supported by the PAC, accepts this resolution.

Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola): En ce qui concerne le point 25, c'est-à-dire la réadmission de l'Afrique du Sud, ma délégation a reçu des instructions formelles de mon gouvernement. La République d'Angola donne son accord de principe pour que l'Afrique du Sud, pays de l'Afrique australe, retrouve sa place au sein de la FAO. Nous formulons le vœu que ce pays mettra son expérience scientifique et technique dans le domaine agricole à la disposition de la Communauté internationale, à travers la coopération bilatérale et multilatérale.

Pour terminer nous appuyons la déclaration du délégué du Ghana qui a parlé au nom du Groupe africain.

CHAIRMAN: I believe we can now proceed to the voting. May I ask the delegates of Australia and Jamaica to serve as tellers and to proceed to the voting area please.

Each voter will be given one ballot paper on which there are three boxes marked "In favour", "Against" or "Abstention". Votes are expressed by placing a cross in the box corresponding to your choice. The Assistant Secretary-General will now call the countries to vote.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: The voting is now complete and I will ask the tellers to proceed to the counting area. Whilst the count takes place, we will resume the debate. I invite Mr Waleed A. Elkhareiji to take the Chair.

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI, Vice-chairman of the Conference, took the chair

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

– STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

– DECLARATION DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

– MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Erik DERYCKE (Belgique): La Belgique, exerçant en ce moment la présidence du Conseil de la Communauté européenne, j'ai l'honneur, Monsieur le Président, de prendre la parole au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats membres.

Nous espérons que sous votre direction, cette 27ème session de la Conférence générale de la FAO pourra poursuivre et conclure avec succès ses délibérations.

Permettez-moi de féliciter le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, dont je salue à la fois les mérites et l'expérience politiques, les qualités du diplomate et l'expertise de l'éminent agronome. Je suis convaincu que sa polyvalence professionnelle l'aidera à assumer les lourdes responsabilités qui lui incombent désormais. Il pourra compter, dans sa mission, sur la coopération constructive de la Communauté et de ses Etats membres, en vue des liens qui unissent l'Europe et les pays en voie de développement.

Je voudrais également rendre hommage à Monsieur Edouard Saouma, qui a assuré à travers des années difficiles la direction de cette Organisation.

Je saisis enfin cette occasion pour souhaiter la bienvenue aux 10 nouveaux membres de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, il y a deux ans, la Communauté européenne était admise parmi les Membres de cette Organisation et le moment semble venu de faire un premier bilan. Il n'est pas exagéré de dire que, du point de vue de ses Etats membres, l'admission de la Communauté européenne à la FAO a renforcé les liens qui les unissent.

Dans bien des cas, cette adhésion a servi de catalyseur à des positions communes, fruits d'efforts de coordination et d'une réflexion menée dans un esprit constructif.

Bien sûr, le travail de convergence des politiques des Etats Membres dans tous les domaines d'activités de la FAO en est encore à ses débuts mais, à ce stade, les résultats sont déjà prometteurs. Ils traduisent à leur manière la réalisation des objectifs du traité sur l'union européenne, à savoir la défense de positions communes dans tous les domaines où les Etats Membres ont des intérêts importants en commun.

De la sorte, la Communauté et ses Etats membres ont l'ambition de contribuer de manière significative à la réalisation des buts originels de cette Organisation qui restent, plus que jamais, d'actualité.

Cette participation s'inscrit en outre dans la logique de la promotion d'un progrès économique et social équilibré, et d'un développement durable qui est l'objectif central de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement et dans le cadre politique mis en place par les Conseils des Ministres de la coopération au développement de la Communauté européenne.

Le suivi de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN) constitue un autre pilier du programme de travail à moyen terme. Il reçoit la plus grande attention des Etats membres de la Communauté européenne. Ils espèrent que la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action, qui puise ses objectifs aux sources du mandat de la FAO, mobilisera des moyens appropriés.

Monsieur le Président, le sous-développement économique et les conditions de vie inacceptables de centaines de millions d'habitants de la planète constituent une préoccupation majeure de la Communauté et des Etats membres. Ils contribuent à différentes institutions et programmes des Nations Unies et ont aussi leurs propres accords pour venir en aide à ces pays et ces populations. Pour citer un chiffre, je voudrais vous rappeler que la Communauté et ses Etats membres contribuent pour 45 pour cent dans l'ensemble de l'aide publique au développement (APD) . La moitié de cette assistance est consacrée aux pays les moins avancés (PMA) et pour exprimer cette aide en pourcentage du PNB (produit national brut), nous atteignons 0,43 pour cent, ce qui est sensiblement supérieur à la moyenne des pays de l'OCDE qui est de 0,33 pour cent. Enfin, dans le budget total de la FAO, les contributions des Etats membres de la Communauté s'élèvent à 37 pour cent.

Toutefois, comme je viens de le dire, le bilan de ces trois dernières décennies de développement ne peut guère être qualifié de positif pour toutes les régions du monde.

En cette fin de siècle, la malnutrition frappe encore trop d'êtres humains, la sécurité alimentaire est dans trop de régions compromise par les fléaux que sont les catastrophes naturelles et, hélas, de plus en plus souvent, celles dont l'homme est lui-même responsable.

Ces situations de détresse se sont multipliées, obligeant dans certains cas la communauté internationale à mener de front et dans l'urgence des missions de secours humanitaire et de rétablissement de la paix.

Cette évolution nous oblige, pays du Sud comme du Nord, à une réévaluation approfondie de nos politiques et de leur mise en oeuvre.

Pour ce qui est de la FAO, les Etats membres de la Communauté considèrent que les progrès accomplis dans la lutte pour le développement des moins nantis ont été inégaux selon les domaines d'activités.

Ils sont d'avis que la FAO, comme centre d'information, de collecte et d'analyse des données, a prouvé son rôle irremplaçable.

L'admission de nouveaux membres, principalement d'Europe centrale et orientale, ne pourra que conforter la FAO dans cette mission en améliorant encore la couverture géographique de sa base de données au bénéfice de tous les pays membres.

L'utilité de notre Organisation, comme forum de discussion, notamment pour formuler des normes et établir des codes de conduite, est également

indiscutable. Citons, à cet égard, les travaux menés dans le secteur phytosanitaire ou photogénétique, le Codex Alimentarius. Saluons plus récemment, dans le domaine de la pêche, l'élaboration d'un accord pour promouvoir le respect des mesures de protection de l'environnement par les bateaux qui pêchent en haute mer.

Dans d'autres domaines, les résultats des efforts entrepris n'ont pas toujours répondu aux espoirs de la Communauté internationale. Ils suscitent dans certains cas des interrogations quant à l'Organisation de la coopération intergouvernementale au sein de la FAO.

Un travail de rationalisation des activités des Comités intergouvernementaux devrait être envisagé pour éviter la répétition de certains débats à divers niveaux de l'Organisation.

Les Etats membres de la Communauté européenne souhaiteraient aussi que la FAO renforce son niveau d'expertise dans les missions de Conseil technique en politique agricole et alimentaire qu'elle remplit auprès des gouvernements. La poursuite de cette mission essentielle de transfert du savoir ne peut se trouver compromise par le développement d'autres activités, si souhaitables soient-elles.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, la FAO déploie également des activités opérationnelles sur le terrain. Il serait souhaitable que ces activités fassent l'objet d'un processus d'identification et de conception plus performant.

Les Etats membres de la Communauté continueront à défendre les activités opérationnelles de la FAO. Elles concrétisent en effet leur engagement en faveur d'un monde plus juste et garantissent également le maintien d'un haut niveau d'expertise. A leurs yeux, un équilibre doit être respecté entre toutes les activités, qu'il s'agisse d'activités normatives, de conseil politique ou de type opérationnel.

L'équilibre du programme d'activités et son exécution fructueuse dépendent au premier chef des ressources dont disposera la FAO.

Les Etats membres sont appelés à se prononcer au cours de cette Conférence sur les propositions de budget dans un contexte de restrictions des crédits disponibles. Dans ce contexte de pénurie de ressources, les Etats membres de la Communauté insistent pour que tous les pays membres paient leurs contributions en entier et ponctuellement. C'est là une obligation fondamentale dont les Etats membres de la Communauté européenne ne manquent pas de s'acquitter. L'effort ainsi consenti n'est ni moindre, ni supérieur à celui requis des autres contributeurs, qu'ils soient petits ou grands. Chaque pays est appelé à faire une contribution en fonction de sa capacité à payer, déterminée par des indicateurs économiques et financiers. Les défauts de paiement représentent des manquements sérieux aux engagements pris, difficilement compatibles avec la volonté d'exercer une influence décisive sur les orientations qui guideront pour l'avenir l'action des Etats membres de la Communauté au sein de la FAO.

A l'instar du secteur socio-économique du système des Nations Unies, la FAO devra elle aussi adapter ses capacités aux nouveaux défis d'un contexte mondial plus incertain que jamais.

Tout d'abord, l'érosion structurelle des ressources consacrées au développement, par suite des restrictions budgétaires opérées dans de

nombreux pays industrialisés, impose une utilisation toujours plus performante des fonds disponibles. L'amélioration de la qualité de l'aide depuis la conception des projets jusqu'à leur suivi doit être poursuivie sans relâche.

A cet égard, la Communauté et ses Etats membres saluent comme un progrès encourageant le travail que le Secrétariat a réalisé pour améliorer la lisibilité et la pertinence des documents relatifs au Programme de travail et à son évaluation. Ils espèrent que les méthodes de travail adoptées seront encore perfectionnées et qu'au fil des versions, ces documents deviendront de véritables outils au service des Etats Membres dans le processus de décision.

Ensuite, la recherche d'une plus grande cohérence et une complémentarité entre, d'une part, les opérations d'urgence à court terme et, d'autre part, les actions de développement durable doit être poursuivie en priorité. La réhabilitation des terres et la remise au travail des populations sinistrées sont l'étape indispensable pour sortir d'un cercle vicieux où les crises humanitaires se succéderaient sans perspective d'espoir pour leurs victimes.

En troisième lieu, il y a la notion de développement durable, qui se révèle être un problème crucial pour l'avenir. Lors de la Conférence de la nutrition tenue à Rome en décembre dernier, les Etats membres se sont déclarés déterminés à éliminer la faim et la malnutrition. Ces derniers sont inacceptables dans un monde qui dispose des connaissances et des ressources appropriées pour y mettre fin. Les Etats membres de la Communauté européenne insistent pour que les politiques et les programmes de développement intègrent dès leur conception les contraintes qui conditionnent l'amélioration durable du bien-être de l'humanité et de son état nutritionnel dans le respect de l'environnement.

Aujourd'hui, le rôle multifonctionnel de l'agriculture s'insère directement dans le concept du développement durable. Il est admis partout que l'agriculture doit à la fois assurer une fonction de production et donc de sécurité alimentaire tout en conservant pour l'avenir les ressources naturelles. Notre devoir est donc de mettre en place des politiques novatrices et cohérentes, intégrant des objectifs qui souvent semblent divergents à première vue. En effet, comment concilier de manière optimale les impératifs d'un développement qui réponde aux besoins croissants, immédiats et futurs, des populations et la préservation de l'héritage biologique pour les générations de demain?

C'est grâce aux capacités imaginatives de l'homme et aux techniques de pointe que celui-ci pourra répondre à ce défi. La biotechnologie et son corollaire, le maintien de la biodiversité, devraient nous apporter sinon des solutions du moins des pistes prometteuses pour atteindre un développement agricole durable. Ce dernier est inconcevable sans le respect des cultures et des traditions de tout un chacun. Il ne peut non plus se passer de la participation des hommes. Il devra en plus sauvegarder un rapport équilibré entre la croissance démographique et les ressources disponibles entre les zones rurales et les zones urbaines. Pour atteindre cet objectif, des instruments spécifiques devront être mis au point en harmonie avec les données socio-économiques du contexte où ils s'appliqueront.

Les contraintes du développement durable débordent largement du cadre des considérations commerciales. Sans une prise de conscience de ce genre, les ressources risquent de ne pas être affectées de manière adéquate au plan

mondial. L'objectif premier de l'Organisation est de vaincre la faim, véritable fléau de l'humanité. En cette fin de siècle, même si les doutes nous assaillent de toute part, la Communauté et ses Etats membres partagent la conviction que, seule, la solidarité peut rendre espoir au village Terre et lui garantir la pérennité. Pour que cet espoir se réalise la maxime de la FAO, Fiat panis, va devenir une réalité pour le plus grand nombre.

Au nom de la Communauté et de ses Etats membres, je vous remercie.

CHAIRMAN: (Original language Arabic): I should like to thank the distinguished delegate of Belgium for his kind words and for his statement indicating that the Member States of EEC will continue their support of the field operations of FAO.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

- 25. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued)
 - Re-admission of South Africa to Membership (continued)
- 25 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (suite)
 - Réadmission de l'Afrique du Sud (suite)
- 25. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación)
 - Readmisión de Sudafrica como miembro (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I now wish to declare the result of the voting for the membership of South Africa.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	138
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	5

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	128
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	5
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	133

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	89
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S O U T H A F R I C A

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Mr P.N. ROSS
(Australia)

Signature
Firma Mr C. FRANKLIN
(Jamaica)

9.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Since South Africa has achieved the required majority, I hereby declare that South Africa is re-admitted as a Member of the Organization, with full participation rights to take effect as from the date on which the Transitional Executive Council is instituted and commences functioning. I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate South Africa on its re-admission. I wish every success to the Transitional Executive Council.

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATION DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Juan Agustín FIGUEROA YAVAR (Chile): Me corresponde, Señor Presidente, por segunda y última vez, como Ministro de Agricultura de la República de Chile, dirigirme a esta magna Asamblea, y lo hago plenamente consciente de que estamos atravesando un momento turbulento y crucial en el mundo agrario y rural.

El persistente flagelo del hambre y la desnutrición; una creciente deforestación; alarmante pérdida de recursos naturales por su erosión; la polución de las aguas y del aire; el avance de los desiertos; la pérdida de la biodiversidad; la amenazante transformación de la atmósfera y la persistencia de expresiones de extrema pobreza y pauperismo, nos reflejan un cuadro extremadamente alarmante y dramático. Ha contribuido a que los trazos sean más oscuros y las sombras más profundas en constante deterioro en los precios de los transables agrícolas lo que ha repercutido muy negativamente en los países netamente exportadores que han visto malogrados sus términos de intercambio, disminuyendo sus posibilidades de exportación, amenazar su capacidad de pago de la deuda externa y seriamente reducir los ingresos de los agricultores, tanto pequeños como medianos y grandes.

Para un país en desarrollo y de escasa gravitación comercial internacional como Chile, nuestros medios de acción son también muy limitados. No pretendemos enseñar a nadie ni erigirnos en ejemplo de nadie; pero mostrando el camino por nosotros seguido, con sus errores y aciertos, podemos contribuir a que otros no cometan nuestras faltas y sean aún más exitosos en nuestros aciertos.

Con esta modesta meta, pero valiosa intención, queremos explicarles las tres líneas cardinales de nuestra política agraria que apuntan al desmantelamiento de los proteccionismos; a la mejora de la comercialización y al aumento de la productividad.

Desmantelamiento de los proteccionismos. Hemos obtenido, con la más íntima y persistente convicción, que las prácticas proteccionistas distorsionan gravemente el comercio agrícola mundial y produce un gigantesco daño a los países exportadores, principalmente a los en desarrollo. Las medidas de apoyo interno, las limitaciones de acceso a los mercados, la invocación de pretextos fito y zoonosanitarios, y los perversos subsidios a las exportaciones, van construyendo una verdadera ciudadela protegida tras cuyos muros se encuentran prósperos agricultores de países prósperos,

cercados por granjeros en situación socioeconómica crecientemente aflictiva.

La caída de este muro económico no se ha producido y, por el contrario, hemos visto que se ha ido crecientemente artillando y aumentando su altura y su espesor, en expresiones de neoproteccionismo que vulneran incluso los acuerdos de statu-quo adoptados al comienzo de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT.

Nuestra activa participación en dichas negociaciones, nuestra pertenencia al grupo CAIRNS, en procura de un espacio en la mesa de negociaciones para obtener la multilateralización de la rotativas; nuestra clamorosa voz en todos los foros internacionales en que hemos participado, son una muestra de la decisión de nuestra inquebrantable voluntad de no cejar en este objetivo. Reitero aquí lo que muchas veces hemos manifestado, en el sentido de que la fecha límite para la Ronda de Uruguay expire el 15 de Diciembre próximo, y que ella no finalizará si no se produce un acuerdo equitativo y equilibrado respecto de la agricultura.

También hemos intentado los caminos bilaterales para obtener mejores accesos a los mercados y en este ámbito se inscriben los múltiples tratados de libre comercio y acuerdos de complementación económica, que hemos firmado, además del uso de mecanismos regionales, tales como la ALADI y el SELA.

Tampoco hemos eludido recurrir a las sedes jurisdiccionales internacionales y así hemos provocado sucesivos paneles en el GATT cuando hemos estimado que nuestros derechos se encuentran conculcados.

Quiero, sin embargo, dejar muy en claro que nuestra adhesión a los principios del libre comercio están inspirados por una visión realista y pragmática, de manera que reconocemos las peculiaridades y situaciones propias de cada país y región.

Así será indispensable aplicar criterios de gradualidad y reconversión. No debemos nunca olvidar que en el centro de la problemática está el hombre y los principios y posturas ideológicas se acuñan y son válidos sólo en función suya.

Mejora de la comercialización. La post-cosecha y comercialización es en nuestro país una gravísima limitación, sobre todo para los pequeños y medianos agricultores. Esfuerzos de todo un año y más, y la aplicación de técnicas adecuadas, muchas veces se ven frustradas por grandes pérdidas en la guarda y en el transporte, o por expresiones de mercado que encarecen sustancialmente los insumos o hacen que la cadena de intermediación sea la gran beneficiaria, con desmedro de las justas expectativas de agricultores y encarecimiento para el consumidor.

Todos los esfuerzos dirigidos a mejorar la infraestructura de transporte, acopio y preservación, a organizar a los productores para mejorar su mercadeo de insumos y productos y tratar de corregir toda expresión distorsionante del mercado, tales como monopolios y oligopolios, a propender a un acceso expedito a las fuentes crediticias, a incrementar el ahorro y la capitalización, son caminos que hemos emprendido y que han dado fructíferos resultados.

Siempre en la perspectiva de la comercialización, hemos procurado que el consumidor cuente con la mayor información posible, de manera que sea él

quien, por esta vía, provoque el mejoramiento de todos los- eslabones productivos.

En esta iniciativa se anota la ley de tipificación de la carne, los distintos reglamentos de comercialización y las exigencias de exacta rotulación.

Es digno de destacarse también el esfuerzo conjugado del sector público y privado para la apertura de nuevos mercados. Nuestra diplomacia, el propio Presidente- de la República, y nuestros esforzados e imaginativos empresarios, han jugado un papel esencial aumentando y diversificando nuestro comercio a posiciones que hace 20 años eran inimaginables.

Aumento de la productividad. Nuestro país ha puesto especial acento en los aumentos de la productividad. La investigación científica, el aumento sustancial de la transferencia tecnológica, el privilegiar las ventajas comparativas y competitivas, el cuidar rigurosamente nuestro patrimonio fito y zoonosanitario, el estimular poderosamente las nuevas obras de irrigación con una enorme inversión pública, el mejoramiento de puertos y vías, apuntan en su conjunto a un incremento productivo.

Estamos convencidos que la mejor respuesta para nuestros productores, es poner la tónica en altas calidades y una gran variedad de oferta, lo que estará destinado a satisfacer los mercados más exigentes, siempre dispuestos a pagar los mejores precios.

Medio ambiente y pobreza rural. Las tres referidas líneas fundamentales se encuentran atravesadas por dos grandes preocupaciones que han sido un norte constante en nuestra política: La preservación del medio ambiente y la biodiversidad y la superación de la pobreza rural. Somos conscientes de que estas son dos caras de una misma medalla y entre ellas se produce un vicioso fenómeno de retroalimentación. Por esto es por lo que debemos atacar ambas en forma simultánea. Nuestra obligación ética y solidaria con el hombre de hoy y de mañana nos impulsa a una irrenunciable tarea para procurar las dos finalidades señaladas: democracia y respeto a los derechos del hombre, actual y futuro, y a su entorno nuestra adhesión a la democracia en esta visión omnicomprendensiva es absoluta e incommovible.

La FAO y su tarea. En la gigantesca gama de urgentes requerimientos a los que me he referido no hay un arma más poderosa que esta Organización. Su fortalecimiento es una obligación ineludible, indisolublemente ligada a la solidaridad como valor cultural esencial. Como toda obra, es perfectible y debe estar constantemente sujeta a mejoras en eficiencia y productividad. En tal sentido, creemos necesario poner énfasis en su descentralización y en lo urgente que resulta focalizar también situaciones nuevas tales como las economías agrarias en transición, muy particularmente en el centro y el este europeo, tarea hasta ahora no emprendida.

No quiero terminar mis palabras sin reiterar mi gratitud para aquéllos que apoyaron nuestra postulación a la Dirección General de este Organismo. La muestra de lealtad de América Latina y el Caribe, la profunda amistad de algunos países europeos y la solidaridad de otros en varios continentes, nos comprometen. Seguiremos estrechamente asociados a este Organismo y nuestros mejores hombres están dispuestos a contribuir con su talento al éxito común.

Mis últimas expresiones sean de admiración a la obra de Edouard Saouma, inteligencia superior y espíritu luchador y tesorero, que condujo a la FAO

hacia su modernidad y actual proyección. Le rindo un cordial homenaje por su obra señera.

Issa KALANTARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): First and foremost, on behalf of myself and the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, I should like to offer my most sincere congratulations to your Excellency on your appointment as the Chairman of the Organization's Conference.

On behalf of my Government, I would also like sincerely to congratulate His Excellency Mr Jacques Diouf, the distinguished newly-elected Director-General of the Organization, and assure His Excellency of the full support of my Government for his endeavours. Moreover, I extend my wholehearted gratitude and appreciation to Mr Edouard Saouma, the out-going Director-General, who made every possible effort to bring about the goals of the Organization throughout his tenure.

We live in a world where so many changes are occurring expeditiously and simultaneously, and well-established patterns are undergoing substantial alterations, yet unfortunately our main task, that is, alleviation of hunger and poverty, is changing in a negative direction.

We believe the world should be based not only on efficiency but on equity of rights, which is a great challenge for all of us as well as the Organization.

We believe now is the time when political decisions, probably more than ever, may shape our eventual destiny.

Integration of technological research, with socio-economic and policy research together with the full utilization of traditional technologies and modern biotechnological methods, should be placed among the priorities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The theme of this year's World Food Day was biodiversity, which underlined the significance of plant and animal genetic resources.

Genetic resources are the common heritage of mankind and should be preserved and freely available for the benefit of the present and future generations.

The FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources should play the role of a leading international forum for negotiations on these very vital resources.

Every country's food security and nutritional status heavily depends upon its co-ordinated national policies as well as international commitments.

The Organization's Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 is accepted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, provided that the Director-General is granted the authority to suggest new plans for transferring credits between chapters.

As for FAO's 1994-99 Medium-term Plan, we insist that the issue of human resources development be the Organization's first priority in all its agricultural activities. In the light of Agenda 21 of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro some key points within the concept of sustainability and development should be highlighted and underscored through the FAO's functions.

Firstly, due to the lack of financial facilities, and in order to meet their basic needs, the farmers of developing countries overexploit their natural resources and environment and thus bring about the destruction of such resources. Therefore, socio-economic development is of prime importance in those countries and can eventually lead to environmental protection.

Secondly, in the developing countries, the problems of the sustainability of agricultural development activities usually emanate from the lack of agricultural research, agricultural inputs and environmentally sound technologies on the one hand, and improper agricultural practices on the other. Thus, special attention should be paid to these essential needs of the developing world within the framework of FAO's functions.

Thirdly, we are of the strong opinion that natural resources are the basic source for and supportive of every kind of agricultural development and that increased attention should be called to the conservation of such resources in every region of the world, in particular the developing countries.

The time is ripe for taking decisive steps to conserve and sustainably utilize the world's forest resources. In this respect, it should be noted that there ought to be an equitable burden-sharing for the sustainable development of the world's forests by all countries and for all types of forests in all ecological zones. In line with this approach, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should assist its developing Member Nations in the deliberation and implementation of their national forest action programmes in accordance with their specific needs.

Learning from the past examples of overexploitation of fish stocks, the recent uncontrolled and fast-increasing fishing efforts in the Indian Ocean will most certainly lead to economic, if not also biological, problems in the course of time. To avoid this, we call for immediate collective management of fisheries directly by the bordering countries.

In this respect, the Islamic Republic of Iran is keenly interested in any cooperative fishing venture with other bordering states.

It is evident that the current status of the international agricultural commodities trade is totally harmful for the developing countries. Unfortunately, in spite of the spread of hunger and malnutrition in the Third World, major producers keep reducing the prices of agricultural commodities through export subsidies, and thus damage the status of production in such countries.

Here I should like to point out the agricultural achievements of Iran's Five-Year Development Plan: during the period, we achieved the average annual growth performance of 5.3 percent by the integrated implementation of projects in the fields of soil and water, research, training and extension, agronomy, animal husbandry, fishery as well as natural resources together with the development of mechanization and inducing comprehensive changes in the structure of exploitation systems.

In conclusion, allow me to raise two points which I should like to be taken into consideration by the new Director-General, Mr Diouf.

One is the expansion of this valuable practice of introduction and appraisal of the most diligent and hard-working farmer, expert,

administrator, and researcher from different continents who have achieved success in contributing something of high significance to the world's food and agriculture.

The second is to consider an innovation in the procedure and agenda of the FAO Conferences and General Meetings. I understand this current way of holding these very eminent gatherings has come to a point of monotony and boredom, which has, for decades, been practising without any variety and newness. I suggest it is now high time for it to undergo some change and novelty.

In the end, wishing this Conference all the success, I hope we will take all advantage of the opportunities created by this gathering.

Niphon PROMPHAN (Thailand): Mr Chairman, Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen on behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the People of Thailand, I am deeply honoured to address the Twenty-Seventh Session of the FAO Conference. I shall begin by congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and the Vice-chairman upon the elections to the bureau of this Conference.

I also wish to extend my sincere congratulations to the new Director-General of the FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf. His election to the leadership of this Organization is indeed a tribute to his personal qualities and experiences as well as to the friendly country of Senegal. I want to assure the new Director-General of our full cooperation to him and to the activities of the Organization.

I would also like to place on record our appreciation of the work of the FAO under the leadership of Mr Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, during his terms in office. This is the last FAO Conference he is attending in his present capacity. We wish him and his family happiness, good health and a very long and successful life.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the new members of the FAO today. We sincerely hope their membership will be of mutual benefit to the new members as well as to the FAO.

May I recall that in 1992 there were two historical conferences concerning the better world community: firstly, the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil; and, secondly, the International Conference on Nutrition in Rome.

The world community is seriously concerned about the world's environment which has been deteriorating at an alarming rate. The recommendations of UNCED regarding food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries have placed multiple demands for action at international, regional and national levels on governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

FAO has played and continues to play a major role in following the outcome of UNCED. My delegation notes with satisfaction the measures taken by the FAO in introducing sustainability criteria in all FAO activities, streamlining the FAO Special Action Programmes and contributing to UNCED and its follow-up. We also support the medium-term plan (1994-99). The main priority is to operationalize the International Cooperatives Programme Framework for sustainable agriculture and Rural Development.

At the national level, the Government of Thailand has responded positively and promptly to the outcome of UNCED. The 7th National Economic and Social Development Plan (1992-96) emphasizes quality and sustainability in the areas of human resource development, the quality of life, the environment and the natural resources. My Government would like to see the funding mechanisms -- namely, the Global Environment Facility -- fully assisting governments in solving global environmental problems and transferring appropriate technology.

Regarding -the Second Conference, ICN, my delegation is very grateful to the FAO and the World Health Organization who successfully convened this conference in Rome. We hope the FAO will continue to work closely with other UN organizations in the years to come. My delegation fully endorses the activities carried out by the FAO along the line of the ICN's Declaration on Nutrition and Plan of Action. Our experience in Thailand indicates that community-based nutrition intervention programmes have a better chance of sustainability.

You may recall that in 1991, the FAO Conference endorsed the proposal to set up a Secretariat for the International Plant Protection Convention within the framework of FAO Plant Production and Protection Division. The major aim of this unit is to facilitate trade in agricultural products. This unit will also provide expertise in cases of disagreement on the impact of plant quarantine measures in trade, at the request of the contracting parties in GATT.

Today, we are grateful to the progress of this unit and would like to endorse the establishment of the expert committee on phytosanitary measures to be appointed by the Director-General of FAO, in which the experts are nominated by the Regional Plant Protection Organizations. May I point out that unjustified quarantine restrictions would definitely be used to limit the free flow of agricultural trade, particularly from developing countries. I would therefore urge the FAO to always be aware of the principles and procedures of the international harmonization of plant quarantine. This is necessary to prevent the unjustified use of quarantine as a barrier for agricultural trade.

My delegation is pleased to see the attention given to the Uruguay Round of the GATT by the world community. Moreover, the agricultural negotiation is a crucial part of the Round, not only for consumers and producers in developed countries but also for developing countries where distorted prices and limited market access are affecting agricultural development and employment which are harmful to the efficiency of world food producers. The date of 15 December 1993 is a real deadline and it cannot be extended. The remaining two months must be used to ensure that the Round is successful. Therefore, on behalf of my delegation, I strongly urge that member countries of FAO who participate in the negotiation should fully support the efforts of GATT Director-General and commit themselves, as always, to work positively and constructively, aiming to achieve a genuine liberalization in agricultural trade.

The marine resources of the world and the freedom to fish in the high seas are a common heritage and the right of mankind. For some time, however, it has been evident that fishing grounds are over-exploited. As a result, there has been a growing awareness of the harmful effects of over-exploitation of the marine resources on the ocean's ecosystem. Therefore, my delegation very much welcomes the initiative of FAO in developing a Code

of Conduct on Responsible Fishing, following the Cancun Declaration of May 1992. We are also in agreement with the scope of the Code.

With regard to the reflagging of fishing vessels for the purpose of avoiding internationally-agreed conservation and management measures on the high seas, my delegation appreciates the FAO initiative to develop the International Agreement on the Flagging of Vessels Fishing on the High Seas. We hope this agreement will be accepted by all parties concerned.

As you know, forestry is widely recognized as a fundamental resource in the process of diversifying rural employment opportunities and generating income for those living in the rural areas. My country has always been strongly of the view that FAO is the head agency in the field of forestry in assisting the Member Nations to implement forestry plans. In order to respond to the UNCED's call for more attention on forestry activities, my delegation is very pleased that the Director-General has tried to increase the resources for the FAO Forest Department since the 103rd Session of the FAO Council.

With regard to the establishment of a Consultative Group on the Tropical Forests Action Programme under Article VI.5 of the FAO Constitution, my delegation has no difficulty in supporting the Consultative Group. However, we wish to see this Consultative Group starting work as soon as possible. My country would ensure our concerted and coordinated cooperation with the Consultative Group in solving tropical forestry problems.

My delegation is very pleased with the theme of the 1993 World Food Day, namely harvesting nature's biodiversity. It is, in fact, related to the statement recently made by the FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Mr Obaidullah Khan. We also note that biodiversity is concentrated more in the developing regions, particularly in the tropics and sub-tropics, than in the industrialized nations. Sustainable agriculture and rural development, which is central to the FAO's programmes, highlights the need for the conservation of genetic resources and biodiversity. My delegation welcomes the FAO's role in building up the capacity of developing countries to conserve and use biodiversity as a means of reducing hunger and poverty. Therefore, I would urge the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to implement the programme of action along these lines in its future programmes. It would be very much appreciated if the FAO (RAPA) could concentrate its activities more on biodiversity in the next biennium 1994-95.

In relation to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95, my delegation wishes to support the proposed budget of US\$676.9 million. FAO has definitely a major role to play in food matters, especially with regard to the channelling of technical assistance to those countries in need. I would, therefore, like to express satisfaction with the priority that the FAO gives to the Environment and Sustainable Development Programme in the Programme of Work and Budget submitted for the consideration of this Conference.

May I now turn to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). My delegation feels that this programme is of a very high value, due to its catalytic role in rural agricultural development. The Programme normally responds promptly to the needs for technical assistance of developing countries in the production of food and agriculture, fisheries, forestry as well as in emergency cases. Mr Chairman, you might recall Resolution 9/89 at the

25th Session of the FAO Conference. My delegation regrets -that the resources available for the TCP in 1994-95 have been reduced since the Conference endorsed that Resolution.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to inform all distinguished delegates that Thailand will host the forthcoming session of the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Rice in Bangkok from 28 November to 2 December 1994. Thailand will be most honoured if distinguished delegates could participate in this meeting. Our invitation also extends to the authorities concerned as well as private sectors in your own capitals. Rice production is one of Thailand's most specialized economic activities in agriculture. We would, therefore, like to share this expertise with the world community, in particular the FAO Member Nations and the international organizations which are interested and/or engaged in rice production, consumption and trade.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the delegate of Thailand for his statement, and also for his kind invitation to the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Rice in Bangkok.

Bjorn WESTH (Denmark): To begin with I wish to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election. I also congratulate and welcome the nine duly elected Member States of FAO and the re-admission of South Africa. Let me further congratulate Mr Diouf who yesterday was elected Director-General of this Organization for the coming six years. I also wish the outgoing Director-General, Mr Saouma, a pleasant retirement.

The general economic downturn which started in 1990 continued in 1993, and the prospects for recovery are still uncertain. At the same time, the world is undergoing rapid changes. Many new states are emerging with a democratic rule and some regions which for long periods have been troubled by conflict are now following a more peaceful road. Although there are still conflict areas in the world I hope that the new democratic and peaceful trend will expand further in order that in the future our attention and, indeed, additional resources can be directed towards improving the lives of the world's population.

Here in FAO we should aim at increasing food production as well as food security and at assuring a more even distribution and easier access to the food produced in this world. However, an increase in world food production is still threatened by natural and man-made disasters and population growth. In spite of encouraging trends, still more people than ever are hungry. There are now an estimated five hundred million hungry people in the developing world. This is unacceptable.

The environmental issue in agriculture, forestry and fisheries is of concern not only to individual nations; it is an international issue which does not respect frontiers.

The fight to ensure freedom from hunger cannot be won unless the planet's natural resources and environment are safeguarded. The commitments undertaken by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio must be implemented. We have to solve this problem in collaboration through global action. The UN System, including FAO, must participate by providing the best possible framework to secure the necessary international action and cooperation in this important area.

Denmark has a long-standing and firm commitment to support, the poor and underprivileged people in the world. The main priorities of our development policy are sustainable development and improved economic and social conditions for the poorest groups of people in the poorest developing countries.

Rural development, food production, and food security are key elements in reaching these objectives and therefore we take an active part in the work of FAO.

Last year Denmark spent 1 percent of our Gross National Product on Official Development Assistance. If more countries would meet this target, we would be able to increase dramatically the volume of financial support for developing countries. In this connection, I fail to understand why a large proportion of FAO Member Nations including some of the more important ones, have not paid their assessed contribution on time and in full to FAO. An organization with 2/3 of its Member Nations in arrears is an organization in serious crisis.

Some ten years ago, my Government started a dialogue for an accelerated reform process here in FAO in order to revitalize the Organization. The outcome of that process (in the form of reintroducing a medium-term plan) was encouraging, but has so far not sufficiently answered the call for reforms.

Let me clearly underline that to me and to my Government there is no alternative to an effective United Nations System and in the important sectors of food agriculture, fisheries and forestry. We require an efficient FAO.

With the Nordic UN Project, Denmark and the other Nordic countries have put forward concrete proposals for much needed reforms in the governance and financing of the UN's development activities. We strongly hope that substantial decisions will be taken during this General Assembly on these issues. But that alone does not ensure the reform process. I feel that the time is overdue for a far-reaching reform also of the Specialized Agencies.

My Government wishes to call for better cooperation in the UN System in order that the tragedy of hunger can be eliminated altogether. The hunger situation is being dealt with in an uncoordinated manner in too many different fora, leading to a dispersion of the UN's efforts in this area. We call for a much clearer definition of areas of responsibility between the different UN agencies. This would at the same time bring about a higher level of responsiveness.

A reform of FAO must include a fundamental change in our working methods. It is not in accordance with today's customs that we spend so much time in meetings. The complex system of a "3-week Conference", "The Council" and the numerous "Technical Committees" together with the way decisions - or lack of them - are being arrived at and recorded, must be streamlined and simplified. We require a transparent system where, at the end of the Conference or any other meeting, as responsible ministers we have clearly in front of us what action we must take on returning home.

It is evident that reforms are required. Efforts should be made to eradicate waste and mismanagement so that contributions can be utilized for the optimum benefit of the developing countries and not lost in bureaucracy

and inefficiency. The continued solidarity and support of .Danish taxpayers ' and many others depend on that.

The Organization must further sharpen its priority setting and even phase out some activities which are marginal. We should give higher priority to strategy and policy setting. We must stop measuring our success in millions of dollars spent. Concrete results must be the yardstick by which we measure. This measure could, for example, be a decrease in the unacceptably high number of hungry people in this world.

We have to re-establish confidence in the FAO, and we have to ensure that it can serve as an effective forum for exchange of views on technical matters and also as the global agricultural summit. I would therefore like to extend to the new Director-General an invitation to discuss with us and other interested parties ways and means to reform FAO. Without reform, I am afraid that other channels will be increasingly used.

The Danish Government is committed to ensuring that the questions of human rights and democracy are integrated into the work of FAO. This includes freedom from hunger and the integration of women in the development process as aspects of human rights in FAO's work.

My Government looks forward to a conclusion of the GATT negotiations at the end of this year. In this connection, account should be taken of the vital interests of the developing countries.

Denmark is also closely following the political and economic changes in Central and Eastern Europe, developments which inspire new optimism for our common future.

Let me conclude by repeating that in this rapidly changing world, and for the purpose of increasing efficiency in the UN System, my government is committed to a reform of the entire UN System. FAO, as one of the major and most important UN Specialized Agencies, should be in the forefront of such a process. I therefore invite the new Director-General, together with the Member States, and with the support of the highly skilled staff of the Organization, to embark on a reform process aimed at equipping the Organization to meet the enormous challenges of the coming decades.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the Head of the Danish delegation for his statement, which we have listened to with great interest, especially as far as his appeal for deep-reaching reforms in the work and functioning of our Organization is concerned. We all agree, but I think we should be extremely prudent when talking about changes in order to avoid making mistakes. I give the floor now to His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture of the Tunisian Republic, Mr Mohamed Ben Rajeb, and I should like to take the opportunity to welcome him amongst us in spite of the difficult situation he has to face.

Mohamed Ben REJEB (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous exprimer au nom de la délégation tunisienne, à vous-même et à Monsieur Jacques Diouf qui vient d'être élu au poste de Directeur général de la FAO, nos plus chaleureuses félicitations et nos vœux les plus sincères. Je voudrais également féliciter les participants à cette vingt-septième session de la Conférence de notre Organisation, en

cette circonstance privilégiée, pour avoir su accorder leur confiance à des hommes éminemment compétents jouissant d'une vaste expérience.

Je voudrais également transmettre au Dr Edouard Saouma, Directeur général sortant au nom de mon pays et de notre Président, Son Excellence Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, l'expression de toute notre estime et lui rendre hommage pour les hauts faits qui ont marqué son mandat et pour la rigueur et la vigueur avec lesquelles il a su diriger la FAO, lui conférant un rôle d'avant-garde dans le développement de l'agriculture et la lutte contre la faim et la-misère dont souffre l'humanité.

En Tunisie, nous estimons à sa juste valeur l'effort aux multiples facettes déployé par la FAO dans ces domaines et croyons en son rôle au service de la sécurité et de la paix. D'ailleurs, les événements que connaît le monde d'aujourd'hui sont là pour confirmer la pertinence de l'appel lancé par le Président de la République tunisienne du haut de cette tribune le 16 octobre 1991 qui disait: "la FAO devrait accorder une priorité absolue dans ses programmes relatifs à l'agriculture, aux projets ayant la sécurité alimentaire pour objectif. Nous avons la ferme conviction que le monde ne saurait connaître paix et sécurité tant que n'aura pas été assurée la sécurité alimentaire pour l'ensemble des nations. Aussi est-ce pour nous un devoir d'appeler du haut de cette tribune à l'élaboration d'une Charte de solidarité internationale en vue de bannir à jamais le spectre de la faim, dans les plus brefs délais".

Ceci est de nature à nous inciter tous à oeuvrer au renforcement des capacités de notre Organisation et à la consolidation de ses efforts afin qu'elle puisse jouer pleinement son rôle dans la réalisation de l'objectif de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale sur la base d'un développement agricole intégral et durable, susceptible de garantir le droit à l'alimentation qui vient en tête des droits fondamentaux de l'homme parce que synonyme du droit à la vie.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, les programmes d'action soumis à la Conférence de notre Organisation tiennent clairement compte des questions essentielles qui préoccupent la communauté internationale en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation. Priorité y est accordée au besoin de donner à la FAO les moyens nécessaires pour qu'elle puisse accomplir son rôle dans la promotion de nouveaux modèles qui répondent tous aux exigences d'un développement durable, de la préservation des ressources et des écosystèmes et de l'aplanissement des difficultés techniques et économiques, conformément aux recommandations de la CNUED et de la CIN.

De telles orientations sont susceptibles d'imprimer un nouvel élan à l'action de notre Organisation et de donner à son rayonnement une ampleur inédite, notamment en matière d'optimisation des ressources naturelles qui constituent un patrimoine commun à l'humanité tout entière.

Nous appuyons vigoureusement les programmes et initiatives ayant pour objectif de protéger les forêts et les ressources hydrauliques tout en mettant l'accent sur les forêts méditerranéennes eu égard aux nombreux périls qui les menacent, affaiblissant leur action de protection du sol, de développement des ressources hydrauliques et de préservation des ressources biologiques, végétales et animales. Aussi doit-on leur accorder un intérêt particulier, notamment en ce qui concerne le renforcement du couvert forestier, la lutte contre les prédateurs et les incendies ainsi que l'entretien du couvert végétal et la lutte contre la désertification due à

l'érosion éolienne et celle causée par les eaux de ruissellement, contre la salinisation des sols et l'avancée des sables.

La désertification risque de s'aggraver du fait de la rupture des équilibres cultural, forestier et pastoral dans nombre de pays méditerranéens à climat aride ou semi-aride, dont notamment ceux de l'Afrique du nord, menaçant des centaines de milliers de cultivateurs et d'éleveurs dans leur subsistance et leur travail.

Nous sommes convaincus que la communauté internationale a pris conscience de ce danger. A ce propos, un projet de convention internationale de lutte contre la désertification est en cours de préparation, conformément aux dispositions du Point 12 du plan d'Action 21. La Tunisie est particulièrement fière du fait que son expérience en matière d'aménagement des terres et de lutte contre la désertification, puisse servir de référence pour une telle Convention.

De même, ne devons-nous pas perdre de vue l'importance accrue revêtue par la question des ressources phytogénétiques in situ et ex situ, menacées de disparition et qui requièrent de la part de la communauté internationale qu'elle fasse preuve d'une ferme volonté pour établir les bases d'une coopération et d'une complémentarité véritables afin de préserver ces ressources et permettre à tous d'en profiter, dans la mesure où elles constituent un patrimoine commun à l'humanité dans son ensemble.

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, la FAO est plus que jamais appelée à jouer un rôle déterminant dans la mise en valeur et le renforcement des capacités propres des Etats Membres soucieux de développer leurs potentialités agricoles et de revitaliser leurs échanges commerciaux, compte tenu du fait que leurs économies dépendent dans une large mesure du secteur agro-alimentaire. Aussi, attendons-nous avec beaucoup d'intérêt les résultats des Négociations d'Uruguay Round dans ce domaine, dans l'espoir qu'ils permettent d'accroître la part des pays concernés dans le commerce mondial des produits agro-alimentaires.

Si notre Organisation parvient à s'acquitter de son rôle de sensibilisation de la communauté internationale à ses problèmes, le tableau que j'ai brossé de la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde en sera plus clair.

Le Plan d'action à moyen terme et les programmes de l'Organisation pour la prochaine période biennale montrent que nous sommes déjà convaincus de l'opportunité d'un tel rôle. Alors, autant oeuvrer à lui donner les moyens adéquats pour qu'elle puisse l'assumer pleinement.

Monsieur le Président, la Tunisie a tenu à introduire les réformes nécessaires en vue d'assurer le décollage tant espéré du secteur agro-alimentaire tout en y associant un effort particulier pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie dans les zones rurales.

Convaincus que le développement agricole, dans une situation comme la nôtre, passe d'abord par le renforcement des ressources naturelles et leur préservation, nous avons entamé à partir de cette décennie la mise en oeuvre d'ambitieux plans intégrés de mobilisation des ressources hydrauliques, de protection du sol, de renforcement du couvert végétal et d'aménagement des parcours. Par ailleurs, nous avons prévu d'importantes mesures d'incitation pour les projets productifs et les investissements dans les secteurs de production agricole et celui des industries

agro-alimentaires orientées vers la consolidation de la sécurité alimentaire du pays et la réalisation de l'équilibre.

Grâce à cette politique volontariste du Président Zine El Abidine Ben Ali qui a fait de l'examen des questions et des dossiers relatifs au secteur agricole un point permanent à l'ordre du jour des réunions mensuelles du Conseil des Ministres, le secteur de l'agriculture a pu réaliser d'importants résultats positifs.

Désormais, - nous aspirons au renforcement de nos capacités en matière de stockage, de transformation et de frigorification afin de pouvoir utiliser la totalité de la production et éviter les pertes. Dans ce sens, nous comptons beaucoup sur l'intensification de la coopération avec la FAO et les pays frères et amis ainsi qu'avec les institutions spécialisées concernées et sur leur soutien pour nos programmes ambitieux dans le domaine agricole d'autant que nous avons commencé dans un premier temps par fonder notre effort sur nos propres moyens. Par ailleurs, nous serons heureux de mettre nos compétences et notre expérience au service des autres pays qui voudraient en profiter sur le plan bilatéral ou multilatéral.

Concernant l'amélioration des conditions de vie dans les zones rurales, la Tunisie a entrepris l'extension des programmes d'électrification et d'approvisionnement de ces zones en eau potable, la construction de routes et de voies agricoles, la promotion de la condition de la femme et le relèvement du niveau de ses aptitudes, les femmes assurant 30 pour cent de la charge de travail dans les campagnes.

Enfin, en matière de solidarité nationale, l'accent a été mis sur les zones d'ombre montagneuses isolées par le biais de programmes intensifs d'infrastructures de base et d'équipements sociaux tout en assurant aux habitants de ces zones les moyens de subsister en vue de les soustraire au statut de marginaux exclus et de briser le cercle vicieux des besoins insatisfaits et de la pression accrue sur les rares ressources naturelles de base dont ils disposent.

Monsieur le Président, l'humanité tout entière aujourd'hui est tournée vers nous et attend avec impatience les résultats de cette Conférence historique de la FAO qui se réunit dans une conjoncture mondiale caractérisée par des mutations qui influenceront de manière décisive l'évolution de notre monde dans les décennies à venir. Faisons donc en sorte de ne pas décevoir ses attentes et son aspiration à garantir un avenir meilleur pour le monde de demain et les générations futures dans le monde entier.

Merci pour votre attention.

Balram JAKHAR (India): Let me at the outset, on behalf of my delegation, as well as of the Government of India, extend to you, Mr Chairman, our congratulations on your unanimous election as Chairman of the Conference. I also offer my felicitations to the Vice-chairmen of the Conference. I take this opportunity to welcome the new member countries into the FAO family.

The Food and Agriculture Organization will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its foundation on 16 October 1995. Looking back over the years, it is evident that FAO has risen to the challenge posed by the global problems of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. We support the proposed three-day Symposium on the theme "A Planet to Feed: the

Challenges" on the eve of the 50th anniversary, as well as other arrangements suggested by this august body for this occasion.

Despite the improvement in the global cereal supply last year, severe food-supply problems have persisted in many parts of the world. The situation is grave in many parts of Africa and can only be mitigated by food aid. A combination of drought and civil unrest in Somalia has pushed over half the population to the brink of starvation. The food supply situation in some parts of the world is particularly serious and I am confident that FAO is seized of -the problem.

Global agricultural production last year rose by about 1 percent, after having stagnated in 1991. Regional agricultural performances, too, ranged from mediocre to weak. In developing countries, agricultural production rose by 1.7 percent, which is about half of the average growth of the previous decade. The outlook for the current year also points to an average output

On our part, we have tried to make a significant contribution to the recovery of global output of agricultural commodities, particularly cereals, thus ensuring food security for the masses. Indian agriculture has made rapid strides since Independence. The country has achieved a large measure of self-sufficiency in foodgrain production and has also acquired sufficient resilience. The production of foodgrains has gone up from 51 million tonnes in 1950-51 to an all-time high of around 180 million tonnes during 1992-93, resulting in a marked increase in per capita availability. The country is also on the threshold of self-sufficiency in oilseeds, and there has been substantial enhancement in the production of sugarcane and cotton, as well.

We have thus been able to tackle the problem of feeding an increasing population and are also addressing ourselves to the problems of hunger and malnutrition. The demographic growth rate, however, continues to cause concern. India will have an estimated 941 million people by the year 1997 and our population would cross the 1 billion mark by the year 2001. We are conscious that this trend has to be halted and have launched several measures to control our population growth.

India, today, is poised to increase both agricultural production and productivity as also ensure food security for the growing population. The increase in production, though very substantial, has brought in its wake uneven development across regions and crops and it will be our endeavour to rectify the imbalance in the growth of eastern, hilly, rainfed and drought-prone regions. We also aim to prevent the degradation of land and water resources and everging ecological imbalances due to increased biotic pressure on land.

The per capita availability of land has been diminishing leading to restricted management options and low income levels. We, therefore, propose various policy measures for consolidation of holdings and prevention of fragmentation. We also aim at diversification of agriculture and promotion of horticulture, fisheries, dairy, livestock, sericulture, etc. which will help raise incomes in the rural areas. We are also conscious that value addition in agriculture can only be achieved by a concerted thrust in increasing processing, marketing and storage facilities. These are imperative for the development of agriculture processing industries which are the key areas for the development in agriculture.

We intend to focus on agricultural research, develop economically-viable and location-specific technologies for rainfed, drought-prone and irrigated areas, and also strengthen institutional framework for farmers' education and training in improved farm techniques. Priority and thrust areas have been identified to accelerate R&D output in critical areas and developing appropriate rural technologies. To promote growth of agricultural productivity, we are laying emphasis on the emerging areas of research in bio-technology, genetic engineering, tissue culture, bio-insecticides and phermones.

We plan to accelerate the development of rainfed and irrigated horticulture, floriculture, aromatic and medicinal plants and plantation crops that feed backup support for exports. We are encouraging efficient use of marginal lands and augmentation of biomass through agro and farm forestry. We are emphasizing the importance of the creation of irrigation facilities and strengthening of infrastructure. The strategy envisaged for meeting this objective is bestowing of priority attention on the completion of ongoing projects, ensuring speedy transit to irrigated agriculture and optimum use of water through Command Area Development Programmes, installation of sprinkler and drip irrigation systems in water-scarce and drought-prone areas and encouragement of minor surface water and irrigation schemes.

In order to provide adequate and timely supply of certified and quality seeds of suitable varieties at reasonable prices, we have taken up a National Seeds Project with World Bank assistance. Under this project, strengthening of the seed sector, both public and private, has also been envisaged for which necessary assistance for the development of infrastructure facilities is provided. Agricultural universities have also been provided assistance for varietal improvement and infrastructure development for breeder seed production.

Fertilizer is one of the key inputs for increasing crop productivity and consumption of fertilizers increased to 12.7 million tonnes in terms of nutrients during 1991-92. Efforts are being made further to increase the consumption of fertilizers. Realizing the importance of soil fertility, we have been laying emphasis on balanced use of fertilizers like micro-nutrients and organic manures. We are also making special efforts to produce and popularize the use of biofertilizers.

A major strategy adopted to provide an incentive to increase crop production is the policy of providing support to the farmer by ensuring a procurement/minimum support price and organizing purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. Our endeavour is to correct the terms of trade so as to make them favourable for agriculture thereby increasing the flow of resources and substantially augmenting the rate of capital formation in agriculture.

A number of policy initiatives and reforms have been undertaken by my Government since 1991 and the agriculture sector in India would stand to benefit by these changes. New trade policies have been introduced aimed at simplification, quick response time, transparency and incentives for exporters. Export Oriented Units engaged in activities related to agriculture, aquaculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, floriculture, pisciculture, poultry and sericulture are entitled to various benefits under the new Export-Import policies. Our aim is, therefore, to provide a range of additional options to the agriculture sector to stimulate investment and growth.

Our Agricultural Policy Resolution which is being finalized aims to achieve all the measures spelt out by me and we shall spare no effort to achieve our objectives.

Animal husbandry is an important sphere which has a viable role in diversifying agriculture, increasing employment opportunities and incomes for the weaker sections. India is endowed with livestock resources of considerable genetic diversity with fair traits of adaptability to withstand environmental stress and inadequate levels of nutrition and management. With its large livestock population, India has vast potential for meeting the growing needs of rapidly increasing human population in respect of animal protein. We are, therefore, laying special emphasis on projects and programmes for enhancing the production of various species of livestock through genetic improvements and effective health cover. We have programmes to preserve important indigenous breeds. We have identified thrust areas for progressive genetic improvements of important cattle breeds which also include programmes for genetic conservation and development of indigenous breeds.

With concerted efforts, the per capita availability of milk has gone up substantially and we intend to augment it further. Similarly, per capita availability of eggs has increased two and a half times during the last two decades or so. This has enabled us to raise nutrition levels through increased availability for animal proteins in the form of milk, eggs and meat.

The main objectives of fisheries development in our country are enhancement of fish production and earning from export of fishery products, welfare of fishermen and improving their socio-economic conditions, etc. The various fisheries schemes/programmes are aimed at achieving these objectives. We have also taken up fishery development programme for conservation/ preservation of a number of endangered, rare and threatened fish species as also for strengthening the facilities available for aquatic organisms in the country. The use of genetic engineering would be particularly of great help in aquaculture.

As you are aware destruction of ecologically essential and economically viable resources poses a threat to mankind. Fortunately, there is greater awareness among the comity of nations on the need to tackle this problem. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development stressed the need to conserve our bio-diversity for the use of present and future generations. Conservation of bio-diversity has now become an universal axiom which is uppermost in all our minds. FAO had appropriately selected the theme of "Harvesting Nature's Diversity" to mark the World Food Day this year, which was celebrated by us in a befitting manner.

Genetic variability in plants which has been the basis of our agriculture for millions of years, continues to provide the genetic base for the development of new improved crop varieties. The Indian region is an important centre of origin of important crop plants. It is the centre of origin and diversity of a variety of agri-horticultural crops including rice, beans, sugarcane, citrus, mango, spices, medicinal and aromatic plants. In fact, nearly 160 domesticated species of economic importance, over 30 species of their wild relatives are native to our region and constitute an invaluable reservoir of genes and it is our endeavour to protect, preserve and develop them.

The growing importance being attached to biodiversity and -environmental consciousness represents, in a manner of speaking, a case of the wheel turning full circle. Farming in India has been carried out for over 2 000 years now and the humble Indian farmer has always been "green" in his approach to the land. It is not as though the concepts which have gained acceptance in our environmental lexicon today are new. The underdeveloped farmers all over the world have been practising these for ages. Farmers in India have been following farming practices that are ecologically sound, based on practices that have evolved over generations. The introduction of new technologies has undoubtedly played a major role in increasing agricultural productivity but has had its inevitable spin-off effects. Today, the international community has come to realize these adverse effects and the thrust now is towards the formulation of environment-friendly technologies.

I may mention, by way of example, the growing popularity and emphasis on the use of bio-fertilizers. Organic manures have been used for centuries in India by our farmers and it is in a way, ironic, that we are today engaged in a campaign to emphasize its importance. We must guard ourselves against becoming prisoners of technology and must realize that nature itself can provide solutions to many of our problems.

My country provides an excellent example of the concept of diversity, whether in people or in plants. Our strength lies in this very diversity. An infinite variety of plant and animal life survives in India from the snowy reaches of the Himalayas to the Southern-most tip of the sub-continent. This diversity has existed over millennia and the Indian people have always respected and preserved this diversity. Our own scriptures and religious texts have always upheld the need for conservation of this awesome diversity and our people have, therefore, always lived in perfect communion with nature. This diversity is the underlying strength even in crop development and it is possible, therefore, for different varieties to be cultivated today, as has always been done. We must avoid attempting to impose an industrial uniformity on agriculture, if this diversity is to survive. Each country has developed over generations its own farming systems and ethos and no attempt should be made to impose an alien system on it. We must not try to impose or institutionalize frameworks on the farmer's actions cutting-off the link which exists between him and nature and which is responsible for this rich diversity.

I also find that there are attempts to appropriate the diversity of nature for pecuniary gains. What had been for ages nature 's bounty to man is sought to be commercialized and exploited by a few. The humble neem leaf, long recognized for its medicinal properties and used as a pesticide in India has been patented. It is a matter of some concern that some countries are resorting to practices that would deprive people the world over from enjoying what in essence is their natural right. We must raise our voice against this practice that robs us of our common inheritance.

Mr Chairman and friends, I have tried to acquaint you with some of the recent developments which have taken place in the Indian economy, with particular emphasis on the agriculture sector. My Government has always been alive to the need to provide access to food to the vulnerable sections of the population. I sincerely hope the deliberations of this Conference will help the international community to find viable solutions to major problems and assist in creating the way for sustained growth of agriculture in different countries of the world.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the distinguished delegate of India who highlighted the development aspects in his country, especially with regard to agriculture and animal production and the desire of India to increase productivity while conserving biodiversity.

Hermann REDL (Austria): It is a particular honour and privilege for me to present to you this policy statement of the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Fischler, who regrets that, in view of other commitments, he is unable to attend the 27th Conference of FAO.

First of all, may I congratulate you on your election, Chairman. I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Chairman of this Conference. May I also take the opportunity to congratulate Mr Diouf, the newly-elected Director-general of FAO and wish him every success for the future of our work. I would also like to wish the 27th Conference of FAO much success.

In the last few years considerable changes have taken place in many parts of the world. There are new economic blocs all over the world. If we look at the EEA process, there is a new Europe. There are GATT negotiations. There is also the situation of the countries in the Third World. Therefore, agriculture and forestry become important key factors in international relations.

World markets, in spite of intentions and declarations, will be faced with the same problems as before. There will be new suppliers. There will not be an unlimited increase in demand. Eastern countries are beginning to dabble with private enterprise. The paradox of the problems in the Third and Fourth World has not yet been solved.

Many approaches have been tried, especially in GATT but also in the OECD and in the United States in order to try and solve these problems but there is a risk. It is that of isolation. It is, therefore, necessary to reduce competition and try to solve the problem of unfair subsidies. It is not possible to try and solve these problems exclusively through economic and market conditions. For long-term agriculture to be sustainable and ecologically oriented is not the same as for production to be reckless and exploitative, farmers and workers to have social security as opposed to exploitation and to have farms or enormous agricultural factories. Substantial ecological problems, such as carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere and depletion of the ozone layer, are global in nature. We must be aware of the fact that we have to deal with highly sensitive consumers who are aware of the issues of soil, air, water and food quality. Protection and permanent security of vital resources such as the soil, air and water are going to be the key survival questions.

The environment which in previous decades was considered an obstacle to progress has now become focused on any policy that deals with future guidelines. For harmony to exist between the environment, the economy and social compensation we have to find new approaches in agricultural policy. I feel that in drawing up new strategies the FAO is going to have to play a much more important role. I have, therefore, taken note, with great satisfaction, that in the FAO's future Programme of Work the environment has been given particular priority.

Environmental problems demand international cooperation and speedy action.

The environmental issue is one that has a direct effect on agriculture, global warming, soil pollution and erosion. A reduction of farm land and deforestation of tropical forests are some of the main problems. Under these changed conditions new tasks arise for agriculture in food production and preservation of vital resources. Agriculture has to assume a new role. What is this new role? For agriculture, especially in Europe, it is multi-functional in nature at the moment. That is something that has been recognized internationally. The communique prepared by the Agricultural Ministers in the OECD in Paris in March 1992 inserted a special chapter dedicated to this subject in order to ensure the multi-faceted functions of agriculture; food supply and continuous production in periods of crisis; to develop and ensure security of new raw materials and energy sources; to preserve and cultivate the landscape; to ensure security and utilization of natural resources and to ensure that the economic, social and cultural structure of the rural areas are protected.

The reform of the agricultural policy initiated in Austria in 1987 has, as its objectives, to secure a sustainable, small-scale agricultural and forestry programme throughout the whole country. The concept of an environmentally friendly agricultural policy has proved an example to others.

Permit me now to make some comments on the prominent work of the FAO for 1994-95.

Austria welcomes the priorities established within the FAO Programme of Work and Budget. However, to agree to these priorities and activities, it means that Member States must assume their responsibilities as the statutes in the FAO indicate.

The proposal made by the Director-General on the budget for 1994-95 which provides for zero growth is, of course, satisfactory in view of world-wide problems but it is realistic.

May I express the hope that this proposal meets with broad consensus at this Conference.

The medium-term plan submitted by you, Director-General, for 1994-99, document C 93/23, is, in my opinion, the right approach in order to fulfil the FAO's future activities. However, current up-dating of programmes will be necessary. The matter of financing these programmes should be examined with great care.

The concept of establishing the Programme of Work and Budget has proved successful. Concentration on division of work according to where it is required seems to be extremely urgent. I am thinking especially of Europe and closer cooperation between the OECD and the EEC.

Due to the political changes in Europe, we think it is necessary for the FAO's work in Europe to take into account this new situation. For a new Europe there is a lot of hard work in front of us. The fields of extension of education and in-service training, therefore, should have our full support.

Austria will do everything it can in order to support the FAO's activities, both at regional and global level. This will apply to agriculture as well as to forestry.

We have followed with interest the work of the World Food Programme. I can assure you that Austria will also contribute in a constructive manner in the future to ensure that we alleviate the need arising from disaster areas. We hope that the Food and Agriculture Organization will be able to count on active support from all its Member States and therefore make a valuable contribution to the benefit of mankind.

Sadeq Amin ABU-RAAS (Yemen) (Original language Arabic): On behalf of the delegation of the Yemeni Republic, it is my pleasure to express our congratulations to all the officials elected to run the 27th session of the FAO General Conference. We place confidence in these persons. We would also like to express our deep appreciation for the excellent preparation of the Conference.

It is a pleasure for me to stand here before this forum once again to deliver the statement of the Yemeni Republic which sheds light on the agriculture and nutrition situation in our unified republic which chose the path of democracy and development to which we all aspire.

We hope that through common action we will be able to achieve the objectives set for the agricultural sector and economic and social development in general.

In this respect I should like to share with you some reflections on the constraints impeding the development of the agriculture sector as well as the prospects for the overall development of our country.

As you all know, the Yemeni Republic was unified in May 1990. Hence, the agriculture surface was horizontally increased as well as the population. Under the current economic, social and environmental conditions and faced with a decline in resources and an annual population increase rate of 3.1 percent, the performance of the traditional agriculture sector has slowed down. Actually, this sector absorbs 60 percent of total manpower, whereas its contribution to the gross national product does not exceed 30 percent.

In this new situation we are faced with enormous difficulties, especially the increasing demand for agricultural development projects in a country whose land surface amounts to 555 000 square kilometres (leaving aside the empty quarter) and with a population of the order of 14 million. Such demands cannot be met by the country alone. This is so not only in Yemen but in most developing countries. Such a situation requires additional support and assistance, especially from international agricultural organizations, banks, international development funds and friendly countries with capable development potential, so as to help those projects come into being within the scope of overall development.

As you know, the Republic of the Yemen is suffering from many problems, especially that about one million expatriates have returned to the country from the Arab Gulf States. Their return has caused many social and economic pressures, taking into account the limited potentialities, either in terms of creating working opportunities for these people or absorbing them in all economic sectors, particularly the agricultural one, or in terms of providing them with basic and social services. Hence, in order to overcome this problem it is essential to mobilize all our potentialities and to strengthen our cooperation with international organizations and funding institutions, at the forefront of which is FAO.

As far as the agricultural and nutritional situation in Yemen is concerned, the food gap has improved remarkably during the 80s and 90s in terms of the production of vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, cereals and dairy products. On the other hand, the consumption of sugar and rice, two food items that are not locally produced, has grown. Added to that, basic food items, especially wheat, are being increasingly imported. In 1992 the total wheat imports of the country amounted to 1 100 000 tons. Thus, this gap is no longer an economic or trade problem but rather a food security problem.

In this connection, I should mention the fact that the Yemeni Government is currently implementing a programme that aims at improving sources of income and rationalizing government expenditure so as to solve most of our structural economic problems and to rearrange the economic and living conditions in all sectors of production and services at the level of our national economy.

Agriculture in the Yemen is facing many environmental problems since it is mostly dependent on rainfall. Thus it has been suffering from excessive waves of drought, the deterioration of soil fertility as a result of soil erosion and desertification of agricultural lands, the collapse of mountaineous agricultural terraces due to its difficult conservation and excessive use of underground water.

Speaking of the Government's efforts in the field of agricultural development, the state, within the limit of its means, is sparing no efforts to expand agricultural development projects while trying to have a just distribution of such projects. The state also constructs dams and water barriers in order to be able to irrigate more agricultural lands. The Ministry of Agriculture is trying to encourage and enhance the roles of research, extension, development and lending institutes through giving loans to small farmers, the introduction and spread of modern technology and agricultural inputs. The state is also initiating the reclamation of agricultural lands and tries to solve the problems resulting from the previous land reclamation law. Accordingly, the agricultural policy adopted by Yemen aims at narrowing the food gap, through efforts by all development sectors, to focus our energies on the solution of our economic problems faced by the national economy in general and the agricultural sector in particular. Thus, we have adopted an agricultural development policy to stop and to narrow this food gap through the enhancement of the interaction between this significant strategic sector and other sectors of the economy, so there would be mutual complementarity in order to improve the agricultural production situation in Yemen.

The Yemen Government is trying to encourage investment in both the agricultural and fishing sectors, particularly since the length of our coast is of the order of 2 500 km. By virtue of the 1992 Yemeni investment law, concessions and facilities are being provided by the state in all fields of investments to national, Arab and foreign investors without any discrimination.

We should always remember the sufferings of the Iraqi people and the economic problems they are faced with, particularly the deteriorating health conditions and the diseases resulting from poor levels of nutrition and the policy which aims at subjecting the Iraqi people to hunger, and from the severe shortage of medicines and medical equipment. All these conditions have led to the death of hundreds of thousands of children, women and elderly people as a result of this unjust international embargo. In the light of this humanitarian situation, I appeal to you all, through

this international development forum, to take a responsible attitude and call for the lifting of this embargo.

Before concluding, I would like to thank the friendly countries in general and international organizations and funds, at the forefront of which is FAO, for their effective contribution to the field of agricultural development; and for their efforts to support and develop the agricultural sector, particularly for helping Yemen to eradicate the desert locust plague. Had it not been for this assistance the situation would have been totally different. This assistance took the form of pesticides and the necessary equipment.

We in the Republic of Yemen look forward to developing our cooperation with the FAO further under the newly elected Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, in order to enhance the activities of the agricultural sector in achieving our common objectives.

Finally, I wish our Conference every success in handling all the issues inscribed on its agenda.

Jerry GANA (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation is indeed delighted to attend the 27th Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of our delegation, may I join other delegates in congratulating you very warmly, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this Conference. We are impressed by the manner in which you have been directing the affairs of this Conference.

May I also, on behalf of the Government and people of Nigeria, congratulate the Director-General elect, Mr Jacques Diouf, on his election. We wish him a most successful tenure of office. In the same spirit, I wish to pay tribute to the outgoing Director-General for his immense contributions to the growth of FAO as a centre of excellence for food and agriculture.

We salute the outgoing Independent Chairman of the Council for his leadership and for his contribution to this Organization. The Secretariat of the FAO also deserve commendation, not only for facilitating the work of FAO but also for reproducing such excellent papers for this Conference. We want to join other delegates in welcoming the new members to FAO. We welcome them warmly to the family of the FAO.

This Conference is being held at a time when a substantial proportion of humanity is going through a most severe economic recession. The Cold War has disappeared only to give way, it seems, to a serious economic crisis, especially in developing countries. We had hoped that the end of the Cold War would free resources from the huge costs of armaments into peaceful development of infrastructure, food, agriculture, health, education, and so on. But millions of people in developing countries still sleep with empty stomachs, with other millions yet severely undernourished. Enlarged food security must therefore become a top priority programme.

In the battle to increase food production vastly to feed the growing millions, environmental degradation has set in with ravaging consequences. Yet we must produce food; we must produce industrial raw materials. The time has therefore come for us to intensify the concept and practice of sustainable development.

In view of massive pressures on the carrying capacity of the earth, the concept of sustainable development has become highly relevant. It is

correctly argued that if the objective of development is to improve people's choices, then it must do so not only for current generations but also for future generations. In other words, development must be sustainable and balanced.

To quote the World Commission on Environment and Development, "sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". That is to say, current consumption cannot be financed by incurring debts that future generations must pay. It also means that development must not endanger the natural systems that support life on earth: That is, the atmosphere, water resources, soil resources and living organisms.

Thus sustainable agricultural development must be an integrated strategy of rural transformation that ensures that land resources are exploited in such a wide manner as to ensure their preservation for future generations. Appropriate farm assistance must therefore be developed for each ecological zone so as to ensure sustainable crop production processes while preserving the strategic land resource base for future generations.

For agricultural development to be sustainable it must also generate popular participation, because "when people set their own goals, develop their own approaches and take their own decisions, human creativity and local problem-solving skills are released, and the development that arises therefrom is more likely to be self-sustaining". The concept of sustainable development must therefore 'weave development around people, not people around development'.

Mr Chairman, to achieve the concept of sustainable development we appeal for the developed world increasingly to help to channel more resources into the developing countries so as to increase the capacity of such countries to be able to develop their resources wisely.

We suggest that international financial institutions re-examine their strategies with a view to ensuring greater flow of investment funds to developing countries. The decline of investments, especially in Africa, and the burden which these countries have to bear, have compounded our difficulties and raised the ugly prospects of growing misery of our populations. These difficulties are further aggravated by such external factors as the increase in real interest rates, unfavourable exchange rates, falling prices of such commodities as tea, coffee, cocoa, etc. My delegation would therefore appeal to these organizations and other international organizations and countries that we reach a speedy and favourable conclusion of the GATT negotiations so as to facilitate access to markets for commodities from developing countries.

Turning to the budget and programmes of the FAO, I wish to confirm that we support the budget for the biennium 1994-95 and the priority programmes FAO will be implementing during this fiscal period. We recommend that Technical Cooperation Programmes which bring the FAO closer to small-scale farmers be given greater emphasis.

Mr Chairman, I am delighted to observe at this juncture that the Nigerian agricultural system is growing at about 4 to 5 percent, well ahead of population growth which has been estimated at 3.3 percent. Our collaborative efforts with the World Bank have paid off in a number of projects. Our agricultural development projects have stimulated growth of the agricultural sector. Experiences have confirmed that for effective and

sustainable agricultural programmes there is an urgent need to involve communities in the design as well as in the implementation of programmes.

To sustain our efforts, we appeal for even greater support as we seek to: a) ensure access by farmers to vital production inputs such as good seeds, fertilizers and agrochemicals; b) ensure that the provision of support services are prompt, adequate and cost-effective; c) provide reliable sources of farm credit, within the framework of fair recovery terms; d) facilitate access to such basic needs as good water, healthcare, education, shelter and transport; e) ensure increased productivity, improved incomes and rising standards of living for farmers; f) facilitate access to viable and profitable markets for farm produce; g) promote rural industrialization to facilitate processing of agricultural produce, and finally, emphasize that efficiency must always be combined with equity and total justice because the poor tend to drop out of the market place if market forces are allowed to operate fully. We believe that social safety nets must be designed to help the poor and the weak, while promoting efficiency. As a delegation we believe that FAO is doing an excellent job for the people of the world and look forward in the years ahead to working with the Organization so that together we will fight and win the battle against hunger.

CHAIRMAN: (Original language Arabic): We thank the delegate of Nigeria for his speech. We have taken note of all the achievements he has mentioned with regard to Nigerian agriculture.

Before we close today's meeting I give the floor to the Secretary of the Conference.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT: Je vous remercie M. le Président. Le Secrétariat n'a pas reçu toutes les interventions de congratulations qui avaient été annoncées ce matin. Je parle évidemment des congratulations au nouveau Directeur général.

Nous voudrions demander de les faire parvenir au plus tôt et pas plus tard que demain matin, de façon à pouvoir compléter les procès-verbaux de la journée d'hier.

The meeting rose at 18.50 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 50.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.50 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 93/PV/6

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-Septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(10 November 1993)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Tennyson Roscoe G. WELLS (Bahamas): Mr Chairman, honourable ministers and distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I bring you greetings from the Government and people of the Bahamas on the occasion of the 27th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference.

First, may I offer the congratulations of the Government and people of the Bahamas to you on your election as Chairman of the Session. I am confident that your experience and leadership have made and will continue to make this Conference productive and successful.

Also, on behalf of the Government of the Bahamas, I am pleased to warmly welcome the nations newly admitted to Membership.

Mr Chairman, as the Minister responsible for Agriculture and Fisheries in the Bahamian Government, which was elected to office on 19th August 1992, this is my first opportunity to address the Governing Body of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas became a Member of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in November 1975, and my government pledges its continued strong and unwavering support for the Organization and its objectives.

Mr Chairman, honourable ministers, three days after my government assumed office, my country was struck by the fury of hurricane Andrew. The damage to the agriculture sector of one of our most productive islands -Eleuthera - was severe.

Our request to FAO for assistance for farmers was readily accepted. The supplies of fertilizers/chemicals, small equipment and planting materials was provided in an expeditious manner. The supplies were distributed in an equitable manner throughout the devastated area and the farmers who received them are indeed grateful to this Organization.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to publicly express the heartfelt thanks of the Government and people of the Bahamas for the assistance of FAO.

Mr Chairman, fellow delegates, my government in the short period it has been in office has promulgated a new agricultural policy which is designed to foster the long-term development, use and conservation of national agricultural resources and to protect our country's future capacity to produce. It is my pleasure therefore to provide copies of the text of that policy to the library of FAO.

During the decade of the eighties, the Bahamas grew at a relatively fast rate, inflation was low and foreign debt was relatively small. Between 1980 and 1989, the Bahamas grew at an average annual rate of three percent. Over

the same period, inflation averaged six percent annually, -while the total outstanding public foreign debt at the end of 1989 was US\$200 million.

Tourism was the engine of growth for the economy. During the 1980s, the traditional tourism industry, stopover tourism, matured and the cruise ship industry flourished. Other industries such as fisheries and agriculture remained largely underdeveloped. By the early 1980s, it became evident that serious structural deficiencies were affecting the traditional Bahamian tourist product. The changes have ushered in an urgent mandate for longer-term solutions involving fundamental changes in domestic economic policies and development strategies. The agriculture and fisheries sectors have been targeted by the new administration for rapid development.

This policy, Mr Chairman and fellow delegates, incorporates important components which my government is convinced will lead to agriculture assuming a more prominent role in our present tourism and financial services-dominated economy. The feedback received to date from important sectors on the new policy has been most encouraging. I am confident that it will produce positive results.

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas is an archipelagic nation state spread over 100 000 square miles of the Atlantic ocean. We are fortunate to be blessed with largely untapped agriculture and fisheries resources.

My government is also actively pursuing the development of our fisheries potential as a means of providing employment for many more of our citizens and to further diversify our economy. We aim to fully develop the sustainable yield potential of these marine resources within our exclusive economic zone in accordance with the law of the sea convention.

The fishing industry plays an important role in the economy of the Bahamas and the Bahamian way of life. It is an industry that has good potential for growth through the expansion of the necessary infrastructure and manpower to efficiently and fully utilize the natural resources available within the 200 mile exclusive economic zone. It is in this development context that a new fisheries act and regulations, which was prepared with technical assistance from FAO, is being finalized.

We are now involved in a review process through a series of meetings with representatives from a wide range of sectors, all having an interest in the future protection and utilization of our marine environment. These groups have included fishermen, seafood processors, diving industry representatives, resort operators, mariculturists and marine conservationists.

When the review process is completed, we in Bahamas expect to have a legal and regulatory framework that will propel the development of a sustainable fishing industry and serve to protect our marine resources for future generations of Bahamians.

Mr Chairman, I have previously alluded to the fact that the Government of the Bahamas and FAO have pursued an active programme of cooperation over the years.

This programme of cooperation between FAO and the Government of the Bahamas began in the mid-1970s. Between that time and 1993, seven FAO/UNDP project activity projects, three unilateral trust fund activities, and 13 project activities under FAO technical cooperation programmes were implemented.

The Bahamas issued commemorative stamps in recognition of -the 40th Anniversary of FAO in 1985, and again in 1992 in support of the International Conference on Nutrition.

My country has actively participated in World Food Day activities and has found the World Food Day themes particularly 1993's theme "Harvesting native's diversity" very useful in providing a framework for community involvement in the efforts to increase food production.

I am also happy to report that my country has ratified the international Convention on biodiversity.

As a Member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources established by FAO Council Resolution January 1985, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas is eager to participate in the work of the Commission.

The island nation of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas with its delicate eco-system is particularly susceptible to all forms of pollution. As a result my country strongly supports the activities related to sustainable development and environment.

As we move to develop and exploit our forestry resources, the Bahamas will require even greater technical support in order to ensure that a proper balance is maintained to conserve our fresh water wetlands coastal zones and the agricultural potential. Our national policy mandates sustainability, for our very existence is dependent upon the full embodiment of that concept.

Mr Chairman, with your permission sir, I now wish to briefly comment on two issues relating to the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The first, Mr Chairman, has to do with the responsibility of each nation to provide for its own food security through the development of its own national resource endowments.

We in the Bahamas are most fortunate that the major part of our good agricultural land resources of some 238 000 acres is still available for agricultural development.

Our agricultural development strategy, which is clearly stated in our new agricultural policy, involves government contributing to and facilitating those important development components, which are considered the traditional responsibility of government. These include crop and livestock research, extension and training, provision of rural infrastructure such as roads, water, telephone, ports, electricity and marketing support.

Our new agricultural policy also requires us to maintain the necessary legislative and regulatory framework in the agricultural sector which is critical to the attainment of the objectives of a balanced economy. Increased agricultural production for the domestic market and export will require greater resources to conserve and protect the agricultural land and water for future productive use.

Mr Chairman, the agricultural development programmes which are promoted by FAO on a global basis are consistent with the objectives of our new policy.

The second issue, Mr Chairman, concerns the financing and management of Food and Agriculture Organization operations.

My government won office on a campaign of openness, fairness and accountability. We share the view of Member Nations that efficiency, accountability and effectiveness should also characterize the operations of this Organization.

Mr Chairman, I wish to commend this Organization's technical cooperation programme from which my country has continued to receive valuable assistance. My country has four outstanding requests for assistance under this programme. My government shares the view that this Programme must be retained and expanded if possible.

Mr Chairman, let me conclude by congratulating the newly elected Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf and again pledge my country's strong and unwavering support for the Organization.

Baroness CHALKER OF WALLESEY (united Kingdom): Allow me to start by offering my warm congratulations to Jacques Diouf on his election. This was an important day for Africa. I also send my sincere commiserations to the other candidates who took part in such a hard fought context. We all know it is like to win, but we also know what it's like to lose.

When FAO was founded in 1945 the international community entrusted it with four key tasks: to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to secure improvement in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, to better the conditions of rural populations; and thereby to contribute towards an expanding world economy, and to ensure humanity's freedom from hunger. These were noble objectives but daunting ones too. The world's population immediately after the Second World War was some 2.3 billion. By 1991, it had more than doubled to 5.4 billion. Total grain production in 1948, just six years after the calamitous Bengal famine, was 650 million metric tons. In 1991, it was 1 900 million metric tons, three times as much. Self-evidently, the world has been remarkably successful in increasing food production but it hardly keeps pace with rapid population growth. Although food production since the mid-1960s has increased faster than population growth, this success story of the Green Revolution does not tell the whole story. In spite of these successes, there are far too many areas of the world where famine still reaps its terrible harvest. Every year, 22 million people die from hunger and malnutrition-related diseases. Two-thirds of them are children. As Ministers gather here for this important Conference, we should stand back and ask ourselves whether FAO, almost 50 years "on", has been successful in the tasks set by our predecessors. If the answer is no, we should consider what has gone wrong. Has FAO failed to meet the vision of its founders? Or has the problem simply been too enormous for the United Nations to cope with? There has not been a failure to enhance agricultural production. The record is impressive. FAO has played a significant part in this, not least in helping governments to put in place policies to encourage agricultural production and through the highly regarded work of the Investment Centre.

That is the positive side.

The negative side is famine and, all too often, armed conflict. But it is not FAO's role to intervene in armed conflict. That is the job of the United Nations itself. The FAO task is to be ready when peace is restored and people return to the land to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. So, the FAO is absolved of responsibility where fighting forces people to flee the land. But can it be said to have an effective and

successful impact over the large part of the earth where there is peace? Here measurement is difficult. FAO would not claim to have played a major part in, for example, post-Second World War agricultural development in the USA or Western Europe - two major grain producing areas. But FAO continues to play an important global role in providing a world data centre on food and agriculture, in analysing data, in identifying problems and in providing a forum where the international community can reach agreement on how to tackle major issues. At the regional level, FAO has an important role in providing a forum for discussion of issues which extend beyond national boundaries. It can also play a vital part in coordinating and stimulating action to address problems affecting regions rather than individual countries : locust control is a notable example.

FAO has a special role at the national level, working alongside governments and other donors to identify constraints to increasing agricultural production in a sustainable manner and to improving nutrition. It also works with them in the formulation and carrying out of policies, helping to strengthen constitutional capacity and to plan and execute priority projects. These are by no means negligible achievements. Indeed, many of them represent major successes for FAO. But are they sufficient? Sufficient in the sense of being in line with what we can reasonably expect of FAO under the terms of its constitution? The FAO Constitution has a strong flavour of idealism. So it should. But there also has to be realism. We can reasonably say that the FAO has, and is, fulfilling the role in keeping the world informed on the global agricultural situation and in drawing attention to future problems. In its role of providing a forum for the discussion of agricultural problems, FAO can also point to successes. But this role is more limited than I believe the founders had in mind; not because FAO has chosen to circumscribe its activities, but because some activities now fall to others. The most obvious example is agricultural trade which comes primarily within the remit of GATT. Nonetheless, FAO does have and will continue to have a vital function in bringing together experts from around the world to resolve a wide range of agricultural problems. But too often it seems that FAO's work on the global stage is overshadowed by its technical assistance programmes. These programmes are important. Through them FAO helps countries to develop their agriculture, forestry and fisheries institutions. FAO also helps with sub-sector planning and with project finance, especially, for those projects which offer the potential for replication. Planning and prioritization are by no means easy. The difficulty as FAO itself has pointed out is getting people to agree on what should not be priorities. This cannot be avoided. We must all recognize that efficient and effective use of limited resources inevitably means that certain activities have to be deferred or even dropped. We believe that the role of FAO as conceived by its founders has remained valid for the 1990s. But what FAO now has to demonstrate is that it is ready to meet the changing needs and challenges of the next century. Let me mention just two. Nobody doubts the importance of FAO's role in the follow-up to Rio. It may possibly replace some of FAO's more traditional activities. I do not wish to be prescriptive about how FAO meets the challenge. We shall be looking to the new Director-General to give us his ideas on how FAO can respond to the environmental agenda which UNCED gave the international community at Rio.

The second challenge is the need for better coordination among development agencies. The international financial institutions, the United Nations agencies, the European Community, research institutions, all are working in areas similar to FAO. We want to see complementary activity, without duplication.

We want each agency to do what it does best and in the most cost-effective way. This is not always easy but it is what current reform of the United Nations is all about. I hope therefore that this issue will be a top priority for FAO and the new Director-General.

Mr Chairman, I have deliberately concentrated so far on the substance of FAO's work. But the governing bodies of FAO have a responsibility to give clear policy guidance. This is an area where the membership could do more.

The need for sound and transparent management of FAO is another important area. Governance and management are two separate but closely linked tasks. Successful governance requires full information from management. Management also needs to submit itself to periodic reviews of its effectiveness. These basic requirements extend to all our agencies, large or small, national or international.

I am sure that they are what the new Director-General will respond to this end. We look forward to a new era of improved cooperation, transparency and effectiveness under the leadership of Jacques Diouf.

Mr Chairman, I started by referring to the growth of the world's population over the past fifty years. Let me end by looking to our future. It took a billion years to build the earth's cover that feeds our planet. We have destroyed half of it in just one hundred years. By the year 2000, the planet is expected to have a population of six billion. By the year 2100 a staggering ten billion. To avoid a world where there is gross overcrowding and inadequate food we, the international community, have to take urgent action on two fronts :

First, we have to give people the opportunity to have children by choice, not chance. This means education and family planning services. Second, we have to make significant progress in increasing sustainable agricultural production and improving the distribution of food so that famine becomes a spectre of the past. FAO's motto - FIAT PANIS - is even more relevant seen against these stark necessities.

I believe that the FAO has the mandate, the means, and the will to play its full part in meeting these challenges. It now has a new Director-General whose agenda and vision will be crucial in determining the future shape and success of FAO. We wish Jacques Diouf well in this difficult task. We promise our whole-hearted support for him and for the Organization. During the next three weeks, we will hear a great many words and promises. My government, Mr Chairman, will be watching FAO very carefully, in the hope that these words and promises will be translated into real action and an agenda for change.

The vision of FAO's founders can still be fulfilled. We must not fail them; FAO must not fail them. The consequences of failure are too terrible to contemplate.

Tae-Soo KIM (Republic of Korea): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: I am glad to begin my address with my warmest thanks to our outgoing Director-General, Edouard Saouma, and highest congratulations to our incoming Director-General Jacques Diouf. The Republic of Korea would like to pay tribute to the innermost missions to

the freedom from hunger and malnutrition, conducted by Mr .Saouma, of the last eighteen years. Your highest service is now the history of the last forty-eight year old FAO. You deserve our thanks and best wishes for the future.

The Government of the Republic of Korea also would like to congratulate Mr Diouf on the election as our new Director-General for the next six years. My Delegation is confident in your wisdom and is strongly committed to your work with the FAO under your new leadership for the years to come.

Further, Mr Chairman, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating our ten new FAO families. I wish to extend the best wishes of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Mr Chairman, today, we are here again to renew our untiring endeavors for the sustained development of the world agricultural and rural sector which will provide the necessary locomotive force in bringing about global prosperity.

We still have the tragic reality of 40 000 children dying everyday of hunger and malnutrition throughout the world in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, while problems encountered elsewhere in this same world result from the difficulties arising from excess agricultural surpluses.

Furthermore, we also face the fact that global environmental resources, which serve as the foundation of all food production activity, have become so depleted that it has become imperative for the global community to embrace our common responsibility to properly care for them.

Mr Chairman, the agro-fisheries industry functions alternately as a source of employment and income, a provider of a stable supply of food, and a buffer that aids in conservation and the balanced development of national lands. It is at the core of national economic development and has a place among those seminal industries which each and every country should continuously strive to develop.

Developing nations in particular need to rely on self-generation and expansion of the agro-fisheries industry to facilitate economic development, as large foreign debts and lack of foreign reserves often prevent them from accumulating the surplus resources necessary to invest in other industries.

Yet, in many of developing countries, most agricultural items except for a limited few cannot escape the local production structure. Moreover, the explosive population growth in rural areas makes it increasingly difficult for such countries to sustain development.

Mr Chairman, it is estimated that by the year 2000, the world population will grow to approximately 6 billion. Ninety percent of the increase will occur in developing countries, which are the least equipped to provide for the increasing population given poor production structures.

If present trends do not change, the populations of developing countries that are already facing difficulties securing a stable supply of foodstuffs will have no choice but to bring about further damage to the environment.

Clearly, this is not desirable. In the event that the present situation deteriorates further and we see an upward spiral of world agricultural

prices, these helpless people will become even more vulnerable than they are today and may even face the tragedy of starvation.

Therefore, I believe that our efforts should be further concentrated on strengthening our respective national agro-fisheries and forestry sector in a sustainable manner, based on the principle that all member countries should maintain an appropriate level of self-sufficiency in at least the most critical staple foods. This, I believe, is the realistic way of freeing the human race from starvation and pursuing global co-prosperity.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, it is my pleasure to inform that my Government has renewed efforts to set up a new agricultural policy with respect to the agro-fisheries industry since the inauguration of the new administration this year. The basis of the new policy is the resolve of my government to construct a sound and sustainable development foundation for the agro-fisheries sector within the next five years, or by 1997. This resolution is borne out of such beliefs as I have expressed earlier.

My Government's new agro-fisheries policy primarily aims to transform the thus far labour and land-intensive agro-fisheries industry into a cutting-edge, high value-added industry capable of making full use of technology and capital. Its ultimate goal is to strengthen the competitiveness and the sustainability of the agro-fisheries industry.

To achieve this end, my Government is stressing the importance of the voluntary participation of the farming community.

I sincerely hope that such cooperation between the Government and fishing and farming communities will result in the realization of our ultimate goal of bringing "countryside left behind" to the main stream of national prosperity.

Mr Chairman, at this time, when a new order is being sought for world agriculture, the international community should give every possible support for the efforts to find fundamental solutions to the problems of world food and agriculture for the benefit of all.

This year's adverse climatic conditions such as the abnormally low temperatures, shortage of sunlight, and floods which have wreaked serious damage to the major agricultural regions of many countries, including my own, have clearly demonstrated the unpredictability that is inherent in this sector.

They remind us us once again that agriculture by its very nature rests on favourable climatic conditions. Certainly, blind optimism about world food security benefits no one.

In this connection, I would like to stress that all those involved in the Uruguay Round of Negotiations on Agriculture should take full account of the level of development of the agricultural sector in each individual country. Every possible effort should be channelled towards reaching a balanced and fair agreement between developed and developing countries and food importing and exporting countries. The agreement should not obstruct the balance between efficiency and food security of each country.

We should keep in mind that a uniform reduction of domestic support and an unconditional market liberalization through tariffication, without exception, will create adverse effects. We must not overlook the possible

dangers of such measures and permit them to threaten the world system of food security.

Mr Chairman, I believe it is a mandate for the developed countries to promote global co-prosperity by significantly increasing both their level of imports from developing countries and Official Development Aid. Such steps would go far in helping countries in need to establish a sound economic foundation for food self-sufficiency at an early date.

In this regard, the relevant international organizations, particularly the FAO, should once again strengthen their catalytic roles in these endeavours to promote international cooperation toward concrete solutions.

On behalf of the Republic of Korea, my Government will actively partake in the common effort of the international community to strengthen cooperative development by actively undertaking a role commensurate with its own level of economic development.

For this purpose, the Korea International Cooperation Agency was established to manage the ever growing demand for technical cooperation from developing countries. In addition to the activities of KOICA, my Government has also jointly sponsored with the FAO a number of training programmes for foreign nationals in the agro-fisheries sector since 1991.

In the future my country will continue to openly share the lessons of its experience with interested nations, in full support of the TCDC Programme and the spirit of South-South cooperation.

I am also pleased to inform this Conference that my country accepts the figure of US\$2.5 million, which has been proposed as our contribution to the FAO for next year, a three-fold increase over our previous level of contribution.

Mr Chairman, taking this opportunity, I would like to make a few observations on the future activities of the Organization.

First, my country hopes that the results of the study "Agriculture Toward 2010", ambitiously pursued by the FAO, will soon be applied to action programmes. In this regard, I would also like to express my hope that FAO Secretariat will organize a World Conference on Plant Genetic Resources at the earliest possible date so that specific ways to put into action the principles of international cooperation and resolution of problems may be sought.

In relation to the formulation of the "Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing" and "International Agreement on the Flagging of Vessels Fishing on the High Seas", I believe that all concerned countries should first be granted an opportunity to voice their needs and interests. If there are to be regulatory measures, we believe that the best approach is through adoption and expansion by necessity.

Second, my Government supports the decision of the Secretariat to freeze the FAO budget for the 1994-95 biennium and to limit the financial burden for member countries.

I would like to ask, however, that special attention be paid to technical and economic programmes. I urge that cuts in the area should be made very carefully so as to enhance the effectiveness of the various projects in the

implementation stage and minimise any adverse effects arising from the budget cuts.

Third, I recommend that the number of people participating in the Expert Committee meeting on Phytosanitary measures be determined after consideration of the size of the regional organizations. I also hope to see further improvement in the Global Information Early Warning System to enable the FAO to take immediate and effective measures in times of urgency.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the new era of the 21st century is only six years away. The tremendous missions of agriculture, forests, fisheries and rural development, including environmental protection of the world, need our concrete efforts ever more, not just for today's generation, but also for future generations. For this reason, the world food and agricultural systems are facing a new challenge of change and reform every year. The FAO also cannot be an exception.

My distinguished delegates, the present FAO also needs new vision and a new determination for change and reform for the efficient continuation of our whole service for the surviving peoples, for freedom from hunger and malnutrition from the East to the West and from the South to the North.

The forty year old FAO needs fresh blood in order to carry out its high mission ever more properly and efficiently in a balanced manner. The FAO has just elected a new Director-General. It is the right time for the FAO to re-strengthen its mission for the coming 21st century with unity under the new leadership of the new Director-General. The Republic of Korea will continue to support and work closely with the FAO.

Datuk Seri SANUSI JUNID (Malaysia): Mr Chairman, Vice-chairman, FAO, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

First of all, I would like to join other delegations to this Conference to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important meeting. I would also like to congratulate the three Vice-chairmen who will assist you during our deliberations for the next three weeks.

On behalf of my Government, my delegation and I would like to convey our warmest congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf of Senegal on his election as the new Director-General of FAO. We have every confidence that Mr Diouf will be able to execute his duties and responsibilities with a great sense of dedication, as Dr Saouma did, and Malaysia looks forward to having closer collaboration with the FAO. I would also like to congratulate the new friendly nations who are admitted into the FAO at this Conference.

Mr Chairman, in the period preceding the last Conference, the Malaysian Government had launched four important programmes, namely : Vision 2020, The Second Outline Perspective Plan; The National Development Policy; and The Sixth Malaysia Plan.

During the same period before this Conference, we launched the National Agricultural Policy (1992-2010). This new national agricultural policy will address the shortcomings of the previous policy and takes into account Vision 2020 and the Second Outline Perspective Plan. Our goal is to transform the agricultural sector into one that is highly modernized, commercialized and sustainable, whose growth and development will be market

driven and human resource led. The overriding objective of the policy is the maximization of income through optimal utilization of resources. Its specific objectives will include the achievement of a balanced development between the agricultural and other sectors of the economy, enhancement of the integration of the sector with the rest of the economy, in particular the manufacturing sector, the achievement of a higher level and greater depth of food industry development and the attainment of sustainable development in agriculture.

It is often said that Rome was not built in a day. While it is true in many aspects, there are others who said that it also depends on the architects who built it. Thus the transformation of a country, or a society, or an organization, depends on the pace one sets for it to move.

Relating the experience of Malaysia it has transformed itself from being a predominantly subsistence agricultural country depending on rubber and rice in the 50's, where nearly 70 percent of the labour force finds employment in the agriculture sector, to a commodity-based country from the 60's to the early 80's, then to a semi-industrialized country in the late 80's, from where it envisioned itself to be a fully industrialized country by the year 2020. It has also reduced its level of poverty from a high 66 percent in 1970 to 17 percent in 1990. We now have full employment except for those who refuse to work.

Based on our experience in reducing poverty and similar experiences of other nations, we call upon Member Nations to give serious thought to the establishment of WIPER, which is the acronym for the World Institute of Poverty Eradication.

I have mentioned WIPER at the CIRDAP Conference in Hanoi, the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, in Beijing, China in April 1990 and also in the last 26th Session of the FAO Conference in November, 1991. In fact, the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization Conference which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in February 1992 had unanimously adopted the resolution which called for the establishment of WIPER among member countries.

The proposal to establish WIPER signifies the seriousness in the commitment of the government in its effort at poverty eradication programmes in Malaysia, as well as the desire to share Malaysia's experience in eradicating poverty with other developing countries. The establishment of WIPER would certainly institutionalize and globalize efforts towards meeting this desire.

In order to accommodate for differences in ideology, culture and economic practices, WIPER in each country should be an independent, private national training institution, the idea for which can be shared internationally.

The setting of WIPER and its network would give human development a further boost in light of its increasing realization as a necessary prerequisite for development.

I am happy to note at this Conference that the management of FAO is able to present a longer term projection of world agriculture towards 2010 which represents, in part, the FAO vision of agriculture in the next 17 years. Malaysia, on its part, has already presented its vision of being a developed nation by the year 2020. Along with this vision, it had recently

announced its long term guidelines for agriculture in the -form of its new agriculture policy towards 2010.

The national agriculture policy is in congruence with the FAO World Projection towards 2010, at thus greater collaboration can be expected between Malaysia and FAO.

Weaker economic recovery in the industrialized countries, higher external debt of developing countries and decreasing commodity prices shall continue to be inhibiting factors for food and agriculture. Coupled with natural disasters such as drought, floods and man-made conflicts and civil wars, growth in food and agriculture may be further impeded, and if it is unchecked could lead to widespread famine, hunger and malnutrition.

Food aid and other emergency relief programmes are solutions to those countries affected by natural disasters and civil wars and conflicts. Malaysia is appreciative of the food given by the donor nations to the affected countries, while on its part has contributed in the way it can towards relieving the human suffering in these countries on a bilateral basis and through UN agencies.

Mr Chairman, the task for FAO and for all Member Nations, would be to support specific programmes to build up the food production capacities of the affected countries. The recent International Conference on Nutrition held in December 1992, was a testimony of the world's cry for action against food deficiency, hunger and malnutrition. Parallel with the build up of production capacities would be the creation of suitable economic environment from fairer prices for major agricultural exports, stabilization of prices of agriculture inputs, and greater market access of the produce of the affected countries.

Malaysia views seriously the issues of the preservation of the environment and that development should take place in a sustainable manner. Not only was it an active participant and signatory to the Rio UNCED Declaration of 1992 on Environment, and Convention on Bio-diversity.

It has also instituted certain programmes and regulations to enhance environment preservation on its own.

As regards to sustainable development with reference to agriculture, Malaysia would like to share FAO's tidings on the integration of environment into development process particularly on support and promotion of diversified production systems in low external input agriculture as recommended by the Den Bosch Conference.

Malaysia's production system is unique in that it varies from the most efficient high external input estate system to the low external input shifting cultivation, although the latter is very much localized.

Mr Chairman, over the years from the 40s to the 90s progress in science and technology, market information, management and financing have made agriculture successful and efficient and profitable for some, while for others it remains in the shadow of progress and development needing support and assistance to bring that type of agriculture to the forefront. This dichotomous state of agriculture is not only found between nations, that is between those efficient and the less efficient, but also found within nations. As regards to the latter, Malaysia is one of the example where there is an efficient commercial estate sub-sector which produces rubber,

palm oil, cocoa and poultry, and a less efficient small holders sub-sector which produces rice, and other kinds of food. Although industrialization absorbs a significant proportion of those in the small holder sub-sector, there remains a significant proportion who persist in agriculture because they do not have an alternative choice and those that believe that it is the right life for them. This has become a subject of concern to governments, and also a subject of debate in seminars and fora.

Malaysia on its part, will continue to support the two sub-sectors in terms of policies and development programmes. Most crucial in agriculture at the moment is the role of finance. It is our belief that FAO would be able to throw some light into this question of financial services for the small farmers sector, more so with increasing policy and structural changes that are taking place towards more liberal market economies, not only in Malaysia but also in other parts of the world.

Mr Chairman, livestock production in Malaysia is expected to continue to expand to meet the growing demand for livestock products as a result of population increase and economic growth. To safeguard Malaysia's livestock industry, considerable effort goes into the development of contingency plans to deal with possible exotic disease outbreak.

Being one of the coastal states, Malaysia is happy to report that the extended jurisdiction arising out of UNCLOS 1982 has managed in good measure to achieve much of its objectives of better management of fishing stocks in our waters leading to modest benefits to our country. We are concerned, however, with the present state of capitalization in the world fishing fleets, problems associated with straddling stocks and high seas fishing.

We laud the efforts of FAO in its endeavour to establish a new Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Malaysia is committed to the sustainable management, conservation and development of its forest resources. This is in line with Malaysia's position as a member country of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) as well as in subscribing to the ITTO year 2000 target where it is required that all trade in tropical timber be sourced from sustainably managed forest. This is also in line with the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992.

With this in view the national forestry policy had been revised in 1993 where emphasis is extended to forest legislation, forest plantation, agro-industry, non-wood forest products, community forestry, recreation, agrotourism and ecotourism. Conservation of bio-diversity, specific values and international cooperation.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like to express Malaysia's appreciation on the contribution of FAO and other UN agencies to our development efforts. The tasks before FAO and Member Nations are indeed challenging, more so with a multitude of issues surfacing as a result of the realization by many Member Nations of their need to protect economic and political frontiers towards achieving a more equitable world order.

Before I leave the stand, let me once again thank FAO and Dr Edouard Saouma, the former Director-General, who have been most helpful

to Malaysia, and we look forward to a closer collaboration, with FAO and the new Director-General in the near future.

As this is my fourth speech in the Biennial FAO Conference, and I am probably one of the oldest, if not the oldest serving Agriculture Minister in this forum, I wish to pay tribute to Dr Edouard Saouma for a job well done and for a life well spent. I will remember you Dr Saouma, not just as the highest and longest serving official of the FAO, but also as a friend. Thank you.

WANG JIANGON(China) Mr Chairman, first of all I wish to explain that the head of the Chinese Delegation, Minister Liu Jiang has left for an urgent commitment at home. Now please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Delegation, as the Deputy Leader of the Chinese Delegation and in the name of Minister Liu Jiang, to offer our warm congratulations to you and the three Vice-chairmen on your election to the Bureau of this Conference. I firmly believe that under your able guidance, the Conference will come to a successful conclusion. I also would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere greetings to Dr Diouf on his election as the Director-General of FAO and to the new Member States which were admitted into FAO at this Conference, and I welcome the readmission of South Africa into the Organization.

Since the last session of the FAO Conference, there have been some positive developments in the world of food and agriculture. The international community is paying greater attention to the development of agriculture and many countries have carried out agrarian reform and structural readjustment which have pushed forward food and agricultural production in the world. Currently, the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition is still on the rise, compounded by ever-increasing world population, diminishing natural resources, deteriorating environment as well as irrational economic order and trade system.

All these are posing ever more serious challenges to the global agricultural production and sustainable development of the rural economy. We hope that the international community and developed countries will provide more agricultural assistance to the developing countries, lessen their debt burdens, speed up financial and technological transfer, eliminate protectionism in trade for agricultural products and improve external environment for agricultural development in developing countries so as to achieve substantial progress in the world food and agricultural production.

Mr Chairman, a just and rational trading system is an important guarantee for sustainable agricultural development and food security. We noted with concern the continuous fall of the prices in real terms for developing countries' agricultural exports and the subsequent shrinking of their purchasing power, which have greatly hampered their effort to increase export earnings and invigorate their national economies. We hope that all countries or groups of countries participating in the GATT talks can iron out their differences and, conclude at an earliest possible date the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, so as to lay a solid foundation for the world agricultural development. We also hope that, in this process, special preferential treatment can be considered for the developing countries, so as to, among others, compensate those countries beset by the rising cost of food imports.

Environment and development are getting more and more attention from governments and peoples around the world. It is indeed an urgent and demanding task for mankind today to accelerate economic development and at the same time protect environment and conserve natural resources so that they can always be utilized to benefit the generations to come. We believe that conservation and development are two facets of equal importance for sustainable agriculture. The latest scientific and technological achievement should be used to rationally exploit natural resources. This will be of great significance to sustainable agricultural development. It is our hope that the developed countries will undertake more obligations in conserving the environment and resources, and accelerate the transfer of financial resources and relevant technologies to the developing countries.

Mr Chairman, as one of the specialized agencies in the UN system, FAO is entrusted with the historical mandate to eradicate poverty, alleviate hunger and malnutrition and ensure steady, sustainable agricultural development in the world. In the changing international situation, FAO is facing more and more rigorous challenges. Therefore, it is necessary for FAO to strengthen its capacity and bring its role into full play. We have also taken note, however, that many countries have various difficulties in fulfilling their financial obligations. With this in mind, we agree in principle to the zero growth programme as contained in the "Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95" submitted by the Director-General to the current session of the Conference. We also agree that priority will be given to the follow-up activities of UNCED and ICN when allocating the supplementary resources of the budget. Nevertheless, we regret to note that there are significant cuts in funds allocated to certain substantive activities such as agriculture and fishery. TCP is well received by the developing countries and the funds for TCP have never reached the 17 percent set by Resolution 89/9. We hope that the Director-General will spare no effort in raising the budget allocation level of the previously-established 14 percent for TCP. At the same time, we also hope that the Member States will do their utmost to honour their financial obligations so as to render vigorous support to FAO's activities.

Mr Chairman, the reform in rural China has been carried out at a faster rate over the past few five years. The reform in the circulation system of agricultural products has obtained a break-through. On the basis of lifting control on the purchasing and marketing prices for aquatic products and fruits, the Chinese Government has again basically liberalized such prices on grains all over the country. In the meantime, there is a new development in the reform of macro-management and the operational mechanism, as needed by the socialist market economy, is well under way. In the process of deepening rural economic reforms, we have made further progress in implementing the proven rural economic policies and have also taken many measures aimed at protecting agricultural and alleviating farmers' burdens. In so doing, a sustained development of agricultural production and rural economy can be assured.

This year, the performance of China's food and agricultural production is generally good. It is estimated that the annual food production is expected to reach 440 million tonnes, which equals the level of last year's bumper harvest. The output of meat, eggs and aquatic products has also increased by a large margin as compared with 1992. Township enterprises have continued to develop in a steady and healthy way. Nevertheless, there exist some problems in our agricultural development, which are mainly that our country has a huge population. The per capita resources are insufficient. There is unbalanced development of rural economies with the expanding gap

between the central western and eastern parts, and at present we still have not basically solved the problem of feeding and clothing 80 million people in the country. For this we shall continue to make efforts and adopt necessary measures so as to further mobilize the enthusiasm of the farmers, fully emancipate the productive forces and promote sustainable, steady and coordinated development of the country's agricultural production and the rural economy as a whole.

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to the role FAO plays and -has maintained with it a good relationship of cooperation.

We have noted with appreciation the positive contributions made by Dr Edouard Saouma during his tenure as Director-General of FAO and world food and agriculture. In particular, he took the initiative to establish the "Action Programme to Strengthen World Food Security" and the "Technical Cooperation Programme", as well as to promote decentralization. All of these measures have played an instrumental role in enhancing FAO's vitality and in increasing assistance to developing countries.

We believe that the new Director-General with his outstanding competence and rich experience will lead the FAO in making important contributions to fundamentally solving the major issues facing food and agriculture in the world, and particularly in helping the developing countries to eradicate poverty and to enhance agriculture.

The Chinese Government will, as ever, render support to FAO's endeavours, and is ready to join with all other Member Nations in making positive contributions to the development of the world's food and agriculture.

M. MAJIDUL-UL-HAQ (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, distinguished representative of the Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a pleasure for me to address the 27th Session of the FAO Conference.

The agenda contains numerous items of importance to us all and I look forward to the presentations and follow-up discussions. It is only through informed debate that we can move forward in our quest for expanded and more secure world food production. On behalf of the Bangladesh delegation and on my own behalf I offer you, Mr Chairman, my warmest felicitations on your election as Chairman of the 27th Session of the Conference. I assure you, Mr chairman, of our fullest cooperation in ensuring the success of this Conference. I would also like to convey our warmest felicitations to Mr Edouard Saouma, whose efforts in upholding the Charter of the FAO and capable of this vast organization must be recorded with our deep appreciation.

It also gives us great pleasure to express our heartiest felicitation to the Director-General elect, Dr Jacques Diouf, and new Members of FAO. We wish them well.

I have had the privilege of representing Bangladesh on the 26th Session of the Conference of the FAO, and I must say that during the intervening period a number of important steps have been taken. It is no longer debatable that adequate strengthening of organizations such as FAO and the World Food Programme are essential for continued expansion of world food production, and ensuring food security. While good progress in production of food, fuel and fodder is being achieved in many areas, the spectra of

famine, desertification and land degradation have not been eliminated. There is little room, therefore, for complacency. In a number of countries, including Bangladesh, introduction of policy reforms have brought about substantive changes which have made it possible for private enterprises to become involved in the total marketing process of agricultural inputs, including fertilizers. In Bangladesh we are on the threshold of self-sufficiency in cereal production and have even begun to look at the possibility of exporting surplus rice. This has been a remarkable achievement for a small country with limited arable land and a burgeoning population.

It is, therefore, clearly evident that the policy reforms, particularly the private sector involvement in the marketing and distribution of agricultural inputs, have contributed to increased food production to a large extent. This blessing, however, is not unmixed. This process of transition from public sector activity to the private has resulted in the desbandment of significant number of employees of governmental organizations in a developing overpopulated country, which already has a sizeable percentage of unemployed youth. This is bound to have political implications which must not be overlooked if a newly acquired democratic system is to be nurtured to maturity.

While we are on this point, I would like to bring to the notice of the distinguished delegates that the food donor countries and the World Food Programme should adopt a more flexible programme for those countries which are approaching food grain self-sufficiency. For example, it should be made possible to substitute pulses or oilseeds in lieu of wheat or rice in food aid programmes if the recipient country is able to achieve cereal self-sufficiency. It should also be made possible to provide non-food commodities, such as fertilizers, which could then be sold in the local market thereby generating funds for purchasing locally produced rice or wheat for food-for-work and other poverty alleviation programmes. Such an approach would stabilize farm-level wheat and rice prices, which will invariably be depressed as a country moves from chronic deficit to one of periodic or continued self-sufficiency. This should be a transitional mode to ease the adjustment period from deficit to self-sufficiency.

Bangladesh is presently going through a difficult process of transition from a food deficient to a near food surplus country. While we rejoice over the fact that we are now able to meet most of our food-grain needs, we bemoan the fact that this surplus production has considerably reduced paddy prices at the farm level almost below the cost of production. Hence, the proposal I have described would, I believe, do much to ease the transition of developing countries from one of deficit production to one of surplus production.

Mr Chairman, I would like to bring to your attention that subsidized cereal production by developed countries has resulted in low world prices for all cereals. For developing countries such as Bangladesh, who are now exploring export opportunities for rice, find world prices which are less than our cost of production. Since we in Bangladesh are moving to a net export position, these low world prices are blocking our export effort. As if this malady was not enough, many developing countries have conditions attached to their loans which require them not to subsidize their farm products. While I can understand the logic for this condition, and realize that we in the developing countries do not have the resources to compete in the world subsidy war, even if we wanted to, the result is that farmers in developing countries are harmed by subsidies which are being pumped into farms in

developed countries. This dichotomy is affecting the Third World countries very adversely and is bound to be counter-productive economically in the long run.

Mr Chairman, this problem warrants discussion and adoption of a resolution by FAO while I do not want to embarrass any of the development partners who continue to be generous in their development support, I would like to point out that this issue is not only a GATT issue, but a development issue as well. Subsidized cereal and grain production in developed countries is harmful to farmers in developing countries. In order to counteract this, the donor countries should be more flexible with regard to subsidies in developing countries.

Mr Chairman, later in the Conference we will be discussing the state of the world food and agriculture situation. I understand that in general the food situation is improving, with production of food up by an estimated 4 percent over last year and carry-over stocks up by 5 percent. While this is gratifying, there are still countries where many of its citizens are suffering from lack of food: either there is not enough food produced or available within the country or that individuals lack money to buy food. This being so, we have no reason whatsoever to rest on our laurels till we have eliminated the remaining pockets of hunger and suffering that persist. While we must make efficient use of the limited resources available to the FAO, we must ensure that important ongoing programmes are adequately financed, and that important new initiatives are undertaken.

As we move forward towards the year 2010 and beyond, we will have the responsibility to feed many millions more people. I am confident that we will be successful in achieving this objective, but it will not be without problems along the way. In my view, the solution includes continued policy reforms and infrastructure development by governments, expanded private sector investment in agri-business such as distribution and marketing, and by development and adoption of new technology, especially biotechnology.

The policy reforms needed include more liberalization of markets and more private sector investment in the agriculture service sector. I feel that if developing countries can build good infrastructure in rural areas such as roads that connect with agricultural markets that are either publicly or privately owned, and electricity lines service irrigation pumps and grain mills, then we can expect to see significant growth and job creation in our rural areas. We must build and improve our infrastructure, while at the same time tearing down any remaining barriers to private investment in agriculture and the sector servicing agriculture.

As for technology, we can count on continuing new developments. Biotechnology, of course, is something we all expect to usher in new opportunities. Also, there are many examples of existing technologies that are not being fully utilized. For example, if one looks at average rice yields in South and South-East Asia, one will see different average yields, implying that there is a significant extension opportunity in those countries with low average yields. All of these opportunities will need to be pursued if we are going to feed the world population in the year 2010. With realistic programmes by FAO and other institutions, combined with an expansive policy environment in developing countries, I am sure the challenge can be met. However, the developing countries will need considerable assistance from the developed countries for adoption of this technology, institutional framework, research and training facilities. Here again we must not forget that this is going to be a very expensive game and

for those countries whose 60 percent farmers live below the poverty line. The question is who will bear the cost?

We will now discuss issues relating to the environment and to the role of women in development. Both are of utmost importance. Our land and water resources are crucial to our survival and we must ensure that short-run economic decisions do not result in undermining the capacity of our soil to produce in the long-term. The FAO has been in the fore-front in promoting integrated pest management, tree planting, soil conservation programmes and numerous other projects that have been designed to ease pressure on the environment. While Bangladesh has taken extraordinary strides in tree plantation and popularising use of biodegradable materials in daily use towards ensuring a cleaner and liveable environment, land degradation, desertification and depletion of river waters for irrigation are not only adversely affecting agricultural production, pisciculture, river navigation and industrial production due to ingress of saline water from the Bay of Bengal, but upsetting the ecological balance altogether. This issue is of paramount importance and FAO cannot remain a silent spectator.

As for women, they are intimately involved in production and processing of crops, but unfortunately their role has most often been underestimated. If we can structure our development projects to ensure that they involve and benefit women, we will see an improvement in the condition not only of women, but for all of society. For example, projects that focus on the farmstead are most likely to involve women and benefit the entire family, as these will result in production of nutritionally important crops such as fruits and vegetables.

Although efforts have been made from time to time to develop the livestock situation, it has not reached the desired goal. Firstly, because of lack of appropriate entrepreneurship and secondly, because of severe loss of cattle wealth due to periodic cyclones in the southern part of the country. Be that as it may, greater effort and assistance will be needed to improve this situation, particularly to develop dairy and meat production.

In Bangladesh, fish has been the most common and desired source of protein for the entire population. However, in recent years the per capita protein intake has declined; firstly, because of increase of human population and secondly because of decline in fish production. This decline is particularly due to drying up of the major rivers Ganges or Padma during the winter season because of unilateral withdrawal of water upstream. The only pragmatic way to avert this situation and to ensure availability of protein to the poor millions of Bangladesh is to ensure adequate availability of water in this river which warrants goodwill of all quarters in the region.

Mr Chairman, you may please recall that in the last session, I made a brief statement on the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). As you are aware, FAO played a very significant role in establishing this centre in Bangladesh. CIRDAP has been in operation for the last fourteen years. Within this short period, it has succeeded in initiating a number of projects in the areas of research, action research, training documentation and information dissemination and has completed a number of them. CIRDAP's role as a promoter and facilitator of national action and regional cooperation for rural development is now well-recognized by the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and UN Agencies. From the inception, CIRDAP has been receiving assistance from different

donors. Since FAO pioneered the creation of CIRDAP, it would be highly appreciated if FAO comes forward with full support and assistance.

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

Mr Chairman, in conclusion, may I suggest that while FAO has done an excellent job and while representatives of almost all the countries of the world gather here once every two years with the avowed aim of attaining "Freedom From Hunger", we are still a long way off from that goal. That being so, let us all endeavor in the next couple of weeks to assess in concrete terms how many more miles we have to cover and with what means and methods.

Piet BUKMAN (Netherlands): Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to address this Conference here today. This is a rather special occasion. Special for two particular reasons. The first is that Mr Diouf, has been elected to be FAO's new Director-General. My warmest congratulations. His task will not be simple, but he may be assured of the continuing support for FAO from the Netherlands, because we do feel very committed to this Organization. The second reason is the accession to FAO of as many as nine new Member Nations. It is some time since we have been able to welcome so many newcomers. This sudden rush is no mere coincidence, I think.

Nations are falling apart, new sovereign states are being established; tension, uncertainty and lack of political stability are dominating factors in many regions. Unfortunately, but it is reality. It is therefore understandable that unity and cooperation are sought within the United Nations. The accession of the nine new Member Nations is a compliment to FAO and the leadership of Mr Saouma, its Director-General for the past 18 years.

Many outstanding initiatives were taken under Mr Saouma's leadership, such as the Technical Cooperation Programme, a flexible instrument for a quick response to emergency situations and as a initial instrument for bigger multi-bi projects and programmes.

Other achievements were the numerous reforms which came into effect during Mr Saouma's last term of office.

I do not deny that the Netherlands would have liked to have seen more in the way of reforms, but let me emphasize that quite some progress has been made.

In this context I would stress the importance of FAO's joining up with the reforms elsewhere in the United Nations.

The period under Mr Saouma is characterized by growing concern for sustainability in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment has undoubtedly been an important impetus, as was underlined by the Director-General in the opening statement to the Conference. The International Conference on Nutrition was in my opinion a similar

milestone. There the Global Plan of Action for Nutrition to eradicate hunger and malnutrition was born.

The Netherlands will be only too glad to contribute to the implementation of this plan.

It is only a matter of decades before the world population will have doubled. The first priority therefore must be an active policy to stem population growth. Population growth is not a natural inevitability but a cultural phenomenon, which means it can be managed.

I would like to emphasize again that an intensive cooperation between FAO on the one hand and UNFPA on the other hand is fundamental. But even if we are successful in managing population growth, a further increase of the world population must be taken into account, and the problem of food quality will be compounded by the problem of food quantity.

On top of that, desertification, salinization and urbanization threaten to destroy millions of hectares of fertile farmland.

All in all, Mr Chairman, we are faced with an enormous task: how do we provide food security for those millions and millions of people, without this having an adverse effect on the environment?

Obviously, I cannot come up with a cut-and-dry solution, but some things are clear.

Against the intended reduction in production volume in the industrialized world, there will have to be an increase in production volume elsewhere, in particular in developing countries. And we should try to realize this increase via sustainable farming methods.

Sustainable agriculture is one of the areas in which FAO will have to show itself a "centre of excellence".. The awareness is there and it is being acted on.

Agenda 21 of UNCED contains initiatives to address the problems of sustainable agriculture.

FAO is involved in these initiatives: fortunately, it has a coordinating role in the clusters land, desertification, forests and biological diversity.

The maintaining and further development of an agricultural knowledge network will have to remain a priority.

This is vital not only for the introduction of sustainable farming methods. It is also vital for the promotion of agricultural education, research, and extension, which is essential to an agriculture with long-term prospects.

Mr Chairman, investments made in knowledge and know-how will always pay themselves back.

And, I think FAO can play a central role here, too.

But this does require a strengthening of the multi-disciplinary cooperation between the FAO divisions, and my delegation will come back on these matters in the days ahead.

Mr Chairman, to advise policy makers, is the final area in which FAO will have to show itself as a centre of excellence. An example is the liberalization of world trade which is being negotiated in the GATT.

It is one of FAO's main tasks to play an advisory role in these negotiations, which are so crucial, also, to the developing countries. Two years ago I made the suggestion for a pilot study into the effectiveness of the GATT agreement in one or more developing countries.

This study should result in recommendations of the best way to have developing countries profit optimally from a GATT agreement. I am happy to say that this pilot study will start shortly.

Mr Chairman, in this respect I would like to make a general remark; namely, that in view of the turbulent times we are facing in the international community, I would like to attract your attention to the Constitution of the FAO, more specifically, to article 1, paragraph 2 (e) (f) and I quote:

"The adoption of policies for the provision of adequate agricultural credit, national and international. The adoption of international policies with respect to agricultural commodity arrangements," unquote.

Mr Chairman, to my opinion, strengthening of these actions of the FAO is of utmost importance.

Unfortunately, Mr Chairman, several developing countries are now excluded from technical aid. So-called ethnic conflicts are in the way. FAO, too, is powerless against these conflicts.

But as soon as the tide will turn, FAO will have to perform an essential task, a key role in the technical rehabilitation. FAO is excellently suited for this challenge.

My country has shown, during the last years, to be ready to contribute financially in this phase as we did in several countries in Africa; for instance, in Eritrea.

The Netherlands is the biggest donor to this special window of FAO.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

Expectations are that appeals to FAO for help will increase. Since its resources are rather limited, we have to consider our priorities carefully, all this against the background of what FAO might mean for global agriculture.

FAO's resources are limited, but its financial situation looks a little bit rosier than two years ago.

The new Director-General may count himself lucky in this respect.

Mr Chairman, I wish you, Mr Diouf, all the possible success and I assure him again, that the Netherlands will continue to give its unqualified support.

Thank you so much.

R.A. AKHUND (Pakistan): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to extend the greetings of my delegation to you, Mr Chairman, on your election. We have no doubt that you will guide the deliberations of this Conference to a successful conclusion. I would also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen whose knowledge and expertise will certainly be a most valuable resource for the Bureau.

Mr Chairman, eighteen years ago we had elected Dr Edouard Saouma as the sixth Director-General of this Organization. As we look back today we cannot fail to notice that FAO has grown not only in years and size of membership, but in real strength.

The true value of FAO's contribution to humanity in general and the hungry and malnourished in particular may be difficult to catalogue but is gratefully recognized by innumerable beneficiaries around the world who would have been worse off were it not for the vision and tireless efforts of Dr Saouma. We join others in paying tribute to Dr Saouma.

Mr Chairman, my delegation would also like to extend warm felicitations to Mr Jacques Diouf on his election as Director-General of FAO. We are all aware, and painfully so, of the challenges and tasks that lie ahead of us but take comfort in the fact that we have chosen a dedicated and committed leader to prepare us for the twenty-first century. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf and assure him of our full support and cooperation.

Mr Chairman, the food situation at the global level in general, and Africa in particular, continues to be of serious concern to all of us. A new dimension was added recently to this problem through the serious upsurge in locust activities in Africa, the Middle East and the Indo-Pak subcontinent. In fact, my country, along with neighbouring India, has gone through an extremely difficult situation since last July when the locust swarms, originating in the Saharan areas of Africa, hit the subcontinent. The Government took emergency steps and with the active support of FAO and timely help from aid donors a major catastrophe was averted. This experience underscores a vital requirement: a more active and effective role of FAO in coordinating regional activities and cooperation by countries which are either the potential breeding ground or target areas or both. This issue, incidentally, must be addressed on an emergency basis since, given this year's massive locust breeding, resurgence of the threat next summer cannot be ruled out. We would suggest that FAO sets up a special task force for the preparation of an action plan based on an in-depth review of the recent experience.

Mr Chairman, the prolonged drought and strife in some developing countries underlines the compelling need to conserve and strengthen our natural resource base. The existence of the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) and the positive response by donors to meet international emergencies is positive evidence of international cooperation on this vital issue. Unfortunately, this problem is not likely to disappear in the near future; and it is, therefore, important that the existing arrangement is strengthened to ensure quick and adequate response by the international community.

One of the long-term problems requiring serious attention of the international community is that of environmental degradation. Poverty, high

rates of population growth and environmental degradation have an intimate relationship. While the intensive use of yield-inducing inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides do raise food production, so vital to meet the rising demand for an expanding population, the overuse of such inputs can be a source of serious environmental problem. Concern for protecting the environment has to be reconciled with the compelling need to raise output and income, and thus reduce the incidence of poverty. Solution to these resource-based problems must emerge from close and intensive cooperation at the international, regional and national levels. At the national level Pakistan has already formulated a conservation strategy which was put in place some two years back. With the assistance of aid donors we are now in the process of strengthening the institutional structure and the regulatory framework to deal with this problem. We hope the Conference will assign high priority to the resolution of these issues by establishing a programme to integrate environmental protection with sustainable development in the food and agriculture sector.

Mr Chairman, turning now to the business before this Conference, we are pleased to note that in the World Food and Agriculture Outlook, increasing attention is being paid to nutritional issues. The emphasis on household food security, improved food quality and safety and promotion of nutrition education is most welcome. We are confident that programmes relating to nutrition will figure prominently in the agenda at international, national and community levels.

Mr Chairman, we have also noted the very active involvement of this Organization in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). We welcome the focus on sustainable agriculture and rural development, and the increased attention paid to biodiversity and plant genetic resources. We would, however, like to underline the importance of building national capacity and participatory approaches for tackling these issues. I must also add that the question of additional cost of sustainable development should be addressed and sufficient resources may be transferred to developing countries to sustain the approach.

Mr Chairman, this Conference is also required to make an assessment of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 - the biennium which will see FAO celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary. It would have been befitting to see a programme of work responding effectively to the many challenges facing us today. Unfortunately, the proposals do not reflect a real programme increase over the previous level. We realize that the programme has been constrained by serious economic pressures and budgetary restraint. Since an ambitious plan in this context would have been unrealistic, we extend our support to the proposed budgetary level of US\$676.9 million and endorse the priority thrust of the programme. The allocation for the Technical Cooperation Programme, although well below the desired level, is also supported in the hope that effort will be maintained to enhance the allocation in coming years. While endorsing the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95, we would like to urge Member Nations to approve the programme unanimously so that the new Director-General can implement the Work Programme with unqualified support.

Mr Chairman, let me give a very brief overview of developments in my country. Although Pakistan's performance in the food and agriculture sector has been more than satisfactory in the past, the preceding year witnessed a sharp reversal with the agriculture sector showing a decline of 3.9 percent. Flash floods and cotton virus took a heavy toll of the sector.

Since then, swift action was taken to restore flood damaged infrastructure and we expect a strong rebound in growth in the current year. Early indications for major crops like cotton, rice, sugarcane and wheat are reassuring and we hope that the sector will continue to sustain overall growth well over 6 percent.

Several policy measures have been adopted by Pakistan to stabilize the financial position and build a market economy. This is expected to provide a stable environment encouraging growth in agriculture output and exports. The package of policies aimed specifically at agricultural growth like access to capital, improved support price, deregulation of input supplies, etc. have been strengthened and are presently under review by a Task Force appointed by the recently elected government. The Task Force is expected to address a number of issues, including removal of disabilities affecting the sector and strengthening incentives for growth in output. Concern for small farmers and their lot will feature prominently in the set of recommendations to be submitted by the Task Force. Thus over the longer run the agriculture sector is expected to contribute, as in the past, to overall economic growth.

The contribution of human capital, particularly in the integration of women in the process of development, is the key to sustained and rapid economic growth. Women have to be fully mobilized for their own as well as national development, and here the role and assistance extended by FAO for the involvement of women in the development process is greatly appreciated. In full support of this approach, Pakistan launched a social action programme some two years back which has taken firm roots with enhanced financial allocation for accelerating investment in social sectors as well as improving the quality of service. Girls' education and better access to health and family planning services are central features of this programme. Women's involvement in income-generating activities like crop production, livestock management, cottage industry, etc. has been strengthened through a parallel effort. These and other programmes and policies have been put in place to draw women into the mainstream of economic activity contributing to social and economic growth.

In the end, Mr Chairman, allow me to reiterate on behalf of the Government of Pakistan our firm commitment to take all possible measures to increase food and agriculture production not only to meet our own needs but also to add to the global supply. In this connection, we expect the continued participation of the FAO and other international agencies who have been providing valuable assistance in the past. It is through concerted and joint efforts that we can hope to combat hunger, malnutrition and poverty. We hope that under the able guidance of the new Director-General, FAO would continue to play a vital role in the development of agriculture, especially in the developing nations like Pakistan.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, the very distinguished delegate of Pakistan. I will not invite the delegate of Indonesia to deliver his statement. I ask you to note that while the distinguished delegate of Indonesia proceeds to the floor, the Vice-chairman of the Conference, Mr Haq, of Bangladesh, will take the chair.

M. MAJIDUL-UL-HAQ, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

M. MAJIDUL-UL HAO, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia M. MAJIDUL-UL HAO, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Sjarifudin BAHARSJAH (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: It is most gratifying to me and to my delegation that the stewardship of this 27th Session of the FAO Conference is entrusted to such a distinguished leader as Dr Seymour Mullings.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to the elected Vice-chairmen who, I am sure, will render the Chairman every assistance towards the success of this Conference.

To Indonesia, the election of Dr Jacques Diouf holds special significance. It was in Jakarta, Indonesia, early this year that Mr Diouf demonstrated his outstanding capabilities while chairing the Non-Aligned Movement's Expert Group on Food Security. This convergence of experts from countries such as Benin, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, along with those from organizations like IFPRI and FAO, intended to build upon South-South cooperation in enhancing food security, with particular emphasis on Africa.

We are convinced therefore, that Mr Diouf will leave no stone unturned in advancing South-South and North-South cooperation even further, such that all our endeavours will be effective in assuaging the plight of the world's poor and hungry.

Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Government and people of Indonesia, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Governments of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Eritrea, Kyrgyz Republic, Slovak Republic, the Republic of Slovenia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as new Members of the Organization. I would like also to welcome the Republic of South Africa on its readmission to the Organization. We look forward to closely cooperating with all of them.

Mr Chairman, despite the impressive economic growth that has been taking place in the Asia and Pacific Region, poverty is likely to continue to remain at high levels in the 1990s. A holistic approach to economic and social development, with poverty alleviation as its major focus, is needed. The content of growth can be improved by reorienting the economy's production structure in ways that favour the growth of income of the poverty groups, and by redirecting investment to improve the productivity of the poor.

The concerns expressed by the Heads of State or Governments of the Non-Aligned member countries in their resolution on food security are of particular relevance to Africa, which has faced very severe food problems during the past two decades. If not properly addressed, these circumstances will deteriorate even further in the coming years. It was in recognition of the depth and magnitude of the food and nutrition situation in Africa that the Non-Aligned Movement Resolution on Food Security dictated the formulation of an action programme to alleviate food insecurity in African countries.

Another issue that is becoming of major concern to developing countries, apart from the diminishing resources for development, is the crushing burden of their debt servicing levels. Most of the developing countries remain caught in the grip of economic stagnation and trapped in poverty and structural underdevelopment. African and Asian countries, in particular, continue to be beset by acute reversal and these deserve our special attention.

Mr Chairman, some weeks ago all nations celebrated the 13th World Food Day under the theme "Harvesting Nature's Diversity". The theme serves to remind us all of the importance of wise utilization of our biological resources. Otherwise, we will have to face the more serious threat of irreversible environmental destruction and its impact on human civilization and life on earth. In the context of UNCED recommendations, my country has always been fully supportive of the pressing need for conserving and utilizing biodiversity to be used as a means of fight hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Indonesia and other members of ASEAN reaffirm their commitment to the decisions of UNCED, particularly those which relate to forestry. They call on all countries and interested parties to uphold their commitment to those decisions and underscore the need for the expeditious implementation of the UNCED Forest Principles by all countries. They emphasize the sovereign rights of countries to utilize and conserve their forest resource on a sustainable basis, efforts toward greening of the world and raising the world's forest cover notably by developed countries. They also urge the fulfilment of commitment to provide new and additional financial resources as well as environmentally sound technology on favourable terms to developing countries, and promotion of a supportive international economic climate and trade in forest products based on non-discriminatory and multilaterally agreed rules and procedures.

ASEAN also reaffirms its commitment to the attainment of the International Tropical Timber Organization Sustainability Objective Year 2000. ASEAN urges that countries committed to the ITTO Sustainability Objective Year 2000 should not be imposed with regulation on certification and labelling earlier than the stipulated time-frame and strongly opposes any form of unilateral and discriminatory certification and labelling on tropical timber and timber products.

Indonesia is closely related to environmental issues, integrated pest management as a national crop protection policy has demonstrated the strong political will of the Government of Indonesia to develop and disseminate efficient, environmentally sound, and sustainable agricultural development. The IPM programme has also proven that farmers can become experts in managing their own fields, stabilizing yields and increasing profits. Indonesia's IPM policy and its subsequent implementation programmes have decoupled pesticides from rice production; while national rice production has risen, pesticide use has declined, limiting long-term environmental degradation and contributing to improved farmer health and welfare.

The Indonesian IPM model is being shared with countries throughout the region and the world. Through South-South cooperation, agriculturists from more than 20 countries have already sent personnel for training in Indonesia. Indonesia's IPM programmes seek to produce a more effective agriculture system better prepared to face future challenges and constraints, both internal and external, with highly trained field staff able to create and sustain an on-going educational process linking farm communities and research organizations into a single united effort.

As regards fisheries development and management, Indonesia has diligently followed the strategy adopted by the World Fisheries Conference in 1984 which holds the principle of sustainable utilization of the resources. In recent years environment concerns have also been taken into account in the development of fisheries to ensure a much broader view of sustainable principles adopted by the UNCED held in Rio in 1992. In this respect, Indonesia supports the establishment of an Advisory Committee to provide

the right advice on the conduct of research in the developing countries to ensure sustainable development and equitable share among the resource users.

Due to the mobility of some of the marine fishery resources, international initiatives become absolutely necessary. Such a distinct character of the fisheries sector calls for international cooperation which takes into account the interest of developing coastal states and that of distant water fishing nations. In this respect Indonesia welcomes the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission with the principle of sustainable exploitation of tuna resources in the region and the shared benefit that the coastal states will also accrue. The Draft Agreement on Flagging of Vessels Fishing on the High Seas should also take into account the interests of both the developing coastal states and the distant water fishing countries.

Mr Chairman, my delegation welcomes the third progress report on the implementation of the resolution regarding the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development. Not only does my delegation support FAO's Plan of Action but it has, in fact, already taken a number of tangible steps to facilitate the implementation of this programme. Efforts should continuously be made to ensure that Member Governments would be able to equip themselves in developing and implementing legislation, policies and programmes which are responsive to specific gender issues.

Mr Chairman, as regards the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95, we are cognizant of the underlying constraints and I am pleased to note that it constitutes a compromise between urgent needs and availability of resources. We appreciate the efforts of the Director-General to present to this Conference a realistic Programme of Work and Budget, which has been prepared in line with the advice of various FAO technical bodies as well as the Programme and Finance Committee. It therefore deserves our full support. The increased allocation to TCP is welcome as it would enable FAO to respond quickly to urgent needs in continuing to play a significant role in solving key problems impinging upon agricultural development in developing countries.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we bear witness to the remarkable role that FAO has played in assisting agricultural development in developing countries. I wish to appeal to all members to spare no efforts in maintaining FAO's capability in discharging its mandate in the future.

Yoshihiro HAMAGUCHI (Japan): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am greatly honoured to have this opportunity of representing the Japanese Government at this Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference in the company of the distinguished delegates of other FAO countries.

I would like, first of all, to offer, you, Mr Chairman, my warmest congratulations on your election as Chairman. I am convinced that, with the benefit of your outstanding knowledge and guidance, this session will yield fruitful results for all member countries.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude and respect for the FAO Secretariat under the leadership of the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, for its efforts towards solving world-wide food and agricultural problems.

I am pleased to express my heartiest congratulations to Dr- Jacques Diouf, the new Director-General. It is my sincere hope that under your able guidance, FAO will be able to even more effectively deal with many pressing issues.

Mr Chairman, global food balance depends on such precarious factors as rapid growth population and a changing global environment both in the longer and medium term. Currently there remains 786 million people, which is one fifth of the total population in the developing world, suffering from malnutrition. In sub-Saharan Africa alone one third of the population is malnourished and the situation continues to deteriorate as the years go by.

This is mainly because of the lack of investment for domestic economic systems and agricultural infrastructure and due to the inadequate human resource development, all of which are necessary for self-reliance. To strengthen international efforts toward these African issues, the "Tokyo International Conference on African Development" was held between October 5 and 6 in Japan, with the participation of 48 African countries, headed by sovereigns or persons at the ministerial level. At the Conference, policy dialogue was about a new partnership between African countries and Africa's development partners. As a result, the Conference adopted the "Tokyo Declaration on African Development", which emphasized the significant role of export expansion and private sector's promotion for sustainable economic development of African countries. And also it emphasized the significance of the responsive support by Africa's development partners, and TCDC and ECDC with East Asian countries.

My Government sincerely hopes that the results of the "Tokyo International Conference on African Development" will generate the momentum by which to accelerate African development and thus help solve its food problems.

The successful economic development in East Asian countries is broadly noticed in such reports as a recent World Bank Publication.

In this connection I would like to stress that the substantial investment in the agricultural sector including rural development has resulted in high productivity and self-sufficiency ratio of staple food production notwithstanding the common character of small-scale farming, and, consequently, has contributed to political and economic stability in achieving rapid economic growth in East Asian countries.

Mr Chairman, for every country it is vitally important to secure enough food for its people, and these endeavours should be given the attention and support of the international community. In this context, we should also stress the importance of self-efforts made by each country to produce staple food leading to sound economic development as testified in the success of East Asian countries in this regard.

Since most developing countries are predominantly in rural areas, stable economic conditions and food security of the people living there constitute the foundation for the political, and economic development of the nation as a whole.

My delegation would like to request FAO to carefully monitor the agricultural development of food-deficit countries and to provide them with appropriate advice so that these countries can achieve sound agricultural

development and are not adversely affected by food aid, structural adjustment, and trade factors.

Excessive reliance of many countries including Japan on import of food from limited exporting countries and the increasing reliance on such exporters will lead to uncertain food security, judging from abnormal climatic conditions, as experienced by Japan this year and also from environmental changes both in the mid and longer term.

From this point of view, I also would like to draw your attention to the significance of the promotion of agriculture in each country. One century has passed since research activities on agriculture began in Japan. I would like to add to one point that Japanese long life expectancy can be attributed to the nutritionally balanced diet style based on rice.

I would now like to touch upon environmental issues. If the world population increases rapidly as projected by the United Nations, further deterioration of global environment is anticipated through agricultural development mainly in developing countries. Since agriculture, forestry and fisheries are industries inducing the maximum capacity of the natural ecological system, the basic strategy is to increase natural productivity and to realize a sustainable production system.

I would like to stress the need for concentrated efforts by every country in research and extension activities to achieve sustainable development in response to the increasing demand for food production.

My Government would also like to emphasize that individual countries' efforts for increasing food production would not be unreasonably prevented by excessive consideration of environmental conservation in the international community.

Japan firmly believes that FAO will strengthen its scientific observation of environmental change and, based on that, will achieve balanced coordination between environmental conservation and agricultural development.

In the Uruguay Round agricultural negotiations, my Government has been emphasizing the importance of so-called non-trade concerns such as food security, environment, and so forth. Therefore, we have been stressing the importance of self-sufficiency of basic foodstuffs and environmental conservation. My country sincerely hopes that this negotiation will contribute to the solution of food and agricultural problems harmonizing the positions of export and import countries.

Forests, a vital component of the global ecosystem, have been contributing to the welfare of mankind through their various functions. However, as shown by the "1990 Forest Resource Assessment", deforestation and degradation have continued unabated recently. Under such circumstances the importance of sustainable management of all types of forests was recognized firmly in UNCED last year. In Japan two thirds of its land is covered by forest, of which 40 percent, or 10 million hectares, is man-made forests. In light of our forest management technology, Japan has positively developed international cooperation activities, such as promoting TFAP, initiated by FAO, and supporting the activities of ITTO, as well as consolidating bilateral cooperation. Achieving sustainable forest management is an important goal for every country. My Government would like

to strengthen its effort for achieving that goal, and we look forward to FAO's contribution in this regard.

In the field of fisheries it is also very important to ensure sustainable development. Appropriate management and conservation of living marine resources based on the best scientific information available and its rational utilization are essential.

Japan highly appreciates the efforts by FAO to establish an "International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing" and would like to contribute to the process of its establishment. It is our greatest pleasure that the "Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas" is going to be adopted at this Conference. This agreement is one of the most essential components of the Code of Conduct. Japan again appreciates the tremendous efforts of FAO to reach an agreement on this important matter.

The world's fisheries have made a major contribution to human nutrition. However, to secure a fish supply that matches increasing demand we must prevent environmental degradation and overfishing by establishing appropriate management measures.

Contribution of fisheries is not limited to food supply but to cultural, historical and social progress of human society, as well.

Keeping this importance of fisheries in mind, Japan expects FAO to take the appropriate initiative to provide a forum for Member States to constructively discuss fisheries, and we propose holding an "International Conference on Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security". My delegation notes with pleasure that this proposal received broad support at the Council meeting of last week.

Mr Chairman, my Government has intentionally expanded Japan's Official Development Assistance. In the agricultural sector the priority has been given to international cooperation, which would mitigate food shortages and improve the living standard of farmers in an effort to respond to basic human needs. In this context I would like to draw notice to our plan of a Trust Fund for FAO aimed at human resources development in developing countries.

Mr Chairman, agriculture, forestry and fisheries are the most fundamental industries in many countries in that they provide employment to a large segment of population.

Each country has developed its own agriculture, forestry and fisheries systems based on its own history and natural conditions. My Government recognizes that each country must show mutual respect for each other's national agricultural system, all of which should be developed in harmony with the global environment. Japan strongly anticipates FAO's initiative in resolving the problems of world food and agriculture based on this recognition.

In this context, the "Agriculture Towards 2010" report released at this Conference is very interesting and significant. We highly appreciate FAO's efforts in completing this report.

Finally, we consider it is imperative for FAO in confronting financial difficulties to shift the available resources to priority areas in order to

increase effectiveness. Thus, FAO's activities will obtain even greater efficiency and toughness under our new Director-General with support from numerous member countries in order to challenge food and agricultural issues aggressively for the future of humankind.

I would like to close this statement by stating that the Government of Japan will continue to participate positively in FAO's activities and to assume our shared responsibility.

Karl Erik OLSSON: Today's societies are moving in a direction that is incompatible with basic biological principles. The pollution of water and air, the depletion of natural resources and the ozone layer, and the impoverishment of biological diversity threaten the basis for life for man on earth. Population will increase to some 7 billion just 15 years from now. Well over 90 percent of the increase is in developing countries. If it were the other way around - 90 percent in developed countries - of course totally unbelievable, then the world already would have been in a global disaster.

Biological knowledge, biological materials and biological cycles, together with a wise and careful use of technology, provide the only basis for a future sustainable society. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries therefore play a truly vital role in this respect. Soil, water and air are more important than anything else, and the sun is the most important source of energy for a sustainable and productive ecosystem. The quick technological fixes that were an important part of the answers a few decades ago have clearly demonstrated their long-term impotence and their immediate harmful side effects.

These changing perceptions were clearly demonstrated at the UN Conference on Environment and Development and manifested in its results, i.e. the Rio principles and Agenda 21. The Rio Conference is rightly considered a milestone in the history of international cooperation, but the road to a sustainable society is long and cumbersome.

The implementation of the results from Rio is primarily a national responsibility. In this regard we have seen promising signs in many countries. In Sweden a number of measures have been taken. One example is the government bill on biological diversity, which contains a strategy giving equal weight to the conservation of biological diversity and economic production objectives. It also contains increased efforts on research, information and education.

The new Swedish forest policy is another example. It has an explicit environmental objective that is given the same weight as the production objective. This is a reflection of a generally held view in my country where forestry has been the backbone of the economy for hundreds of years.

A final example of our steps towards more sustainable production patterns could be taken from the agricultural sector. After an earlier highly successful attempt to reduce the use of pesticides by 50 percent, and encouraged by the fruitful cooperation between farmers and authorities, the Swedish Government now aims at a further 50 percent reduction by the mid-1990s.

FAO's role is particularly important in the implementation of the agreements reached in Rio. The most basic and urgent problems are primarily

dealt with here. Almost two thirds of the programme areas of Agenda 21 lie within the purview of FAO's mandate.

FAO's contributions to the UNCED process were much appreciated. Its monitoring of global trends informed the international community of many distressing and alarming developments. We have recently seen new signs from this Organization that the extent of some of the global problems is actually more serious than we had reason to believe in Rio.

In FAO's recently concluded forest assessment, for example, the main finding is the substantially increased rate of deforestation in tropical countries. It means that large areas today are approaching the devastating deforestation rates, which took place in parts of the western world in historic times. This means that effects on the world's biological diversity and on global climate may be even more severe than we believed just a few years ago.

I have also in mind the long-term prospects for global agriculture as presented in another recent FAO assessment. It is a mixed picture that emerges but some basic global concerns are put at rest for the time being. It seems, for example, that the global production could increase in line with demand without significant price increases. There are, however, large imbalances between regions, between countries and within countries.

We also note the positive evaluation regarding the scope for achieving more sustainable ways of production. The basic requirements for a future development in line with Rio agreements seem to be at hand in all parts of the world. The primary task is to use natural resources in line with nature's own rules.

But we certainly find no grounds for complacency. In many parts of the world, especially where a large part of the population depends on agriculture for employment and income, the prospects are not very bright. Well above half a billion people will be without enough food by the year 2010. And we also find that beyond the year 2010 the pressures on basic agricultural resources, such as water and land, could be devastating in many parts of the world unless forceful action is taken. Land scarcity is already acute in some regions, especially in south Asia, and water supplies for agriculture are an even more limiting factor for a larger number of countries.

These were just a few examples that show FAO's indispensable role in the process towards sustainable development. Not only to provide up-to-date, reliable basic information and competent analysis, but also to give careful, objective policy advice on how to use natural resources in a rational and sustainable manner. That includes substantive contributions to UNCED follow-up activities in related areas such as desertification and population. These are all equally essential tasks for the urgent challenges facing the international community.

Unfortunately, FAO is presently not in all respects fulfilling these tasks satisfactorily. Forestry is the most neglected area. My earlier example of the forest resource assessment is a case in point: it took no less than 10 years to update the 1980 assessment in spite of clear signs of alarming trends and a great lack of essential basic information. We are pleased that there is now full agreement among members to increase the share of resources for the Forestry Department from the present, unacceptable level of below 4 percent. We will later during the Conference suggest areas where

these increased resources are most badly needed and how they should be used.

For my other given example - about agriculture developments up till the year 2010 - the picture is very much the same: the recently presented study is in fact the successor of a very useful study that was based on information from the first half of the 1980s.

These, and other examples of delays and insufficient attention to fundamental tasks for a global centre of excellence, point to the need for an urgent and substantial reallocation of resources within FAO. It does not only concern this Organization and is only one part of the reform that is needed for the whole UN system. FAO is indeed a good example of what we in the Nordic countries foresee for the Specialized Agencies of the UN: particularly a strengthening of their normative role, a restoration of their analytical capacity and a redefinition of their role in providing technical cooperation. In this context, we should be careful to preserve and build upon the unique expertise and knowledge that over the years have been assembled in FAO.

A change in this direction is not only motivated by substantive reasons in the form of global environmental threats. Severe domestic budget restrictions make it increasingly difficult to find necessary support for the work in international organizations, especially if they are not reacting to changing circumstances. It remains for us to be convinced that the proposed Programme of Work for 1994-95 for this Organization indeed is moving in the broad direction we and others have been demanding.

In this context, I also will congratulate and welcome the nine newly-elected member states of FAO and the re-admission of South Africa. I will end my statement with the warmest congratulations from my country to the new Director-General, Dr Diouf. Many years of cooperation between Sweden and African countries give us the possibility to share your joy and great satisfaction on the success of the election. I also congratulate FAO on a very competent leader, and we look forward to working with him in further developing and adapting FAO to better meet present and future needs and challenges.

M. Murlidhar DULLOO (Mauritius) : It is my great pleasure to be here again amid such a distinguished audience of world policy makers and experts in agriculture and to be addressing this Conference for the fourth time. I take this opportunity to extend the greeting of the Government and people of the Republic of Mauritius to everybody present. I join with my colleagues in welcoming all the new members to FAO, and we are especially pleased that South Africa can now gradually play its legitimate and constructive role in the Organization. FAO has had the distinction of being headed by dedicated and distinguished personalities who have always faced complex and diverse challenges. We should here express our appreciation for the signal contribution made by the outgoing Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, with whom I have been personally associated for quite a number of years. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Dr Jacques Diouf, a worthy, distinguished and experienced son of Africa. The other candidates who had stood for election also deserve our appreciation.

We have chosen Jacques Diouf at a very crucial time in the history of FAO and of mankind. I know that he will serve each and every one of us alike, but above all his commitments to Africa, to the developing countries and to

the small island states should underlie most of his endeavours. We should all pledge to him our support and all the resources we can mobilize. The more Jacques Diouf succeeds, the more we shall be obtaining our common objective of feeding the starving and undernourished millions of the world and of contributing to the prosperity and happiness of humanity at large.

As for the Agenda for this session, at the outset let me express my delegation's endorsement of the relevant issues to be discussed and the orientation that we want to give to the action of the Organization as outlined by the Director-General. We are particularly concerned with matters relating to world food security and nutritional status, world agriculture towards 2010, and the activities related to the environment and sustainable development. The paper relating to the Plan of Action for the integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development addresses itself to a long-standing problem of enhancing women's role in agricultural development. We consider that the medium-term plan for 1994-99 should be translated into operational programmes where the direct beneficiaries should be the people and where there is a more intersectoral role, multidisciplinary approach and a greater harmonization of activities at the central, regional and international levels. Greater stress should be laid on FAO's cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. We are also concerned with FAO's work on forestry and fisheries, as we believe that there would be a real danger of subordinating our economic and social progress at the expense of important areas of agriculture. Today, when most countries are also concerned with environment degradation, irreversible losses in the preservation of fauna and flora, we should reiterate our faith in efforts at achieving balanced development for our people, a goal that needs to bring more solidarity among all nations. Throughout my successive interventions at this FAO forum, I have laid stress on the challenge that faces major developing countries. Access to food remains a major challenge, and the FAO ideal to ensure that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need is still far from reality. We amply realize that food security has important household, national and global dimensions and is closely tied up with nutritional aspects as well. But it is important to lay stress on the adequacy of food productivity at stock level and price stabilities. This is why, during my first participation at this Conference in 1987, I was wondering whether the right to access to food should not be established as another fundamental human right. Should we not think in terms of a legal international regime on food which would govern the use and distribution of food production resources, the overall supply of food and the quality of food available, international agricultural trade, agricultural prices to producers and the price of food and even social and economic realities to establish a guaranteed and coherent set of living standards? Lack of food security is still a major destabilizing factor. Food domination and food dependency remain a potential political and economic weapon. This is why I ask myself a question as I have done here in the past, whether we are not putting into place a new world order whereby military, political and economic domination are being replaced by food domination and food dependency. The state of the world economy looks very dismal indeed. All the reports and analyses submitted to us for this Session show a general slackening of growth. The excruciating images of death, famine, malnutrition and agony that the media are inflicting on us every day from the war-torn countries, the millions of refugees, the children of want and destitution in the developing countries or in those poor countries that have been afflicted by natural calamities keep reminding us that the situation has deteriorated since we last met here. We are all reiterating here that the debt burden is getting heavier and unbearable, commodity

prices are constantly falling, world inflation and interest rates are escalating, there is a sharp decrease in resource flows to the developing countries resulting in larger net negative outflows in capital, food production cannot keep pace with the rapid population growth, etcetera, et cetera. On the other hand, the rich are hit now with recession, with the closing down of large enterprises, loss of jobs and unemployment and large pockets of poverty and decadence. Our social fabric and the family unit are being shaken with drug abuse and drug trafficking, crime and corruption penetrating all the sinews of our society. Some countries have been thrown into chaos and confusion with vital institutions being perverted.

Traditional sectors like agriculture and primary activities like food production and distribution are put in jeopardy. Many of my colleagues preceding me here have expressed serious concern about the situation. The Director-General, Mr Saouma, in his statement has been very direct in his approach and has asked the question bluntly: are we witnessing the death throes of a civilization? I agree with the Director-General and most of my colleagues that we should not turn to despair and despondency. We should mobilize all the positive forces at work: government, international agencies and regional organizations, NGOs and the people at the grass roots level. The Children's Summit in New York, the Earth Summit and UNCED in Rio, and recently the International Conference on Nutrition held here in Rome have instilled new hopes and given new impetus. We should now translate their high objectives and clearly define strategy into action. On the other hand, we are placing high hopes on a positive conclusion of the GATT negotiations for improvement of agricultural trade; these, however modest, would certainly be preferable to failure which would undoubtedly raise greater trade barriers between regional blocks and end up in a trade war which we all want to avoid and which could crush out the weakest amongst us. However, while Mauritius recognizes the need for trade liberalization in agricultural products and the harmonization of rules of origin, we feel that these rules should not relate to contractual trade regimes under which tariff preferences are granted. The question of security is of paramount importance. If net food importing countries like Mauritius are to benefit from the final package on agriculture, possible negative effects of the reform process on net food importing developing countries must at all costs be averted. There is also the crucial necessity of maintaining the continued viability of preferential trade arrangements entered into between a group of developed and a group of developing countries on agricultural products, the production and export of which are vital for the livelihood and well-being of their populations, their economic development and social progress.

I am referring here to the Lome Convention which has responded well to the aspirations of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, not only for much needed reforms and structural adjustment, but above all for the preferential access afforded for agricultural products and the various protocols. This preferential access is vital for the continued survival and development of our countries, namely the landlocked, and small islands states. If we do not safeguard such preferential access, those vulnerable countries will not be sufficiently resilient to absorb the shocks that we are to face with the implementation of GATT and, after that, the single European market or creation of other powerful trading blocks.

Any substantial decrease, for example, in the sugar export earnings of Mauritius will disrupt our social economic fabric and destabilize our way of life, our culture and tradition, and cause irreparable harm to the small farmers and the rural population.

I reiterate what I have stated before: namely, that liberalization of trade in agricultural products per se cannot be a panacea for all our ills. This is why we plead that small countries like Mauritius be afforded enough safeguards and protection and that we should aim at a successful balance the outcome of the GATT negotiations where all participants will find advantages. We trust and rely on FAO to ensure that our needs be recognized and met in the final outcome of these negotiations.

My country, Mr Chairman, has been actively implementing reforms and structural adjustments to adjust and adopt to the new situations, but this, as we know, is a long-term process. I have described the various steps we have taken; but, for want of time, I will spare reading them here as it is contained in the statement that we are circulating.

So, Mauritius, in spite of limited resources, continues to struggle in its efforts to diversify away from a monoculture economy. It has achieved a large measure of sustainable agricultural development. We rely on FAO's support and that of multilateral organizations to consolidate our efforts for the continued modernization of our sugar sector, optimum utilization of by-products, water conservation, better management and exploitation of our fisheries resources, and the increased efficiency of our small planters.

An island state such as Mauritius faces the problems of land scarcity and geographical isolation, but we are confident that a modern agricultural system, based on the rational use of resources, diversification, mechanization, application of bar technology and applied research will go a long way towards contributing to our economy and give it the resilience it needs.

Here I would make a special appeal to FAO to use its influence with major donor countries and funding agencies to ensure that the principal elements of the People's Participation Programme Approach of FAO be adopted in project implementation in developing countries.

We know that conventional projects usually target medium-to-large-scale or the so-called progressive producers and the emphasis on modernization, efficiency, and competitiveness lead to elimination of small enterprises and their consolidation in larger units, or decentralization.

This approach often leads to concentration of resources in the hands of a few, marginalization of small farmers, and increasing landlessness. This can put the clock back and reinstate the old feudal system. We should avoid a situation where the rural pool is marginalized and is not consulted nor given an active role in development decisions or activities, especially where they do not have efficient organization structure to represent their interests or to lobby on their behalf.

UNCED has placed tremendous demands for actions at all levels on FAO and also on us. We particularly welcome developments on the framework conservation, climate, change, and information on biological diversity. We have been particularly appreciative of the increased attention that is being given to straddling development of small island states and the opportunities that may be available under the global environment facility.

Here I should state that my delegation welcomes the setting-up of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and we congratulate the Secretariat for the efforts they have deployed to have as convergent views as possible from member states interested in the project. We are working on the finalization

of the agreement, and my delegation will make further contributions on this aspect when it comes up for discussion before Council.

As an island state, Mauritius is most vulnerable to natural and anthropogenic disturbances. The protection of the marine environment is, therefore, a priority in governance and environmental protection strategies.

I have spelt out in my statement the various remedial action being undertaken: the establishment of a marine environment management plan for Mauritius, an outer-islands management plan, establishment of a marine conservation centre, the introduction of a Wildlife and National Parks Act, and the setting-up of national forests and marine parks and other reserves.

Day by day, we are realizing that Mauritius has a very fragile ecosystem and Mauritius has achieved a certain degree of economic success and the pressure on the ecology and the environment is very real and great. Hence the need to address those issues on several fronts. We are expecting FAO's assistance in the elaboration of a forestry action plan for Mauritius.

For us, Mr Chairman, Mauritius is at a crucial stage in its history. There is greater awareness by governments and the public of problems facing us.

But, in the field of sustainable agriculture, solutions are not easy to find. Against this background, environment, agricultural and rural needs have to be addressed. We commend the role played by FAO in collaboration with our country to enhance the standard of living of our people. We are looking forward to concrete and meaningful discussions on all major problems that confront FAO internally and at the international level. With our new Director-General it will be a new opportunity to respond to the attentions of all Member Nations especially with new members reinforcing this diversity and creating more challenges. May God bless this Conference. Thank you.

János SZABO (Hungary): It is my privilege to address the 27th Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Hungarian Government. I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman and also the Vice-chairmen on their election. It is a special honour to greet the new FAO Member Nations and I trust the global character of FAO will gain further momentum with the admission of these nations. I would like to express my gratitude to the former Director-General, Mr Saouma. Under his able guidance FAO achieved great success during the past 18 years. Last but not least, I am very pleased to convey my Government's welcome to Mr Diouf, the new Director-General of the Organization, and to wish him every success in his activities. Hungary and FAO have always had excellent relations and we have every reason to believe that our cooperation will persist and lead to mutual advantages.

Mr Chairman, two years ago, the documents submitted to the FAO Conference reported on new challenges and long-lasting food problems the world was about to face. We must regretfully state that the general food situation failed to improve and the international agricultural community has a long way to go on the path leading to abolishing hunger and to elevate the right to food to the rank of basic human rights. The process which had started 3-4 years ago with the countries in transition having appeared on the scene gained further speed. May I take the opportunity to touch briefly upon some features of my country's agriculture which I feel deserve the attention of

this gathering, on the one hand, and may also be of general interest to the bulk of countries in transition, on the other.

The transition from a centrally planned economy to a market one makes the slowest headway in agriculture, since in that sector several factors are playing a simultaneous and interdependent role such as: a significant change in property and productive structure, cuts in subsidies, liberalization, etc.

Mr Chairman, most regrettably the contraction of Hungarian agricultural output approached 30 percent in the last three years. A number of reasons have been responsible for this fallback, the elaboration on which would call for a separate and lengthy study. May I be allowed to make reference to the main causes which could be raised in a dichotomy: i.e. the extrinsic and intrinsic impacts on Hungarian agriculture. The main intrinsic impact to be mentioned is that in only three of the last ten years did Hungary receive precipitation close to the sufficient level. The other seven years were drought-stricken and one of the worst years has been the present one. This group of causes include the loss of foreign, mostly Eastern, markets and the two years' recession in the developed world which has not shown signs of alleviation.

Speaking on intrinsic causes the contraction of Hungarian GDP and the falling purchasing power and the resulting decrease in real food demand are worth mentioning, as well as the slower-than-expected evolution of new propriety structures and the rather high debt load (about US\$3 billion) of agriculture and the consequent shying away of banks as far as capital loans are concerned.

The Hungarian Government is firmly committed to agriculture becoming a competitive sector of the economy. It has, however, frankly to be said that Hungarian farmers and entrepreneurs are far from operating in such a protected economic environment than their colleagues in most developed countries. In this context I refrain from bringing up our own calculations and I quote OECD figures only.

The average subsidy in Hungarian agriculture was 8 per cent in 1992, suffering a cut to one fifth of the 1989 level, whereas the same figure in the OECD countries has been 44 percent. The imbalance is even more marked focusing on export subsidies for many products exceeding 70 per cent in the countries of the European Communities, being as low as 10 per cent in Hungary at the same time. Obviously such adverse economic conditions call for the mobilization of all productive reserves in order to exploit any opportunity offering itself in Hungarian agricultural production and profitability.

Taking into account the low level of support and the export orientation of our agriculture, Hungary is strongly interested in the successful termination of the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations, until 5 December, 1993. Hungary's Association Agreement with the European Communities, her Free-Trade Agreement with the EFTA and the Central European countries creates the conditions for Hungarian agricultural and food products being adjusted to international requirements.

Mr Chairman, the bi-annual Conferences of FAO having the competence of priority-setting, I would like to seize this opportunity to outline the ideas of my government on the possibilities for FAO to contribute to the solution of our regional problems, without the slightest prejudice to the

interests of the food-deficit developing countries. In recent years, FAO member countries have repeatedly acknowledged the priority that Central and Eastern-Central European countries should enjoy in regional action programmes of FAO. My delegation was pleased to note that such notions were confirmed by the last FAO European Regional Conference as well as by the 103rd Session of the Council held in June this year.

Before proceeding with this line of thought, it is my pleasant duty to express my appreciation for the assistance we have so far received from FAO, mainly through TCP projects. All of these projects have proved to be rather efficient in the high-skill intensive field it operated in. Special mention needs to be made of the first cooperation between FAO and PHARE, i.e. the EC's programme for assisting some countries in the region, brought about in the form of a successful joint sector study.

Mr Chairman, while appreciating these activities, the Hungarian delegation would like to suggest that FAO should give priority to development assistance to countries in transition. I would, at the same time, make absolutely clear that the Hungarian government does not wish to compete for the meagre resources at FAO's disposal. I have, however, to draw the FAO Secretariat's attention to a better use of its catalytic role and enhanced work to its project and programme-orientated and investment-inducing development activity.

FAO's enhanced assistance to these countries in transition will first of all have to focus on introducing measures and on practical measures aimed at a swift and less painful switch to a market economy. All related development projects will be warmly welcomed by my government. I should like to suggest that special attention be given to programmes on know-how and extension to newly emerging farms; training of farmers; assistance in self-adjustment to developed countries' standards; environment-friendly production methods; and finally, greater access to markets in favour of countries in transition.

Mr Chairman, my government feels that emphasis should be put on its agreement in principle with FAO's planned Programme of Work and Budget.

Countries in transition are suffering a lack of information. I do not refer to information as receiving the know-how of more developed countries only, but also to the exchange of information on experiences, results and failures achieved so far in the countries of transition.

Acknowledging the above, the Hungarian government decided to convene in Hungary in August this year a consultation in order to make it possible for the European countries in transition to familiarize themselves with the salient tasks of agricultural development and to exchange their ideas on future issues of regional development, without the slightest claim for any type of integration. The ministerial consultation was held with considerable success attended by 16 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, some of which are not members of FAO yet. Three major groups of issues were on the agenda of the consultation, i.e., privatization, the transformation of agricultural production structures, and finally fiscal and credit policies. In our view, that consultation and the follow-up decided upon would excellently lend themselves for these countries learning the means and ways of speeding to agricultural transformation. I would like to take this opportunity to convey the thanks of the Hungarian agricultural policy makers for the contribution FAO was kind enough to give, including assistance in organization and in preparing a synthesis of the

consultation's results. It is hoped that FAO will assume an active role in the organization of similar consultations.

Mr Chairman, it is Hungary's intention to go ahead with her mutually active cooperation with FAO. Due to the hardships in transition, we may in future request more often the Organization for its assistance in coping with our specific problems.

I would, however, like you, Mr Chairman and the distinguished delegates to be assured that the cooperation between FAO and Hungary will not be a oneway street in the future, either. According to our modest possibilities, we wish and intend to participate in the active tasks we are going to be entrusted with by handing over of Hungarian know-how, by exchanging and offering information as well as by continuing, in spite of our financial constraints, our modest donor's role in financing food aid programmes.

Mr Chairman, to end my intervention, I should like all member nations of FAO and the newly elected Director-General to be sure that Hungary will keep on doing her best not only for her own progress but also for the realization of the noble objectives of this Organization.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Felipe SOLA (Argentina): Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, señor Director General, señores Ministros, señores Delegados y Observadores. Quiero comenzar por saludar y felicitar al nuevo Director General, Dr. Jacques Douif, surgido una vez más de una elección democrática en la que todos hemos podido expresar nuestra opción para los próximos seis años en la condición de la Organización. Nuestra felicitación, también, a Senegal, por el éxito; al continente africano, por lograr por primera vez la Dirección General y por mantenerse unido a través de las sucesivas rondas de votación, tal como se desprende de los resultados parciales y del resultado final.

Los representantes presentes coincidirán conmigo en que no es menor, en las circunstancias actuales, el desafío que implica asumir el comando de esta Institución que naciera en 1945 como culminación de un largo proceso de concertación política y del rápido desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas. Próxima a cumplir cincuenta años, la FAO se desenvuelve en un mundo convulsionado por las diferencias en el desarrollo social y económico entre los países.

La bipolaridad como paradigma ha sido reemplazada por tres tipos de sentimientos que coexisten hoy en el planeta:

- la angustia por la subsistencia como comunidades en muchos países acosados por un presente de hambre y pobreza estructural;
- la obsesión de crecer y la búsqueda de seguridad como concepto integral en otro grupo importante de naciones;
- la conciencia creciente de las naciones que producen en una parte del mundo de consumo sofisticado, de que deben asumir un rol mucho más activo en la generación de un mundo más justo, más seguro y más estable y de que aún no lo hacen.

La República Argentina, miembro de la FAO desde 1951, ha contribuido a lo largo de cuatro décadas al intercambio de ideas y al debate constructivo entre los países que la componen, con vistas al esclarecimiento y a la mejor comprensión de los temas que son de su responsabilidad. Asimismo, ha procurado contribuir a la cooperación Sur-Sur en tecnología agrícola y en capacitación, compartiendo su experiencia que es rica y exitosa.

Nuestra identidad, señor Presidente, es, entre otras cosas, agrícola, forestal y pesquera. Esto está presente en el ser argentino, ha signado nuestra política exterior y otorga al país un lugar en el debate multilateral sobre la agricultura y la alimentación.

La Argentina cuenta con importantes recursos económicos en los sectores agropecuario y pesquero. Consecuentemente tiene intereses vitales que promover y defender en la FAO, en los temas relacionados con la producción, el acceso, el comercio de los productos agrícolas (granos, carnes, pesca y forestales) y la asistencia al desarrollo y la seguridad alimentaria. Pero señor Presidente, la economía agraria está globalizada. Los mercados no son ya nacionales, ni siquiera regionales. Son mercados del mundo, y en cualquier medida que los afecte, afecta a todos los que producen y a todos los que consumen. Toda medida que afecte a los mercados, señor Presidente, afecta la conservación de los recursos naturales, afecta la seguridad alimentaria, la planificación, la vida rural y la esperanza de los que menos tienen.

Los requerimientos de ayuda alimentaria en el mundo de hoy y los que se derivan de situaciones de urgencia muestran un notorio aumento. En este sentido, entendemos que es prioritario que los países en desarrollo, e igualmente aquéllos que enfrentan problemas alimentarios, aumenten su producción agrícola.

No podemos permitir que la agricultura moderna se transforme en una actividad dispendiosa de los países desarrollados. Por el contrario, la agricultura moderna, de altos rendimientos y bajos costos, es un derecho de futuro que tienen los países en desarrollo, que deben hacer los máximos esfuerzos para aumentar su capacidad de producción pero con el apoyo de la comunidad internacional. Repito, Sr. Presidente, que con el apoyo de la comunidad internacional, que debe otorgarles oportunidades concretas de acceso a los mercados y precios que sean un premio y no, como hoy son, en muchos casos, un castigo a quienes producen contando sólo con su capacidad y su decisión.

La FAO puede y debe volver a ocupar un papel protagónico en el análisis y la generación de propuestas y en la instrumentación de acuerdos internacionales sobre temas cruciales para el mundo en general y para los países en desarrollo en especial. Esto requiere una adaptación, una revitalización y un redimensionamiento del Organismo, tarea que será responsabilidad principal del Director General elegido el lunes pasado.

El aparente conflicto entre países desarrollados y en desarrollo alrededor del tema de la cooperación técnica requiere de un acuerdo ecuánime. Es indudable que los países en desarrollo, especialmente los más pobres, requieren y se benefician de la cooperación técnica multilateral. La riqueza de información y de recursos técnicos a disposición de la FAO, tanto propios como de otras agencias con las cuales podría colaborar, es un recurso invaluable. Hoy, la necesidad de usar estos instrumentos es aún más evidente, frente a los rápidos y profundos cambios mundiales que

aumentan la importancia de tener acceso a información sobre la prospectiva mundial para todos.

En nuestra opinión, la FAO requiere en estos momentos:

Primero, hacer un uso más eficiente de sus recursos, a los fines de aumentar el rendimiento de los mismos. Seamos honestos. Esto está hoy en discusión y debe cambiar ya;

Segundo, descentralizar la toma de decisiones, con el objetivo de permitir que estas últimas, las decisiones, se tomen lo más cerca posible del sujeto y del objeto de la acción;

Tercero, aumentar la cooperación Sur-Sur;

Cuarto, adoptar un estilo de gerenciamiento ágil y eficaz; y

Quinto, destinar una porción mayor de los recursos financieros a la ejecución de programas y proyectos específicos, a la vez que una porción menor a actividades en la Sede.

Procedamos a los cambios necesarios en la FAO en forma decisiva, para que dejemos de hablar del Organismo y pasemos a hablar de los problemas de la gente. Nuestros pueblos no nos enviaron aquí para hablar de los problemas de los técnicos o de los funcionarios. Nos envían para solucionar sus problemas, y no lo estamos haciendo porque estos problemas aumentan.

En consonancia con los objetivos de la Ronda Uruguay, muchos países en desarrollo, entre ellos la República Argentina, han liberalizado en forma autónoma y significativa el acceso a sus mercados. Los demás participantes de la Ronda, sobre todo los de mayor peso comercial, se han beneficiado con esta apertura, pero no han actuado con reciprocidad. Por el contrario, los países agrícolas han visto agravada su situación por la violación de los compromisos de "statu quo", por la adopción de nuevas medidas proteccionistas y por el no acatamiento de las recomendaciones del GATT.

Una conclusión exitosa de la Ronda requiere un resultado concreto en el área de acceso a mercados. Vemos con inquietud que la situación continúa siendo insatisfactoria en sectores prioritarios para nuestros países, como lo son la agricultura, los textiles, los productos tropicales y los productos derivados de la explotación de los recursos naturales.

El sector agrícola es clave y prioritario para los intereses de nuestros países. Para el éxito de la Ronda Uruguay, la consecuente aceptación por la región de los resultados de un paquete final (me refiero a la región americana) es imprescindible que se logren resultados significativos en este campo. Estos deben asegurar una liberalización sustancial del acceso a los mercados y la reducción del sostén interno y de los subsidios a la exportación, además de la instrumentación de medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias, sobre la base de las disposiciones y disciplinas establecidas en el Proyecto de Acta Final del año pasado.

Es indispensable que los grandes países comerciales adopten ya las decisiones políticas necesarias para concluir las negociaciones con resultados que promuevan la liberalización y la expansión del comercio mundial, eviten la discriminación y fortalezcan el sistema multilateral.

Debe haber reglas para la agricultura mundial; reglas multilaterales. Sin reglas, perdemos los que producimos sin subsidios ni ayudas; sin reglas, perdemos los que no estamos protegidos por las tesorías del Estado; sin reglas, no habrá posibilidades de desarrollo para las agriculturas de los países que hoy sufren hambre y requieren de ayuda alimentaria. Es un grave error aliarse al proteccionismo como modelo, invocando menores precios de los alimentos. La forma de reducir los precios de los alimentos en el mundo no pasa por la aceptación de subsidios masivos a los agricultores en los países ricos, a la producción y a la exportación: pasa por el aumento de la producción, de la productividad; pasa por el derecho a permanecer en el campo y a crecer de las poblaciones campesinas de decenas de países que están atrapados hoy por la trampa de competir contra las agriculturas lujosas y artificiales, por un lado, o de aceptar la imposibilidad de esa competencia, por el otro, y tener que recurrir a la ayuda como única salida renunciando (a veces involuntariamente) a las propias posibilidades de producir.

De esto también debemos hablar en la FAO, porque éste es el verdadero dilema del futuro agrícola; el dilema de un mundo con iguales oportunidades para todos; un mundo más justo y más sensible. Un mundo para todos: para los que quieren producir más y no pueden y para los que quieren comer más y tienen derecho a hacerlo.

Quisiera que mis palabras finales sean para despedir al actual Director General, Dr. Edouard Saouma. Quisiera reconocer aquí hoy su valentía, su capacidad, su personalidad y su decisión al frente del Organismo durante dieciocho años. Estoy seguro solamente de una cosa: de que en el futuro podremos hablar bien o mal del Dr. Saouma (y eso irá a gusto de cada uno), pero seguramente no podremos olvidarlo.

Marwan R. KAMAL (Jordan) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I should like at the outset to express congratulations to the Head of the Delegation of Jamaica on his election to preside over the 27th Session. I should also like to congratulate the Vice-chairmen, wishing them every success. I am certain that you are capable of leading the Conference to the desired results.

It is my further pleasure to express my sincere congratulations to the newly appointed Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, on the confidence based in him, wishing him every success in working to realize the lofty objectives of the Organization of FAO.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to assure you of the full support of my country in the work and activities of FAO, and that we look forward to further strengthening and deepening this cooperation in the future. The challenges facing agricultural development in Jordan are different from the difficulties and the challenges facing other countries of the third world, and their problems in the agricultural sector which have been facing the world for the last 18 years have certainly witnessed efforts on the part of Mr Edouard Saouma to seek solutions for them.

With regard to Jordan, in addition to the limited agricultural resources such as land and water, the agricultural sector has been directly and adversely affected by all the political and economic problems, crises and wars that befell the region, and despite all this, Jordan has been able to achieve considerable and significant rates of self sufficiency in the production of vegetables, fruit, poultry and eggs, and exported about 400

tons of vegetables and fruits in 1992. This is mainly due to the effort and activities of Jordanian farmers which constitute the target and means of agricultural development in Jordan.

The economic and agricultural policies adopted by the Government significantly contributed to motivating and subsidizing and supporting the private sector, encouraging it to invest in the field of agriculture. Mr Chairman, it is indeed a source of pleasure and happiness that the efforts of all good and peace-loving people in the world would lead to the realization of great and significant achievements along the road to peace in the Middle East region.

Jordan has been playing a significant role in supporting these efforts in its belief that a just peace is a pre-requisite for the achievement of development and guaranteeing its continuity. It believes that justice is the assured guarantee to achieve stability and security, and a dignified life for all peoples of the region. This will naturally reflect on the optimum exploitation of available resources in the region in terms of agricultural land, water, mineral resources and wealth in order to benefit all the members of the population, and would consequently lead to bridge the cultural and economic gaps within each country and among countries of the region. This will not be achieved except through the establishment of comprehensive and integrated development programmes for the region so that concentrated programmes of development in a specific area may not lead to overlooking or minimizing the importance of development of other regions. We in Jordan look forward to the active contribution of the development process in the region for we believe in the necessity of coordinating efforts, particularly in the agricultural field, with the purpose of achieving the greatest possible degree of cooperation and integration and benefitting from the expertise and experience to serve the whole region, and to maximise the efficiency of the exploitation of the available resources in the region and the results of peace, which we hope will reflect on agriculture and farmers.

Mr Chairman, the role of FAO in drawing up policies and development programmes, particularly at their current phase for the region, is considered primordial. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to call upon FAO to take the initiative and lead in this respect, and here I should like to express our full readiness to provide every support to this important effort. As far as the work of FAO in the past two years is concerned, we should like to emphasize the necessity of underlining the practical aspect of the basic role undertaken by FAO within the system of multilateral relations, and the necessity of respecting by other organizations the fields of competence of FAO, and avoiding overlapping and duplicity in activities among these organizations. FAO should be well informed of the latest technological developments, and should adopt programmes in accordance with the new requirements and demands.

As far as the report on the implementation of the programme for the period 1994-95, we believe that to accept the report on the basis of being practical and concrete for the same period would be more appropriate and beneficial.

Mr Chairman, we believe, concerning the effects of population increases and the aggravating environmental problems as well as natural resources and the increasing demands on the services of FAO, calls for expanding and increasing the services of FAO. This in turn calls for the necessity of reviewing and reconsidering the means of determining priorities which we

believe that the FAO is seeking to achieve. On the other hand we believe it is essential to considerably increase the resources of FAO in order to enable it to shoulder the increasing tasks entrusted to it.

We believe that it is essential to increase the allocation within the framework of the technical assistance technical cooperation programmes, and we believe that the proposed increase is still less than what was recommended by the Conference in 1989 for the purpose. That is why, and in full appreciation on the importance of this programme, we believe that any increased -resources in FAO should be directed and channelled to that programme.

Finally, I should like to assure you, Mr Chairman, of the support of my country's delegation for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 as submitted by the Director-General. I avail myself of this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to FAO for the continuous assistance and efforts that have been fruitful and beneficial to Jordan.

My country, in its belief in the important role played by FAO, has decided to host the 22nd Session of the Conference for the Near East and North African Region next spring in Amman in the hope that this will afford the opportunity to familiarize and acquaint the Conference with the achievement of Jordan in terms of its progress in various political, economic and social aspects.

The meeting rose at 13.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 93/PV/7

Twenty-seventh Session

PLENARY

Vingt-septième session

PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones

PLENARIA

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(10 November 1993)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.10 hours
Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 10
sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 15.10 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Fahad AL-HASSAWI (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic) : This session of the general Conference is of particular importance. It is one which finds the Organization at a crossroads. One of those roads shows the many achievements of alleviating hunger and poverty, animal and agricultural resource management, realized under the leadership of Dr Edouard Saouma, this man who, thanks to his distinctive personality and to his determination, kept the Organization at the forefront. The other road is one pointing to changes that can be expected under the leadership of the new Director-General. Mr President, we congratulate you on your leadership of this present session of the general Conference. We have every confidence in your ability to lead our deliberations during this historic session. We congratulate you and your Vice Presidents and wish you every success. We also welcome all new members of this Organization, and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our warm thanks and appreciation to our dear friend Edouard Saouma for the continuous efforts he exerted during his stewardship of this Organization. We wish him every success in the future and have no doubts that the future will also be full of action and challenges. A personality such as his does not know the meaning of inaction. Our special congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf on his election to this important position. He won this important position after waging an honourable campaign with all the other candidates.

The number of candidates for the post of Director-General is eloquent witness to the importance attached by member countries to this Organization. Mr President, we shall be celebrating FAO's 50th anniversary in two years' time. The Organization has indeed played an important and responsible role within its spheres of competence and has contributed to the improvement of food and agriculture, a contribution which has led to solutions of complex problems locally, regionally, and internationally. And yet, there still remain very complex problems requiring innovative solutions and new ideas.

The quest for solutions, perhaps, is going to become more difficult in the future. The Organization, under the leadership of the new Director-General, will have to keep pace with new international responsibilities. It must be ready to adopt internationally-agreed priorities to prepare the transition from the 20th Century to the 21st. And, therefore, it should contribute to establishing the right to the regional and international climate, one capable of responding to major new problems and especially in developing countries, so that those countries can join in the quest for the right solutions.

Mr President, the world --and especially the developing world-- is still witnessing hunger, poverty, and instability. It is still threatened not only with natural disasters such as floods and desertification, but also with instability caused by conflicts and wars. For many countries this means starting the developing process all over again. In addition, there is the constant depletion of natural resources. We now know that soil, water, and climate are no longer the only components to guarantee agricultural

development; but the good management of resources, with an aim to achieve sustainable agricultural development, will be one of the major priorities which this Organization has to concentrate on.

The Organization will not find it easy to obtain new or additional financial resources. Just as is the case of protecting natural resources for future generations, so is it for financial resources available to international and regional organizations involved in international development. Donor countries are finding difficulties in continuing their financial aid to many of these organizations. Developing countries obviously want to benefit: but, because of the large number of such organizations and the duplications of their competencies, many of them have become a hindrance and not a help to the development process. Cooperation and coordination must break free of stultified formality to develop into solid and able realities concentrating on the priorities and needs of developing countries. The FAO must preserve its credibility through fruitful cooperation with the United Nations and specialized agencies and especially with IFAD, WFP, UNDP, as well as all the regional, economic and social committees and organizations.

During the coming phase the Organization must be active in promoting and implementing the International Desertification Convention, and it has to play a central role in the framework of implementing Agenda 21 of UNCED, that agenda which concentrates in particular on sustainable forest and fisheries development.

We hope that the new Director-General will remember the issues which the candidates in their elections concentrated on, basic problems which must be awarded special priority in the Organization's plans of action. For example, strengthening developing countries' capacity for achieving sustainable agricultural development and institution building, helping to preserve the environment with all its riches, and developing those countries' negotiating expertise for bilateral and negotiating instruments.

As for decisions on future actions and priorities, those must be taken jointly by the Director-General and Member States, with due care given to the financial and technical resources available to the Organization. Member States should also have more to say on the Organization's programmes.

As for activities, priorities have to be revised, especially in times of economic stringency. But, of course, provision and reappraisal must not be at the expense of those programmes and major activities which developing countries so badly need.

More than one candidate for the post of Director-General promised great changes if elected. Change is necessary, Sir, in order to equip this Organization to keep up with international changes and developments, but we are not asking for a revolution -- no. What we want is gradual, phased, necessary change, carried out jointly by the Organization and its members.

The Near East is characterized by drought, desertification, paucity of drinking water, salinization and all the resulting dangers to the groundwater table. Agriculture in this area is dependent on irrigation. Therefore, water and land management in the protection of forage land from over-grazing and desertification control must be accorded the necessary importance in this Organization.

Our region has not attained food self-sufficiency, and food security is one of our major problems. Agriculture and agro-industries must gain greater importance to stem the drift from rural to urban areas and, with it, the disappearance of customs and traditions. We also are in need of developing food conservation and stocking techniques. The development of fisheries resources in our area and the encouragement of special research and aquaculture are amongst the most important factors at present for us to encourage auto-dependence and partial self-sufficiency in food as well as providing a rich source of protein.

We hope the Organization will help countries of this region to identify the best way to utilize our water resources. As His Excellency, President Elias Hraoui said in his lecture last Saturday, the size of land in our region is very limited and we are threatened by famine. We in this Organization attend these meetings to respond to such challenges. This Organization, as an international forum, is a meeting place of developed and developing countries, and all of them exert efforts to diagnose and to find the right solutions.

Environmentalists in the Middle East are increasingly worried by the use of unwanted pesticide stocks in controlling locusts. Their use could have adverse effects on their environment and human health, and the Organization should afford this particular matter absolute priority.

At this time last year, the State of Kuwait received a mission of seven experts from the FAO to help us in agricultural planning, organization, human development, training, and fish and animal and water resources development. The mission came in order to reassess the agricultural sector after the setback in development efforts caused by the illegal Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The expert mission's report fully reflected the present state of the agricultural sector and the ravages it suffered. The main Report and its technical annexes contain a number of recommendations. The General Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries in the State of Kuwait started to implement a number of these recommendations, and we hope to strengthen our ties with FAO to benefit from the expertise it offers Member States.

Finally, Mr President, I would like to again thank our friend, Dr Saouma, and express our wish that the new Director-General will have every success in discharging his great responsibilities. May God's peace and blessings be upon you all.

David BOWBN (Barbados): Mr Chairman, distinguished ministers and heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen: As I rise to address this Conference, I do so with a sense of both pleasure and pride. I am pleased at the continued efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization to provide a forum where representatives of the world community could discuss agricultural issues affecting us all, and I am proud that Barbados, as a small developing island nation, is once again able to be present and to take part in the deliberations.

Let me at the outset congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your appointment to the chair. I am particularly heartened that a fellow minister from the Caribbean has been entrusted with this responsibility and I am confident that, under your leadership, the successful management and conclusion of this Conference is assured.

Permit me to also express my gratitude and best wishes to the outgoing Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma. He has unselfishly served the Organization over the last two decades and his yeoman service has greatly contributed to the high profile which FAO has maintained throughout the world. Barbados was indeed happy to receive him when we hosted the 19th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in August, 1986. I wish him well in all his future endeavours.

I want to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf who has been elected as the new Director-General. I welcome him to this high office, and pledge the support of Barbados to the efforts which I know he will make to carry the Organization into the 21st century.

Once again, the agenda comprises items that reflect FAO's continued monitoring of and its sensitivity to the issues affecting agriculture, on a global scale. As far as this Conference is concerned, the major difference is the changing international climate within which these issues must be considered. I have no doubt, however, that they would be given adequate treatment during the course of our deliberations.

Statistics and information provided in documentation for this Conference indicate that overall, 1992 was a poor year for agriculture with no less than two-thirds of all developing countries recording stagnant or declining levels of per capita food production. Overall agricultural production in developing countries rose by 1.7 percent, about half of the average growth rate for the previous ten years, while agricultural production in North America recovered significantly, contributing more than 90 percent of the world's total increases in 1992.

These statistics represent the trend of international agriculture over the last decade or so, and signal the importance which must be attached to the task of reversing this pattern where the prosperous seem to be becoming more prosperous as the poor continue to suffer. It is still true, that while food production and food availability at the global level show increases, there remain millions of people in developing countries who suffer from the negative impact of reduced food production, not the least of which is inadequate nutrition.

The agricultural concerns of small developing countries, like Barbados, are best understood within the context of the current world economic situation. Seemingly, as we move more towards a world community, as we witness the formation of large trading blocs and as efforts towards trade liberalization are pursued, developing countries are having to pay the price more and more for these developments.

The issue of world trade, particularly as it relates to agricultural produce, remains of great concern to the developing world. With the creation of the European Single Market, GATT negotiations towards trade liberalization, together with trade protectionist policies being pursued by developed countries, it is becoming clear to us that benefits will vary from one country to another and that many states would be disadvantaged. While we appreciate the fact that many of these developments are necessary within the current international economic climate, the importance of agriculture to our developing economies causes us to be more than a little concerned.

You are aware that we rely on agriculture to enable us to achieve some measure of food security, to generate employment and to earn foreign

exchange. Consequently, anything which impacts negatively on our agriculture will pose a threat to our livelihood. Much economic activity in our countries, for example, is generated by the export of sugar, bananas, rum, rice and a number of other products exported under special regimes such as that negotiated in the Lomé Conventions between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) and the European Communities. Consequently, we in Barbados, the Caribbean and the ACP as a whole cannot stand idly by and allow any of these special regimes to be eroded. There can be no compromise on this point and we in Barbados and the Caribbean, in particular, are prepared to tell this to the international community in our strongest voice.

Our interpretation of the developments that are taking place is that we are being asked to indiscriminately open our front doors, but we shiver and we are hesitant because we fear that our houses would be completely taken over and broken down. In other words, the international economic situation threatens the very existence of our small island states, and this threat is particularly manifested in our agriculture.

Our concern about the state of our agriculture is also linked to the need for us to maintain adequate levels of food availability and, by extension, food security. We want to ensure proper nutrition for our peoples. You are aware that the matter of nutrition is now receiving major attention by FAO and WHO and other international agencies as attested to by the convening of the International Conference on Nutrition last year. Barbados has followed up on this Conference by hosting a national Workshop on Food and Nutrition Strategies for Barbados up to the Year 2000. We are now assessing the results of that Workshop from which it is expected that a food and nutrition policy and programme will be launched.

Small island states like Barbados and most of those in the Caribbean are already limited in their agricultural production by virtue of their small land area and our homogeneous climate. We find it difficult to feed our people from domestic sources only and therefore are forced to import a significant amount of our food with consequential impact, not only on our agriculture but also on our balance of trade and balance of payments.

As a consequence, we are forced to seek redress through structural adjustment programmes. These programmes bring with them conditionalities from international financial agencies that require the reduction of consumer spending, the elimination of barriers to those from the outside wishing to access our markets and the curtailment of Government expenditure, especially on social programmes. These are consequences which impact adversely on the standard of living and the quality of life of our citizens. This is a dilemma that has to be our utmost concern. And here I would call upon the new Director-General to direct the Organization to intensify its efforts to assist countries technically and otherwise with their agriculture, while they are undergoing structural adjustment programmes.

The development of our agriculture is intimately bound up with the preservation of our environment. The management and conservation of our natural resource base encompassed in our concept of sustainable development, remains a critical component of our development and one in which small island states need continuing support. I wish to reiterate a call made at the Inter-regional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries held last year in Barbados. We appealed for greater cooperation

and understanding from the international community in our efforts to achieve sustainable development. Our peculiar needs as small island states make it impossible for us to be compared with or be expected to perform like other countries. That is why, arising out of that conference, recommendations were made towards, inter alia; the integrated planning of both marine and terrestrial environment to prevent their degradation and to soundly utilize the full potential of the natural resource base; diversification of the economy to enhance its resilience and to create new sources of income; and the introduction of appropriate technology to enhance the well-tested know-how which we already have in place.

The Declaration coming from that Conference - known as the Bridgetown Declaration - has not lost any of its importance to us. As you know, Barbados will be host, in April next year, to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It is expected that FAO will play a significant role in the discussions in the Conference so that the relationship between the environment and agriculture, forestry and fisheries will always be in focus. Indeed, it seems to me that FAO will have to develop a comprehensive programme to meet the concerns of the small island states across the globe.

I would like to take this opportunity to echo a call made by my colleague from Dominica and to invite the newly elected Director-General to attend a conference so that he may have a first hand view of the issues and problems facing the Caribbean as they relate to agriculture.

Barbados and the wider Caribbean region continue to be appreciative of assistance received from FAO through technical assistance programmes at both the national and regional levels. I believe that the Organization will continue to play a critical role in the development of agriculture in developing countries. But not only will we call on FAO for assistance, but on other international and regional agencies as well. We are, therefore, cognizant of the fact that there must be a coordinated approach to assistance we receive from regional and international agencies in order to ensure that scarce resources are put to their fullest and most efficient use. In this connection, at a recent meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture held in Mexico, Ministers instructed the Director-General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to consult with FAO to rationalize the roles of the two organizations in the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

Mr Chairman, I have sought to alert this Conference to some of the concerns which we in Barbados and the Caribbean have with regard to our agriculture. I recognize and am grateful for the efforts which FAO has been making and continues to make in this regard, but I am also aware that the Organization does not have all the answers and that there are wider economic factors which must be taken into consideration. I appealed for greater cooperation among international agencies and the donor community and recipients in ensuring that resources made available are put to their fullest use. I expect that many of the issues to which I have adverted will be addressed during this Conference as it deliberates on the FAO programmes proposed for the next decade or so. My confidence in this Organization as the primary agency to assist in our agricultural development, remains undaunted.

Nicolas K. NOMEDJI (Togo): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, MM. les Ministres, Honorables Délégués, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, permettez-moi tout d'abord de joindre ma voix à celles de ceux

qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter tous les membres du Bureau de notre Conférence et les assurer de notre entière collaboration.

Depuis la précédente session de notre Conférence, les conditions économiques de nos pays sont restées stationnaires. La situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle demeure toujours précaire. Les foyers de conflit et les troubles civils se généralisent et accentuent ainsi la dégradation des conditions de vie des populations.

Le renouveau démocratique d'inspiration populaire, amorcé depuis quelque temps, n'a pas encore trouvé son expression institutionnelle dans tous les pays africains. Ce processus irréversible et pour l'instant fragile engendre une instabilité qui fait du tort à nos économies déjà éprouvées.

Ainsi de nouvelles difficultés viennent s'ajouter aux multiples causes complexes qui sont déjà responsables de la détérioration de la situation en Afrique subsaharienne. Les récentes délibérations de la Banque mondiale et du Fonds monétaire international sont assez éloquentes et, aujourd'hui, l'idée d'une réunion sur la paupérisation en Afrique fait son chemin de façon certaine.

Et pourtant, on n'a jamais tant écrit, tant réfléchi, tant débattu et discoursé sur ce thème en relation avec les politiques agricoles et sur la nécessité d'entreprendre des réformes.

De nombreuses solutions à la fois techniques, économiques, politiques, sociales voire humaines à la crise de l'agriculture africaine ont été proposées et les meilleures stratégies élaborées.

Malgré les efforts consentis et les nombreuses réformes entreprises, beaucoup de défis sont à relever dans le secteur. La FAO dont la noble mission, exprimée dans le préambule de l'acte constitutif, à savoir l'élimination de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté dans le monde, continue d'intensifier ses interventions à travers des actions qu'elle veut de plus en plus efficaces en vue d'atteindre les objectifs assignés. Des progrès ont été enregistrés et sont chaque jour plus sensibles.

A ce sujet, je voudrais, en guise de témoignage, exprimer à la FAO toute notre appréciation pour la rapidité avec laquelle elle a récemment réagi aux requêtes du Togo, en mettant en place un Programme de coopération technique (PCT) pour la lutte contre le charbon bactérien, et en envoyant dans mon pays une équipe d'experts chargés d'étudier le cas d'infestation inquiétante des mouches blanches.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, si les résultats obtenus n'ont pu combler tous nos espoirs, c'est qu'il y a quelque part une défaillance qu'il nous faut apprécier et corriger.

Aujourd'hui, aucune considération de conjoncture, si pressante soit-elle, ne saurait justifier l'immobilisme.

La sincère contribution de tous les Etats, et la ferme volonté de coopérer sur le plan national, régional et international, pour bâtir un monde beaucoup plus conforme aux aspirations profondes de nos peuples et beaucoup plus rassurant pour les générations futures nous semblent être la seule issue.

Je voudrais, à ce stade, exprimer notre profonde gratitude à tous nos partenaires pour leurs appuis constants aux efforts de développement du Togo et les inviter à poursuivre cette assistance, surtout en cette période de toutes les difficultés.

A ce titre, je suis heureux de déclarer à la face du monde qu'après la crise engendrée depuis deux ans par la nécessaire évolution de l'histoire, le Togo, mon Pays, retrouve son visage universellement connu de havre de paix et de sécurité. A nouveau, touristes et autres visiteurs étrangers retrouvent le calme et la sécurité des villes et goûtent au cours de leurs randonnées à la beauté des sites togolais.

Ce qui est encore plus réconfortant, c'est que désormais la population vaque librement à ses activités, et plus particulièrement à ses occupations agricoles. Nous sommes heureux de déclarer ici que la récolte des céréales de cette année a atteint le score des meilleures années.

Au plan des principes, des réflexions ont été conduites pour définir les nouvelles orientations et préciser les objectifs et modes d'intervention de chaque acteur.

Le Togo, préoccupé par la sécurité alimentaire durable, s'est lancé dans des réformes socio-économiques à partir d'un diagnostic profond du secteur rural sous-tendu par les principes retenus pour la politique agricole qui sont la diversification et la libéralisation de l'économie.

Les nouvelles orientations portent essentiellement sur:

- un recentrage des actions de développement rural sur le paysan,
- une promotion de la libéralisation du secteur agricole.

Il est évident que sans ressources financières et humaines appropriées, sans moyens institutionnels, et surtout sans volonté politique, il n'y aura point de salut et point d'avenir pour nos pays.

Cependant, de nouvelles raisons d'espérer existent. Elles nous viennent des grands enjeux de portée internationale exprimés par la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition tenue ici même à Rome, et la Conférence sur l'environnement à Rio de Janeiro. C'est pourquoi nous nous félicitons de l'importance que la FAO accorde au suivi des recommandations de ces assises.

Supprimer la faim et la malnutrition est à la portée de l'humanité aussi longtemps que des principes cohérents et des initiatives concertées aux niveaux national et international, soutenus par la volonté politique manifeste, seront appliqués. A ce sujet, le choix du thème de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation 1993 à savoir: "Valorisons la diversité de la nature" est bien à propos.

Il est à remarquer que la lenteur des progrès enregistrés est en partie inhérente à la complexité même du secteur agricole.

Pour terminer, mon pays rend hommage à l'entrée des nouveaux membres dont l'admission au sein de notre Assemblée démontre encore l'intérêt accru manifesté à l'endroit des causes que soutient la FAO.

Je me sens l'agréable devoir d'exprimer notre reconnaissance et notre admiration au Dr Edouard Saouma qui a su, durant ses trois mandats, c'est-

à-dire durant 18 ans, mettre au service de notre Organisation son courage, ses énergies et ses talents pour remplir les nobles missions assignées à la FAO et pour apporter des réponses aux préoccupations toujours grandissantes.

Je voudrais également adresser nos félicitations au nouveau Directeur général pour sa brillante élection et lui souhaiter plein succès dans ses nouvelles fonctions. Le Peuple et le Gouvernement togolais assurent M. Jacques Diouf de tous leurs appuis fraternels.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je me dois de vous remercier de votre aimable attention.

Mrs Elena ASKERSTAM (Estonia): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I hereby have the honour to turn to the 27th Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Estonia. First, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman on your election. Also it is an honour to greet the new members of FAO. I am most pleased to forward the congratulations of my Government to the new Director-General of FAO, His Excellency Mr Jacques Diouf, and to wish him every success in leading the Organization.

I should especially like to express my Government's gratitude to the present Director-General for his support of my country and to wish him very well in the future.

Although the time has been short, the Republic of Estonia and FAO have established close contacts, and we are convinced that our cooperation will increase in the coming years. Mr Chairman, Estonia became a member of FAO two years ago. During these two years we have started several technical assistance cooperation programmes. The first of these concerns a food quality control programme which is of the utmost importance for Estonia as we are changing our existing system for food control. The second programme was focused on the land registration and information system which is common for all three Baltic states, and this came just in time for the land reforms taking place in our three countries. We would like to stress that we rely on further technical cooperation in agricultural policies as well as the planning of our agricultural production, extension services, price policies, the export and import of our commodities, rural development, and the collection and processing of agro-information. We are convinced that Estonia needs FAO consultation and experience only during a transition period, the period of restructuring our agriculture which faces the need to replace a centrally planned system with a privately owned one. This period will, hopefully, not last very long. We count approximately three to five years. After that we hope that we can share our experience with other FAO member countries in developing their agriculture. Mr Chairman, we consider the idea of establishing a new FAO regional centre in the region for East and Central Europe as a necessary institution for promoting and coordinating development of agriculture in the region. Certainly, we do not want our programmes to reduce the aid allocated to developing countries. Here extra funds must be found for the East and Central European programmes.

Our potential in agriculture, forestry and fisheries is great, and we would very soon repay FAO for its efforts on behalf of our region.

Mr Chairman, our government has every goodwill to make its contribution to the FAO budget. We are able to make this contribution now provided the fee requested from us reflects the actual state of our economy.

Estonia is just now going through quite a difficult situation. Agricultural production has decreased and there are practically no subsidies for production, which is unprecedented in our climatic conditions. The last of our eastern market, the difficulties faced by our industry that influences our agriculture, and so forth. We do, however, foresee stability in agriculture in the coming year in terms of our production, prices and market conditions.

Finally, I would like to express my conviction that FAO will have success in carrying out its ideas and objectives in our small and interconnected world. It will most certainly create prospective of improved quality of life for all of us.

CHAIRMAN: We thank the delegate from Estonia for her brief but informative address. It was good to hear from the delegate of a country which has so recently been admitted to membership of FAO.

Ya'acov TSUR (Israel): Mr Chairman, distinguished Ministers, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a special privilege for me to speak to you this day as the representative of the State of Israel and as its Minister of Agriculture.

First of all I would like to congratulate the newly elected Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, and wish him all success in this very important moment of the Organization. I would also like to extend to Dr Saouma best wishes for his future activities.

Israel and the Middle East are now on the threshold of a new era, a period in which hope, mutual trust and cooperation between Israel and the Arab nations will replace hostility, war and suffering.

The agreement signed between Israel and the PLO is an expression of our profound longing to live together in understanding and cooperation. It is an expression of the courage of the leaders who dared to break the cycle of war, and we hope it will be followed by many others.

The peace agreement with Egypt was the first historic breakthrough which paved the way for these new days. We believe that it will take much less time for us to reach agreements of peace, security and cooperation with Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The supreme test of these agreements will be how and whether the leaders and the peoples would translate these arrangements into cooperation among the people of the area, and the building of a new Middle East. Middle East with hope and prosperity for the people.

I have no doubt that agriculture is one of the central topics on which the farmers and scientists of Israel and its Arab neighbours can cooperate. Israel will be able to share its agricultural experience and achievements with the surrounding nations.

The FAO could play an important role in the economic development of the region through technical assistance in various fields, among them water management, the control of animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease, brucellosis, and others.

We have already created in this area a successful model of cooperation between the farmers of Israel and those of Egypt. Joint research by scientists from both countries, model farms operating in Egypt, courses for the advancement of agriculture are all examples of what can be achieved in the entire region with a spirit of cooperation and peace.

From this podium I would like to express my appreciation and admiration to the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture, Professor Wali, on his initiative, faith and determination in constructing this model of cooperation.

Israel's agriculture has attained remarkable professional and scientific achievements. We have done this primarily as the result of the human efforts invested by Israel's farmers to cope with the challenge of establishing an advanced agriculture in a region noted for its shortage of water and desert conditions.

Despite the difficulties, within a single generation - from 1950 to 1975 -we succeeded in increasing agricultural production by a factor of 12, at an unprecedented growth rate of 10 percent per year. In the last decade, technological and scientific development in Israel has been responsible for 95 percent of the growth in agricultural productivity, whereas the natural production factors - land and water - contributed only 5 percent.

I dare say that Israel's agriculture has become, to a great degree, a sort of universal socio-economic laboratory, proving that even poorly endowed regions can be developed through sophisticated agriculture, determination and good planning. This includes advanced scientific techniques, development of new varieties of vegetables and fruits, seeds of high genetic quality, genetic engineering of livestock, and environmentally controlled greenhouses.

Farmers constitute 4 percent of Israel's labour force, and supply most of its agricultural produce, except for grain, oil, sugar, and beef. In addition, we export more than a billion dollars worth of fresh and processed agricultural produce at a value. We are also developing the export of agricultural inputs and know-how.

I should note here that all of Israel's agriculture extends over an area of no more than 400 000 hectares, comprising less than 3 percent of the agricultural land in the entire Middle East.

We are aware of the fact that the erosion of crop genetic diversity poses a serious threat to food supplies in the world. Feeding the increasing world population will require vast efforts towards diversification of agriculture, selection of nutrition crops and livestock varieties using farming techniques which will contribute also to environmental regeneration. Biotechnology assists the conservation of plant and animal genetic resources and improves the quality and the productivity of agriculture.

In the new era of peace in our region we are prepared to be one of the key partners in the joint effort to develop agriculture in the region in the Middle East and to maximize the food supply from domestic sources. For this

purpose we will be able to exchange agricultural inputs and know-how for the benefit of all countries in the fields of irrigation, high-quality seeds, artificial insemination, machinery and extension. We also seek the opportunity to cooperate in developing agricultural trade in the region.

We have no doubt that development will gradually lead to the formation of a Middle East Economic Community along the lines of the European model. Such a move will make a decisive contribution to the progress of the region and to the welfare of its inhabitants.

History and politicians have set borders, and wars have transformed those borders into walls. But now peace has revealed God's gift to us of a wealth of shared natural resources. We must turn these into challenges of peace. The Jordan River, the Dead Sea, and the Gulf of Aqaba are assets shared by the states of Israel and Jordan, and their exploitation can now become a common goal shared by Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinians.

The shortage of water will become increasingly severe in Israel, Jordan, Gaza, Judea and Samaria territories. The increasing population, rising standards of living, and pollution of water sources will make this problem more acute. Only cooperation among the nations in the area can lead to a solution of this problem by increasing the efficiency of agriculture and urban use of existing water, as well as by development of new water sources.

Desalinization, recycling of waste water, reduction of water pollution, increasing rainfall and utilization of flood water can add to present water supplies.

Cooperation among the Middle East peoples on the subject of water is critical and must be reflected in joint desalinization projects and the transport of water from regions with ample supplies to arid regions. The proposed canal to be dug between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea along the Jordan-Israel border, or between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, are two examples of such projects which would, of course, require international assistance.

The story of Israel's agriculture and its success also reveals difficulties and problems unique to Israel's farmers. The dramatic increase in productivity has caused a steady decrease in the number of farmers in Israel and has reduced their income.

This process has had an adverse effect on the viability of the village in Israel, as well as that of its cooperative forms, the moshav and the kibbutz, which constitute a model for society. We desire to strengthen and reinforce that model, as it fulfils important national and pioneering objectives. For this reason, we at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas are now working on developing non-agricultural fields of employment in rural areas, including rural tourism, industry, and individual businesses.

We are also assisting farmers and giving them incentives to switch to specialized farms producing export-quality produce. The question of directing produce to export will become even more significant with the partial or complete integration of Israel's agriculture with that of the areas included in Palestinian autonomy.

This process emphasizes the question of Israel's relations with the European Economic Community. It is imperative to know that 90 percent of Israel's agricultural exports are sent traditionally to EC countries, including flowers, citrus, vegetables, fruit, and other fresh and processed food products. Most Israeli agricultural produce complements European produce in seasons and varieties. In the course of the years, we have reached agreements on exporting agricultural products to EC countries and today more than ever before, we need to update those accords.

Mr Chairman, with organizations such as FAO we intensify international cooperation. Training in Israel and by Israeli experts abroad continues to be at the centre of Israel's programme for international development cooperation. Since the late fifties more than 10 000 Israeli advisers have been sent abroad to give on-the-spot courses in over 50 countries. More than 55 000 men and women from 112 countries have participated in various courses and workshops in Israel.

I would like to report to you that the State of Israel in recent years has also developed relations of agricultural cooperation and assistance with members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as with countries in Eastern Asia, China and India. We look forward to enlarging these connections with great interest and are prepared to take an important part in projects administered by FAO, World Bank, the Bank of Europe, and other international institutions.

The Middle East, which was the historic birthplace of the Jewish people and the Arab people, has turned toward peace and cooperation. A future of hope will replace the wars of today. The Prophet Isaiah, who foresaw the day of peace, said: "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war any more," which means the time has arrived that the farmer will replace the soldier.

Let us all lift up our voices in a prayer for peace and partnership that will lead us to a better world.

Reino URONEN (Finland): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this 27th Session of the FAO Conference.

On behalf of the Government of Finland, I have the pleasure to extend our warmest congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf on his election as the new Director-General of FAO. We look forward to good cooperation with him in the coming years. I also want to thank Mr Saouma for his remarkable contribution to the Organization during his 18 years in office. I want to join the previous speakers in welcoming the new members of the Organization.

The changes that have transformed our political and economic surroundings highlight the expectations attached to FAO as one of the most relevant instruments for sustainable development within the UN family. The demand for FAO's services has increased both in the less developed countries as well as in the countries with economies in transition.

The future of mankind today depends more closely than ever on a rational use of the basic natural resources - soil, water and genetic diversity of

plant and animal species. The services of FAO in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries - both in the normative as well as in the advisory work - are of vital importance to its Member States.

The strengthening of FAO as a centre of excellence in its own domain is the main focus of our work. We trust that Mr Diouf as the new Director-General will vigorously carry on the reform of FAO in close cooperation with its Member States.

Reforms are much needed in the whole UN system in order to make its different parts work in greater harmony and without waste of resources. It is an enormous challenge to the UN and its Specialized Agencies to prove their ability to undergo the needed reform. Without a more efficient and transparent governance the role of the UN in the economic and social sector might become questionable. For this reason we attach importance to the reform in FAO in parallel with the necessary developments in the UN system in general. The review process of FAO that started a few years ago has now to be revitalized in order to further enhance the efficiency and transparency of the Organization and to streamline its decision-making process. At the same time we must not lose sight of the improvements that have to be carried out at the field level. They should result in better coordination of the UN system inputs into the national development plans of the recipient countries.

This is the first FAO Conference after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Our task is to ensure that the chapters of the Agenda 21 related to FAO's mandate are meaningfully interpreted and reflected in the activities of the Organization. My delegation would like to stress the need to define in more concrete terms how the cooperation and the coordination with other partners working in the same and adjacent sectors will be arranged. One of the key sectors is forestry in which the international division of responsibilities will be considered by the Committee on Sustainable Development only in 1995. FAO and its subsidiary bodies should start their preparations for this meeting without delay. Concerning biodiversity the conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources is an extremely important field in the UNCED follow-up. In this area FAO's work is developing successfully.

Yet another priority in FAO's future work is the follow-up of the International Conference on Nutrition. FAO's own conceptual approach to food security has expanded over the years from production figures to economic and social indicators as well as to consideration of household food security. The ICN further increased our understanding on the interlinkages between food security, nutrition and human health.

In the context of food security and nutrition I would like to highlight the importance of the forthcoming UN Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in 1994. Nutrition and population problems have the same underlying causes of poverty. Rural development, poverty alleviation and relevant population policies are instrumental in ensuring adequate nutrition for all. Priority must be given to vulnerable groups in both population and nutrition policies. Focus on people's participation, human resources development and women is particularly important in the context of the major thematic UN conferences.

One of the tasks for FAO is to strengthen its role in the countries in transition. Although valuable experience has already been gained, FAO must be further prepared to assist with relevant inputs its old and new members

undergoing economic transition. In this context my Government wants to see FAO in an advisory role rather than as a technical partner. Tasks such as compilation and exchange of information as well as training would be well suited for FAO.

As to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget of FAO for 1994-95, we are not convinced that a thorough assessment of the utilization of existing resources through priority setting has been undertaken. In our view, a clear priority setting is a necessity in a situation where resources in the regular budget are limited. The priorities then have to be fully incorporated into the Programme of Work. We feel that one of the most urgent tasks for the new Director-General is to undertake an assessment of the issues that are most relevant for FAO's Programme of Work in the future. A special concern for Finland in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget is the relative share of resources allocated to the forestry sector. Although the downturn now has been stopped, my government finds it difficult to understand and accept the proposed level of only 4.6 percent of the budget for forestry. Forestry is undeniably an expanding priority sector for FAO, not least as a part of the UNCED follow-up.

As to FAO's resources, we regret to note that a major source of uncertainty is the late or non-payment of the assessed contributions. The present situation severely undermines the capacity of FAO to fulfil its tasks. In the administration and financial management of the Organization, I want to stress the principle of efficiency and cost-saving measures.

My delegation is pleased to note the seriousness with which FAO has approached the question of the oversight function of the membership concerning both Regular and Field Programme activities. The practice of producing an overall review, presented in the Project Implementation Report and the Programme Evaluation Report facilitates a fruitful dialogue between all parties concerned. It is useful to continue this practice as a permanent element in an improved guidance and oversight function, especially with regard to the field programmes.

Summing up, Mr Chairman, the Finnish delegation wants to confirm its strong support to the work of the FAO and looks forward to good cooperation with the Organization and its new Director-General in the future.

Assad MUSTAFA (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Mr President, Mr Director-General, distinguished heads of the delegations, it is my pleasure to extend to you my heartfelt congratulations as well as to the two Vice-Presidents on your well-deserved election to the Presidency of this Conference, taking into account your vast experience which has been quite proven in the way this Conference has been run. My sincere congratulations are also addressed to Mr Jacques Diouf for the confidence placed in his person, his experience, and his belief and enthusiasm in facing the enormous problems faced by the rural population all over the world.

I would also like to express our deepest appreciation and thanks to Dr Edouard Saouma and his collaborators to alleviate the sufferings of the hungry and to improve the production conditions. While supporting the problem of work and budget, even calling upon members to support the budget we are confident that FAO will be able to tackle efficiently the tasks of the new phase.

Mr President, we are meeting at this international gathering while we are fully cognizant of the fact that malnutrition and deteriorating living conditions are inflicting on hundreds of millions of people at the same time when food surplus is being accumulated elsewhere.

We also know that in order to solve food problems in the developing countries and despite the efforts that are being deployed, additional assistance must be given by developed countries. This does not mean that we are underestimating the aid, assistance, and loans furnished by international institutions and governments but that we consider that these measures are not the right remedy, as they are just pain-killers. There is an urgent need to help the developing countries develop short and long-term programmes and to implement realistic and thoroughly elaborated policies so they are not left as a prey looking for quick investments whose results are mostly destructive and tragic.

The problems of the developing countries are manifest in problems such as, one, the huge population increase and subsequent needs accompanied by decline in income, inability to provide for food requirements, and spread of diseases; two, insufficient resources such as water shortage, the expansion of desertification, and exploitation of resources; three, accumulation of debts and interest and incapability of payment; four, low levels of investment and lack of know-how to utilize up-to-date technologies and incapability of developing research work to increase productivity, lower the costs, and improve the quality of products; five, migration and pressures on affluent societies which create an imbalance in the distribution of human resources in the field of investment and thus generate further crises; six, protectionism in the field of agricultural trade which is based on regional and subjective interests, seriously affecting the interests of peoples in the developing countries, and thus failing their development plans and lowering rates of economic growth.

As mentioned by the Director-General in his statement, the prices of imported commodities into the developing countries have been doubled to the extent that the purchasing power of their export earnings could not stand fast. This situation necessitate that FAO should find sound and applicable solutions and mobilize a world-wide support for such solutions so as to implement useful aid policies for people all over the world and thus achieve a reasonable degree of equilibrium.

The ecosystem of our planet is still subject to flagrant aggressions by man. The expanding deforestation, the effects of industrial growth, the use of technology, and the resulting wastes are but manifestations of such aggressions. These problems should be tackled in closer cooperation by all countries and in accordance with an unified strategy. Limited and subjective solutions can never provide full protection.

In spite of our limited resources, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is actively implementing a programme aiming at the protection of the environment and the increase of our agricultural production. This programme consists of the reclamation of saline lands and turning the marginal lands into productive ones and thus increasing the forest lands and their protection.

It is noteworthy to recall that in 1991 the Syrian Arab Republic attained the Certificate of Honour from FAO, recognizing with appreciation the efforts deployed by the Syrian Arab Republic in the development and protection of our forests. The Syrian Government is trying to get the

necessary funding and assistance to establish natural reserves in order to restore the natural equilibrium of these regions which cover 55 percent of the whole surface.

Rural development has also been receiving special priority in order to increase production and narrow the gap between rural and urban areas and encourage national and foreign investment in agriculture. New laws have been enacted. Special attention has been given to women in general and rural women in particular. Thus, training programmes have been organized for women so as to take an active part in production. Such policies have been quite successful. Better results might have been achieved had it not been for the waves of droughts which afflicted the country several times. Almost 80 percent of our agricultural lands depend mainly on rainfall, added to our natural water resources.

In addition to the above-mentioned circumstances, the Syrian Arab Republic is spending a big share of its production revenues in defence of its territories. We are sincerely endeavouring to achieve a just and real peace which would restore our lands and our full rights in accordance with international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions. And, in order to prove these endeavours, this legitimacy and those Security Council resolutions should be strictly abided by. Otherwise, it would be just a mere impediment to the efforts deployed for the achievement of peace.

Mr President, during the International Conference on Nutrition which was held in Rome last year, it became quite evident that large sectors of people on this planet are threatened with the risk of death and hunger, whereas other sectors are suffering from excessive nutrition and even over-eating and indigestion. In order to save those suffering from hunger and those suffering from indigestion, production should be justly and equally distributed.

CHAIRMAN: We thank you, Mr Distinguished Delegate of Syria. Before we invite the delegate of Cuba to the floor, I would just like to ask the Secretary-General to make an announcement.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je voudrais signaler aux Honorables délégués qu'un certain nombre de délégations, 35 délégations, n'ont pas encore retiré leur carte d'invitation pour l'audience de Sa Sainteté le Pape Jean Paul II qui aura lieu demain matin. Ces délégations sont priées de se manifester auprès du bureau A-131 pour faire connaître leurs intentions de manière à permettre au Secrétariat d'établir la liste des participants.

Alejandro ROCA IGLESIAS (Cuba): Permítame en primer lugar, señor Presidente, expresarle la felicitación de nuestra Delegación por haber sido elegido para presidir este vigésimo séptimo período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO. Como latinoamericanos y caribeños, nos sentimos orgullosos y satisfechos de que dirija usted ese período de sesiones.

Igualmente felicitamos al señor Jacques Diouf por su elección para dirigir esta importante Organización del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Estamos seguros que, en correspondencia con los principios sostenidos por la FAO, dedicará sus mayores esfuerzos a garantizar los objetivos y prioridades de la Organización y a encontrar mejores soluciones para paliar la incierta situación alimentaria mundial. Como hijos del Tercer Mundo, confiamos en

que, bajo su dirección, los anhelos y aspiraciones de ese mundo no serán, una vez más, ignorados. En esta tarea, siempre podrá contar con el pleno respaldo de nuestro país.

Aprovecho también esta oportunidad para saludar, felicitar y agradecer al Dr. Edouard Saouma por su labor al frente de la Organización, cuyo mandato que termina se ha caracterizado por su consecuente posición en defensa de los intereses de los países más necesitados, para los que con justeza ha pedido, persistente y tenazmente, una política de tratamiento diferenciado y preferential por parte de los países más desarrollados. Saludamos también a los nuevos Estados que han ingresado en la Organización.

A pesar de los esfuerzos de esta Organización y de otras dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y del empeño de muchos hombres de buena voluntad, la brecha entre los países desarrollados y los países subdesarrollados, que ha sido analizada tantas veces en esta Conferencia, lejos de estrecharse, se ensancha cada día más, y ese hecho nos lleva a reiterar que solamente una cooperación efectiva que reestructure radicalmente las actuales relaciones económicas internacionales haría posible el crecimiento y el desarrollo de los países en desarrollo.

Las iniciativas, resoluciones y planes de acción gestados y aprobados por consenso en esta Organización, próxima a cumplir cincuenta años, son incontables y, sin embargo, continuamos ignorados por los países más poderosos.

Ni siquiera podemos contar con planes y estrategias concretos en el plano internacional destinados a revertir el proceso de deterioro de las economías de los países en desarrollo, en particular de las regiones de Africa, Asia y América Latina y el Caribe.

La deuda externa y el pago de sus servicios, el intercambio desigual y el proteccionismo continúan siendo flagelos que golpean con más rudeza cada día a nuestros pueblos. En el comercio internacional, los países en desarrollo continuamos obteniendo migajas, mientras que los países desarrollados reciben la mejor tajada, siendo así que las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay, en el marco de negociaciones del GATT, continúan prácticamente estancadas. A su alrededor se mueven activamente intereses muy poderosos que pretenden monopolizar y manipular, con fines egoístas, el comercio de alimentos, que es como comerciar con la vida de los seres humanos.

Nuestro país ha expresado firmemente su convencimiento de la necesidad de alcanzar una verdadera integración económica en la región de América Latina y el Caribe, lo cual ha sido reiterado en los encuentros celebrados por los presidentes en las cumbres Iberoamericanas. En ese sentido, reiteramos que nuestro país, sin abandonar los principios fundamentales en los cuales hemos basado nuestra concepción del desarrollo económico y social, está realizando acciones concretas para adentrarse en un verdadero proceso de integración en el que todos los países participantes obtengamos beneficios para elevar los niveles de desarrollo y mejorar las condiciones de vida de nuestros pueblos.

Nuestro país ha emprendido negociaciones, en el plano económico, con aquellos países y entidades de cualquier latitud que de buena voluntad deseen unirse a nosotros para promover la producción y el comercio en el sector agrícola y en otros sectores, en términos de beneficio común y bajo el principio del respeto mutuo.

En tal sentido, nuestro Gobierno ha expresado, por medio de pronunciamientos y acciones, la voluntad de diversificar sus vínculos económicos y comerciales e insertarse en mayor medida con la economía mundial, cada vez más globalizada; ampliar el número de países con los cuales pudieran establecerse mecanismos de colaboración, comerciales, financieros y de inversión, así como encontrar nuevos campos de acción y surtidos de mercancías a exportar e importar.

Para nadie es desconocido que mi país está sometido a un férreo bloqueo económico -desde hace más de tres décadas, acentuándose en los últimos meses el carácter extraterritorial del mismo. Las presiones dirigidas a entidades económicas privadas y públicas de terceros países para impedir o afectar sus vínculos con Cuba se multiplican cada día.

Se nos priva de adquirir medicamentos básicos para mantener la salud y de adquirir alimentos para garantizar nuestra seguridad alimentaria, se coarta la adquisición de recursos para satisfacer nuestro bienestar material y social; se nos amenaza la paz y la vida cotidiana en un mundo unipolar, donde se utilizan cada vez más los alimentos como arma política.

Desde luego que la comunidad internacional no permanece ajena a esta realidad, como lo demuestra la reciente condena, por segundo año consecutivo, en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, contra el bloqueo a Cuba. En esta oportunidad, con un mayor apoyo y sólo cuatro votos en contra.

El Gobierno que nos tiene impuesto ese criminal bloqueo pretende rendir por hambre y enfermedades el ejemplo que no ha podido vencer por la fuerza. Además de las consecuencias de este bloqueo, nuestro país, que logró durante estos años un desarrollo razonable en la salud, la educación, en su infraestructura productiva, se ve afectado por los cambios que se han producido en los países de Europa del Este. Entre estos países y Cuba se dieron relaciones justas de intercambio que, a pesar de su actual deterioro, no dejamos de reconocerlas como las que deben existir, como práctica consecuente, entre los países de menos desarrollo y los países desarrollados.

No obstante las dificultades inimaginables por las que estamos atravesando, en nuestro país continuamos trabajando con una estrategia coherente de desarrollo rural integral, que permite, además de la producción de alimentos, proteger el medio ambiente, mediante el incremento sostenido de nuestras áreas de bosques, el adecuado manejo de las cuencas hidrográficas y de otros recursos naturales.

Las recientes transformaciones en nuestra agricultura, como parte del trabajo que se viene realizando para hacerla más eficiente, y con el propósito de aplicar fórmulas que incentiven y motiven a los hombres a entregar sus reservas productivas con el menor gasto posible de recursos, se complementa con el desarrollo de la necesaria infraestructura social, incluye la construcción de nuevas viviendas, consultorios del médico de la familia, escuelas, hospitales y otros servicios comunitarios que les permiten a nuestros hombres y mujeres del campo vivir en condiciones cada vez mejores, como reconocimiento de su verdadera dimensión humana en una sociedad de justicia social como la nuestra.

Referente al trabajo de la Organización, no podemos dejar de lamentar la reducción presupuestaria en varios programas técnicos y económicos que son de incuestionable valor para todos los países y en especial para los países

subdesarrollados. Nos referimos especialmente al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, el cual, lejos de recibir incrementos según lo dispuesto por esta misma Conferencia, en la práctica sufre en estos momentos de disminuciones que no posibilitarán mantener tan siquiera el alcance del bienio anterior.

Asimismo, también consideramos que programas como Montes y Pesca, entre otros, deberían poder contar con mayores recursos, y en tal sentido solicitamos que se tomen todas las medidas posibles, incluyendo la obtención de recursos extrapresupuestarios, a fin de que todos los programas - fundamentales que ha priorizado la Organización puedan ejecutarse, de acuerdo a las necesidades de los países beneficiarios.

A pesar de que hagamos estos señalamientos a la distribución del Presupuesto de la Organización, la Delegación de Cuba no puede dejar pasar por alto esta oportunidad para elogiar la encomiable labor de la FAO, especialmente en la ayuda a los países del Tercer Mundo, para mejorar su situación alimentaria y nutricional, teniendo como punto de partida a la solución de los problemas más acuciantes que enfrenta la humanidad y que han sido puestos a la luz por importantes cónclaves celebrados recientemente.

El cumplimiento del Programa 21, aprobado por la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo, ocupa un lugar destacado dentro de las labores que la FAO enfrentará en el próximo bienio. Para Cuba, que en sus recientes modificaciones constitucionales incluyó el cumplimiento del Programa de Acción de esta Conferencia, es una muestra de cómo la Organización aprovecha de la mejor manera sus posibilidades y potencialidades.

También nos congratula la dedicación de la FAO para dar seguimiento al Plan de Acción de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición, teniendo presente que el derecho a un nivel de vida adecuado, incluida la alimentación, nos compromete a todos a actuar con rapidez y solidaridad.

No quisiéramos terminar nuestra intervención sin destacar la importante labor que desempeña el Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Vemos complacidos cómo el PMA se ha convertido en uno de los mayores organismos de desarrollo y socorro en el mundo, siendo en estos momentos la fuente más importante de asistencia, a título de donación.

Quisiéramos además dejar constancia de nuestro reconocimiento al eficiente y dinámico trabajo del personal de la Secretaría del PMA, en la Sede y en el campo, y a su Directora Ejecutiva, Sra. Catherine Bertini, quien, además, está dando una mayor participación a las mujeres en las actividades del Programa.

Tenemos ante nosotros la extraordinaria posibilidad de ayudar al mejoramiento humano; en especial, de la lucha común contra la pobreza, de la lucha por el bienestar de todos y en especial de los más desposeídos, sin claudicaciones ni sometimientos a aquellas ideas que atenten contra los verdaderos intereses de los desposeídos de la tierra.

El éxito de esta Conferencia se medirá por las acciones que de ella resulten. Representamos a una gran parte de la humanidad, y ese deber moral, esa obligación política, esa responsabilidad excepcional e histórica, reclama decisiones, reclama medidas concretas y un compromiso que no es posible postergar.

Samir IMALHAYENE (Algérie): Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette session ainsi que les membres du Bureau. Ma délégation est convaincue que sous votre conduite éclairée nos travaux seront couronnés de succès.

Je tiens également à adresser à M. Jacques DIOUF les vives et chaleureuses félicitations de mon pays qui se réjouit que la direction générale de notre Organisation revienne à un digne fils de l'Afrique et l'assure de son soutien actif dans l'accomplissement de cette lourde mais exaltante tâche.

Mon pays se joint à tous ceux qui ont rendu hommage à M. Edouard SAOUMA qui a su diriger avec doigté et persévérance cette Organisation pendant ces 18 dernières années.

Nous entamons les travaux de cette 27ème session à un moment où le monde traverse une transition historique marquée par de profonds bouleversements politiques et économiques. La fin de la guerre froide et l'avènement de rapports internationaux nouveaux ont conduit à des résultats significatifs en matière de désarmement et de règlement de certains conflits régionaux et ont laissé espérer la libération de ressources supplémentaires au profit du développement.

Pourtant, Monsieur le Président, si le monde a changé, pour beaucoup de pays en voie de développement les réalités demeurent amères. Les nouvelles perspectives que devait leur ouvrir le nouvel ordre en formation tardent à venir. De même, la persistance d'un environnement économique des plus défavorables, l'aggravation de l'endettement extérieur et l'inadaptation de la coopération internationale conjugués à une croissance démographique non jugulée, ont réduit à néant les efforts méritoires consentis par ces pays, souvent au prix de sacrifices sociaux et politiques importants, en vue de procéder aux transformations structurelles que leur imposent l'évolution de l'économie mondiale et les exigences de leur propre développement.

Cette conjoncture a contribué à accélérer la dégradation de la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle et la paupérisation de pans entiers des populations, particulièrement en Afrique qui connaît de véritables drames devant lesquels nous ne pouvons rester indifférents.

Dans le même temps et paradoxalement, la croissance des stocks se poursuit à un rythme effréné dans les pays développés. C'est là assurément une illustration criante des déséquilibres de l'économie mondiale qui requiert une action urgente et solidaire de la part de la communauté internationale.

Participant d'une telle démarche, le Sommet de Rio de Janeiro et la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition ont rappelé que le développement agricole avec ses multiples facettes, notamment la sécurité alimentaire, la nutrition et la conservation des ressources naturelles, ne saurait se concevoir sans la promotion d'un développement durable et d'une croissance soutenue dans les pays en voie de développement.

Ces deux événements traduisent non seulement la prise de conscience de l'interdépendance des nations mais aussi la validité de l'approche multilatérale et la nécessité d'adopter des démarches intégrées qui tiennent compte de toutes les dimensions des problèmes auxquels l'humanité est confrontée.

Aussi est-il impérieux de replacer l'objectif du développement au premier rang de nos priorités. Cela est d'autant plus urgent que les

bouleversements issus de la fin de la guerre froide continuent de mobiliser l'essentiel des énergies et des ressources de la communauté internationale au détriment des pays en développement.

Dans ce contexte, il est important de réfléchir aux implications des récents bouleversements, non seulement pour les pays en voie de développement, mais aussi pour le système des Nations Unies dans son ensemble.

A cet égard, la FAO se devrait d'intégrer sa réflexion, son action, ses programmes de même que ses activités opérationnelles de développement dans ce cadre.

Au moment même où le monde s'engage dans une entreprise de rénovation globale, l'Algérie s'est engagée dans un processus de réforme économique jetant les fondements de l'Etat de droit tout en consolidant le processus démocratique.

C'est le lieu et l'occasion ici, pour mon pays, de réaffirmer son engagement à continuer à oeuvrer dans cette voie en dépit d'une conjoncture particulièrement défavorable. L'Algérie, qui fait face actuellement à une véritable entreprise de déstabilisation de ses institutions du fait du terrorisme, s'emploie de manière vigoureuse à lutter contre ce fléau qui a fait d'innombrables victimes.

Notre espoir est que la Communauté internationale dans son ensemble soutienne nos efforts en vue d'assurer les conditions de stabilité politique et de relance économique, nécessaires à la concrétisation des réformes structurelles exigées par les impératifs du développement et la satisfaction des besoins vitaux de la population.

C'est dans ce contexte difficile, et dans un environnement économique international adverse, que se situent les réformes engagées dans le secteur agricole. Ce dernier est caractérisé par une vulnérabilité sur le plan de la sécurité alimentaire se traduisant par une insoutenable facture alimentaire de l'ordre d'un tiers du montant de nos importations totales, mais aussi par une dégradation des ressources, du milieu et des écosystèmes agricoles.

Conscient de son importance dans les équilibres économiques du pays et des potentialités non négligeables qu'il recèle, le Gouvernement algérien a pris des mesures visant à réunir les conditions essentielles à la relance de ce secteur, fondées sur la liberté d'initiative des producteurs.

Au nombre de ces mesures, nous mentionnerons particulièrement:

- 1) La redéfinition des politiques foncières, axée sur la privatisation des terres qui vise à sécuriser les agriculteurs et les encourager à augmenter leur production.
- 2) L'organisation de la profession agricole pour lui permettre de jouer pleinement le rôle de véritable partenaire dans la prise de décisions à même de dynamiser le secteur.
- 3) La régulation économique par une organisation des structures et de l'environnement agricoles plus aptes à valoriser le travail productif et une correction des distorsions du système productif agricole.

En outre, l'Algérie a entrepris un vaste programme d'intensification de la production des terres marginales, la réhabilitation et l'extension de nouveaux périmètres dans le nord du pays ainsi qu'un programme de mise en valeur d'importantes superficies dans le sud.

Toutefois, malgré tous ces efforts, l'aléa climatique compromet souvent l'augmentation de la production agricole.

Ainsi les effets de la sécheresse, qui a sévi cette année sur une grande partie du territoire national, n'ont été limités que grâce à la mobilisation d'importants moyens de lutte contre cette calamité naturelle.

A ceci s'ajoute la menace d'une nouvelle invasion acridienne qui s'annonce des plus redoutables.

Face à la recrudescence de ce fléau, la mobilisation de notre Organisation a été remarquable et je tiens à saisir cette occasion pour lui exprimer tout notre espoir de voir cet élan de solidarité se poursuivre et se renforcer dans le proche avenir.

Dans le cadre d'une démarche concertée et globale de lutte contre le péril acridien, mon pays a organisé à Alger, le 27 septembre 1993, une réunion des ministres des pays du Maghreb et du Sahel chargés de la lutte antiacridienne.

J'ai reçu mandat des chefs de délégations de vous informer de l'ensemble des conclusions auxquelles nous sommes parvenus et tout particulièrement:

- la constatation que la lutte préventive contre le criquet pèlerin constitue la seule voie à même de maîtriser la recrudescence de ce fléau, d'où la nécessité de mettre en place une coopération organisée et pérenne entre les pays menacés de la région;
- la certitude que l'ampleur de la dégradation enregistrée dans le Nord-Ouest de l'Afrique exige des moyens considérables qui dépassent les possibilités de l'ensemble des pays concernés.

S'agissant de prévention acridienne, ma délégation insiste sur l'intérêt d'une action directe sur les zones de nidification de la mer Rouge, telles qu'elles ont d'ailleurs été identifiées à plusieurs reprises par votre Organisation.

Elle aura l'avantage de circonscrire le phénomène à la source et de réaliser une économie en coûts au profit des pays du Sahel et du Maghreb dans leur mobilisation contre les invasions acridiennes.

Il sied de souligner, à la faveur de cette Conférence, l'importance que nous accordons à la mise en oeuvre du projet interrégional de lutte préventive initié en 1988, ainsi que de celui relatif à la couverture météorologique des vastes zones sahéliennes encore dépourvues de stations météorologiques.

Enfin, qu'il me soit permis de mettre l'accent sur le rôle primordial que joue l'information dans toute stratégie de prévention et de lutte, ainsi que la formation des personnels techniques impliqués dans ces opérations.

Au cours de la présente session, la Conférence aura à adopter le projet de programme du travail et de budget pour le prochain biennium.

S'agissant des grandes orientations de ce programme, nous ne pouvons que noter avec satisfaction l'importance accordée au suivi de la CNUED de son agenda 21 et de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. L'agenda 21 exige de nous non seulement une mise en oeuvre rapide mais également un engagement ferme et concret de la part des pays développés. Son application constituera, à notre sens, un tournant important dans l'histoire de l'humanité et un jalon déterminant dans l'agencement du nouvel ordre économique mondial.

Mon pays, qui subit une dégradation des ressources naturelles, en est bien conscient, et les efforts qu'il mène au plan national ne lui permettent pas de venir à bout de l'érosion, des déboisements et des défrichements. Aussi un soutien est-il vivement souhaité des différents réseaux qui luttent activement contre la désertification et pour la remise en état des écosystèmes dont la fragilité est bien connue dans la région méditerranéenne.

Le plan d'action adopté par la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition constitue un acquis important dans le combat contre la faim et la malnutrition. Dans un monde de progrès et d'abondance, sa mise en oeuvre nous interpelle particulièrement et nous commande une action urgente et vigoureuse.

En revanche, compte tenu de ses faibles ressources, notre Organisation est dans l'obligation de limiter ses moyens et son champ d'action.

Il importe de relever à ce propos que si l'action de l'Organisation répond ainsi à l'exigence de rationalisation et aux priorités de l'heure, cela ne devrait pas se faire aux dépens des tâches essentielles qui lui sont confiées telles que les activités d'appui sur le terrain, la promotion de l'investissement et la coopération technique. C'est pourquoi nous estimons que si le processus de rationalisation est inéluctable, il ne faudrait perdre de vue la nécessité de disposer de mécanismes tels que les programmes de coopération technique auxquels nous reconnaissons une gestion tant souple permettant un financement continu du développement. Aussi mon pays insiste sur la nécessité d'accroître le niveau de ces programmes pour atteindre l'objectif fixé par la Résolution 9/89 de la Conférence.

Il est vrai que l'humanité traverse une période difficile mais nous mettons notre espoir en l'avènement d'un monde meilleur, de justice et de paix.

Notre Organisation peut apporter sa contribution à la réalisation de ce noble objectif pour peu qu'elle adapte ses modes de gestion et de fonctionnement aux besoins d'une communauté internationale qui aspire à un mieux-être.

A la veille de la célébration du cinquantième anniversaire de sa création, la FAO doit rester mobilisée pour faire face aux nombreux défis et pour s'engager résolument vers l'objectif salubre d'édification d'un monde nouveau où chacun jouira d'un niveau de vie digne et décent.

Pour réaliser cet espoir, elle a besoin de la confiance et de l'appui de tous.

CHAIRMAN: We thank very much the distinguished delegate of Algeria for his statement. I now invite the distinguished delegate of Zambia to take the

floor, and whilst he takes the floor I ask you to note that Ambassador Laureau, Vice-chairman of this Conference, will now take the Chair.

Jacques Laureau, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair

Jacques Laureau, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Jacques Laureau, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, most cordially on your election to preside over this important Conference, and to assure you of our full support as you discharge the important functions of your office. Mr Chairman, may I take this opportunity to pay Zambia's gratitude to the outgoing Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, who has dedicated much of his life to the service of providing food for mankind. He has been a man for the poor, and he has helped to transform the FAO into a source of hope for the survival of millions of people who always live under constant threat of hunger, starvation, degradation and even death.

I take this opportunity to welcome the new Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, and to congratulate him for being elected to this challenging task. I wish to assure him of my personal support and that of my Government and the people of Zambia. He is taking over at a time of rising expectations and yet also at the time of dwindling resources in the Organization. As you are aware, because of the prevailing economic difficulties in many member countries, FAO has not always received sufficient contributions with which to fulfil these increasing expectations. The first challenge he will face therefore, is to make do with the little resources available in the Organization. Obviously, that will entail good organization and efficient use of such resources.

This then brings me to the question: what kind of organization do we expect FAO to be? We do not wish to change the mandate of the Organization because it was already declared to be valid and sound by the FAO Review Mission of 1989. Rather, we would like to see more devolution of powers to regional and country offices in order to strengthen these offices so that they can deal with increasing challenges at local level. This is particularly important in getting FAO to assist Member Governments to respond rapidly to unforeseen circumstances such as insect pest attacks.

At the local level, we would like to see more capacity building and more expenditure of resources on innovations for enabling higher food production with much reduced inputs, reduced food losses with better nutrition, improved environment with better conservation and management of natural resources.

The role of FAO should be to act as a catalyst to provide technical expertise where it is lacking and to facilitate increased national execution of projects and programmes.

The Twenty-seventh Session of our Conference is taking place at a time of great economic and social-economic upheavals in many of our member countries. The on-going economic restructuring and the advent of political transformation in many parts of the world have in the short term, brought about very many difficulties and indeed miseries. In some instances people's lives have been lost. As we meet here in Rome, the poor and starving populations all over the world have their eyes focused on us with

the hope that we can provide some of the solutions to their problems. This, to me, seems to be the major challenge of this Conference.

It is for this reason that I welcome the FAO global study entitled "Agriculture: Towards 2010", which is an update of the previous study issued in 1987. It is important that the study has chosen food security and nutrition together with sustainable agriculture and rural development as the underlying themes for discussion by the Conference.

We now live in a world where there is a delicate balance between the ever-increasing population and the increasingly diminishing natural resource base. This trend of development is going to be more worrying in developing countries, where the study predicts a population increase of 94 percent or 1.8 billion by the year 2010. It is unfortunate that sub-Saharan Africa, where chronic malnutrition is also predicted to prevail, is the region where we are going to maintain a higher rate of population increase of up to 3.2 percent.

If these predictions are anything to go by, we expect the gap between the rich and poor countries to grow even wider, and we are likely to see more instances of desertification and land degradation in sub-Saharan Africa, as the population will exert more pressure on land in search of increased means of survival. While the study presents us with a number of suggestions on how to address the issues of food security and nutrition on one hand, and sustainable agriculture and rural development on the other, the poor will be looking for practical approaches to end their poverty which is the major cause of all their problems.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the majority of people subsist on land, and governments usually have no alternative employment for them and they are therefore encouraged to engage in farming.

As this august house may be aware the Southern African Sub-Region was hit by a very serious drought in the period 1991/92 farming season which necessitated massive importation of food to assure food security. However, I am pleased to inform the Conference that Zambian farmers have demonstrated remarkable resilience during the 1992-93 season when they produced an all time record maize crop (over and above our requirements) in the aftermath of the unprecedented drought of the previous season of 1991/92. Record achievements were across the board in all other crops. It was not easy for our farmers to achieve this feat in 1993 as a good number of them - particularly in the southern half of the country which was the most hit by drought, suffered heavy crop losses and livestock diseases and losses. I must hasten to note, however, that this remarkable recovery was not an achievement of my Government alone. It was achieved with the assistance of donors - most of whom are gathered here.

At this juncture, I would like to record my Government's sincere thanks to all the donors who came to our aid and helped us to recover very quickly from the drought in 1992.

The agricultural sector is designed to be the mainstay of the Zambian economy with emphasis on promoting smallholder agriculture and strengthening existing services. Specific programmes are being developed to enhance the private sector's involvement in agricultural production, marketing, processing and export.

In this regard, the Conference may wish to know that my ministry has constituted a task force which is preparing an Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (ASIP). This task force comprises agricultural and other experts from government, private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The principal aim of ASIP is to efficiently pool and utilize resources for the development of the agricultural sector on a priority basis. It is also intended to coordinate donor assistance.

The Investment Programme will have several key areas for investment - among them will be: agricultural research and extension, animal production and health, fisheries, food security and crop marketing, irrigation development and farm power, and a new products development. Donors would be accordingly invited to fund these key areas.

My Government is also paying greater attention to environmental concerns within the framework of environmentally-sound sustainable development. The most pressing environmental concerns include: the declining quality of water in Zambia's streams and rivers, especially in urban areas with heavy concentrations of population; declining quality of urban life due to inadequate facilities for the efficient disposal of solid waste; potential dangers posed by inadequate facilities for the disposal of waste; decline in wildlife population as a result of heavy illegal hunting, and deforestation due to an ever-growing demand for fuel wood and inappropriate agricultural practices.

The agricultural sector through wrong farming practices continues to contribute to a very large degree in the destruction of the natural resource base. In my country some 200 000 hectares of vegetation cover are cleared every year for farming purposes. This rate of destruction, if not followed by proper farming practices, will destroy the environment irreversibly. In this regard, the sustainable utilization of our natural resources is paramount for our survival.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome our nine new members, some of whom are my neighbours. I am confident that the new members will discharge their responsibilities fully and will help in strengthening the FAO. We look forward to working and collaborating with them.

It is necessary to find long-lasting solutions in the conservation of nature by involving people at the grass-roots level in the decision-making process. People at this level need to be made aware that the sustainable utilization of the natural resource base is to their long-term advantage.

I would like to conclude by observing that in the past FAO had a lot of difficulties in discharging its responsibilities. This arose mainly from the lack of funds because of inadequate funding by Member Nations. As we confront the new challenges in the coming biennium, especially in the face of the tremendous difficulties taking place in some Member Nations, an assured source of funds for implementation of the agreed programmes and projects will be vital. In this regard we fully support the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. In the future Zambia looks forward to an increased FAO budget.

A well-funded FAO (country-based) will be able to rise to the challenge of the needs of the millions of the rural poor. This should also improve the speed with which FAO can respond to urgent requests such as invasion by migratory pests of locusts and armyworms.

The focus of FAO's attention must be on food security both at the household and regional level. This is achieved optimally if, in fact, in the course of increasing agricultural production sufficient gainful employment opportunities are created.

Milan BERANEK (Czech Republic): Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the Czech Republic was admitted as an FAO member only a few days ago. I would like to assure you that it wants to be an active member from the very beginning .

We are aware that the global problems have increased and that many of them represent a potential threat to the world's very existence. Their constructive solution is a task facing mankind, the government of individual countries and also various bodies and authorities of the United Nations.

The FAO should play a substantial leading role in this field and should attempt to solve one of the most important problems on the earth, the elimination of hunger, poverty, and under-nourishment. This is why FAO's activities should be granted our full support.

The Czech Republic, within the scope of its possibilities, declares its support of such activities in the spirit of its humanitarian and democratic values.

We appreciate that FAO has recently been paying more attention to the further development of agriculture in the European region where the complex process of transition of agrosectors to a market economy in the Central and Eastern European countries is taking place.

In the Czech Republic huge structural changes in agriculture and rural areas have taken place in the last three years. Agriculture, which was very strictly centrally directed before 1989, has been changing within the framework of the new economic system. The transfer to a market economy has put a lot of pressure on the adaptability of agriculture under the new economic conditions. Renewal of private property is the fundamental aspect of transformation. The property of cooperatives is being transferred to private legal and physical entities. The state farms have been privatized by means of long-time leases with the long-term prospect of sale to private hands.

Private farmers have been managing more than 400 000 hectares of arable land and about 40 000 private farmers and 1 663 entrepreneur entities are now registered. The main problem of Czech agriculture is the excess of supply over demand and the decline in the foodstuffs market in the Czech Republic. We believe, as far as the Czech Republic is concerned, that these problems are only temporary and are connected with the transfer to a market economy. It is and should be in the interest of FAO to find a rapid solution to these problems.

Our Republic appreciates the technical cooperation and international experience of FAO in drawing up agricultural policy, the transfer of know-how, and the development of regions and the solution of selected technical problems.

We, on our side, offer our unique experience gathered during the transfer of a centrally managed economy to a market one with special attention to

agriculture and its privatization. Many of our highly qualified experts are ready to contribute to FAO activities in its headquarters and field programmes in various parts of the world. Our agricultural research has been, in certain fields, top level and this could be of interest not only to FAO but to its Member States as well.

The professionalism of our experts has been demonstrated in the Forest and Timber Committee, in the Fishery Committee and the Committee for Plant Genetic Resources. We are ready and able to offer the training facilities of some of our institutes for FAO training programmes, for instance, the Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture of the Agricultural university in Prague or our Academy of Sciences.

In this context it is necessary for FAO to be aware of its irreplaceable role, its historical opportunity and its duty to contribute and assist Central and Eastern European countries in their transfer to a market economy, especially in so sensitive a field as agriculture.

It is our understanding that a more active development of cooperation between FAO and Central and Eastern Europe should not be at the cost of sacrificing FAO's fundamental function, which is to focus on assistance to the developing countries.

The Czech Republic will pay continuous attention to the FAO activities included in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95. No doubt its realization will be a very complex process and will require an immediate and adequate response to the rapid political, economic and social developments in the world. This can be ensured only by improving the efficiency of the FAO activities and by introducing necessary reforms. It is one of the main tasks that the newly elected Director-General should implement immediately.

We are aware of the limited financial resources of the Organization and its difficult financial situation. FAO management should undertake the necessary measures without affecting negatively its professional level. The reforms should be carried out as rapidly as possible, and effective spending of both external and internal financial resources should be sought.

Our membership in the Organization means that the Czech Republic has become one of the most important Central and Eastern European contributors to FAO's budget. We stand for transparency in FAO's finances and for zero growth of the budget. This should enable a large number of the member countries to meet their commitments on time and in full.

The Czech Republic does not and will not only passively follow FAO activities. I repeat that we want to take an active part in the Organization's work. We have shown our commitment to this also by hosting, last year, the Regional Conference for Europe which took place in our capital, Prague.

In concluding, let me wish the 27th Session of the FAO Conference and the future of FAO every success.

Ioan OANCEA (Roumanie) (Langue originale roumaine) : Au nom du Gouvernement roumain, il me revient l'honneur de vous adresser, Monsieur le Président, mes félicitations cordiales pour votre nomination dans cette importante

fonction de présidence de l'actuelle Conférence de la FAO qui débat de la situation et des perspectives mondiales de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Je voudrais également exprimer les félicitations de la délégation roumaine aux autres membres du Bureau de l'actuelle session de la Conférence.

Nous sommes convaincus que les travaux de la Conférence, sous votre direction et avec la contribution de toutes les délégations présentes, auront un grand succès. Nous vous assurons, Monsieur le Président, de tout notre soutien.

En même temps, permettez-moi de transmettre, au nom du Gouvernement roumain, mes sincères félicitations au nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, M. Jacques Diouf, qui a été élu par la Conférence. Je lui souhaite le meilleur succès dans la coordination des activités de l'Organisation.

Le Gouvernement roumain exprime sa profonde satisfaction pour l'admission des nouveaux Etats Membres de la FAO et nous sommes convaincus que leur participation dans les activités de l'Organisation renforcera la qualité de la contribution à la réalisation des programmes FAO.

Nous nous félicitons également de l'entrée de l'Afrique du Sud dans notre Organisation.

Le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, a présenté des documents très clairs, très circonstanciés, avec un contenu, et qui revêtent une importance vitale pour la solution des principales tendances et des politiques dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture mondiales, et pour la mise en pratique de programmes d'action nationaux et internationaux ayant en vue d'accroître la production et la consommation agro-alimentaire tout en assurant la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

La délégation roumaine a étudié avec beaucoup d'attention ces documents, qui montrent une tendance d'amélioration de la situation de l'agriculture mondiale et de la nutrition mondiale. Cependant, les décalages existant entre le développement et les conjonctures locales font que l'on souffre de plus en plus de famine et de malnutrition. Dans ce contexte, le Gouvernement roumain se prononce pour l'adoption de mesures concrètes et urgentes en vue de résoudre ce problème.

Les mesures de priorité à cet égard sont l'arrêt des confrontations militaires, la libération des fonds matériels qui sont absorbés pour l'instant par l'industrie de l'armement et une affectation plus importante de ressources pour la solution plus rapide des problèmes alimentaires dans les pays qui sont les plus pauvres et ceux qui se trouvent actuellement en phase de développement et d'autres pays nécessaires.

En ce qui concerne la Roumanie, nous avons orienté notre politique générale de développement économique et agro-alimentaire tout particulièrement vers la réorganisation et la modernisation de l'agriculture et de l'industrie alimentaire. La Roumanie a obtenu une production agricole satisfaisante malgré des conditions climatiques défavorables et les autres difficultés spécifiques aux économies en transition.

M. le Président, dès l'année 1990, la Roumanie s'est engagée dans un long processus d'ouverture et de démocratisation de la vie politique, économique et sociale. Jusqu'à présent, la privatisation, le processus de la réforme

s'est confronté et est encore confronté à l'heure actuelle, à une série de difficultés engendrées par les déséquilibres du régime passé, par le fait que la Roumanie est un pays en transition, par l'interruption du commerce avec les pays anciennement membres du CAEM, par l'insuffisance et la discontinuité des ressources financières et par la conjoncture économique mondiale défavorable.

La première priorité dans le processus de réforme a été la mise en application d'un cadre juridique qui était absolument nécessaire pour le fonctionnement des instruments et des mécanismes de l'économie de marché.

Dans l'agriculture, par le processus de la réforme, on a rétabli la propriété privée sur la terre: plus de 70 pour cent des superficies agricoles et plus de 80 pour cent des superficies cultivées sont passées au secteur privé.

Les options stratégiques de la politique agricole du Gouvernement roumain ont en vue la mobilisation des ressources agricoles pour l'assurance de la sécurité alimentaire de la population du pays, la réalisation d'un équilibre national entre productions végétale et animale.

L'objectif prioritaire du nouveau programme de réforme économique du Gouvernement de la Roumanie est l'arrêt du déclin et la relance de la production agricole, la garantie de ressources alimentaires nécessaires pour la consommation intérieure dès l'année 1993. Ainsi, la Roumanie a produit cette année plus de 14 millions de tonnes de céréales, soit une augmentation de plus de 3 millions de tonnes par rapport à 1992.

Les productions animales ont elles aussi augmenté en 1993 par rapport à 1992. Nous avons maintenant 4 millions de porcs, 13,6 millions d'ovins, 93,8 millions de volailles.

M. le Président, notre pays détient une superficie agricole d'environ 15 millions d'hectares, dont 75 pour cent sont des terrains arables, et 3,2 millions d'hectares sont des terres irriguées.

A présent, en vertu de la loi du fonds foncier N° 18/1992, approuvée par le Parlement européen, 79 pour cent de la superficie agricole est privée et 21 pour cent appartiennent à l'Etat. Le milieu rural représente 40 pour cent de la population totale.

La zone de montagne est une zone dont le potentiel doit être croissant. Elle représente une superficie agricole de plus de 3 millions d'hectares (pâturages et forêts) et est habitée par 3,5 millions d'habitants sur 75 localités. Par l'intermédiaire de la FAO, l'expérience des pays qui possèdent une agriculture de montagne bien organisée serait très utile pour accroître la production agricole et tout particulièrement du secteur zootechnique de cette zone de Roumanie.

Nous sommes conscients que pour l'avenir nous devons faire beaucoup et nous nous sommes proposés de mettre en oeuvre et de moderniser des terrains, de renforcer la mécanisation et la collaboration entre productions végétale et animale et d'autres activités productives, et ceci suivant un processus graduel.

Pour la réalisation des buts mentionnés, chaque pays doit intensifier son propre effort. La coopération internationale dans le cadre bilatéral et

multilatéral, sur le plan régional, départemental et interrégional, doit aussi être accrue. La FAO peut jouer un rôle important dans ce domaine.

D'après nous, les pays développés ont un rôle très important à jouer pour soutenir les efforts réalisés par les pays en développement, par l'aide de programmes concrets de la FAO, dans le domaine de la modernisation de l'agriculture dans ces pays. Ces programmes peuvent contenir l'idée, par exemple, de garantir l'accès des pays en développement et la transmission de la technologie agro-industrielle la plus moderne. Ceci assurera la présence de la production et de la productivité dans ces pays.

Nous apprécions l'initiative de la FAO qui a organisé des réseaux scientifiques internationaux auxquels participe la Roumanie, de manière active, et qui comprennent les principales cultures agricoles, celles qui sont les plus importantes pour l'alimentation humaine comme le blé, le maïs, le tournesol, le soja et également quelques espèces d'élevage.

A notre avis, les programmes de la FAO pour 1992-93 et 1994-95 ainsi que le plan à moyen terme proposent des actions très importantes. Ces programmes pour la période 1992-93, 1994-95 et, comme je le disais, le plan à moyen terme 1994-99 proposent des actions importantes comme l'organisation des échanges d'expériences, des réunions spécialisées, des cours d'instruction pour les experts au cours desquels on identifie et on propose des solutions pratiques pour les pays en développement pour leur permettre de résoudre tous leurs problèmes. On considère que ces actions doivent continuer et s'étendre dans tout le secteur agro-alimentaire. Dans ce but, la Roumanie est prête à transmettre son expérience dans la production de blé, de maïs, de tournesol ainsi que d'autres cultures. Elle a la possibilité de recevoir, d'accueillir ces réunions de soutien de la FAO avec la participation de spécialistes des pays en développement.

Une première proposition est d'organiser en Roumanie un cours international de management sous l'égide de la FAO, pendant 15 à 20 jours, intéressant le secteur privé de notre pays.

Nous apprécions les propositions présentées par le Directeur général concernant le programme de travail, ainsi que les programmes et les objectifs de la FAO pour les court et moyen termes pour répondre aux besoins des pays en développement et en transition vers l'économie de marché.

En même temps, nous considérons qu'il est nécessaire d'intensifier les activités prochaines de l'Organisation qui puissent conduire à l'accroissement de l'efficacité de la production agricole dans ces pays.

Nous apprécions aussi la proposition de la FAO de persévérer dans ses actions pour ce qui concerne la prévention de pertes agricoles et cela est pour nous une initiative très importante.

Concernant le programme alimentaire mondial, la Roumanie l'a soutenu et le soutient encore. Dans ce contexte, on propose la création du Centre régional FAO pour l'Europe de l'Est qui serait situé en Roumanie. Dans la conception du Gouvernement roumain, les problèmes que je viens de citer doivent être reflétés dans le prochain budget de la FAO et la FAO doit coopérer avec d'autres organisations intéressées aux problèmes agricoles comme le Fonds international pour le développement agricole (FIDA), le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), la Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement, le Conseil

mondial pour l'alimentation, les Commissions économiques, régionales et autres organisations du système des Nations Unies.

J'ai présenté en résumé quelques points de vue concernant la situation actuelle et les perspectives de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en général, avec les problèmes qui ont été inscrits sur l'agenda de travail de cette Conférence.

En conclusion, nous voudrions mentionner que nous sommes conscients que pour solutionner les problèmes complexes auxquels est confrontée l'humanité, tous les pays du monde doivent participer de façon active et directe.

La Roumanie a décidé d'oeuvrer auprès des autres pays pour trouver des solutions viables et durables pour l'accélération du progrès de l'humanité, pour l'amélioration des relations de coopération, la détente et la paix dans le monde.

Permettez-nous de souhaiter plein succès aux travaux de la Conférence. Nous vous remercions pour l'attention que vous nous avez accordée. Merci, M. le Président.

Sra. Hirin GAVIRIA RINCON (Venezuela): Es para mí un honor representar al gobierno democrático y al Gobierno de Venezuela. Permítame Señor Presidente felicitarlo por su elección así como por el desempeño eficiente en esta Conferencia. Felicitamos igualmente al Señor Edouard Saouma por el trabajo realizado durante los últimos dieciocho años al frente de este importante organización mundial. Al nuevo Director General, Señor Jacques Diouf, nuestro respeto y apoyo en las duras tareas que le esperan.

El derrumbe del Muro de Berlín y el proceso de cambios en Europa del Este parecieron hechos que no solamente iban a dar término a la bipolaridad ideológica que dominó el Siglo XX, sino que anunciaban el fin de un mundo dividido en dos porciones, en aras de la globalización de la economía y de un reparto más equitativo de la riqueza.

Si bien la primera consecuencia, es decir, la globalización de la economía, se está realizando, la división entre países ricos y países pobres, entre poblaciones con estándares de vida altos y colectividades víctimas de hambrunas y necesidades, se profundiza más día a día.

La crisis latinoamericana provocada por la deuda externa y la imposición de políticas de apertura asimétrica, ha tenido efectos perversos en nuestras colectividades pues al sacrificio que implica el pago de dicha deuda y su servicio, se suman las restricciones originadas por programas de ajustes de algún costo social.

Ya a casi una década de haberse iniciado esta política, las expectativas que se encadenaron con ella no se han cumplido y en muchos casos no se ven perspectivas ciertas de que ellas puedan concretarse a mediano plazo.

Latinoamérica no ha podido elevar sustancialmente su producción interna la cual sigue siendo apenas el 4.6 por ciento del Producto Interno Bruto mundial. Sus exportaciones más bien disminuyeron de 6.2 por ciento del total del mundo en 1985, a 4.9 por ciento para 1990 y en el mismo quinquenio sus importaciones se mantuvieron casi iguales, al bajar de 3.8 por ciento al 3.7 por ciento.

En el período 1987-1991 sus exportaciones agrícolas representaron apenas el 38 por ciento del total de bienes y servicios exportables, mientras que las importaciones de alimentos fueron para América Latina, en el mismo período, de 12 por ciento.

Este retroceso en el comercio alimentario ocurre a pesar de que la superficie dedicada a la agricultura ha crecido de 117 millones 213 mil hectáreas en 1970, a 153 millones 311 mil hectáreas en 1991 y la superficie sembrada bajo riego se ha incrementado en un 50 por ciento en estos últimos veinte años, al pasar de 10 millones 25 mil hectáreas a 15 millones, 889 mil.

Las políticas proteccionistas de los países desarrollados han influido de una manera determinante en la reducción relativa de la población agrícola con relación a la población total de América Latina. Para 1970 la relación, en números gruesos, era de 285 millones de habitantes de los cuales 117 millones, es decir 38 por ciento, vivían en el campo. Para 1992, de 466 millones de habitantes apenas 118 millones, es decir, 28 por ciento, habitan en el medio rural.

De acuerdo con las estadísticas del Fondo Monetario Internacional para 1990 las inversiones extranjeras directas en América Latina apenas significaron el 4 por ciento del total mundial, lo que demuestra el poco interés de muchas naciones desarrolladas en esta parte del universo, la cual, junto con el resto de naciones no desarrolladas alberga cerca del 60 por ciento de los habitantes del planeta.

Si el intercambio comercial se detalla por bloques, la situación se torna todavía más angustiosa, pues solamente mantiene una relativa estabilidad con Estados Unidos, mientras que con la Comunidad Europea y con Japón hay un descenso de casi cincuenta por ciento en los últimos veinte años.

En 1970 las importaciones y exportaciones de la Comunidad Europea provenientes o hacia Lationamérica representaban el 8.1 por ciento y el 7.21 por ciento respectivamente del total de esas actividades del viejo continente. En 1990, veinte años después, las cifras se habían reducido a 5.48 por ciento y 3.75 por ciento, respectivamente.

Con Japón, de importaciones latinoamericanas que representaban el 7.11 por ciento de su total para 1970, nos encontramos con un 3.93 por ciento para 1990. Y en cuanto a exportaciones, entre los dos decenios descendieron de 5.15 a 3.06 por ciento.

En materia agroalimentaria, nuestras naciones han venido cumpliendo con los procesos de liberalización de los mercados internos, pero, los grandes bloques económicos no aplican lo que predicán, por lo que nuestras exportaciones se están viendo afectadas por medidas de diversa índole. El banano, el tabaco, las manzanas, el atún y muchos otros rubros de países de América Latina, están siendo afectados por diversas disposiciones, mientras que se nos exige aceptar todas las importaciones de alimentos, la mayoría de las cuales gozan de subsidios en sus naciones de origen y, por tanto, compiten deslealmente con nuestras agriculturas. Los escasos avances en el marco de las conversaciones de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT parecieran indicar que no se producirán cambios sustanciales en los países industrializados y que la división del mundo en dos bloques será cada vez más profunda.

Fue esta una de las razones que nos llevaron a constituir un mecanismo de intercambio de información y de discusión en el subcontinente. El Consejo

Asesor de Ministros de Agricultura de Latinoamérica, creado a mediados de Octubre en Caracas, servirá para ir cotejando estos hechos y para buscar posiciones comunes ante los problemas agroalimentarios que nos afectan.

Ya casi al inicio del Siglo XXI el mundo observa las ruinas del Muro de Berlín y ve con satisfacción el fin de la Guerra Fría. Pero paralelamente a estos signos de paz y unión, observa también con preocupación la depauperación de las comunidades no desarrolladas, a costa del enriquecimiento de los países más poderosos. Y no debe olvidarse que la miseria conduce a la desesperación y ésta a la violencia. Ya muchas de nuestras sociedades latinoamericanas han sufrido estas experiencias.

La imposibilidad de competir contra las tesorías de los países desarrollados está reduciendo no solamente los mercados externos, sino también la propia producción interna. Haremos todo lo posible para que al lado del café, el cacao, las flores y las frutas y otros productos exportables, al menos en nuestros territorios permanezcan las siembras de maíz, de frijol, de papa y de trigo. Que la leche que alimente a nuestros niños provenga básicamente de nuestros rebaños y que una buena parte de las proteínas animales que se sirven en nuestras mesas hayan sido producidas con pastos de nuestras praderas.

Las voces que claman equidad se escuchan cada vez con mayor fuerza a fin de que podamos concurrir libremente a los mercados internacionales con nuestros productos, los cuales son cada vez de mayor calidad y competitividad. Claman estas voces porque se mantenga el empleo en nuestras zonas rurales, porque se fortalezcan los sistemas democráticos y porque podamos vivir en paz y contribuir con la paz mundial. Es hora de luchar para evitar una nueva y peligrosa bipolaridad: la bipolaridad agroalimentaria. Ojalá que estas voces sean oídas a su debido tiempo para impedir que predicciones negativas lleguen a concretarse.

La FAO deberá jugar un papel fundamental en este esfuerzo por reducir las gigantescas y crecientes diferencias entre ricos y pobres. Hemos aceptado el reto de competir libremente, a pesar de nuestras dificultades tecnológicas. No pedimos ventajas especiales ni tratamientos misericordiosos, pedimos una verdadera igualdad de oportunidades, para que cada quién pueda ocupar el puesto que le corresponde en la humanidad libre y sana del siglo XXI.

Mrs Gunhild OEYANGEN (Norway) : Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Norwegian delegation I would like to congratulate you and your Vice-chairman upon your elections.

I also want to congratulate the new Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf. I would like to extend this congratulation to the entire African group. The election of an African to this post marks an important milestone in the history of FAO. It is a difficult and challenging task he is called to take on. Let me assure that Norway stands ready to cooperate actively to make the task as easy as possible.

I also wish the outgoing Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, a pleasant retirement and want to thank him for his long and wholehearted commitment to this Organization.

It is with great pleasure I welcome the ten new members of FAO. This marks another important step towards making FAO a fully universal organization.

The presentation to the Conference of the interesting study "Agriculture Towards 2010", on the future global agricultural situation, demonstrates clearly that the regional imbalances in food security are alarming. At the same time as some parts of the world are facing problems related to overproduction, the development in other parts of the world is being hampered by hunger, malnutrition and low food security. Nearly 800 million people regularly go hungry. This situation is not acceptable and shows that the challenges ahead are immense. FAO clearly has a role to play in international efforts to address these problems.

One of the main challenges is poverty alleviation, particularly in sub-saharan Africa where the vast majority of the population lives in extreme poverty. It is unacceptable that hundreds of millions of people live on less than a dollar a day, and that 40 000 children die each day of malnutrition and disease. I firmly believe that poverty is the root cause of malnutrition and low food security. Poverty alleviation is therefore a key element in any effort to improve the nutritional status of the population.

Durable solutions to the poverty problem have to come from the countries themselves. National governments should make greater efforts to improve the situation for the poorest segments of the population. The poor should be given increased access to land, technology and credit. Governments must also give higher priority to agriculture and food production in their general development policy. Emphasis needs to be put on agricultural education and human resources development for girls and women in particular.

The contribution of the international community is also vital. Development assistance targeted at the poor is an important tool in the struggle against poverty. But it is equally important to establish a more equitable trade system, allowing developing countries to participate in international trade on equal terms. My government looks forward to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round in GATT before the end of this year. Too much is at risk, especially for developing countries, by further delaying the completion.

Considerable changes have taken place in international relations since the last FAO Conference. The need for reform in the United Nations system is now widely accepted. We need a more dynamic, better focused, and more securely financed United Nations system that sets priorities based on present and future needs.

The United Nations system, FAO included, has an important role to play in turning development in a more encouraging direction. We have, however, seen that the United Nations system is suffering from inefficiency and coordination problems, and that the support for multilateral development cooperation has weakened in member countries. It is therefore an important task to re-establish the confidence in the multilateral system.

FAO is an important part of the system. One of the great challenges to the new Director-General will be, in cooperation with the member countries, to ensure that FAO in the future continues to play a vital role so that governments continue to seek assistance and advice from the Organization when need arises.

FAO has an important mandate in promoting development of the food sector and has been entrusted the task of implementing an extensive field

programme. The field programme is important for many developing countries; therefore, the quality of the programme must be ensured. Considerable changes in the field programme have been carried out during the last few years, but further improvement is needed to enhance the quality of field operations. We must make sure that the technical assistance is as effective as we would like it to be.

More emphasis must be placed on building up local capacity so the developing countries can administer their own development, even if this demands difficult adjustments in some international organizations.

The secretariat has proposed that the Conference modify the system for support cost calculation for Trust Fund activities. In previous discussions in the Council, several important Trust Fund donors have expressed doubts regarding the proposed system. I sincerely hope that the Conference does not make a decision on this issue without taking into account the need of FAO for financing of its field activities also in the future.

Turning to priorities, I want to emphasize the need to give top priority to the role of FAO as a leading global agency in food and agriculture. The Organization must concentrate its work on areas and tasks within its mandate where it has clear comparative advantages, and thereby strengthen the mutual reinforcement between operational activities and general professional competence.

The situation in the forestry sector has given reason for concern and calls for leadership by FAO. The Organization must put great emphasis on the role of global lead agency in forestry development. If the attention given to this sector is allowed to be further reduced, both the development of the forestry sector and FAO's future role in this area will be at risk.

Since the last FAO conference, a consensus has been reached on a consultative forum for the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. It is my sincere hope that this forum will function according to the intentions. Tropical forests, managed in a sustainable way, can constitute an important resource for development. FAO also has a role to play as a leading international organization for the utilization and conservation of living aquatic resources. Fisheries and aquaculture are becoming increasingly important in satisfying global nutritional needs, contributing especially to a balanced diet.

I am pleased with the initiative FAO has taken to solve the problem created by the reflagging of fishing vessels to avoid international regulations. I also want to point out that FAO has a significant role to play in the elaboration of a code of conduct for responsible fishing.

Norway has long traditions in cooperating with FAO in the fishery sector for the benefit of developing countries. In addition to financing several Trust Fund projects, Norway and FAO have been cooperating since 1974 on the operation of the fishery research vessel "Dr Fridtjof Nansen." Norway has recently completed the construction of a new vessel which will start its operations from the beginning of 1994. I am pleased that FAO has been able to provide input to the planning of the vessel and the cooperation programme linked to its operation.

The main challenge in the agricultural sector is to modify existing production patterns so that they become more sustainable. Present methods

of agricultural production in several parts of the world are not durable. Therefore, existing production patterns will have to be modified to become ecologically sustainable. At the same time, the volume of production must be increased to satisfy the rapidly growing world population. These challenges are among the most serious ones facing humanity today.

I have studied carefully the progress report on the implementation of FAO's Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development. I must repeat what I said two years ago, that we still have to maintain for a long time the priority given to these aspects of development. Since the International Women's Year in 1975, we have seen progress in some areas, particularly regarding the formal status of women. But this has not been matched by progress with regard to the actual situation of women. All forms of discrimination against women need to be stopped, for example in terms of access to education, land and productive assets, credit, income and services, decision-making and conditions of work and remuneration.

For too many women in too many countries, real development during recent years has only been an illusion. This issue is important, however, not only from an equality point of view, but also from an economic perspective. Women's contribution to economic development is critical, especially in the area of agriculture. A number of studies have shown that, particularly in the developing countries, their contribution needs to be reappraised and better utilized. Ensuring women's full participation in development will directly improve the living standards of her children and family.

There is need for a critical view on the organizational aspects of women in development activities in FAO. The WID focal point should, in my view, be given a more prominent place in the organizational hierarchy. Such a move would give women in development aspects a higher status in the Organization's work.

I was personally touched by hearing Ms Felicidad Lema Villareal in her speech upon receiving the B.R. Sen Award for 1993. I extend my warmest congratulations to her. Her nomination to the prize shows that women have a lot to offer this Organization, and her interesting experiences from China demonstrate fully that investment in women is worthwhile.

I will conclude by appealing to Mr Diouf to work actively for increasing the percentage of women professionals in the Organization, particularly at higher levels. It is good resource management to fully utilize the potential represented by the female part of the population. I am sure Mr Diouf will agree with me on this, especially since he is himself the father of four girls.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous vous remercions, Madame le Ministre de l'Agriculture de Norvège, pour cet appel en faveur des femmes. Et puisque vous êtes la seule femme ministre parmi nous, je pense que tout le monde aura bien compris l'appel.

Je passe maintenant la parole au Représentant de Malte.

Lawrence GATT (Malta): Mr Chairman, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, may I first of all, Mr Chairman, congratulate you on your election to chair this important Conference.

I should also like to join other delegates in welcoming into our Organization the new Member Nations from Europe, Africa and Asia. With the admission of these new Member Nations, I am glad to see FAO is now approaching universality.

On this occasion, I should like to take the opportunity to congratulate the newly-elected Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, and to assure him of my Government's support and cooperation in the years ahead. The Director-Generalship of FAO is no bed of roses, and these are challenging times.

I have no doubt that he will seek to consolidate the achievements of his predecessor and introduce new measures and ideas for progress in food and agricultural production, leading to a sustainable improvement in human welfare.

I must here pay tribute to the outgoing Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, for his untiring efforts in leading this Organization through practical programmes, such as the Technical Cooperation Programme, which now constitutes an effective means of responding to urgent needs for technical assistance, particularly following emergencies, as well as being a unique instrument to provide finance for small innovative and pilot projects. Thus FAO has transformed its image into one of a forward-looking, dynamic organization with an active field focus, promoter and executor of projects conducive to sustainable agricultural development.

Mr Chairman, in order that we may take a positive view of the future, we are asked to direct our attention to two new areas of paramount importance in the multifunctional role of agriculture today. I am referring to the problems of malnutrition and food security, and of the environment and sustainable development. FAO has recognized the importance of these themes and designated them as top priority areas. Both themes have been the subject of two global conferences, UNCED held in Rio, and the International Conference on Nutrition, held jointly by our Organization, and WHO, here in Rome, in December 1992.

Malta, having actively participated in both conferences, is very concerned about the key issues treated there, and would not like to see these lost sight of. It accordingly urges the international community to continue to give priority to such issues, and cooperate in the implementation and follow-up of the strategies and plans of action agreed upon during these two important international meetings.

The problems of malnutrition and of the environment are interrelated. Lack of proper nutrition would tax heavily the human resources of any country. In an effort to improve the living standards of the people, very often governments, the private sector and the people concerned tend to harm the environment in doing so. In turn, a degraded environment would lead to the loss of potentially productive resources. In Maltese we have a saying "do not soil the spring from which you drink", which means that we have a direct responsibility and interest in safeguarding our natural resources.

It is therefore important to devise measures and policies that would lead to integrated resource management. A more integrated approach to problem solving would alleviate the pains of trade-offs, and direct the attention of policy-makers more towards global improvement. It seems to me that even in the educational and professional formation of both administrators and scientists, there is a need to move away from overspecialization.

On the subject of safeguarding national resources, I should like to welcome the Council's endorsement of the revised text (drafted by the Technical Committee) of the International Agreement on Vessels Fishing on the High Seas.

Malta has always taken the position that shared natural resources are a matter of common concern and, as such, should be subject to appropriate international regulation. When therefore the "Draft Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas" comes before the Conference later this Session, we will assure it of our unqualified support.

I have noted with interest the report entitled "Agriculture Towards 2010" prepared by FAO for consideration by this Conference. I must congratulate the authors for their sense of vision and thank them for highlighting for us the urgent need to effect institutional changes in order to accompany technological progress so that the research findings will leave the laboratory or the experimental stations and be applied in the farms themselves. Planning for resource use and management is the key to an effective institutional change.

The activities in research and technology development must be made more accessible to the small farmers through effective extension work. This implies a system of legally enforceable regulatory measures both at the national level and the international level. At the same time the process of both the planning phase and the creation of the right regulatory environment must involve the participation of the people at the grass-roots level and the community as a whole.

Conscious of these needs, the Government of Malta has recently enacted a Structure Plan that regulates land use and stimulates sustainability and promotes decentralization and public participation in this decision-making process. Simultaneously local councils have been established with responsibility for safeguarding the environment and promoting social development in each particular locality.

This application of the principle of subsidiarity is of paramount importance for the achievement of sustainable development, effective integrated resource management and improved food security.

Of course, I am not suggesting that national authorities or even international organizations do not have a responsibility in this respect. Neither do I mean that the need for research work, and technological improvement, is becoming less important. Nonetheless, I consider that such central activities must look into the needs of whole urban and rural contexts rather than concentrating on isolated initiatives.

Another topic I would like to refer to briefly is the growing international trend toward economic cooperation and integration on a regional basis, which is manifesting itself in various parts of the world. We welcome this trend, particularly in the European Region where it is most advanced with the coming into effect of the Maastricht Treaty, and we trust that European integration will be a widening process. We also favour closer cooperation between neighbouring countries such as in the Mediterranean, in the field of food production, productive systems and in environmental protection. In this connection, we were pleased to host recently in Malta both the FAO General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean and the FAO European

Commission on Agriculture. We are always glad in Malta to serve as a meeting point for international exchange and cooperation.

To conclude, I need hardly dwell upon the difficulties that global cooperation can encounter as evidenced by the protracted delays in the finalization of the GATT negotiations. Of course, radical changes in long-established trading policies in the agricultural sector would no doubt cause difficulties and shocks to many farmers unless proper mechanisms are put in place to cushion the effects of more liberal trading policies. Without elaborating on this theme, I just wish to mention this point, in view of the far-reaching repercussions which the outcome of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations can have on nutrition and food security as well as on the environment and sustainable development.

I am confident, however, that with FAO's collective contribution and the concerted efforts of individual states these difficulties will be successfully overcome.

TAO SENG HUOR (Cambodge): Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Honorables Délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, au nom de la Délégation du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, je suis particulièrement heureux de vous présenter mes chaleureuses félicitations pour votre élection à la Présidence de cette vingt-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Mes félicitations s'adressent également aux membres du Bureau.

Ma délégation est convaincue que, grâce à votre sagesse et à votre compétence, les travaux de la présente session seront couronnés de succès.

Ma délégation saisit cette exceptionnelle occasion pour présenter, au nom du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, sa profonde gratitude au Gouvernement et au peuple italien pour la chaleureuse hospitalité qui nous est offerte.

Je voudrais également, au nom de ma délégation, rendre un sincère hommage à S.E. M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO sortant, qui n'a cessé d'aider la population cambodgienne et dont les programmes reflètent ses efforts en faveur du développement agricole au Cambodge. Jusqu'à présent, la FAO a apporté une aide remarquable au Cambodge, dont:

- T.C.P.: le fonds propre de la FAO pour le plan de sauvegarde du bétail.
- Fonds fiduciaires: multilatéral
 - Suède: 2 programmes de fourniture des engrais
 - Pays-Bas: 2 programmes de fourniture des engrais,
- G.P.C. : programme du Gouvernement de la Belgique pour
 - la protection et la gestion des forêts inondées.
- D'autres projets sont en cours de réalisation actuellement.

Je me permets d'exprimer mes vifs remerciements aux Gouvernements de la Suède, des Pays-Bas et de la Belgique qui ont apporté leur contribution au peuple cambodgien.

Qu'il me soit permis de saisir cette même occasion pour présenter au nom du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, mes chaleureuses félicitations à S.E.M. Jacques Diouf, nouveau Directeur général de la FAO.

Ma délégation exprime sa volonté de continuer à coopérer sur une base constructive, dans le but de poursuivre les actions de coopération et de développement agricole dans le monde.

La présente session se tient à un moment où des changements profonds s'opèrent çà et là de par le monde sur les plans politique, économique et social.

S'agissant de la situation spécifique au Niger, l'histoire politique récente de notre pays est marquée par des événements majeurs tels que:

- la tenue de la Conférence nationale souveraine du 29 juillet 1991 au 3 novembre 1991;
- l'adoption par le peuple nigérien de la constitution de la troisième République le 26 décembre 1992;
- les élections législatives et présidentielles des 14 et 27 février 1993 et du 27 mars 1993.

Ce sont là, Monsieur le Président, des événements d'importance capitale qui sont le résultat de plusieurs années de lutte et de sacrifice du peuple du Niger pour l'instauration d'un ordre démocratique et républicain et l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations nigériennes. Le processus démocratique, qui a abouti à l'adoption d'une nouvelle constitution et à la mise en place d'autorités démocratiquement élues crée les conditions de toutes les transformations politiques, économiques et sociales susceptibles de garantir un avenir meilleur au peuple nigérien.

Monsieur le Président, l'ordre du jour de la 27ème session de notre Conférence a prévu à son point 6 l'examen de la situation et des perspectives de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Aussi je voudrais brièvement informer cette auguste assemblée sur la situation agricole et alimentaire du Niger. L'agriculture et l'élevage occupent plus de 70 pour cent de la population nigérienne.

Le Niger se trouve confronté à une dégradation de son potentiel productif résultant d'une situation climatique globalement défavorable sur les 20 dernières années et d'une pression foncière en rapide augmentation, liée à un accroissement démographique important.

La conjonction de ces facteurs a conduit à un doublement des surfaces cultivées en 25 ans, à une remontée des cultures vers les terres "marginales" et à une diminution des espaces pastoraux disponibles en zone intermédiaire. On arrive aujourd'hui à une situation quasi généralisée d'appauvrissement du capital terre, de diminution ou de disparition des jachères, de surexploitation des ressources ligneuses et de surpâturage.

Cette dégradation du potentiel productif se traduit par une situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle globalement difficile, caractérisée par une forte variabilité sur l'année et des résultats de campagne agricole très hétérogènes au cours de la même année.

En 1992, le bilan alimentaire a accusé un déficit de 232 734 tonnes, créant une situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle très critique dans plusieurs régions du pays, qui a conduit le gouvernement à solliciter l'aide de la communauté internationale et à opérer une ponction importante sur ses stocks de réserve.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais profiter de cette occasion qui m'est offerte pour remercier très sincèrement au nom du Gouvernement du Niger et

à mon nom propre les pays et organismes amis qui soutiennent le Niger dans son combat contre l'insécurité alimentaire. Le Niger leur sait gré et leur exprime ses remerciements du haut de cette tribune.

Pour l'année 1993/94, la population nigérienne doit malheureusement encore faire face à des difficultés alimentaires.

En effet la campagne agricole qui vient de s'achever n'a pas répondu à nos attentes. Le niveau de production de céréales se situe, à niveau comparable, à celui de l'année dernière. Ce qui nécessite encore la mise en oeuvre d'un programme d'aide alimentaire.

Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs. Dans sa lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations, la politique agricole au Niger est faite dans le sens d'accroître qualitativement et quantitativement des productions agro-sylvo-pastorales dans le cadre de systèmes de production intensifiés, diversifiés et garantissant sur le long terme les équilibres écologiques. La mise en oeuvre de cette politique repose sur les stratégies suivantes:

- garantir aux producteurs la satisfaction de leurs besoins alimentaires et monétaires ;
- .assurer la sécurité alimentaire et rechercher, sur le long terme, l'auto-suffisance alimentaire;
- .garantir sur le long terme, le maintien et l'amélioration du potentiel naturel productif;
- .accroître la contribution des productions agro-sylvo-pastorales pour atteindre un équilibre de la balance de paiement.

Monsieur le Président, à cette politique agricole, s'ajoute une politique nationale de sécurité alimentaire dont les objectifs poursuivis sont:

- une disponibilité suffisante en denrées alimentaires;
- .une bonne stabilité de l'offre;
- .l'accès assuré pour toutes les populations aux denrées alimentaires de base.

Cette politique de sécurité alimentaire repose sur un certain nombre de principes directeurs dont :

- une prise en compte des intérêts de tous les acteurs concernés par les filières alimentaires;
- des actions sur les court, moyen et long terme mis en oeuvre par:
 - * une cellule sécurité alimentaire chargée de l'exécution des études prospectives et de l'élaboration d'un programme complet de sécurité alimentaire du suivi et de la coordination de la mise en oeuvre des actions devant concourir à la sécurité alimentaire
 - *. une structure d'aide à la décision constituée à l'heure actuelle par le système d'alerte précoce;

- des actions décentralisées au sein des programmes élaborés par les comités régionaux et sous-régionaux de sécurité alimentaire et seules capables de prendre en compte les spécificités locales et le caractère avant tout micro-économique d'une véritable sécurité alimentaire;
- l'utilisation prioritaire des structures et projets existants plutôt que l'identification systématique de nouvelles interventions autonomes;
- un recours le plus restrictif possible à l'aide alimentaire et à la distribution de vivres;
- l'injection de revenus et de crédit dans le milieu rural considérée comme un moyen privilégié pour permettre la transformation des systèmes de production et la diminution de la dépendance alimentaire des populations.

Ces politiques de production agricole et de sécurité alimentaire s'inscrivent dans une politique nationale de gestion intégrée des ressources naturelles. Elle procède d'une approche globale et pluridisciplinaire reposant sur un contexte juridique incitatif (le Code rural). Cette politique a pour objectif une transformation progressive des systèmes de production des éleveurs et des agriculteurs en vue de prendre en compte le respect sur le long terme, les équilibres écologiques fondamentaux.

Notre politique de gestion intégrée des ressources naturelles, dont la mise en oeuvre est coordonnée par une cellule de gestion des ressources naturelles, s'appuie sur une politique démographique adaptée et s'inscrit dans une démarche "Aménagement du territoire" permettant une vision à long terme et proposant une utilisation optimale du potentiel disponible garantissant ainsi un développement durable.

Monsieur le Président, malgré la multitude de contraintes qui pèsent sur le secteur rural, celui-ci constitue incontestablement encore un des piliers sur lesquels repose l'économie nigérienne.

Pour l'année 1991, la contribution du secteur rural au produit intérieur brut a été de 245,937 milliards de francs CFA, soit 37,44 pour cent du produit total. C'est pour permettre à ce secteur de contribuer davantage à l'économie nationale que le programme d'urgence, mis en place par le gouvernement de la troisième République, consacre une place importante aux actions en direction du monde rural.

Dans ce cadre, le déblocage des financements suspendus en raison des arriérés de paiement auprès de certaines institutions internationales a été une des premières préoccupations des nouvelles autorités de mon pays.

Une deuxième action en direction du monde rural inscrite au titre du programme est le parachèvement de la restructuration de notre mouvement coopératif qui débouchera très bientôt sur l'adoption d'un statut juridique approprié, lui permettant désormais de disposer d'une marge de manoeuvre suffisante pour garantir l'approvisionnement en intrants agricoles et la commercialisation des produits agropastoraux.

Monsieur le Président, au-delà du programme d'urgence qui se veut à la fois un programme de sauvegarde et de redressement de l'économie nationale, les nouvelles autorités de mon pays s'attellent à l'élaboration d'un plan de développement économique et social 1994-1998.

Pour le secteur agropastoral, ce plan mettra en place un train de mesures destinées à garantir des mécanismes appropriés pour le financement de la production agricole et la commercialisation des produits.

Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs. Après l'instauration d'une dynamique nouvelle née d'un nouveau contexte démocratique, l'objectif à court, moyen et long terme des autorités de la troisième République est de résoudre les problèmes institutionnels du monde rural et de mettre le secteur agricole à l'abri des aléas climatiques afin d'améliorer certaines tendances observées.

Selon la projection des tendances observées:

- les superficies totales cultivées en céréales seront de 9 250 000 ha en 2008 contre environ 5 000 000 en 1988.

- la production disponible en 2008 correspondra:

- * en année normale à 3 263 000 tonnes de céréales
- * en mauvaise année à 2 516 000 tonnes
- * en bonne année à 3 617 000 tonnes
- * en année moyenne à 3 145 000 tonnes

Selon l'hypothèse d'une fécondité constante de la population et sur la base des besoins céréaliers actuellement utilisés au Niger (250/200 kg) nous observerons :

- * en année normale un déficit de 217 000 tonnes de céréales
- * en mauvaise année un déficit de 992 000 tonnes
- * en bonne année un surplus de 110 000 tonnes
- * en année moyenne un déficit de 362 000 tonnes

Selon ces hypothèses le pourcentage de la couverture des besoins céréaliers sera de:

- * 93 pour cent en année normale
- * 72 pour cent en mauvaise année
- * 103 pour cent en bonne année
- * 90 pour cent en année moyenne

La recherche d'une meilleure performance de notre secteur rural, qui est un des axes de notre plan de développement 1994-1998, permettra sans aucun doute d'améliorer ces tendances pour éviter certains déséquilibres macroéconomiques qui pourraient surgir sur le plan de l'urbanisation et de la consommation alimentaire.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais pour terminer évoquer un sujet qui me tient particulièrement à coeur: il s'agit de l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural. Sur un plan global, les nouvelles autorités de mon pays ont fait la preuve de l'intérêt et de la considération qu'elles entendent accorder à la valorisation de la femme nigérienne. Cinq femmes occupent des postes dans le gouvernement dont certaines dans des domaines qui ne leur étaient pas traditionnellement dévolus.

Au Niger les femmes représentent plus de la moitié de la population totale (50,3 pour cent) et contribuent considérablement à l'équilibre alimentaire

et nutritionnel. Dans le cadre de leurs activités, les femmes rencontrent malheureusement encore certaines contraintes notamment:

- les difficultés d'accès à la propriété foncière;
- la faiblesse organisationnelle (insuffisance des groupements d'intérêts).

Au Niger la politique d'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural est une composante de la politique globale de promotion de la femme qui repose sur les axes suivants :

- le renforcement des structures de promotion de la femme;
- le développement de la capacité de décision et d'action afin de renforcer la place et le rôle de la femme dans le processus du développement.

Au Niger nous demeurons convaincus que la promotion de la femme passe par:

- sa libération des tâches quotidiennes harassantes;
- sa scolarisation, son alphabétisation et sa formation à tous les métiers;
- sa capacité à toutes les activités économiques, politiques et socioculturelles.

Je voudrais avant de terminer, Monsieur le Président, saluer l'admission de nouveaux pays au sein de notre Organisation en qualité de membres, ce qui vient ainsi renforcer et témoigner, s'il en est besoin, de la vitalité et du dynamisme de notre Organisation.

Vive la coopération internationale. Vive l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Je vous remercie .

Valdemar WARNER (Saint Kitts and Nevis): Mr Chairman, Director-General and other members of the head table, I bring you greetings from the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, and particularly the Hon. Minister of Agriculture who because of pressing matters of state could not be present.

I wish to congratulate you Mr Chairman for the professional and astute manner in which you have been conducting the affairs of Conference. I also wish to thank you, Mr Director-General, for your professional conduct of the affairs of the institution, and wish you all the best in your future years.

Additionally I wish to congratulate the Director-General-elect Mr Jacques Diouf on your election to lead this most prestigious organization. You have been elected at a time when there is a call for change. You have also been elected to lead us onto the threshold of the twenty-first century, and I may dare say, the first years of that era.

You came to us with a distinguished background and we have no doubt that you will use the experience and professionalism in carrying out the duties of your office, with the able assistance and sage advice of the many career professionals of the institution.

While one recognizes that many changes have taken place during the approximately fifty (50) years of its existence, we consider it important

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

technology which is available in the developed countries, to see how it can be transferred and applied to meet the needs of the developing countries.

Saint Kitts and Nevis is among that group of countries referred to as small island states which are very vulnerable to the real threats of global warming and sea level rise. For a long time we have been aware of the fragility of our environment but it has been reinforced by the Rio Conference to the extent that all development projects are now subject to environmental impact assessment. This also holds true for agricultural projects, for as we seek to increase food production and productivity, we need to safeguard against degradation and deterioration of the environment, either through use of chemicals or unsound cultivation practices. The FAO, its associate members and member countries have a clear role to play in this area. We are therefore pleased that the FAO is concentrating on placing agriculture on an "ecologically sound basis".

Over the past four years, we in the Caribbean have been hearing much about the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP). We strongly believe that the time has come for implementation of the plan and we urge FAO to mobilize the necessary resources to ensure there is no further degradation and depletion of our forest resources. Meanwhile through our own efforts and the assistance of a UNDP-funded, and FAO-executed agricultural diversification project, Saint Kitts and Nevis has re-established a forestry and tree crop nursery while we await execution of the TFAP.

This agricultural diversification project is bolstered by a World Bank funded agricultural support project. The principal aims of these two projects are:

- Livestock development
- Agro-forestry development
- Institutional strengthening
- Improvement and strengthening of agricultural engineering
- Farmer training and development of farmer associations
- Research in and development of regional and international markets
- Post-harvest handling

In closing, Mr Chairman, let me reiterate the appreciation of my country for the assistance received from the FAO since our joining the United Nations ten (10) years ago.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/PV/8

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(11 November 1993)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.35 hours
Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

Lahuitième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 35. sous la présidence
de M. Seymour Mullings. Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Octava Sesión Plenaria a las 9.35 horas, bajo la presidencia
del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

Any reasonable interpretation of this mandate would direct us to an understanding of this Organization as an instrument of international cooperative development action. Decisions in this regard are derived from an appreciation that we live in a world of unequals: the haves and the have-nots, the weak and the strong, the developed and the underdeveloped. And further, that we all share the view that indigence, hunger, malnutrition and the concomitant social and economic deprivation wherever they exist pose serious threats to peace and stability of all societies. Our own enlightened self-interest, therefore, is best served only when we act in a cooperative and collaborative manner in defense of the welfare of all humanity.

Within the recent past two seminal, global events have provided a framework to further refine the focus, reappraise the plans and programmes and, where appropriate, to redirect the energies of FAO. I refer to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the International Conference on Nutrition, both held in 1992. Searching questions have had to be asked and answered about the prospects for enhancing nutrition and food security globally, regionally, nationally and at household and individual levels and for improving the sustainability of agricultural and rural development ecologically, economically and socially. Other important conditioning aspects of the ever-changing environment within which food and agricultural issues must be treated are the increasing mobility of international finance and the globalization of production and trade. This latter phenomenon in so many ways mirrors developments in the international capital markets. It is also characterized by some disturbingly contradictory developments:

- I refer to the difficulties in finalizing the Uruguay Round of the GATT with the ultimate objective of promoting freer, and we hope fairer, trade.
- I also refer to the emergence of powerful regional trading blocs;
- the resurgence of protectionism in some developed countries;
- and the nakedness and extreme vulnerability of small island monocultures in an increasingly unforgiving international market-place.

These occurrences, together with the secular and accelerated deterioration in the terms of trade between the export primary agricultural commodities of the developing countries and the imported manufactured goods from the developed world, conspire to create an environment which is decidedly not propitious for the required growth and development of our developing agricultural economies. This trend appears likely to continue, indeed intensify, unless of course fairness, equity and morality as much as free and open markets form an integral part of the equations of international trade.

Continued concerted action on the part of the international community is an imperative with efforts dedicated singlemindedly to provide development support, where it is most critically needed, to effect the desired transformation of the agricultural and rural communities of our countries at an acceptable rate. I submit that the solution lies in a judicious combination of increased trade and increased technical and capital support.

But, as if to complicate matters even further, it has become increasingly apparent that the developing world is not homogeneous. Acceptance of the

concept that special and differential circumstances attend the condition of the developed and developing world apply with equal relevance, if not equal force, amongst developing countries. In this regard, I wish to draw specific attention to the concerns of the resource-poor and small island states generally, and of the Caribbean in particular.

The point at issue is that small island and resource-poor states require a special focus within the FAO. We are currently grappling with critical problems of food, nutrition, agricultural and rural development under resource-constrained conditions of land scarcity, inadequate funds for development and a hostile international trade and financial environment. The spectre of prolonged balance-of-payments problems continues to provide disturbing nightmares for our people even as we hope for a brighter tomorrow.

We are, most of us, in the throes of structural adjustment programmes with attendant macro and sectoral policy conditionalities. These call for reining in of government expenditures, especially for social programmes, mitigating consumer spending, eliminating barriers to trade, and so on. These developments threaten the social fabric if growth stagnates and unemployment rises. The FAO cannot but be mindful of these issues, and must seek to identify its own role in facing up to these specific challenges.

Mr Chairman, small island economies are very wary of the likely impact of global trade reform and of adjusting to the inevitable costs of meeting the requirements of sustainable agricultural and rural development. Mr Chairman, what constitutes an appropriate policy response to these issues? How is our Organization - the FAO - dedicated to poverty alleviation, eradication of hunger, and enhancement of agricultural development and rural welfare, poised to recognize our current dilemma and assist us with our agriculture, particularly in small island resource-poor developing countries?

Mr Chairman, it is not without some dismay that we have noted in recent years the alignment of potent forces within the FAO arrayed against programmes and activities geared to the assistance of those most in need. I refer specifically to programmes such as the Technical Cooperation Programme. We have observed, too, that there is a view which suggests that the Organization should serve merely as coordinator of technical networks, repository of conventions and agreements, collector and disseminator of information and other similar functions. These are all important roles which the FAO must and should continue to fulfil. Increasingly, however, the Organization must recapture the high ground of technical development support and forge ahead anew in the areas of policy and sectoral studies and assistance in policy analysis and formulation, thereby providing technical support and advice, particularly for those most in need. For in many of our small states, there is a dearth of capacity to develop the appropriate policy stances, to respond proactively to the dynamics of change which are characteristic of today's environment in which we are called upon to make decisions and to develop. FAO is the body within the United Nations especially charged with the responsibility of helping to shape the international and national policy contexts within which food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries may develop and flourish in our economies both to contribute to overall economic growth and development and as an essential part of the development process itself.

I would therefore exhort our new Director-General to give urgent consideration to these issues and so reorient the FAO to recognize these

challenges. This would entail also strengthening the field programme and enhancing decentralization by re-examining the role and relevance of the regional offices *vis-à-vis* sub-regional offices. We of the small island states look forward to working hand in hand with our new Director-General in this most needed and exciting endeavour. Such support is crucial to our development.

Mr Chairman, as no doubt you yourself will appreciate, this is not a sterile intellectual appeal. At this very moment my country, Trinidad and Tobago, is addressing these issues. Even now we are attempting to formulate appropriate responses to policy prescriptions which require trade liberalization and reform in the name of modernizing our agricultural sector. Small economies are being asked to liberalize at a much faster rate than our major trading partners in the developed world. For even now the Uruguay Round of GATT cannot be completed. Even now protectionism pervades. These are the issues of the 90s. Success or failure of the FAO, success or failure of its mandate, will depend on how we address these matters.

Mr Chairman, my intervention is not intended to focus unduly on the differences within our Organization but rather to emphasize the scope for taking advantage of our diversity, the many-faceted interests amongst us in terms of resource management and access to resources, market strength and access to markets, being price setters and price takers - in a word, Mr Chairman, "developed" and "developing." Mr Chairman, we share a common planet with a common destiny. There is an essential humanity and humanness that bond us all. There is also a sense in which we understand that whatever happens to the least of us affects us all. It is in this spirit I appeal to all to rally around our new Director-General; and, in doing so, I trust that you resoundingly endorse a mandate for the FAO to treat urgently and importantly with the concerns which I have outlined. The mission of this Organization demands no less.

Abdullah AL-MUSAED (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):Mr Chairman, distinguished Director-General, distinguished delegates: It's a pleasure for me, at the beginning of my statement, Mr President, to extend to you my congratulations on the trust vested in you by electing you Chairman of this session. I would like to affirm our support and cooperation in order to make this session a success and help attain its noble objectives. I would also like to welcome the Director-General Elect, who will receive our cooperation and support in order to carry out his functions, and we hope that he will develop the Organization so that it will bear its responsibility with confidence and determination and attain higher achievement and more objectives.

The delegation of the Kingdom is pleased to welcome the newly admitted members of the Organization, and we are sure that their contribution will increase the effectiveness of this Organization and its capacity to face the problems for which it is trying to find solutions.

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, although we are sure and we are hopeful for the future, however, the events following the end of the Cold War have begun to limit our aspirations for stability, welfare and international solidarity at the economic and political levels within the international community. We still see regional conflicts and civil wars prevailing in several areas of the world and cooperation facing obstacles. An outstanding evidence of this situation is the Uruguay Round negotiations for which no results can be seen in the near future.

The economic climate, as you all know, is still unstable, as the growth rates in the industrialized countries prove that the world economy has not come out of the recession that has hit it for several years. The reports of the World Bank show that the growth rate has not exceeded one and one half percent, a rate, albeit so low, yet its achievement depends on the success of a number of financial and monetary measures and policies.

The situation in developing countries is not any better, as their economies still face several problems; namely, the external debt, inflation, and budget deficit in addition to a chronic shortage in hard currency and lack of necessary commodities. We are all aware of the effects of such problems on the economic and social lives of these countries and, particularly, in the field of agricultural production.

Mr Chairman, the demand on raw materials and agricultural products has decreased, and their prices have fallen and are no longer rewarding for producers in developing countries. This is due to recession and the adoption by several countries of certain protective measures such as tariff barriers and quotas for exports of developing countries in addition to other economic factors which usually limit the demand on commodities and services in developed countries such as unemployment and low income. Since developing countries are unable to subsidize their exports, this not only resulted in a decline of new investments, but even some of the productive capacities available for them have become completely paralyzed.

On the basis of the above we do feel the need to revitalize the new economic order and the north-south dialogue which have been overshadowed by the events following the end of the Cold War and relegated to bottom of the list of priorities and hence no longer benefit from the deliberations in the international fora or the focus of the media. The problems facing both the industrialized and developing countries, though at varying intensity can only be tackled within a global framework which takes into account the interests of all countries and ensures justice as well as economic and social equilibrium.

Mr Chairman, in spite of the well appreciated international efforts and those exerted by the governments of most developing countries in order to combat hunger, poverty and malnutrition, yet a large number of countries still face these problems. We have already invited our friends in developing countries to adopt national policies which aim at developing the agricultural sector, enhancing its resources, provide agricultural inputs, improve agricultural production infrastructure and organize marketing channels. We have also appealed to the developed countries to extend their assistance to developing countries to help them attain those objectives.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is sure that our colleagues in the developing countries realize that the responsibility for the development lies on the shoulders of their citizens and that the officials of these countries know the aspirations of their people and their capacities endurance and sense of sacrifice. Indeed, it is on the light of this that they work out their development plans.

Mr Chairman, the projections of FAO show an important increase in world production of cereals for 1993-94. Although the production for 1993 may not meet the needs for consumption and it may even register a decrease of one and a half percent compared to last year, it is expected to reach about 1 925 million tonnes. The decrease in production may lead to a rise in prices, which will affect a number of food-deficit developing countries.

Moreover, this decrease may affect the capacity of certain donor countries which provide food aid, especially emergency food aid.

I would avail myself of this opportunity to modestly point out the achievements of the agricultural sector in Saudi Arabia, which has recorded growth rates of 1991-92 of seven percent. This growth is supposed to continue at the same rate up to the end of our Development Plan in 1995. I am also pleased to review some of the characteristics of our experience and its positive aspects with our colleagues from the developing countries who are trying to increase their food production and fill the gap in their balance of payments.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has worked hard and with strong determination to adopt a number of plans and policies aiming at the development of the agricultural sector. This has enabled the sector to change the country from an importer of most of its food commodities into an exporter of a large number of such commodities as wheat, vegetables, fruit and other crops. This achievement is due to the efforts of the private sector in the Kingdom, supported by the government, which provides the necessary incentives to the development of agriculture together with other sectors.

The agricultural sector will continue to play its vital role in order to ensure the national food security within the framework of a responsible policy that has for objectives the development of available resources through their optimum and rational use, especially our water and environment resources.

Policies have been developed to ensure the preservation of water resources and their economic use through the adoption of modern irrigation techniques such as drip and sprinkle irrigation. Measures have also been taken to increase our water resources through the building of dams to feed the groundwater reservoirs, purification of sewage water, and increasing the production capacity of dissemination stations.

Programmes and objectives have also been elaborated to preserve the environment in several ways such as reforestation, preservation of the vegetable cover, increasing wild animals and desertification control.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have reviewed the documents of the Conference and especially the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95. We support the ideas and the proposals herein and we hope they will be implemented very carefully in coordination with the organizations concerned within the UN system and the other international organizations. We also hope they will receive the evaluation necessary during their implementation in order to be adjusted if so required.

Mr Chairman, I would also like to extend our thanks to the Director-General, Dr Saouma, for the efforts he has exerted in the service of this organization during his term of office. We do appreciate his contributions towards enabling FAO to attain its objectives.

May I also reiterate my congratulations to the new Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf. I wish him well and I hope that the Organization will continue its march to face the future challenges; not the least of which is the provision of food and clothing to the ever-increasing population seeking decent living.

Allow me also to thank on your behalf, all the organizations that have made the necessary preparations for this Conference and commend the efforts made to facilitate our work and help us to fulfil our message.

Finally, I thank you for your attention and hope that our deliberations will be crowned with success and that our decisions will live up to the aspirations of our people, particularly the needy groups who suffer from hardships and malnutrition.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

George I. BRIZAN (Grenada): Mr Chairman, distinguished Director-General, heads of delegations, observers all: on behalf of Grenada's delegation, I would like to put on record its deep appreciation for the work of Dr Edouard Saouma in the development process over the years and his contribution to FAO and to its members, particularly its weaker, poorer and most vulnerable members. His re-election for successive six-year terms is testimony to the confidence of members in his leadership, his diplomatic finesse and his management skills. We wish him well in all his future endeavours.

At the same time, my delegation wishes to congratulate our new Director-General, Dr Diouf of Senegal, and wishes him a productive and rewarding term in office. We in the Caribbean and Latin America group assure him of our full support and cooperation.

Mr Chairman, let me also congratulate you on your election to the chair and your performance; it has been exemplary.

Mr Chairman, the problems of agriculture in small developing island states like Grenada are many, while the prospects for improvement remain few and in many cases depressing and bleak.

On this occasion and before this august world body, I would like to focus attention on one issue which my delegation consider to be at the heart of the problems in the vast majority of developing countries; that issue is the problem of the current prolonged crisis in commodity prices. I am also fully cognizant of the fact that this issue is one of the priority areas for FAO in the medium term. In fact the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (26th April - 4th May, 1993) states:

"The Committee stressed the importance of improving agricultural trade as one of the priority areas for FAO. The Committee noted that Agricultural Commodity Markets were facing problems of declining terms of trade, slow growth and instability."

The ACP/EEC Ministerial Council, itself a group of 82 countries, accepts the gravity of this problem.

In a resolution at its Ministerial Meeting in May 1993, it said:

"It noted with concern the disastrous effects that the depressed prices of cocoa and coffee have been having on the economies of producing countries in the absence of international agreements. The consequences include aggravation of indebtedness of ACP countries concerned, which have been forced to drastically curtail their level of economic activities including

investment and imports to such an extent that the entire development process had been virtually halted"

Mr Chairman, the most recent research on commodities has indicated the following four major conclusions:

- in the case of the 70 African, Caribbean and Pacific states, commodities account for 90 percent of the exports;
- the index of real prices of commodity exports of developing countries declined by 40 percent during the period 1979-81 and 1991-92;
- between 1980 and 1982 the decline in real prices for ACP commodity exports was 60 percent;
- this decline represents a loss of earnings of approximately us\$225 billion and has led to an increase in indebtedness of African, Caribbean and Pacific States of some US\$76 billion during that selfsame period. Our loss is the developed countries gain.

Mr Chairman, let's take the case of the Côte d'Ivoire, one African country. Earnings from cocoa and coffee exports have dropped from ECU 6.3 billion in the 1985/86 year on average, to ECU 2.0 billion presently (1992-93). This represents a drop of purchasing power of 75 percent and corresponds to an accumulated deficit of ECU 23 billion for that country. Interestingly, this sum represents the actual total amount of resources of the third and fourth Lomé Convention. In reference to this, the distinguished President of Lebanon in the 18th McDougall Lecture, said: "International trade in areas of vital interest to the South, particularly agricultural exporting countries has in fact been a barrier to development. The fall in market prices, e.g., has caused far greater losses in revenues to developing countries than what they hope to gain from aid."

For the small states in the Caribbean, like Grenada, our sugar quota is uncertain, earnings from our spices have been slashed by 75 percent in the last three years, the price of our cocoa in 1992 was the lowest in twenty years, and the bananas produced by our small farmers, under conditions of perfect competition, are now under assault, not by farmers in Latin America but by a banana oligopoly which dominates the industry in Central and South America and even elsewhere.

Mr Chairman, to this loss of US\$225 billion referred to above, must be added the further loss of value-added (sometimes many times the value of the commodity raw materials), since most of the processing and other intermediate activities associated with most commodity exports occur in the developed economies.

Additionally, one must consider the further loss of earnings for these countries through deteriorating terms of trade which declined by an average of 25 percent during the six years 1986-91 and much more in the 1981-91 decade.

This is substantiated strongly by the research of FAO itself when it showed that the net barter, single factorial and income terms of trade for major commodities like coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea, rice, maize deteriorated between 45-60 percent between 1979-81 and 1989-91.

Mr Chairman, added to all of this, agriculture in developing countries now has to contend with the GATT. There is no doubt that trade liberalization contributes to increases in total global welfare and the removal of trade barriers contributes to economic growth. At the same time free trade creates winners and losers. But the case of the losers is not being seriously addressed, neither in literature nor in international policy.

Mr Chairman, the World Bank in its recent study on the subject predicts that a 50 percent reduction in tariff barriers in the EEC, the USA, and Japan will- lead to a 50 billion dollar increase in exports to developing countries.

However, it is important to note that 50 percent of this increase will go mainly to seven countries in Southeast Asia, 20 percent to Latin America, mostly Mexico, Brazil, Chile and Argentina, while 4 percent will go to sub-saharan countries. This figure even omits the export gains of GSP countries' agricultural trade to ACP countries.

The fundamental question then as put by Jean-Jacques Pesquet in Courrier of October 1993 is, "Is it fair in the interests of trade liberalization to disrupt or eliminate African or ACP commodity sectors which are uncompetitive because of different systems of reward for labour?"

The author concludes by saying, "It seems incredible that the international community should not realize how great a disaster unqualified trade liberalization could cause by helping some countries at the expense of others."

The sustained decline in real prices, despite increases in volume, the continued loss of value-added, deteriorating terms of trade since 1980, have resulted in massive loss of income, loss of foreign exchange, export of employment, growing unemployment, loss of government revenues, growing fiscal deficits, in almost every African, Caribbean and Pacific state and in many Latin American countries.

Worst of all, much of the meagre export earnings actually earned went towards interest payments on external debt, profit remittances, and the purchase of debt liquidating instruments, thereby leaving little to nothing to finance imports.

The foregoing supports three hypotheses for Grenada, the Caribbean, and other developing FAO members :

- poverty in these regions is a direct result of this massive negative transfer of wealth, income and employment;
- the need for Structural Adjustment Programmes has arisen to a large extent as a result of this; and the failure of the vast majority of such programmes is due to the continuation, unabatedly, of such massive negative transfers;
- this has contributed to increased indebtedness of developing countries and our growing inability to service such debts. The result it that most of these countries are now virtually hostages of the International Monetary Fund.

A successful resolution of the commodity crisis will lead to solutions to many other problems, which are not fundamental in themselves, but which are

mere manifestations of this deep-seated malaise of the prolonged crisis in commodity prices.

What then is to be done to resolve the crisis in commodities and give developing countries a chance to breathe? My delegation submits to Conference the following recommendations:

- Since part of the debt problem is due to commodity crisis, and since developed countries are the main beneficiaries in this crisis, then developed countries should agree to an immediate 50 percent write off of all foreign debt of commodity exporting countries. This will enhance the ability of these countries to finance imports for development. Similarly the OECD countries should devote much more resources to FAO to help it address a long term solution to the problem.
- The developed countries should cooperate with producers more and conclude agreements in the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) and ICA that will ensure a fairer price to producers.
- In reference to Caribbean and Central American countries, the USA should upgrade CBI 1 and 11 into a treaty similar to Lomé if it is to show a serious commitment to partnership in development with her Caribbean and Central American neighbours.
- The EEC must strengthen its Stabex and Sysmin Compensatory Schemes and ensure that at least 2/3 of earnings shortfalls are compensated for rather than the present 2/5. Other OECD countries should either strengthen this facility or set up a similar scheme, possibly within the FAO system, and the Structural Adjustment facility under Lomé IV, one of the tools for short-term solution, needs to be enhanced urgently.
- The FAO must restore its fertilizer programme to assist farmers in countries hard hit by commodity crises of one sort or another.
- The G7 countries must ensure that the IMF is more flexible in designing and monitoring Structural Adjustment Programmes by taking into consideration the impact of depressed world prices on a country's ability to sustain its programme, and at the same time provide extended support for addressing the social costs of such adjustment.
- Similarly the G7 countries should see to it that the Compensatory and Contingency Financing Facility of the IMF is extended to give greater consideration to the commodity exporting countries that suffer from price decline and give more support to food and commodities.
- Buffer Stock Financing Facility must be resuscitated to ensure fairer prices. We know that there has been no drawing on the Facility since 1985.
- The Fund for Commodities must be made to operate as its performance, since its inauguration in 1981, has been nothing short of scandalous.
- There is a case for special treatment for agriculture, particularly in small island states, in the GATT, and trade liberalization should be made compatible with fair trade. I repeat, more trade liberalization should be made compatible with fair trade.

- The PMDT Programme of Lomé is excellent in concept but non-existent in practice. ACP/EEC must ensure that it works effectively and this should be a major consideration for the upcoming mid-term review of Lomé IV.
- And lastly the OECD countries and developed members of the Commonwealth must encourage and facilitate joint ventures by their entrepreneurs and businesses with partners in ACP, and other developing countries, and so ensure that a greater share of value added accrue to these producers in international production.

Finding a long term solution to the commodity crisis is no easy or small task, but we need to address this problem from all angles. It is in the light of this major challenge that my delegation commends these recommendations to Conference. Finally, my delegation would like to put on record its deep appreciation for the work of FAO and the assistance provided to Grenada over the years, particularly TCP. We remain deeply committed to FAO and will do all that is possible to ensure its growth and dynamism now and in the years to come. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Costas PETRIDES (Cyprus): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to congratulate you for your election to chair the present session of the Conference. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the elected Vice-chairmen. You have, no doubt, a difficult task before you but I am certain that with your well-known abilities you will guide this Conference to a fruitful final outcome.

Mr Chairman, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the world continues to be experiencing monumental and contradictory events. We witness with dismay the tragic consequences of the revival of nationalistic and religious excesses in the former Yugoslavia and Soviet Union. Fellow human beings are being killed, exposed to starvation and forced out of their ancestral homes. The arrival of harsh winter conditions render the efforts for finding a peaceful and negotiated solution most urgent if a large scale famine is to be avoided. Yet, at the same time, a serious effort at times yielding positive results is under way for long-lasting conflicts. I wish in this context to mention in particular and welcome the accords signed between Israel and the Palestinians on September 13, 1993. We hope that these accords will be prelude for a just comprehensive settlement of the Middle East situation bringing peace, stability and development to this volatile region. The steps for the democratization of South Africa and the abolition of apartheid is another most welcome event.

The fact that it has been made possible to reach agreement on these two long lasting and seemingly unsolvable conflicts is due to the vision, wisdom, courage, political will and determination of political leaders.

There are, however, still many regional and international problems to be resolved and many unacceptable situations to be corrected. Such is the situation in Cyprus where, for almost 20 years, foreign troops continue to occupy almost 40 percent of the territory of my country, and nearly 200,000 people are not allowed to return to their homes and to work on their lands and properties.

With reference to the international economic situation, I -would like to refer in particular to the far from satisfactory world trade situation.

High levels of protectionism in agricultural commodity markets still persist, mainly because of the trends towards regionalism and bilateralism. Trade distortions are directly affecting food availability and security, induce rising costs, distort and destabilize world prices and trade, lead to misallocation of resources, contribute to great imbalances in global agricultural production, reduce local incentives for production in developing countries, and lead to inefficient income transfers and skewed redistribution of benefits. They are, thus, a cause of great discontent as they continue at a time when many developing countries have engaged in major trade policy reforms as part of their structural adjustment programmes. Subsidized products from industrialized countries continue to create enormous problems to developing countries, whilst depressed agricultural prices result in reduced foreign exchange earnings for most of them. In the case of food deficit countries, food security of their people is also put in jeopardy. In this context, trade talks need to be reoriented to enhance the developing nations' export prospects; food exporters must be enabled to compete on a equal basis in international markets, and importers should be assured of a regular and steady flow of supplies.

Liberalization of the world agricultural trade can only have a positive impact, as it would stimulate world trade and benefit developing countries, but it needs to be pursued together with structural changes in national economies in order to be sustainable and have smaller short-term costs, otherwise it may prove to be counterproductive. In the same sense, greater efforts and assistance are required to improve the living and working conditions of the small farmers and the rural poor who constitute the backbone of the agricultural economies of developing countries. Their productivity should be carefully nurtured through improved access to land and services, inputs and delivery systems, appropriate thechnology, education and training.

Let me now, Mr Chairman, briefly refer to the agricultural sector of Cyprus as well as to the major challenges we are facing.

Agriculture has always been one of the most important sectors of the economy of Cyprus, but its importance in terms of employment and GDP contribution has declined recently, due to the rapid expansion of other sectors of the economy such as tourism and services, and also particularly because of the continued occupation of 70 percent of our agricultural resources.

Cyprus agriculture can best be described as depending on small-scale farming, carried out by part-time farmers, producing predominantly for the market and it is heavily export-oriented. Historically, raw and processed agricultural exports accounted for as much as 34-38 percent of total domestic exports, of which 75 percent are destined for the European Community markets. For a whole list of major agricultural products including potatoes, table grapes, citrus, wines etc., production exceeds local demand and local markets cannot provide an outlet for the rising volume of produce. Therefore, Cyprus seeks alternative market outlets in foreign markets. Indeed, Cyprus has been a traditional supplier of fruits and vegetables to the UK market, where Cyprus produce enjoys a high reputation.

Given the critical importance of European markets for the agricultural economy of Cyprus, an Association Agreement between Cyprus and the European Community was put into effect in 1973. The Agreement entered its final stage of implementation in 1988 which will lead to the establishment of a full Customs Union by the year 2000. The overall objective of the Agreement is to facilitate and further enhance trade between the contracting parties, mainly by way of abolishing existing customs duties, tariff quotas and other barriers to trade.

Before the final stage of the Customs Union was fully underway, Cyprus filed, on July 4, 1990, an application to accede to the European Communities, seeking its full economic and political alignment with them.

In the process of fulfilling the Customs Union for accession to the Community, it was realized that Cyprus agriculture would need to undergo a substantial process of modernization and alignment with that of the Community.

Despite the various developmental shortcomings and bottle-necks which currently plague Cyprus agriculture, the sector is endowed with numerous comparative advantages and dynamic elements, which, if exploited wisely and prudently, could lead our agricultural sector into a new era of prosperity.

Cyprus maintains a comparatively small but efficient agricultural economy which can adjust to the requirements of Community markets and utilize their vast potential. Cyprus agriculture is a dynamic and progressive sector which can easily cope with changing market environments. It is endowed with mild climatic conditions which allow for the production and placing on the market out-of-season high quality produce before the Community harvest begins. It has limited natural resources and production capacity, which nonetheless have been significantly expanded, mainly as a result of irrigation development. Finally, the public sector is equipped with the necessary know-how and experience which provides the impetus for the harmonization of agricultural policies in line with European requirements and standards.

Therefore, Cyprus association and possible accession to the Community can bear a critical influence on the future outlook of Cyprus agriculture. The status of the free movement of goods increases export opportunities for a lot of Cyprus traditional crops, such as early fruits and vegetables, thereby broadening the current market saturation encountered for the expansion of these crops. What is more important is that the Community prospect provides an opportunity for the restructuring and adjustment of our agriculture, for the adoption of new strategies and objectives and mainly for improvement and modernization across the broad agricultural sector.

Mr Chairman, last Monday we elected our new Director-General. I wish to welcome and congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf for his election and assure him of our close and unconditional cooperation. FAO, being one of the most important organizations in the UN family, has a major role to play in international affairs and I am certain that our new Director-General will work hard to maintain FAO as the leading agency on matters of food and agriculture.

Whilst welcoming our new Director-General, I would also like to pay tribute to Mr Edouard Saouma, that dynamic personality who has led FAO for 18 years. Mr Saouma has repeatedly and consistently proven his care and

interest for all regions of our globe and has distributed the resources of our Organization equally and wisely to serve the most needy. During his stewardship as Director-General Mr Saouma introduced numerous changes in the programmes and generally in the way FAO is operating. From all the programmes that Mr Saouma has introduced I wish to single out the Technical Cooperation Programme. This particular programme has proven to be beneficial to many developing countries and has enabled our Organization to respond quickly to urgent needs, but it has also proved to be catalytic in generating larger and longer-term assistance for the development of agriculture. On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to Mr Saouma a healthy, prosperous and productive life in his future endeavours. He still has a lot to offer to the international community as a result of his vast experience and I strongly urge him to continue to assist us in our efforts for a better life for the world's underprivileged.

CEREMONY OF THE OATH OF OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ELECT
CEREMONIE DE PRESTATION DE SERMENT PAR LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL ELU
CEREMONIA DE JURAMENTO DEL CARGO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL ELECTO

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, our agenda for this morning at 10.30 hours lists the ceremony of the oath of office of the Director-General elect. I should like to request the permission of the Conference to have that ceremony at this time.

As there is no objection, I would ask that we all stand while Mr Diouf takes his oath. I give the floor to Mr Diouf.

Jacques DIOUF (Directeur general élu): Moi, Jacques Diouf, jure solennellement d'exercer en toute loyauté, discrétion et conscience les fonctions qui m'ont été confiées en qualité de fonctionnaire international de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, de m'acquitter de ces fonctions et de régler ma conduite en ayant exclusivement en vue les intérêts de l'Organisation sans solliciter ni accepter d'instructions d'aucun gouvernement ou autorité extérieure à l'Organisation en ce qui concerne l'accomplissement de mes devoirs.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, this takes us to the end of a simple ceremony of extraordinary significance. On your behalf I should like to wish Mr Diouf every success as he undertakes his important task as Director-General of this major institution as of 1 January 1994.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

The meeting rose at 10.45 hours.
La séance est levée à 10 h 45.
Se levanta la sesión a las 10.45 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(11 November 1993)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: -Distinguished delegates, this ninth Plenary meeting is now called to order. Three Member Nations, Cape Verde, Lithuania, and Afghanistan were preparing to make their statements this morning. Unfortunately, there was a slight delay in commencing this morning's session. We had to suspend the discussions so as to have the ceremony of the Oath of Office of the Director-General Elect, and then there was an adjournment so that delegates could attend the Papal Audience. It is my understanding that a number of delegations have other appointments, and we ask that as soon as they return to Conference they advise us so we will arrange for their making their submissions.

We wish to apologize to those countries who have been discommoded or inconvenienced because we did not complete the lists this morning.

Abdul Habib NAWROZ (Afghanistan): Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to offer sincere and best compliments of the leadership, the People of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and myself to you and all the Honourable Delegates. I also offer my utmost congratulations upon your election as Chairman of the 27th Session of the FAO Conference. May this Conference achieve considerable success under your chairmanship.

Allow me to express our appreciation to Mr Saouma for the hard work and leadership he has given to the Organization during the last eighteen years as Director-General. I also wish to express my warmest congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf on the occasion of his election to the post of Director-General of FAO. We wish him all success in leading the Organization.

We are sure that such gatherings and conferences of distinguished scientists and policy-makers are important for all, particularly for the developing countries to discuss ways and means of raising standards of living for people in general and small farmers in particular.

As you are well aware, Afghanistan is an agricultural country and its economy right now depends mainly on agriculture. More than 60 percent of the Gross National Product comes from this sector, and it is mainly Agriculture and Livestock Production which provides input to the agro-industry of the country. In 1978 our country was invaded by our Northern neighbour, the ex-Soviet Union, disregarding all rules and regulations of neighbourhood and those of international law. The Soviet invaders involved themselves in this unjust war, which continued for fourteen years, which resulted in the following damages.

- One and a half million innocent persons were martyred. Five hundred thousand people were disabled and became a burden to society.
- Five million people emigrated from their beloved homeland and a lot more were displaced inside the country.

- More than 80 percent productive and public utility institutions, roads, highways and bridges were destroyed.
- Cultivable areas reduced to half, for example, from 3.8 to 1.9 million hectares.
- Likewise, oil crop area dropped from 170 000 to 51 000 hectares.
- Forest lands decreased from 2 million to 200 000 hectares.

In respect to production the following losses were incurred:

- wheat production reduced from 3.5 to 1.7 thousand tons;
- cotton (unfenced) from 120 000 to 28 000 tons;
- livestock from 30 million to 20 million;
- production of urea fertilizer from 108 000 to 22.8 thousand tons.

The main reasons for these declines are the following:

- Shifting of the young farmers to either side of conflict, particularly to the Mujahideen side.
- Killing and emigration of large numbers of farmers, livestock owners and other producers.
- Destruction of irrigation schemes, i.e., canals, karaize, springs and other sources, by air shelling and mining
- Destruction of farm implements, machinery, tractors, draught animals and other means.
- Unavailability and access to abundant supply of agricultural seeds and chemicals for plant and animal pests and diseases.

If we had been able to start the rehabilitation of our country at the beginning of the Islamic Revolution, with the assistance of our friendly countries, the situation would have been much better now and we would not have lost twenty months.

With regret, the ominous hands of the communists delayed the restructuring by one more year and added to our obstacles.

We are confident that day by day with the help of God Almighty and the assistance of our friends the conspiracies of the enemy will fail and our life leads towards security, peace, and prosperity.

The Autumn sowing season has already started in most parts of Afghanistan despite the limited availability of improved seeds, chemical fertilizers, agro-chemicals, farm machinery and implements, and the farmers are pursuing their tasks much stronger and with higher confidence than in the past. As far as the duties of the Government are concerned, shortcomings are conspicuous. To date, only 20 percent of the material needs of the farmers could be procured. However, it is hoped that this condition will not prevail in the Spring sowing when cotton, sugarbeet, vegetables, etc., are cultivated and orchards and vineyards are replanted. I wish to draw to the attention of friendly countries and FAO to help our farmers' need for the Spring sowing season and our overall effort to rehabilitate our war-stricken agriculture.

The farmlands are planted with millions of mines; homes and shelters of our farm families, which account for approximately 80 percent of our population, remain destroyed. Farmers are not able to acquire their needs, for example, draught animals, tools and implements, fertilizers, improved seeds, agro-chemicals, etc. The irrigation system requires rehabilitation to allow the farmers to cultivate their fields. Incentives are required for families returning home to take part in the reconstruction process promoting productivity.

As you can envisage, at this stage, it is not only difficult but impossible for the newly established Islamic State to shoulder such a heavy burden imposed by the war. Afghanistan fell a victim to Soviet expansionism and aggression. Afghanistan paid the price of being destroyed, its population massacred, its agriculture destroyed and its infrastructure broken, not only to safeguard its own freedom but the freedom of other nations as well. It is, therefore, the duty and responsibility of the international community, the United Nations System and all the friendly countries to help the people of Afghanistan in its process of rehabilitation.

Today our people require food more than anything else. We have a wide range of possibilities in front of us to promote agriculture, including vast cultivatable lands, water and unused resources, favourable climatic condition for high qualitative and quantitative productivity, high deposits of plant genetic material that could help world breeders (example: there are about 900 different local varieties of wheat with protein content of about 22 percent, 45 different varieties of grapes and pomegranates, enjoying universal fame), which need to be collected and preserved in genebanks, etc.

Just after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the State High Commission for Prevention of Narcotics, was established by the decree of the Head of State. The Commission is assigned to prevent cultivation, production, storage, usage and traffic of narcotics and its derivatives.

In this respect a number of letters were also written to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to draw his attention for assistance on a wide range of activities. Without the help of the United Nations and friendly countries, it is impossible to achieve success in this matter. It is necessary for other countries to help us, because the burdens of narcotics would not be limited to our boundaries and would cross the borders. The assistance of the international organization and friendly countries would enable us not only to prevent the cultivation of these illicit crops, but also to replace its cultivation by other essential and high value crops. It is obvious that there are certain plans and programmes under way, with the implementation of which, hopefully, considerable results would be achieved to prevent cultivation, production and storage of illicit crops and its derivatives.

Our policy in agriculture is to increase productivity both intensively and extensively, the main objective of which is self-sufficiency in a short span of time. It is so unfortunate that destruction and damage caused by years of conflict are the main obstacles. To review the matter in detail in this Session would be time consuming. However, we are hoping that FAO with the help of donor countries and funding institutions will help us in the formulation and implementation of a firm and sustainable agricultural programme so as to reactivate our agricultural sector on a short- and long-term basis.

Mr Chairman, we greatly appreciate the TCP assistance given by the Director-General which has allowed my Government to have a rehabilitation strategy and a two-year plan of action. This detailed two-year programme of quick action project has been agreed by all parties and is presently being printed. It will give us a framework for cooperation with those ready to assist us in encouraging the refugees and displaced persons to return as productive farmers of their own lands. We trust that we can have continued FAO assistance in monitoring the rehabilitation process in agriculture and irrigation and in bringing the rehabilitation plan of action to the attention of the countries ready to cooperate with my Government and rebuilding a self-reliant and prosperous country.

The Afghan Delegates avail the opportunity once again to offer their compliments to you, and may this Session end up with valuable decisions under your chairmanship. The Islamic State of Afghanistan, on the basis of its humanistic policy, desires mutual and friendly relations with all member countries, while wishing mutual living and understanding without prejudices among all nations, wants to expand and strengthen its relations on this basis with all of them, and hopes that developed countries will help more developing countries of the world.

Thank you all and may God Almighty assist you all.

Hem Siene SAPHANGTHONG (Laos): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am very honoured to have the privilege to lead the Lao delegation to attend this Conference.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the organizing committee for having made such excellent preparations for this Conference. I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Seymour Mullings, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica, who has been elected as Chairman by this Conference. I am confident that under your leadership and rich experience, coupled with the skilful leadership of the Vice-chairman, the Conference will be under the taken in a good atmosphere and be successful.

In the past two years since the 26th Conference in November 1991, our Organization has been challenged with many problems, particularly in financial matters. However, the operations of this Organization have continued to give support successfully to member countries according the resolutions of the 26th Conference. During these past two years we have been confronted with many challenges such as natural calamities, which have spread over the world. Hunger and malnutrition are still found amongst a large number of people. In order to overcome these problems, all countries have made strenuous efforts to promote food production in order to gradually reach self-sufficiency. FAO has played a very important role in assisting these countries in this respect.

In the Lao PDR, our Government has continued to implement open market policies and mechanisms which are advocated by the State. In the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry we have implemented programmes according to these policies, and at the present time we have transformed many public enterprises into other types of ownership through sale, leasing and joint ventures. Investment in agriculture and forestry has gradually increased by both domestic and foreign private investors. The public sector as a macro entity has improved its role in guiding the various economic sectors in response to market mechanisms. In the mobilization of investment funds for agriculture and forestry we have paid attention to the following sources:

domestic private funds; foreign private funds; external grant and loan assistance; Government budget.

In the past two years we have suffered from natural calamities: in 1991 flooding and drought in southern provinces, and in 1992 drought has hit northern provinces. In order to combat these disasters, our Ministry has stimulated the people in solving the problems of food shortage by means of intensifying crop production, irrigated cultivation of dry season crops, crop diversification, introduction of simple and appropriate technologies. Furthermore, our northern mountainous provinces have experienced a structural rice deficit, where they mainly practise shifting cultivation which still threatens the environment and forest resources. Although our Government has made attempts to introduce appropriate farming systems' technologies in some areas, we have been unable to solve these problems because of poor physical and social infrastructure. As a result, increased forest destruction has occurred on more than 100 000 hectares per year.

In the past two years we have received food aid from the World Food Programme in relief of people suffering from natural calamities. We have created conditions to assist farmers in continuing with their normal livelihood systems.

At the beginning of this year's wet season we had normal weather with regular precipitation. However, later in the season rainfall halted for more than a month, especially at the crucial flowering stage, which seriously affected total rice production. According to preliminary estimates, rice production for this year will be less than that of last year, therefore we expect some areas will suffer from rice shortages which will extend that into the next year.

In the third year of the implementation of the Third Five-Year Plan [1991-95], our Ministry has been entrusted by the Government to implement five major programmes: food security [especially rice]; reduction of deforestation; promotion of commercial agricultural products; establishment of integrated rural development; development of irrigated agriculture systems.

To implement these five major programmes, the Government has selected target areas. For rice production, the six flood plains along the Mekhong River and its tributaries have been chosen for emphasis, beginning from the central region down through the southern region. The five central provinces have been designated as the focal point for socio-economic development. For the management of forest resources, the Government has taken measures to strictly control timber enterprises, and in areas of shifting cultivation the Government has gradually introduced more permanent farming systems. For integrated rural development, the Government has established four pilot projects in different topographic and socio-economic areas of the country. For the development of irrigated agricultural systems, the Government has paid attention to the development of participatory small-scale irrigation schemes. The Government, coupled with external assistance, will also invest in medium and large-scale irrigation schemes as necessary. At the present time the Government is in the process of transferring the responsibility for operations and maintenance of irrigation schemes to local communities.

In the past the Government of the Lao PDR has received much assistance for the development of its agriculture and forestry from bilateral aid, international organizations, and NGOs. FAO has extended its assistance to the Lao PDR with its Technical Cooperation Programme, which responds to the

real needs of our country whose projects now number more than ten, the Trust Fund and regional programmes. Apart from direct assistance, FAO has been the implementing agency for other funding institutions.

The assistance from FAO to our country has significantly contributed to its socio-economic development and has gradually improved the well-being of our people. This has happened because of the particular attention given by the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, and the FAO staff, particularly the FAO representative in the Lao PDR, who has had very close collaboration with his Lao counterparts. On behalf of the Lao Government, and personally, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Dr Saouma, who is leaving his position, for his particular attention to the least-developed countries like ours. I am convinced that the incumbent Director-General of FAO will pay even more attention to the least-developed countries so that they will receive increasingly more assistance to gradually develop the performance of their food and agriculture systems. Once again, I would like to appeal to the donor countries and to the international organizations to continue their support to agriculture and forestry development in the Lao PDR.

Finally, I wish a successful conclusion of our Conference.

Teketel FORSSIDO (Ethiopia): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a source of great pleasure to have the honour of addressing this 27th Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the People and Transitional Government of Ethiopia, whose messages of good-will for the success of the Conference I would like to convey.

More than ever before, the 27th Session of the FAO Conference is honoured with the admission of ten new members to this global forum, I will, therefore, use this opportunity to express my warmest welcome. As I welcome them, let me also reiterate my assurance of cooperation in our common endeavour of facing the challenges of food and agriculture in the years ahead.

With your consent, Mr Chairman, may I also express my heartfelt appreciation to the people and Government of the Republic of Italy for hosting the Conference and making our tour of duty pleasant and memorable.

Since the 26th Session of the Conference, the international arena continued to be influenced by major political changes and restructuring of economic policies.

On the positive side, totalitarian dictatorships are being replaced by the conventionally guided transitional arrangements, so as to pave the way for democracy on a permanent basis. Positive changes were also accompanied by adversities of varying degrees thus making the transition extremely difficult. In the global perspective, moral supports were amply voiced for these emerging developments, while material supports were not adequate to cushion adversities, which kept pace with the process of these structural adjustments.

As you are aware, the Ethiopian people through a very high sacrifice and hard struggle, were able to abolish military dictatorship a little more than two years ago, thus diverting its efforts towards progress and development along the democratic line. The process of clearing the damages caused by civil strife, reconstruction and presently the structural

adjustment programme has not been easy, even though signals of positive trends were encouraging.

In the process of changes in Ethiopia, a number of difficulties and entailing barriers were prevalent. In this context one might be able to probe into a number of areas, which I think could be beyond the scope of the time allotted for my statement. I would, however, like to point to some of the factors which are related to the area of food and agriculture.

In the 1993-94 production year, however, the weather condition had significant improvements, and hence the level of production has improved in almost all major crop production areas. The overall production level, however, still remains short of the requirements because of drought in pocket areas, damages caused by flood and pest infestations, including locust.

Lack of adequate crop protection measures and increased prices of fertilizer due to the structural adjustment programme, have each contributed to the worsening of the structural food deficit situation. Amelioration of the food shortage situation will, therefore, need to address shortages created by isolated drought, pest infestations, displacements and settlement programmes.

Although good rains have been received in the main growing areas of the country, initial indicators are that main season crop will be below last year's level. Exceptionally heavy rains at the beginning of the season hampered land preparation and have caused water logging and exceptional weed growth in several areas. Some regions have received erratic rainfall and yields may have been affected. Prices of fertilizer have risen sharply and have most likely discouraged fertilizer application, thereby constraining production. The main season rain which was normally expected to stop around the end of September continued until now. Therefore, there is a strong fear of significant reduction of the 1993 harvest against that of the previous year.

I will, therefore, use this opportunity to appeal to the international community for its usual response and generosity both for the short-term emergency needs and also improving the structural food deficit situation in the long run.

The failure of agriculture to supply the country's food requirements made it necessary for us to depend on food imports, both in the form of food aid and direct purchases. The distressed state of agriculture, and especially its failure to supply raw materials for industry, has increased our dependence on imported raw materials. It has further weakened the linkage between agriculture and industry, thereby adversely affecting the growth of the economy. The decline of exportable agricultural products has worsened the foreign exchange position of the country, thus stifling economic growth even further.

Like the post-war situation in many parts of the world, however, Ethiopia is presently passing through a process of rehabilitation and reconstruction over the ruins of the war. To this end the Transitional Government has issued an economic policy and this has been further reinforced by a policy framework for macro-economic stabilization and structural adjustment for the medium term, 1992-93 to 1994-95.

The history of mankind has always been associated with the history of food and nutrition, and yet the problem of malnutrition and hunger is still the major impending factor in human survival. Failure to efficiently and effectively address the problems of malnutrition, which happen to be the primary challenge for mankind, cannot be isolated from the slowing of all other spheres of progress.

In Ethiopia, FAO plays a crucial role in monitoring the crop and food supply situation of the country. For several years FAO, in cooperation with the World-Food Programme, has fielded an annual Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to forecast the year's crop and national cereal import and food aid requirements for the succeeding year.

We are very grateful to the Governments of the Netherlands, Italy, United States of America and the EEC, the ADB and the World Bank for their generous assistance with regard to fertilizer supply and FAO's assistance in mobilizing resources.

It is believed that the New Fertilizer Marketing Strategy with its multi-channel approach will induce farmers to increase the consumption and optimal use of fertilizer.

However, in order that privatization can continue and succeed, an uninterrupted and adequate availability of fertilizer is a precondition, which at this point has to be ensured through continued assistance from the donor community.

An efficient Early Warning and Food Information System is, therefore, essential, and we count on FAO's assistance in building up national capacity as an integral part of Ethiopia's food security, disaster preparedness and prevention strategy.

Some weeks ago Member Nations celebrated the 13th World Food Day under the theme of "Harvesting Nature's Biodiversity". In this context, it has been pointed out that Ethiopia contributed to the global biodiversity phenomena and conservation activities even long before the convention, and it continues to do so. To this end, one can probably recall the discovery of Barley Yellow Dwarf (BADV) resistance genes found only in Ethiopia that saved the world's barley, wheat and oat production, and the African maize resistant to the fungus, Helminthosporium meydis, that saved the United States and other countries several million dollars in potential losses. Many other African countries have contributed to the enrichment of biodiversity techniques. But, as all of us know, the community that has offered much of these useful genes for the world is still far from being the beneficiary of its contribution and not even recognized for what it has offered, but rather being identified as poor and hungry.

Each one of us have come with a view of pointing out issues that need to be addressed so as to overcome challenges of food and agriculture in our respective countries. We also fully realize the central role of the Food and Agricultural Organization in these global efforts.

The proposed priority thrust in the Programme of Work and Budget, changes in resource allocation for forestry, fishery and agriculture are in line with concerns expressed during the last session of the Council. We, therefore, would like to reiterate our satisfaction with these changes and developments.

My delegation welcomes and supports the activities related to environmental and sustainable development. To this and my Government has drawn a strategy of economic development of the country. The strategy for agricultural development is focused on conservation-based agriculture. Furthermore, we have finalized the Ethiopian Forestry Action Plan (EFAP). We are very grateful for the assistance given by the donor community in the preparation of this Action Plan.

With regard to addressing all the relevant issues in the areas of food and agriculture, like those who spoke before me, let me also express my satisfaction with the quality of the document and indicate my due regard for its preparations.

One of the international conferences planned for the near future relates to plant genetic resources. We believe that the convening of this Conference will have a bearing on completing some of the proposals recommended during the recently held conferences on environment and nutrition. We, therefore, look forward to its implementation, and express our interest to participate in this important Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.

In this connection, it might be important to mention the decision of financing the Conference through extra-budgetary funds. Since most of the developing countries are faced with budgetary constraints, it would be of paramount importance to see that the required resources are availed, so as to increase participation of developing countries.

At this stage, I would like to express that the preparation of the draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer deserves our admiration, and hope that the international community would provide the necessary support for its implementation.

Locust invasions, pest-infestation and migratory birds have had significant impacts on food crop supply. In the past control factors have always been limited to available resources and short-term measures. In the short term, such control measures could reduce the extent of the damage and, therefore, its impact on food crop availabilities cannot be underestimated. We do however, feel that there is a need for long-term solutions and on a permanent basis.

The effective eradication of the screw-worm from North-Africa sets up a good example for eradication of the above pests with a view to seeking permanent solutions. While appealing for establishment of long-term solutions for these predators, we warmly welcome the inclusion of Desert Locust in the agenda of the Conference because we believe that such an initiation would lead towards the long-term anticipation and goals.

In as much as resources permit, the cooperation of the international community and FAO's assistance has been very useful and, therefore, I would like to pay my highest tributes for such cooperation and endeavour.

I believe that, forthcoming international conferences on: Population and Development, Women and Social Developments, would succeed in pointing out some of the crucial issues relating to developments of their respective areas. We hope that the planning of these conferences would incorporate adequate provisions so as to increase the participation of countries in the developing world. We would be looking forward towards participating in these conferences.

In preparing to welcome the year 2000 with the two extremes of absolute poverty and absolute prosperity, it is just like having one loaf of bread half cooked. Therefore, please let us pool the resources and get the bread fully cooked.

The world is so much worried on the killing disease AIDS. Much has been said and attempted on AIDS but little attention is being given to stop the exodus migration of rural women from rural areas to urban and semi-urbans for seeking job opportunities. However, this movement is one of a conducive environment for the expansion of AIDS. Therefore, at least to minimize the worry on AIDS, there is a strong need to pool resources that would serve as a revolving credit fund for rural women. Thereby rural women would have better access to resources including the main means of production - the land, which in turn contributes to increased production and productivity of the agricultural sector.

Much emphasis is being given to the settled-agriculture while neglecting the nomadic farming system. However, the nomadic farming system is the immediate area of intervention to fill the food gap for many developing countries including my country - Ethiopia. Therefore, there is a need to draw a strategic plan on how to bring the nomadic farming system to the main economic line. To this end, FAO should take the leading role.

Our delegation has examined the food-security and nutrition status report which reiterates that all people at all times should have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need. To those of us who come from the developing world this is a challenge that we still have to overcome. We, therefore, kindly request our brothers in the north to assist us in overcoming this calamity and avoid the suffering of people, through cooperative spirits without being fatigued.

Like most of our countries, FAO has also come to a stage of transition in its administration. I consider it to be my duty to pay due recognition to this event of significant importance.

In this connection, I would like to pay my profound tribute to the outgoing Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, for the long years of devoted service and good works that he rendered to this international organization.

We would also congratulate and welcome the newly elected Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, upon his democratic election and wish him success in this extremely important responsibility. I would also use the opportunity to assure the new Director-General of the cooperation of my country in these future endeavours of mutual interest.

The high standard of the competitive spirit in the democratic election process was made possible through the quality of the candidates. We, therefore, would like to express our appreciation and thank them for their voluntary desire to serve the international community.

Rimantas KARAZIJA (Lituanie): Prenant la parole pour la première fois au sein de la vingt-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO, j'ai le plaisir, au nom de la délégation lituanienne ici présente, d'adresser mes vives et chaleureuses félicitations à l'occasion de l'élection du nouveau Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf.

Ayant l'occasion de parler devant les représentants de tous les pays membres de la FAO, je voudrais exposer ici les traits principaux de ce difficile processus de transformation qui change aujourd'hui l'aspect de notre agriculture et définir les tâches qui se dressent devant la FAO face aux changements survenus en Europe centrale et de l'Est.

Les réformes de notre agriculture ont commencé dès la déclaration de la restitution de l'indépendance le 11 mars 1990. Le parlement de notre pays a adopté des lois transformant fondamentalement notre agriculture dans le cadre d'une réforme générale de toute l'économie nationale de notre pays. La réforme agraire consistait à restituer la propriété des terres aux propriétaires d'avant-guerre et à leurs héritiers (enfants et petits enfants) . Mais les changements survenus pendant 50 ans ont été si profonds que la restitution exacte de toutes les propriétés a été impossible. Selon les lois adoptées, les possessions pouvaient être partagées entre héritiers, ce qui a eu comme résultat la fragmentation excessive de la propriété.

A côté des erreurs subjectives, des facteurs objectifs aggravent la situation de notre agriculture. Avec la désintégration de l'Union soviétique, nous avons perdu la grande partie des débouchés de notre production agricole et le marché domestique est très restreint à cause des revenus très bas des habitants de notre pays. Les prix des matières premières ont augmenté d'une manière dramatique, mais la productivité du travail et la qualité sont restées à un niveau très bas. Toutes ces raisons ont entraîné une baisse dramatique de notre production agricole de 50 pour cent par rapport au niveau de 1989.

Quelles sont les mesures prises par notre gouvernement pour remédier à cette situation? Il ne peut s'agir d'un changement radical dans le processus des réformes déjà entreprises. Mais le gouvernement et le Ministère de l'agriculture doivent changer les lois de la réforme de telle manière que les réformes prennent un cours plus modéré et tiennent mieux compte de la situation réelle qui s'est installée du temps de l'occupation soviétique.

Le but principal de la réforme sera la restitution de la terre aux propriétaires d'avant-guerre et à leurs successeurs, et la privatisation de la propriété non territoriale des entreprises agricoles d'état. Un grand travail a été déjà entrepris par nos spécialistes de l'aménagement des territoires qui doivent préparer les projets de la réforme agraire pour chaque entreprise agraire d'Etat. On prévoit que 260 000 personnes recevront leur terre d'ici 1996 et 160 000 entre 1997 et 1999. La superficie moyenne d'une propriété sera d'environ 7 hectares de terre agricole. On espère que l'établissement du marché pour la terre et la propriété immobilière conduira à l'accroissement des possessions et la superficie moyenne sera de 20 hectares. L'Etat n'apportera son assistance qu'aux agriculteurs propriétaires de plus de 30 hectares (en propriété et en fermage).

Selon nous, les entreprises agricoles avec propriété corporative (qui sont apparues au cours de la privatisation et de la réorganisation des kolkhoz) survivront et auront une grande importance dans le futur parce que, du temps de l'occupation soviétique, beaucoup d'infrastructures et de moyens de production pour les grandes entreprises ont été créés. Une entreprise agricole dispose en moyenne de 550 hectares de terre cultivée. Evidemment, une partie des entreprises agricoles va faire faillite et disparaître.

Nous continuons aussi la privatisation et la restructuration de notre industrie alimentaire. Le gouvernement vient de préparer le programme général de la restructuration et du développement de l'agriculture et de l'industrie alimentaire. Par conséquent, un travail est fait sur les programmes spécifiques dans diverses branches agro-industrielles, telles que lin, céréales, sucre, huile végétale, etc.

Quelle assistance la FAO pourrait-elle apporter dans ce processus de restructuration? Déjà, on peut mentionner quelques projets de la FAO en Lituanie qui sont en cours de réalisation ou sur le point de démarrer. On peut citer par exemple le projet pour l'enregistrement et le cadastre des terres, pour lequel des fonctionnaires de la FAO ont déjà effectué des visites en Lituanie, et le séminaire à Riga. La FAO a également récemment approuvé le projet pour l'assistance dans le domaine de la législation des terres et des ressources aquatiques.

Il y a un grand intérêt à intensifier et activer encore davantage cette coopération. On doit tenir compte du fait que la situation en Europe centrale et de l'Est a complètement changé durant les quatre dernières années. La FAO s'occupait jusque-là surtout des problèmes des pays dits en voie de développement ou du tiers monde et elle doit maintenant faire face à une nouvelle situation dans une région qui lui est assez peu connue. La situation qui s'est créée dans les pays post-communistes est sous beaucoup d'aspects différentes des situations traditionnelles dans les pays du tiers monde; la structure sociale en général, et en particulier le secteur agricole, repose sur une base traditionnelle. Le problème des pays de notre région est complètement différent, nos pays aspirent à créer une agriculture développée d'un niveau égal à celui de l'agriculture en Europe occidentale et en Amérique du Nord. Les obstacles principaux qui empêchent d'atteindre ce but sont la technologie retardée, l'absence de la propriété privée pendant 40 à 50 ans, les distorsions sévères à tous les niveaux et les aspects de la structure de l'économie nationale. C'est une crise structurelle avec ses dimensions inconnues jusqu'ici dans l'histoire de l'humanité. Le tableau du processus des réformes, décrit dans ce discours, pourrait représenter mutatis mutandis la situation dans toute région post-communiste. Cependant, en tenant compte du niveau élevé d'éducation et de la situation sociale et démographique favorable, on peut espérer atteindre de bons résultats, beaucoup plus rapidement que dans la plupart des pays du tiers monde traditionnel. Une grande partie des membres de la FAO devrait prendre cette direction.

Les problèmes sont, comme nous l'avons fait remarquer, à peu près communs à tous les pays de l'Europe centrale et de l'Est. Les efforts pour les résoudre doivent donc être communs. La coopération de la FAO avec les pays, pris un par un, ne suffit pas. La FAO devrait élaborer, avec les pays d'une région, un programme de coopération qui couvrirait tous les aspects de l'agriculture et créer les institutions qui pourraient mettre en oeuvre ce programme. A notre avis, il serait nécessaire d'avoir un bureau régional de la FAO pour l'Europe centrale et de l'Est, semblable à ceux qui existent déjà en Amérique du Sud, en Afrique et ailleurs.

Quelles devraient être les activités principales de la FAO dans l'Europe centrale et de l'Est?

Les sujets les plus importants à traiter sont les suivants:

- La privatisation et la restructuration des entreprises agricoles et celles de l'industrie alimentaire;

- Le développement de la coopération agricole;
- La gestion des entreprises agricoles privées dans les conditions de l'économie de marché;
- Le crédit des entreprises agricoles;
- La recherche du marché et le marketing pour les produits agricoles;
- Le rôle des gouvernements dans les domaines de la régulation du marché, la régulation de la qualité des produits agricoles, le financement des entreprises agricoles, la politique des subventions et de la protection des marchés, etc.

Un domaine également très important concerne les questions de nature juridique:

- L'établissement des règlements concernant les terres et leur propriété;
- L'élaboration des lois concernant la terre;
- L'établissement de l'hypothèque;
- La mise au point du système de cadastre et de l'enregistrement des terres.

Le développement de la formation des spécialistes en agriculture et des cultivateurs est aussi un problème très important.

Evidemment, la liste des problèmes énumérés ici est loin d'être complète. Pour mieux résoudre à la fois ces derniers et d'autres, existant déjà ou à venir, il serait très utile de créer un réseau d'institutions de recherche placées sous l'égide de la FAO. Les problèmes de notre région sont, comme nous l'avons déjà dit, très spécifiques et, dans beaucoup de cas, l'expérience accumulée dans d'autres régions ne peut être applicable chez nous, d'où la nécessité d'avoir sur place une base scientifique solide pour chercher des solutions.

La FAO pourrait donc continuer dans le futur à apporter son assistance en préparant des conférences et des séminaires semblables à la consultation ministérielle qui a eu lieu en Hongrie, à Godollo, en août de cette année.

René STEICHEN (Communauté économique européenne): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Messieurs les ministres, Excellences, Délégués et Observateurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un grand honneur pour moi de parler aujourd'hui à cette prestigieuse tribune.

Je ressens d'autant plus vivement ce privilège que c'est la première fois que la Communauté européenne participe en qualité de membre à une Conférence de la FAO. Elle le fait plus forte des responsabilités nouvelles que lui confère le Traité de Maastricht entré en vigueur il y a quelques jours, le 1er novembre.

Mes premiers remerciements iront à M. Saouma pour le travail impressionnant qu'il a accompli et la contribution décisive qu'il a apportée au cours des longues années passées à la tête de l'Organisation.

Il m'appartient également d'exprimer au nouveau Directeur général, M. Diouf, mes sincères et vives félicitations pour son élection.

Sa carrière longue et brillante et l'expérience acquise dans des fonctions éminentes tant dans son pays que dans les organisations internationales lui permettront, j'en ai la conviction, de guider et d'inspirer l'Organisation.

dans ses travaux au cours des prochaines années. Je l'assure du soutien entier de la Communauté européenne dans cette tâche importante et difficile.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, dans l'excellente étude "L'agriculture mondiale à l'horizon 2010", dont le mérite revient au Secrétariat, les progrès accomplis et les défis à relever dans les vingt prochaines années sont illustrés par deux exemples très parlants.

Pour les progrès, je citerai deux chiffres : 327 kilos de production de céréales per capita aujourd'hui dans le monde contre 305 kg en 1969-1971, 2 700 calories per capita prévues pour 2010 dans les PVD contre 2 500 aujourd'hui et moins de 2 000 au début des années 60.

Les défis maintenant.

Le défi le plus urgent reste celui de la sécurité alimentaire. Certes, au cours des vingt dernières années, la production agricole s'est accrue à un rythme plus rapide que celui de la population pour le monde dans son ensemble. Mais ce n'est pas suffisant: 800 millions de personnes souffrent encore aujourd'hui de faim ou de malnutrition. Ils pourraient être encore 650 millions en 2010, selon l'étude de la FAO. Il y a donc un progrès incontestable, mais insuffisant.

A long terme, le défi le plus préoccupant est toutefois celui du développement durable : à cet égard, certaines techniques agricoles trop intensives ainsi que l'extension des terres cultivées, aux dépens notamment de la forêt, font planer des menaces sur la qualité des sols, les nappes aquifères et la biodiversité. La Conférence de Rio sur l'environnement et le développement et la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition ont mis en évidence la coresponsabilité de tous les pays du monde dans le risque environnemental. Nous sommes donc tous confrontés à la nécessité de réformer substantiellement nos politiques agricoles.

La situation actuelle de la production agricole et alimentaire mondiale se caractérise en effet par de grands déséquilibres: à la surproduction dans les régions industrialisées correspondent une insuffisance de la production et des carences nutritionnelles dans un grand nombre de pays et régions du sud. Mais celle-là ne compense pas celles-ci: les importations à bas prix, limitées d'ailleurs par les disponibilités en devises, et l'aide alimentaire, si elle est mal conçue, peuvent même décourager la production locale dans les PVD et ajouter à l'insécurité alimentaire.

C'est pourquoi il faut s'attaquer en parallèle aux problèmes de surproduction et de sous-production.

Sur le premier point, la Communauté met en oeuvre une réforme de la politique agricole commune visant à une meilleure maîtrise des volumes de production par :

- (1) une réduction significative des prix de soutien ou d'intervention (par exemple, 29 pour cent pour les céréales et 15 pour cent pour la viande bovine);
- (2) la mise en jachère de terres;
- (3) le recours à des aides directes aux revenus des agriculteurs non liées au volume de la production;

- (4) l'introduction de mesures d'accompagnement en faveur de l'environnement, de l'afforestation de terres agricoles et de l'ajustement structurel.

La mise en application progressive de la réforme à partir de cette année correspond à la fois aux objectifs du Traité de Rome et aux nouvelles conditions du marché mondial:

elle favorise une plus grande stabilité des revenus agricoles tout en améliorant la compétitivité de l'agriculture communautaire,

elle bénéficie aux consommateurs,

elle améliore la protection de l'environnement,

elle contribue à l'équilibre des marchés intérieurs et extérieurs,

elle améliore ainsi les conditions du commerce international, notamment en rendant possible la conclusion rapide de l'Uruguay Round, que la Communauté tient pour essentielle.

Si, comme je le souhaite et en reste convaincu, l'Uruguay Round s'achève sur un bilan positif, les pays en développement producteurs agricoles bénéficieront de conditions de commerce mondial plus prévisibles et plus équitables. Pour les pays importateurs nets de produits alimentaires, la Communauté serait disposée à fournir une aide alimentaire si les prix mondiaux augmentaient suite à la conclusion de l'Uruguay Round.

L'aide alimentaire ne doit toutefois pas se substituer au développement à moyen terme du secteur agricole qui, dans la plupart des pays en développement, est d'une importance primordiale pour le développement général.

C'est pourquoi la Communauté s'est engagée dans une politique qui vise à ce que l'aide alimentaire renforce la sécurité alimentaire des PVD, grâce à:

l'amélioration de son ciblage, afin d'atteindre les groupes les plus vulnérables tout en évitant de perturber le marché et la production locaux;

l'utilisation des fonds de contrepartie pour des actions, y compris dans le secteur social, favorisant la sécurité alimentaire;

la fourniture, sous certaines conditions, de produits locaux et d'autres PVD de la région (il s'agit alors d'actions triangulaires);

la mise en place de programmes pluri-annuels qui facilitent la synergie entre l'aide alimentaire et d'autres instruments de développement.

Ceci m'amène à mon second point, à savoir celui concernant l'insécurité alimentaire dans les PVD et les moyens d'y remédier.

Je voudrais d'abord souligner l'importance à cet égard des politiques de population: une expansion démographique trop rapide, surtout si elle se conjugue, comme c'est souvent le cas, avec un niveau aigu de pauvreté, exerce en effet une pression sur l'environnement et singulièrement sur la forêt, tout en aggravant le déséquilibre entre la population et les ressources; on le voit particulièrement en Afrique, où la croissance

démographique est de trois pour cent par an, alors que l'augmentation de la production agricole n'est que de deux pour cent.

La Communauté aide déjà les PVD à mieux contrôler leur croissance démographique et elle est prête à renforcer son appui. Une résolution a été adoptée à cet égard en novembre 1992 par le Conseil des ministres du développement de la Communauté qui énonce les grands principes de notre politique à l'égard notamment de l'aide à la prévention des naissances non désirées, c'est-à-dire dans le respect absolu de la liberté des individus et des couples. Sur le plan international, la Communauté oeuvrera au succès de la Conférence du Caire de septembre 1994.

Mais la Communauté appuie surtout les PVD dans leurs efforts en vue d'augmenter la production agricole et de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire.

L'action de la Communauté est fondée sur des principes qui visent à aider les pays concernés à mener des politiques agricoles davantage orientées vers le marché:

éviter que la sécurité à court terme (par l'octroi d'aides alimentaires d'urgence) ne compromette la sécurité à long terme;

trouver un juste équilibre entre la production locale de nourriture, les exportations et les importations;

exploiter la complémentarité entre secteurs privé et public, notamment dans le domaine du stockage, de la distribution et du crédit rural;

protéger, de façon temporaire et dans certains cas justifiés, les marchés nationaux des PVD;

assurer une meilleure stabilité de prix aux producteurs;

chercher à augmenter le pouvoir d'achat des consommateurs, et notamment des groupes les plus vulnérables souvent affectés par les programmes d'ajustement structurel;

encourager la consommation de produits locaux.

En Afrique subsaharienne, principale bénéficiaire de la Convention de Lomé qui fixe les rapports entre la Communauté et les ACP, on peut dire qu'environ la moitié de l'aide de la Communauté répond à l'objectif de sécurité alimentaire. S'agissant de la Convention de Lomé, la Commission européenne a proposé que cette Convention, qui couvre la période 1990-99 et pour une dotation financière d'environ 15 milliards de dollars sur la période 1990-94 (soit 12 milliards d'écus), soit révisée à la fin 1994, pour s'assurer qu'elle contribue bien à faire progresser la démocratie, l'Etat de droit et la bonne gestion des affaires publiques, ainsi que pour renforcer l'efficacité et la cohérence des instruments de coopération.

En Asie et Amérique latine, le programme communautaire d'assistance financière et technique, qui est d'environ 3,5 milliards de dollars (soit 2,75 milliards d'écus) sur la période 1992-96 est, pour une large part, destiné au secteur de la production de denrées alimentaires, car c'est notamment dans le monde rural que se concentre la majorité de la population et que se rencontrent les couches de population les plus défavorisées.

En Méditerranée également, la Communauté a décidé d'affecter la plus grande partie des ressources financières, qui s'élèvent à environ 5,5 milliards de dollars (soit 4,4 milliards ECU) sur la période 1992-96, à des projets visant une plus grande autosuffisance alimentaire.

Enfin, dans les pays d'Europe centrale et orientale et dans ceux issus de l'ex-URSS, la Communauté oriente une large partie de ses interventions vers ce secteur. Il importe à cet égard de souligner que l'aide accordée à ces pays ne s'effectue pas au détriment de celle que la Communauté destine au pays en développement, qui s'accroît au contraire, tant pour ce qui est de l'aide humanitaire et d'urgence que de l'appui au processus de développement à moyen et long terme.

Je me suis longuement étendu sur les problèmes agricoles. Permettez-moi de dire quelques mots de deux autres domaines dans lesquels la FAO et la Communauté déploient une activité importante et fructueuse.

Le domaine de la pêche d'abord. Il est clair que sans un grand effort de régulation sur le plan international, la surexploitation des ressources en poissons va s'accélérer dans les prochaines années, conduisant à une réduction dramatique du potentiel halieutique pour les générations futures. C'est pourquoi le travail à accomplir durant les prochaines années se révèle être d'une importance cruciale.

La FAO s'est vu confier la tâche d'élaborer un code de bonne conduite pour une pêche responsable dont l'un des volets, à savoir l'accord pour promouvoir les mesures internationales de conservation et de gestion pour les navires pêchant en haute mer, fait l'objet d'un traitement prioritaire.

La Communauté a contribué de manière substantielle à la réalisation de cet accord et prend note avec la plus grande satisfaction, de son approbation par le cent quatrième Conseil de la FAO ainsi que de la recommandation de son adoption par la présente Conférence. Nous pensons que cet accord devrait entrer en vigueur prendre place aussi vite que possible et être suivi par le plus grand nombre de pays signataires. Cet accord permettra d'apporter une contribution importante à la définition d'une pêche responsable et à un développement durable des ressources naturelles.

Dans la même perspective, la Communauté soutient vivement la réalisation, des travaux techniques que la FAO doit effectuer dans le cadre approprié, en vue de contribuer aux prochaines sessions de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les stocks chevauchant et les espèces hautement migratrices.

Dans le domaine de la forêt ensuite, la FAO fait état de chiffres alarmants: le taux de déforestation aurait atteint 0,8 pour cent par an dans les années 80. Il convient de contrer cette tendance et la Commission s'y emploie en déployant un grand nombre d'activités dans le secteur forestier. Elle aide à établir des plans d'action forêt tropicale (PAFT) dans un certain nombre de pays d'Afrique, de la Caraïbe et du Pacifique. Et elle consacre par ailleurs plus de 100 millions de dollars par an à des projets forestiers dans toutes les régions du monde. Une ligne budgétaire spécifique à la forêt tropicale a même été créée: elle est dotée d'environ 60 millions de dollars pour 1993.

La Communauté se félicite de la compétence irremplaçable et de l'engagement de la FAO dans tous les domaines que j'ai pu évoquer brièvement. Nous continuerons donc à approfondir notre participation dans les travaux de l'Organisation et à renforcer notre coopération sur le terrain avec elle.

Le Président indépendant du Conseil a évoqué, dans son intervention, la coopération entre la CEE et la FAO. Je ne voudrais pas polémiquer ici sur ce qu'il a dit. Je voudrais tout simplement que la Communauté est décidée à approfondir et à amplifier cette coopération dans la mesure où elle se révèle efficace et dans l'intérêt des deux Organisations. Ce renforcement se fait de manière graduelle mais continue; la Communauté se situe déjà tout près du niveau des principaux donateurs. Notre coopération avec la FAO porte en effet, depuis le départ, sur un montant de 11 millions de dollars. Elle est susceptible de porter sur 15 millions de dollars supplémentaires pour les projets en préparation. A cet effort, s'ajoute, par ailleurs, les contributions des "douze" pris individuellement. L'accord technique passé entre le Secrétariat de la FAO et les services de la Commission se révèle donc utile et prometteur.

Cette coopération se poursuivra mais toujours avec le souci prioritaire de la qualité des projets.

J'ai la conviction que les mécanismes de coordination mis en place du côté de la FAO et de la Commission européenne nous permettront de marquer des progrès substantiels.

Les défis que doivent relever la FAO et l'ensemble de la communauté internationale restent donc immenses. Vous pouvez être assurés que la Communauté, pour sa part, contribuera de tout son poids à les relever.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie de votre attention.

Mme Maria Helena QUERIDO SKMEDO (Cap-Vert): Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, avant tout, de vous exprimer mes chaleureuses félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de la vingt-septième Session de la Conférence générale de la FAO.

Je suis convaincue que vous saurez animer avec fermeté et dynamisme les débats où seront discutées des questions vitales pour notre Organisation.

Je ne pouvais pas ne pas saisir cette occasion pour féliciter les nouveaux Etats Membres de notre Organisation dont l'admission vient renforcer son caractère universel.

Nous nous réjouissons, de façon particulière, de la réadmission de la République d'Afrique du Sud, membre fondateur de la FAO qui, conjointement avec l'Erythrée, apportera une contribution de poids à l'Organisation et spécialement à l'Afrique.

J'aimerais, au nom de la République du Cap-Vert et de l'ensemble des pays membres du CILSS, féliciter solennellement le Docteur Jacques Diouf, ce grand Sahélien que la Communauté internationale vient de porter à la tête de la FAO.

Homme de compétence reconnue, le Docteur Jacques Diouf a l'avantage de connaître parfaitement les problèmes de développement et de sécurité alimentaire dans le monde et, au cours de son mandat, il aura certainement à coeur de contribuer à leur résolution.

Au nom du Sahel, je lui souhaite plein succès dans ses nouvelles fonctions.

Monsieur le Directeur général Edouard Saouma, en ces instants solennels qui marquent la fin de votre remarquable mandat, c'est avec un réel plaisir que nous vous réaffirmons notre profonde estime. Par votre compétence et votre intelligence, vous avez su diriger avec brio les destinées de notre prestigieuse Organisation, la rendant plus efficace dans le combat contre le sous développement. La Conférence générale de la FAO, en tant que tribune privilégiée de réflexion, de discussion et d'analyse des problèmes relatifs au développement et à la coopération internationale, notamment dans les domaines de l'Agriculture et de l'alimentation, du Développement rural et des pêches, est le cadre idéal pour résoudre les plus pressantes questions qui se posent à l'humanité.

Je suis convaincue que les décisions et les recommandations issues de nos travaux permettront d'atteindre cet objectif.

Monsieur le Président, les pays membres du CILSS (le Burkina Faso, le Cap-Vert, la Gambie, la Guinée-Bissau, le Mali, la Mauritanie, le Niger, le Sénégal et le Tchad) ont l'honneur de participer au plus haut niveau à cette tribune mondiale qu'est la Conférence générale de la FAO.

En plus d'une tradition déjà établie, notre présence à cette Conférence témoigne non seulement de l'adhésion du Sahel aux nobles idéaux de la FAO, mais aussi de la reconnaissance de notre sous-région à l'endroit d'une Institution qui a toujours été à ses côtés, notamment aux heures les plus difficiles de son existence.

Depuis 1984, le Sahel, nonobstant la sécheresse, n'a heureusement pas connu de famine généralisée. Certes, quelques pays ont connu par moments des difficultés. Mais, grâce au Système d'alerte précoce mis en place avec nos partenaires, notamment la FAO, nous avons réussi à prendre à temps les mesures efficaces pour éviter la famine. Les missions conjointes d'évaluation de la campagne agricole effectuées tous les ans témoignent de l'excellence de nos relations qui sont exemplaires.

Je voudrais à présent lancer un appel à nos différents partenaires pour que l'alarme, quand elle est donnée, soit aussitôt entendue, et qu'une prompte et adéquate réponse y soit apportée.

Je me dois de rappeler que notre agriculture est encore tributaire des aléas climatiques. Dans bien des endroits, la pluviométrie se révèle encore capricieuse, sinon déficitaire, avec des conséquences néfastes sur les récoltes.

Ailleurs, et malgré une pluviométrie satisfaisante, les récoltes risquent d'être hypothéquées en raison des sérieuses menaces acridiennes qui pèsent sur le Sahel.

A ce sujet, les pays membres du CILSS, qui ont enregistré, dès les mois de juillet et d'août, l'invasion des premiers essaims de criquets pèlerins, ont déclenché des opérations de prospection dans toutes les zones atteintes. Cependant, il reste encore beaucoup à faire si nous voulons éviter une nouvelle et douloureuse catastrophe.

Dans ce sens, notre appel va en direction de la communauté internationale, en particulier à la FAO, pour une mobilisation de ressources complémentaires pour la lutte contre le fléau acridien. Le Cap-Vert est un pays sahélien où la parcimonie des ressources naturelles, notamment le sol et l'eau, la prédominance d'une pluviométrie irrégulière et la précarité de

la base technologique, constituent de sérieuses contraintes à une agriculture performante.

Il en ressort un pays à faible possibilité de production d'aliments pour nourrir sa population ou pour constituer un stock assurant une sécurité alimentaire minimum. La faiblesse de cette production rend le pays dépendant de l'extérieur sur le plan alimentaire.

Malheureusement, le relatif succès de la campagne agricole actuelle dépend encore de -nouvelles pluies à court terme et si la situation phytosanitaire est bonne, quelques dégâts ont malgré tout été causés par les attaques d'ennemis des cultures, actuellement maîtrisés. La situation des pâturages et l'état nutritionnel du bétail sont, jusqu'à présent, satisfaisants.

Le secteur agricole, nonobstant sa fragilité, ne cesse de jouer un rôle essentiel dans l'économie nationale.

Il me plaît de souligner que le Gouvernement du Cap-Vert a défini, dans son programme d'action, les principes fondamentaux visant au développement du secteur agricole en vue d'atteindre un accroissement de la production alimentaire et une amélioration du niveau de vie de la population qui participera de plus en plus activement à la construction nationale.

Dans ce contexte, l'Etat joue un rôle éducatif moteur en mettant en oeuvre les conditions permettant de répondre favorablement aux souhaits et aux besoins des populations.

Ce développement n'est effectivement possible que grâce à la participation consciente et active du peuple capverdien et à la solidarité de la Communauté internationale.

L'ordre du jour qui nous est présenté me semble particulièrement riche et diversifié et j'aimerais me prononcer sur quelques-uns de ses points les plus importants.

S'agissant du Programme de travail et budget pour 1994-95, une proposition de non-croissance nous est de nouveau soumise, sur la base de 676,9 millions de dollars. Les grands programmes techniques et économiques ont vu diminuer leurs ressources, il en est de même du programme de coopération technique. Ceci nous préoccupe d'autant plus que le nombre d'Etats Membres ne cesse d'augmenter et que les demandes, de plus en plus complexes, et dont beaucoup sont urgentes, risquent de ne pas être réalisées.

En raison du caractère catalysateur du Programme de coopération technique et de son importance pour les pays en développement, il est difficilement compréhensible de continuer à lui affecter d'aussi maigres ressources, qui demeurent très en deçà de la recommandation contenue dans la Résolution 9/89, qui demande de les porter à 16-17 pour cent du budget.

Il est opportun de souligner le rôle primordial du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) qui, avec un budget de 1,5 milliard de dollars pour l'exercice biennal 1995-96, devra appuyer l'action préventive de lutte contre les catastrophes et les crises, atténuant ainsi les effets de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Aussi, une attention spéciale devra être accordée au suivi de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition et de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement qui ont fourni une importante contribution à l'étude "Agriculture horizon 2010". Cette étude, portant sur l'agriculture, les pêches, les forêts et sur d'autres domaines d'intérêt dans la lutte contre la famine et la malnutrition dans les vingt prochaines années, fera aussi l'objet d'analyses et de réflexions durant cette Conférence. Rappelons-nous l'appel lancé en vue du renforcement des Plans d'action forestière nationaux et des soins que l'on doit dispenser aux ressources marines, source d'alimentation et support stratégique pour le développement de différents secteurs générateurs d'emplois et de revenus.

Le Cap-Vert a une zone économique exclusive qui n'est pas encore convenablement exploitée par manque de ressources et de moyens appropriés. Le secteur des Pêches, considéré comme stratégique, contribue significativement à la variété du régime alimentaire des populations et son développement permet la création d'un nombre élevé d'emplois. Ce secteur facilite aussi l'insertion graduelle du Cap-Vert dans le système économique mondial.

A cet égard, nous lançons un appel pour la prise en compte effective du budget de la pêche dans le prochain programme de travail.

En tant qu'instrument de planification, le Plan à moyen terme 1994-99 contient des priorités et des programmes définis par la FAO en corrélation avec les besoins des Etats Membres et en fonction des nouvelles orientations dans le cadre multilatéral. Dans le chapitre IV qui traite des priorités régionales, nous sommes d'accord avec l'analyse faite sur les défis auxquels le continent africain doit faire face, et, par conséquent, avec les propositions d'action.

En tant que femme, je ne pouvais pas ne pas me référer au rôle que joue la femme dans le processus de développement du fait de ses responsabilités et de ses fonctions dans la société, soit comme mère et éducatrice, soit comme agent producteur de biens alimentaires et de productions connexes.

En dépit de la nature difficile de ses activités, l'assujettissant à d'énormes sacrifices et fatigues, le statut de la femme dans la société n'est pas encore à la hauteur des responsabilités sociales qu'elle assume, étant plusieurs fois sujette à la discrimination dans l'exercice de certains droits fondamentaux.

Pour les raisons évoquées, chaque programme de développement doit, dans son élaboration, tenir compte de la pleine intégration de la femme comme force vive de la société, sous peine de voir avorter tous les efforts fournis.

Au Cap-Vert, cette problématique fait l'objet d'une attention spéciale de la part du Gouvernement, notamment à travers les programmes éducatifs et par l'accès des femmes aux facteurs de production.

Avant de terminer, permettez-moi d'exprimer au Directeur général de la FAO la gratitude des membres de la Commission sous-régionale des pêches, Commission composée du Cap-Vert, de la Gambie, de la Guinée, de la Guinée-Bissau, de la Mauritanie et du Sénégal, pour l'appui accordé à celle-ci dans la conception du programme de relance de ses activités.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je formule des vœux de plein succès pour le déroulement de nos travaux et pour que les objectifs définis soient totalement atteints.

Je vous remercie.

Zine El Abidine SEBTI (Maroc) (Langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord vous adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations, Monsieur le Président, pour la confiance que les Etats Membres ont placée en vous, en vous portant à la présidence de cette Conférence. Je saisis cette occasion pour adresser mes félicitations aux Vice-Présidents et aux membres du bureau. Mes félicitations vont aussi aux nouveaux Etats Membres pour la confiance qui leur a été accordée par la Communauté internationale.

Je voudrais également rendre hommage au Directeur général élu en lui confirmant notre total soutien pour que sa mission soit menée à bien. Je voudrais rendre hommage au Directeur général sortant, notre ami et frère, Dr Edouard Saouma pour les efforts inlassables qu'il a déployés au sein de cette Organisation. Il a pu, grâce à son expérience et à son savoir-faire, consolider les acquis de la FAO et mettre l'accent sur le redressement de la situation alimentaire mondiale dans les pays en voie de développement. Je le remercie tout particulièrement de ses efforts en vue de sensibiliser l'opinion mondiale à la gravité de la situation, ainsi que des actions qu'il a entreprises pour surmonter les problèmes alimentaires, et ce, en dépit d'une conjoncture économique peu favorable.

Je voudrais rendre hommage à Monsieur Saouma pour ses efforts en faveur de la langue arabe dans l'Organisation. Mon pays, qui a des traditions bien enracinées, est attaché à son appartenance arabe, africaine et méditerranéenne. Ces appartenances multiples et complémentaires sont à la fois un facteur d'ouverture et d'enrichissement. Le Maroc tient à cette diversité, surtout dans un monde qui a tendance à s'uniformiser. Quoi de plus fort que les langues pour exprimer cette diversité. C'est pour cela que nous en appelons au nouveau Directeur général pour qu'il traite toutes les langues de travail de l'Organisation sur un pied d'égalité et en le faisant en particulier pour notre langue arabe.

Excellence, il n'y a pas si longtemps, le principe d'autosuffisance prévalait dans toutes les politiques alimentaires; mais lors des dernières décennies des changements sont intervenus dans les transactions commerciales internationales et des groupements économiques régionaux se sont formés. Il est devenu impérieux, pour cette raison, d'opter pour une économie mondiale plus ouverte afin de répondre aux attentes des populations de par le monde. Aussi le Maroc a-t-il pu, sous la direction de sa Majesté le Roi Hassan II, adopter une politique d'ouverture sur les marchés mondiaux. Il a ainsi mis au point des programmes d'ajustement structurel qui ont été appliqués au secteur agricole depuis 1985, et que nous avons l'intention d'étendre en 1994 pour que l'ouverture soit totale.

Les mesures qui ont été prises visent à améliorer la production et la productivité dans un marché interne axé sur la libre entreprise et sur l'esprit de compétitivité, permettant de mieux utiliser les ressources disponibles et de les diriger vers les secteurs agricoles les plus efficaces. Nous sommes tout à fait confiants quant à ces options et nous tentons de les mettre en œuvre tout en tenant compte de leurs incidences, notamment sur le plan social.

Nous constatons malheureusement une attitude encore hésitante au niveau international en matière de libéralisation, particulièrement dans le secteur agricole. En témoigne le parcours difficile des négociations multilatérales de l'Uruguay Round. Or, l'équilibre des transactions commerciales dépend de l'assainissement des marchés mondiaux en éliminant par exemple des mesures telles que les subventions obtenues par les pays exportateurs pour commercialiser leurs excédents à des prix qui ne reflètent pas les coûts de production; mesures prises alors que nous nous efforçons de libérer le commerce extérieur dans nos pays en démantelant tous les obstacles, surtout les obstacles tarifaires.

Nous restons attachés à ces principes et nous plaçons tous nos espoirs dans la réussite de ces négociations. Nous espérons parvenir à une zone de libre échange avec la CEE mais nous constatons malheureusement que les négociations exploratoires menées avec la CEE restent en deçà du niveau souhaité.

Pour cela, nous attirons l'attention sur le fait que le démantèlement des mesures tarifaires et le recours à un vrai partenariat sont les conditions d'un développement réel et soutenu.

Mesdames et Messieurs, étant donné notre conception des relations commerciales externes et la nécessité d'intégrer notre économie dans un marché ouvert, dégagé de subventions et de mesures protectionnistes, nous avons opté pour une politique agricole plus dynamique tout en établissant les bases nécessaires à la sécurité alimentaire dans notre pays. Nous avons déployé des efforts conduisant les agriculteurs marocains à adopter les moyens et les techniques nécessaires pour augmenter la production agricole qualitativement et quantitativement.

Ainsi, nous couvrons 80 pour cent de nos besoins nationaux en lait et en céréales. 65 pour cent en sucre et 40 pour cent en huile. Et nous savons tous que le Maroc est un exportateur de fruits et légumes.

Conscients du rôle important de l'agriculture dans notre pays sur le plan économique et social, et du fait des vagues successives de sécheresse qui nous ont frappés, nous avons décidé de maîtriser l'élément eau et d'en rationaliser l'utilisation. Pour parer aux effets des changements climatiques sur la production agricole, ainsi que pour garantir la stabilité des populations rurales et lutter contre l'exode rural, nous avons mobilisé tous les moyens matériels et humains afin de créer des moyens d'irrigation et d'élargir la surface irrigable. Mais la mise en oeuvre de ces programmes appelle le concours financier des institutions internationales.

En plus de la sécheresse qui affecte notre production agricole, notre région est également frappée par des invasions acridiennes. Tout programme pour lutter contre le criquet pèlerin doit être basé sur une coopération, une coordination des efforts dans toute la région. Mais les moyens disponibles restent en deçà du niveau voulu. Et pour cela, nous avons besoin de davantage de moyens internationaux. A cet égard, je voudrais rendre hommage à la FAO pour le rôle qu'elle joue dans le domaine de l'avertissement rapide ou la coordination des efforts sur le plan régional.

Puisque j'en suis aux ravageurs qui menacent les récoltes nationales, je voudrais souligner que, dans le domaine de la protection des végétaux, le Maroc, en vue d'adapter les produits marocains aux critères techniques des pays importateurs, a adhéré en 1972 à la Convention internationale de la

protection des végétaux qui a été ratifiée en 1952 à Rome Le secrétariat de cette Convention a été rattaché à la FAO récemment et, de ce fait, notre pays est devenu membre de l'Organisation européenne et méditerranéenne pour la protection des plantes. Le Maroc s'apprête à accueillir le siège de la future organisation régionale de la protection des plantes pour le Proche-Orient.

Pour préserver les plantes et conserver notre patrimoine végétal, nous accordons une attention particulière à l'utilisation rationnelle des pesticides, et ce, en vue de protéger notre environnement. L'accroissement de la production ne devrait pas se faire aux dépens de l'environnement. Et l'un des plus grands défis auquel la communauté internationale doit faire face est celui qui consiste à concilier la croissance économique et sociale et la préservation des ressources naturelles.

Pour relever ce défi qui a été au coeur du Sommet de Rio et pour faire face aux changements climatiques, à la diversité biologique, à la désertification notamment sur le continent africain, il est impérieux pour la communauté internationale de faire preuve de beaucoup de solidarité et de coopération. Il est nécessaire de mettre en oeuvre les moyens nécessaires à l'application des clauses du "Programme d'Action 21" qui devrait être appliqué dans le siècle à venir.

Le Maroc a suivi les travaux du Sommet de Rio avec beaucoup d'intérêt. Il y a dépêché une délégation importante présidée par Son Altesse royale le Prince Sidi Mohamed et le Maroc a créé un ministère chargé d'oeuvrer dans le cadre d'une stratégie solide visant à préserver l'environnement.

Tout donne à croire qu'il y a une légère amélioration dans la situation alimentaire mondiale. Malheureusement, nous constatons encore un écart entre les pays en voie de développement et les pays développés. Cette situation risque de s'aggraver davantage et il sera impossible de trouver des solutions, notamment dans les régions frappées par les catastrophes naturelles telle que la sécheresse ou par les guerres civiles. Nous savons tous que si l'infrastructure est touchée, il y a recul de la production et détérioration de la situation alimentaire, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit d'une croissance démographique galopante. Nous sommes convaincus que cette organisation jouera un rôle important pour que les objectifs nobles des peuples démunis soient réalisés, pour que ces peuples puissent vivre dans un monde à l'abri de la faim, des problèmes de l'environnement, et pour que l'humanité toute entière puisse bénéficier d'une grande sécurité alimentaire.

Par ailleurs, ma délégation appuie le Programme de travail et budget proposé pour l'exercice 1994-95, cela en vue de préserver le consensus qui s'est dégagé autour des recommandations et décisions émanant de cette Conférence. Mais ma délégation a constaté que ce budget ne permettra pas à l'Organisation de jouer pleinement son rôle en vue de réaliser le développement et d'améliorer la situation alimentaire mondiale, surtout en Afrique où la situation se détériore de plus en plus.

Je voudrais par ailleurs souligner le rôle du Programme de coopération technique créé à l'initiative du Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, et je demande que ce programme jouisse d'un intérêt particulier à l'avenir.

Enfin, j'espère que l'Organisation pourra améliorer sa situation pour pouvoir poursuivre sa noble mission. Je vous remercie.

Ira d'AUVERGNE (Saint Lucia) : Mr Chairman, let me first extend my most sincere congratulations to you on behalf of my delegation on your first appointment as Chairman of the 27th biennial Conference of this august body. This is the first time in the history of this Organization that a member of the Caribbean community has had the great honour of presiding over this assembly. This is no doubt a recognition of your sound and balanced judgement and your overall ability. As Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Prime Minister of your country Jamaica, you are eminently suited to fill this role. The Caribbean community is proud and we are sanguine that you will continue to discharge this responsibility with competence, dignity and impartiality.

I would like also to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General elect, on his appointment to this most important Organization. He has emerged as the choice of his peers from an intelligent and impressive slate of qualified challengers after a long, intense and strenuous campaign, and the outcome has been rewarding to him and gratifying to his supporters and his country. The fact of his success is eloquent testimony of the esteem in which he is held. He has been charged with a sacred and unique trust at a most crucial time in the history of this Organization, at a time when major decisions are required, at a time when the Organization is perceived by many as abounding in myriad problems which will tax the highest capacity of men to solve.

I am confident that he will fulfil his mandate with his customary vigour and professionalism. Mr Chairman, in welcoming the new Director-General, let us not forget the outstanding contribution made to FAO and its Member Nations by the outgoing Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, who, at the helm of this Organization has steered it for the last three terms. Under his leadership FAO has played a major role in the fight to rid the world of poverty and malnutrition. He has been at the forefront in efforts to avert potentially catastrophic situations in many regions of the world. He has resolutely championed the cause of fair trade, and the several developing countries and hunger ravaged regions which have benefited from his policies can attest to this fact.

The outgoing Director-General has left an indelible mark of greatness on the history of the FAO in spite of the immensity of problems of the International Community.

I take this opportunity on behalf of my Government and people to thank him for his support during his term of office and wish him and his family the very best in his future endeavours.

It is my conviction that his experience, his sincerity of purpose and his demonstrated love for mankind will not be placed fully into retirement but will be utilized and given opportunities for expression in other spheres and fora for the benefit of mankind.

These are very challenging times for the international community and this is particularly so for resource-poor countries like St Lucia and other Caribbean states, times which have been characterized with major shifts in geopolitical relations, where emphasis has shifted from political to economic blocs, where a multiplicity of ideological profiles have reduced significantly or disappeared completely, where individual self interest seem increasingly to hold sway in international economic relations even if in the process others are destroyed. Today we see the same developed countries, strong nations and industrial giants, using all their energies,

faculties and genius on issues such as the development of trade blocs and market driven systems or free trade policies in a global context without consideration of their effects on the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the developing countries, notwithstanding the fact that they are fully aware of these conditions. In such a scenario small states like St Lucia and other windward islands were given certain concessions in terms of ensuring access for our fruit. We are indeed grateful to the Government of the United Kingdom and our other friends in the European Community for honouring the provisions of the Lomé Convention.

However, certain member countries of this Organization, with the active support of multilateral corporations, have launched a most vicious and concerted attack on the European Commission proposals within the GATT. They have made it abundantly clear that they would like to boost their share of the E C market from its present level of about 70 percent to 100 percent. Indeed they believe and insist that they have a right to the entire market based on what they term "reasonable expectations"! The only way they can achieve this is by pushing producers like ourselves out of the market altogether. In their quest they are prepared to do anything whether or not it results in adverse consequences to the other producers.

It is important to recognize that all this is taking place against a background where the windward islands supply a mere 2 percent of world production and about 10 percent of the European market compared with their 70 percent of the European market, and incidentally, the entire North American market. Mr Chairman, it is evident therefore that our miniscule share of 2 percent poses no threat whatsoever to these producers and their multinational allies.

Can this by any stretch of imagination be deemed to be International Cooperation?

If it is assumed that these aforementioned policies will achieve world peace, that is, that world peace will come through world trade, then free trade at the expense of developing countries to the detriment of poor states cannot and can never achieve world peace or stability. Instead the inevitable opposite must follow, and this policy must leave in its wake poverty, hunger, and degradation, the very scourges and upheavals which our Organization is committed to eradicate.

Mr Chairman, we accept in principle the concept of the liberalization of markets and the need for competitiveness. This however should be only in a situation where the playing field is level. As it is, the playing field is not level and therefore there cannot be fair play.

For example, our farmers have to strive in very difficult circumstances on small acreages which in the main are less than two hectares on steep slopes, marginal soils and minimum access to water and water resources. Our farmers rely totally on high cost imported inputs which our competitors, by virtue of the fact that they are also industrialized countries, produce the same inputs at lower cost. Yet we are being asked to compete with multinational corporations with almost limitless access to land, capital and a plentiful supply of cheaper labour.

Against this background we have been told by some industrialized countries that we should get out of bananas and grow something else. The question must be asked whether they seriously believe that we can overnight change

to another crop or crops which can provide the same returns both in terms of income and employment for our peoples?

If so, can they suggest the alternatives, and even assuming that this is feasible, is there any guarantee that there will not be serious dislocation of our fragile economies? Even if there are alternatives, do we have the resources to make that instant shift?

We recognize that there must be adjustments to our agricultural programmes if we are to abandon our traditional agricultural base. In pursuit of this St Lucia has embarked on a conscious and serious effort to improve our competitive position by instituting measures aimed at improving productivity at the farm level. We have also embarked upon large-scale programmes of diversification of the agricultural sector and the modernization of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, all aimed at reducing the dependence on bananas only. However, it would be naive to believe that the agricultural transformation can take place overnight. It takes years of very intense effort to get farmers who have become accustomed to a certain crop and particular practices to readily and easily change and to shift to an alternative crop in the short term.

All this must be viewed against a background where the banana industry is by far the greatest area of economic activity in St Lucia, contributing approximately 70 percent of her foreign exchange earnings and employing about 25 percent of the labour force. Our next major area of activity is tourism, and while this industry makes a significant contribution, it is not only fragile, but also lacks the same multiplier effect as bananas.

Therefore, our banana industry must be preserved and, in any event, there must be a transitory period during which the necessary adjustments and restructuring can be made. For this we require financial assistance, time and expertise but, above all, the opportunities for fair trade for our primary products.

FAO must be commended for the assistance given to my country over the years. We are grateful for this, but it has a continuing role to play in this critical situation in providing the necessary support to enable us to sustain the agricultural sector for this and future generations.

There is within the Organization the capacity to guide and assist disadvantaged states to gear their policies and strategies to face the adverse consequences posed by the rapid changes in the global economy, trade liberalization, their inability to compete in external agricultural markets, and to help to access financial resources to replace the shortfall in aid from traditional aid donors.

Priority must be given also to building and strengthening our institutions to enhance our human resources, to accelerate transfer of technology to give support to national capabilities in extension, research and sustained agricultural development.

Women play an important role in every sphere of activity in our development. They excel in every field, for example, farming, social work, banking, medicine, law, and education, among others. Nonetheless, greater emphasis needs to be placed at both the national and regional level to improve their status, and to promote programmes for their continued development in order to equip them to access better employment opportunities, particularly in rural life.

An FAO-sponsored workshop on the network of institutions and agencies in support of women was held in St Lucia from the 11 to 15 October of this year and was attended by representatives from 14 CARICOM countries. This workshop dealt inter alia with the establishment of focal points, the deepening and strengthening of the networking activities of various institutions and agencies, gender training and the planning for future networking activities. The workshop was very successful but there is need for quick follow-up action to ensure that the focus and initiatives are not dissipated.

There are some areas of concern to which FAO must address itself in the short term. First and foremost is the grave threat posed to our livestock industry by the Amblyomma variegatum tick, which came to the island of Guadeloupe from Africa in the mid-19th Century. It has since spread throughout most of our island territories including St Lucia, and its presence has been confirmed as far south as Barbados. St Lucia has been struggling to contain its spread for more than six years but with little success. The presence of this tick has severely reduced the productivity of our relatively small livestock sub-sector. Yet a greater threat has recently been identified, and that is the potential for this tick to spread to the mainland of North and South America by the Cattle egret, which bird is known to host one of the tick's life stages. By means of capture and release studies Cattle egrets tagged in the islands of Antigua and Guadeloupe have been found to have travelled well over 6 000 miles. The potential danger of this pest to the livestock industry in the United States of America, as well as countries in Latin America such as Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Uruguay, Venezuela, among others, is obvious. We in the Caribbean have been collaborating with FAO, IICA, and USDA, in particular, in an effort to mount a campaign for its eradication, which goal we know is still attainable.

I take this opportunity to call on all FAO Member Nations which are or might be affected by this problem, as well as those with an interest in our well-being, to join us at a meeting at 10.00 am on Friday, 12 November in the German room for a commitment of resources to address the eradication of this tick.

Permit me also to commend the Director-General of the FAO for the introduction and continuation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) initiatives. Through this arrangement the FAO has been able to respond positively and expeditiously to several critical needs of Caribbean States. We would strongly urge the strengthening of the TCP facility.

The FAO in collaboration with the British Development Division (BDD) of the ODA has been assisting St Lucia and other eastern Caribbean countries with the development of our tropical forestry action plans. We recognize that this work is critical to the sustainable utilization of our forestry resources and the preservation of our watershed areas, as well as the maintenance of our fragile ecosystems. Our respective national plans have recently been completed and we are preparing to present them to a round table meeting of donors to be convened in the Caribbean in February of next year. I bring this to the attention of this Conference now in the hope that upon receipt of your invitation you will actively participate in developing the optimal potential of our forest resources to the benefit of our economy and without harm to our environment.

We recognize that the FAO must be prepared for the 21st Century if it is properly to fulfil its mandate. This, however, I submit cannot be

achieved, as perceived by some, through violent or radical change but rather through appropriate adaptations to new needs and situations. In that regard, the beneficiaries of aid must honour their obligations and responsibilities in order to give the Organization the resources and the impetus to channel assistance to the many disadvantaged regions of the world.

We know that the new Director-General is equal to the task, that he will build on the outstanding achievements of his predecessor, Dr Edouard Saouma, and will remain resolute and faithful to the charge given him in shaping the Organization. For this we wish him the best, and we wish him the ability, the wisdom and the energy to provide the best provision for the welfare of all mankind.

R.M. Dharmadasa BANDA (Sri Lanka) : Chairman and distinguished delegates, let me at the very outset join the other delegates in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this important session of the FAO Conference. Needless to say, with your experience you will be able to steer this Conference to achieving definite results which will be welcome by the agrarian community of the world.

This session is indeed important for a special reason. We have just elected the new Director-General of the FAO. Let me congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf for his election to this most prestigious and highest position of the FAO system.

The new Director-General has a special mandate and a special task to perform. The world, particularly the emerging countries, are confronted with a rapid succession of major changes which have set in motion ever-increasing endeavours to allocate resources for alleviation of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. These efforts have not altogether proved successful. Sustainable agriculture with an appropriate ecological acceptance has in fact been a distant goal to be accomplished. Emerging countries still face an uphill task of ensuring food security resulting from ever-depleting resources, loss of productivity and apparent incapacity to mobilize all forces to recognize the productive sectors. These areas undoubtedly will continue to be the areas of concern of the FAO for a long time to come.

The new Director-General is taking over this ship in somewhat different and stormy seas. Whatever the problems may be, Sri Lanka expresses its intention of giving the fullest cooperation and support to the new Director-General and the FAO for the task it will face during the next decade. The outgoing Director-General has been a very able administrator who has been sympathetic towards genuine agrarian problems. He has directed this Organization through one era. We wish him well in his retirement.

The international response to food production, which has been a dominant theme during the last several years, cannot sustain itself or provide the necessary remedies unless there is a dynamic response to agriculture and food production at the national level. Each national government has to decide for itself the speed and manner in which it seeks to change the agricultural situation in the country. We believe that large-scale transformation of the agricultural sector intended to resolve a variety of problems, especially unemployment and food security, cannot be carried through effectively without selective intervention by the state at appropriate levels in critical areas of food production.

I am sure you would agree that basic and fundamental to every effort is the necessity of a strong political will and a commitment to the development of the agricultural sector in any country. My delegation is happy to announce that in our country the political will and the commitment in its highest form has been provided. Steps have already been taken to mobilize the farming community through both informal and formal organizations to equip them to give leadership to the structural changes in the agrarian sector. Together with this, changes are now being contemplated in fiscal and monetary policies aimed at supporting the indigenous agricultural base. It has become a matter of paramount importance to control, manage and develop the resources of the country with the active participation of the beneficiaries. Conscious policies are being followed to redesign the agricultural system to make maximum use of the material and human resources that are available within the country.

Providing the appropriate climate to gain access to resource and inputs to the farming community at affordable prices has been a cardinal policy that has been followed for quite some time by my government. We have successfully harnessed the water resources, both surface and underground, for maximizing productivity. Appropriate technology packages with wide farmer acceptance has been developed and transferred. Wherever necessary, state intervention has been made possible in selected strategic areas of production for achieving higher growth.

Mr Chairman, over the past two decades developing countries have experienced a significant growth in the agricultural sector. Sri Lanka is no exception. Our irrigated paddy extent increased by over 20 percent during this period. Twenty years ago Sri Lanka produced only 1.3 million metric tons of paddy. Today our production is 80 percent more than in 1973. Our rice breeders, in collaboration with international agencies managed to develop high standard rice varieties having very large yield potentials. Our researchers and extensionists developed modern technology packages and trained farmers to obtain high yields. Farmers accepted the new improved varieties and the area cultivated to them has now exceeded 96 percent of the total paddy extent. In spite of this, we are now beginning to witness a stagnation in our rice production. This is not confined to our country alone. We witness this in our neighbouring countries as well. Probably we have reached the peak of the current stage of the green revolution.

Many scientists are now engaged to discover the exact causes for this stagnation. At least one possible reason that is evident is the insufficient application of modern technology. Farmers apply inputs inadequately not due to ignorance, but more due to their inability to mobilize cash at the correct time to purchase inputs. This may be due to the poverty situation of the farmers or the inaccessibility of the resources. That is why I stated that adequate attention has not been focused on the issue concerning rural credit.

In our region paddy is cultivated by a large number of small farmers. In Sri Lanka it is estimated that over 1.8 million people are engaged in farming and over 60 percent of them operate holdings less than one hectare in extent. For them agricultural credit is a vital source of funding to purchase agricultural inputs as well as to pay for hired labour. In recognition of this need Sri Lanka, beginning in 1947, initiated various institutional credit programmes to serve the paddy sector better. However, we should remember that in addition to the institutional credit, there existed always the informal credit arrangements. Proportion of indebtedness to institutional and non-institutional sources varied over time. In the

late 1950s when the schemes were just initiated the institutional credit accounted for only 8 percent and informal sources 92 percent. By the late 1970s the importance of the non-institutional credit decreased to 45 percent due to state banks establishing and promoting various credit schemes. Yet the existence of non-institutional credit even now is an observed fact, and it still plays an important role in the rural sector despite state banks operating for over four decades.

It is time that we take a serious look at both the institutional credit and the informal credit that were existing side by side in our countries. The institutional credit suffered from high defaulting rates on one hand and high operating costs with low interest rates on the other. Though banks have obtained concessionary interest rates from the Government, yet they need a recovery rate of over 90 percent to ensure a state of no capital loss. The average recovery rate, however, is around 60 percent. When one analyses this situation, it is clear that the defaults are closely linked with the farmer's willingness and more importantly his ability to repay the loans. The ability to repay depends on by how much his crop exceeds the subsistence requirement of his family. In other words, rural agricultural credit is closely linked with the ability of the farmer to produce a surplus, which in turn is governed by his use of modern technology. The use of modern technology demands cash or high cost credit. Thus the farmer is caught in a vicious circle.

These are some of the clues we should take up in designing credit schemes that should be readily available and more acceptable to farmers. In Sri Lanka we have initiated a few schemes on these lines. In 1990 my Ministry started an "Agricultural Trust Fund" with an initial capital of Rs 150 million. This fund caters to the credit needs of the small farmers having less than one hectare of land. The recipients are the farmers who are unable to get credit from formal banking sources, and are farmers who cultivate under uncertain irrigated conditions. In other words, they are considered "high risk farmers" by the formal credit sector. Under our scheme farmers pay the same interest rate of the formal credit scheme. However, the Trust Fund is more close to the farmer than the Banking System. The loans are disbursed by the Agrarian Service Centres, which are grass-roots level organizations with active farmer participation. The collateral are two fellow farmers. The credit is in the form of seeds and fertilizer inputs. In the case of crop failure, the Agricultural Crop Insurance Board pays the loan, relieving the farmer from the burden of repayment. In some places the disbursement and recovery of credit is handled by farmers through their own farmer organizations. In addition to meeting the credit needs in kind with respect to seed and fertilizer, the Trust Fund in the future, that is, starting this year, will also address the credit requirements of small farmers for marketing and processing of agricultural produce. The Trust Fund commenced its activities only in 1990-91 and has recorded a commendable recovery rate of over 85 percent from its inception.

Another scheme we have just initiated is a "Revolving Fund for Agricultural Development." This fund too is operated by the Agrarian Service Centres at grass-roots level for more broad perspective activities. Loans are given to farmers, farmer organizations, young farmers' clubs, and any other agricultural organization for agricultural production, marketing and for value adding activities. The provincial agricultural committee, which administer the scheme, can increase the initial fund by taking part in agricultural commercial activities, and plough back the profits as well as

part of the interest collected on the loan disbursed. The Revolving Fund also provides for farmer training and agricultural demonstrations.

As I mentioned earlier, what we are now lacking is probably not the availability of technology, but the means to apply the technology. In agriculture, when we deal with farmers, especially farmers with poor resource endowments, the credit schemes with conventional procedures may not be the most appropriate. A scheme closer to the farmers' own social environment and to the naturally existing credit systems will be the viable alternative. We have to strive to form such effective schemes to provide the farmers with the much needed credit. If we provide the farmers with means acceptable to them, then with the available technology, the agricultural sector can break away from the present stagnation and move towards further development.

Provision of credit facilities by itself would not fulfil the desired objective of stimulating productivity increases unless the recipient farmers are mobilized and organized to gain access to it with less discomfort. For this purpose my Ministry has launched a two-pronged programme of rallying the farmers round their own organization - the Farmer Organization through which credit will flow and gearing both state and private sector organizations to make available the basic inputs such as fertilizer, seed, agro-chemicals and tillage power at appropriate quantities in locations closest to the farmers. Six months' grace period is being given to them for repayment with a service charge which will be retained at the farmer organization level and the Agrarian Services Centre level in order to build their own funds for future disbursements.

Small farmers in my country have welcomed these moves. I have also taken steps to establish a farmers' fund by the amalgamation of all specialized credit programmes enumerated above into one single fund with a legal status. A Farmers' Trust Fund has already been established where credit facilities are provided to the small farmers through their own farmers' organization.

I am now receiving the response from them. Initial reactions appear to be pointing towards one important step that needs to be taken, namely, the establishment of a Farmers' Bank. While the commercial banks would principally cater to the provision of large volumes of funding for import-export trading activities and large-scale agricultural projects, the proposed Farmers' Bank would eventually concentrate principally on servicing the small farmer who is often deprived of this facility due to built-in cumbersome procedures and their inability of providing the required security by way of collateral acceptable to the banking systems.

I am hopeful by this process my government would be able to remove substantially one of the impediments which has hamstrung the productivity increases, namely the difficulties in gaining easy access to credit by small farmers who constitute the bulk of the producers in my country.

My delegation is aware that the FAO, particularly the Regional Office has been concentrating on rural credit for some time. It is indeed time to take a fresh look at this aspect and take meaningful steps which are practical in nature so that access to resources by the farmers would be facilitated. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, distinguished delegate of Sri Lanka. Distinguished delegates, I am going to request that we suspend the Plenary discussions just for a moment to have the report of the General Committee, which held a meeting this morning. May I ask the Secretary-General to report to Conference.

Third Report of the General Committee

Troisième rapport du Bureau

Tercer Informe del Comité General

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr Chairman. The first item discussed in General Committee this morning was the Admission of an Observer from Moldava. The Director-General received on 9 November 1993 a communication from the Republic of Moldava, a Member State of the United Nations, expressing the interest of that Government in attending the 27th Session of the Conference. The Committee recommends that the Conference authorize the Director-General to invite Moldava to be represented by an observer at the current Session of the Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Are Members in agreement? Any comments? If not, I take this as being accepted by Conference.

Third Report of the General Committee adopted

Le troisième rapport du Bureau est adopté

El tercer informe del Comité General es aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The second item was statements in Plenary meetings of the Conference by international non-governmental organizations. Having consultative status, the General Committee was surprised by requests from the International Federation of Agricultural Producers and International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, both international organizations in consultative status with FAO, to address the Plenary of this Conference. Having examined these requests, the Committee, in accordance with Rule 10.2(g) of the General Rules of the Organization, is now reporting to the Conference and recommends that the Conference grants speaking time to the above-mentioned organizations on the understanding that the maximum time limit of ten minutes be observed and that in no case will such organizations be given priority in speaking over delegates of Member Nations.

CHAIRMAN: Any comments? If no comments, I take the Report as adopted.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Third and last item was Conference timetable. The General Committee was informed of the problems faced by representatives of some developing Member Nations who were unable to remain at the Conference beyond the first week because of economic constraints. The Committee, while recognizing that it would not be advisable to alter the timetable of the present session, recommends, in the future, consideration be given to having key votes of the Conference taken during the first week in order to accommodate those Member Nations that can be present at that time only.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Secretary-General.

Are there any comments? If not, the report of the General Committee is adopted.

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair

Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Saeed Mohammed AL RAGABANI (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic): In the name of God, the Merciful and the Compassionate, Mr President, Director-General, your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may God's peace and blessings be upon you.

It gives me great pleasure to offer my personal congratulations and those of my delegation to the President on his election. We are certain that his confidence and wisdom will ensure the success of our deliberations. I would also like to thank His Excellency the President of Italy for coming to our Conference as well as for his statement, and I would like to thank His Excellency President Hraoui, the President of Lebanon, for his participation and for the lecture he gave here at this international forum.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate His Excellency Jacques Diouf on his election as Director-General of the FAO. I wish him every success in discharging his heavy responsibilities, and we hope that he will indeed accomplish this Organization's goals. My country will cooperate fully with him and will offer every assistance to make his task easier. We are certain that His Excellency Mr Diouf will exert every effort to preserve the lofty position this Organization enjoys and that he will, at the same time, promote the efforts and services of the Member States in the domain of agricultural development.

We are certain that Mr Diouf will champion the cause of farmers all over the world. We would like to thank our brother Edouard Saouma, the retiring Director-General, for his dedication and ceaseless efforts, which have guided the Organization to its present lofty position. His sincere efforts are reflected in programmes and projects implemented in the past eighteen years under his stewardship and are ample proof of his wisdom and far-sightedness.

Agriculture is man's first and most basic labour. Since the beginning of time and man's creation, his basic preoccupation has been to still the pangs of hunger. We are here for the farmer. Had it not been for the farmer, this Conference would not have taken place nor would delegations have attended this Conference. Let us, therefore, offer thanks to the farmer, who bears such a heavy burden to produce food. We have to help him, offer him what he needs, provide him with the wherewithal necessary to

bring him increased returns and encourage him to keep his work and provide, in the future, for himself and his family.

Our world today faces the danger of a population explosion. Every day, there are new mouths asking to be fed, all of which led scientists to concentrate on how to achieve maximum yields. They have exploited technical methods of various types; so they used chemical fertilizers, fumigation with pesticides from aeroplanes, until the land suffered from over-production. The result was a threat to the environment, to agriculture, and to man's health. The world has become aware of the danger of such random practices. Countries have once again altered their agricultural policies. They have championed sustainable development and protection of the environment. We are convinced that just as scientists use technology to produce food so can they adopt this technology to protect the environment and increase food production with the smallest side-effects possible.

When we speak about sustainable development and the conservation of natural resources, we must not forget that the developing world needs help to achieve those goals. Natural resources are their major source of revenue. It is a sector where a large percentage of the population live and earn their livelihood. You will all agree with me, I think, when I say that a farmer who cannot provide food for his family will hardly worry about protecting the environment. Therefore, rich countries must help developing countries achieve sustainable agricultural development. They should not be tight-fisted with the technologies they possess.

The United Arab Emirates would reiterate the importance of providing food, quantitatively and qualitatively, the protection of the environment, biodiversity, and a stable and secure life for future generations. It calls for benefiting from the diversity of natural resources which God has blessed us with and improved development rates in order to be rid of misery, poverty, and famine. We have to find a right balance, a right balance of existence, for all people and all nations.

My country has exerted great efforts to preserve wildlife. We have laws and regulations prohibiting the felling of trees and animal and bird hunting. We have imported animals and birds from the four corners of the world and added to our local species in order to protect our environment and save threatened animals. Those have greatly increased in animal type and numbers. It is incumbent upon me to allude to the essential role played by His Highness, Sheikh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nahyan who richly deserved the title of Man of the Environment and Development for 1993, bestowed on him by the Festival of Arab Youth.

The United Arab Emirates, thanks to his leadership and counsel, was victorious over the desert and changed the arid sands of the desert to the green pastures we see today, and all that by the use of modern techniques to develop agriculture and fisheries. We have promulgated legislation to protect our resources. We would like to recall our country's stand on the environment and development as stated at the UNCED Conference in 1992, where we reiterated the importance of environmental protection through cooperation with all countries.

We have in the United Arab Emirates achieved considerable success in the agricultural sector and in spite of harsh climatic conditions. We live in a desert environment where rainfall does not exceed 120 millimetres per annum, and yet we have been able to produce most of our food needs through

agro-diversity; and, in spite of the harshness of nature, we are exerting every effort to increase the area of cultivatable land and to control desertification. To overcome the paucity of agricultural land, we have used modern techniques such as hot houses and modern irrigation methods which lead to increased production and surplus exports.

We have practised agriculture since days gone by and palm trees were planted in oases. The palm tree was indeed man's fortune. He ate its fruit and built his house from its fronds and trunk. After the discovery of oil and the increase in national revenues, we concentrated especially on palm trees, and today there are more than eighteen million palm trees in the United Arab Emirates.

The United Arab Emirates has played a constructive role in global agricultural development through effective cooperation with developing countries and Arab regional and international specialized agencies and all that by contributing to projects which helped to raise living standards in those countries. The United Arab Emirates is also proud of its record of assistance in times of natural disasters. There is no doubt that those efforts have indeed contributed to the solution of many problems arising from those difficult conditions, and the United Arab Emirates has contributed to alleviating hunger and to helping development.

We expect this Organization to accomplish wonderful achievements; but, at the same time, we have to support it to get there. The Organization must submit programmes and projects to member countries, and member countries must honour their obligations towards the Organization.

As His Excellency the President of Italy said in his speech, there are ugly words, and these are poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. FAO provides the solution to those ugly words. And yet, the Organization can accomplish nothing on its own and, as Mr Diouf said, we have to act as one and tackle the challenges facing humanity.

We support the call made by the President. There must be coordination between this and other organizations to be of benefit to all Member States. Finally, I would say that agriculture has always been linked to culture. "Culture" means "agriculture", and we know that agriculture is the twin brother of stability, for there can be no stability under hunger and wars. It is only under peace that agriculture can flourish, that production can increase, and that man's well-being is fully enjoyable. Therefore, we call for peace, a peace encompassing the whole world, and we mean a just peace giving each his due. We look forward to that day when we will see peace and full stability for all members of the international family, where poor countries will no longer suffer the pain of hunger. We hope there will not be a single person suffering want or hunger on this earth. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Honourable delegates, good evening to you all. I would like to thank His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Al Ragabani, the Minister of Agriculture of the United Arab Emirates, for the statement. I do agree fully with him on the necessity of helping farmers in developing countries in order to preserve and protect the environment, and I indeed salute the experiments in the agriculture field in their country.

Arlindo MARQUES DA CUNHA (Portugal): Allow me, Mr Chairman, in the name of the Portuguese Government, to take this opportunity to congratulate

Mr Jacques Diouf on his recent election to the position of Director-General of the Organization. We trust that he will meet with every success in carrying out his mandate and hope that during his mandate the potential offered by Portugal as a Member Nation will be taken into due consideration at all times.

We must acknowledge that in recent years the international organizations, especially FAO, and indeed some countries, have made a remarkable effort to define a coherent set of policies allowing the imbalances and asymmetries in the production of, access to and consumption of foodstuffs to be overcome.

The world has seen overall progress on the path to improving the security of nutrition and the state of nutrition of the world's population. We have seen an overall increase in the per capita availability of foodstuffs. In this aspect, many developing countries have undergone considerable improvement.

The problem lies in the fact that progress has been slow and, more particularly, uneven. Although there are regions of the world that are confronted with excess production, there are others in which the rate of growth of the production of foodstuffs falls behind the rate of growth of the population, and this not to mention those countries that are practically systematically dependent upon food aid.

It is in this framework of cruel reality, and perhaps of little optimism, that the 1993 Conference will discuss several excellent documents that have been prepared by the Secretariat, and I am quite sure that they will lead to a lively and enriching debate.

We share the views and the position of the Organization in these matters. We embrace with special attention the concerns expressed and express our agreement in principle to the great majority of the strategies set forth. At the proper time in the course of their discussion in the specialized committees, the Portuguese delegation will contribute to the debate with such comments and complementary ideas as may be raised during the discussions.

Mankind today is faced with a vicious trilogy that is hard to solve: hunger and sub-nutrition, the offspring of poverty; the asymmetry between the increase in the production of foodstuffs and the demographic evolution; and the dire need to guarantee the sustainable use of renewable resources.

Although it is certain that pockets of urban poverty are of special concern to the political leaders owing to their proximity to the centres of political decision, the truth is that we cannot ignore the fact that in developing nations some 80 percent of the poor live in rural areas.

It is the poverty of the rural world that must be relieved by sustainable development. We are well aware that in the fight for subsistence, particularly in eco-systems that are of themselves fragile, exaggerated pressure on resources leads to a progressive deterioration of the environment.

Therefore, Mr Chairman, we rejoice in the efforts made by FAO to introduce into its programme of work, particularly so in its plans of action in the field, the guidelines that emerged from the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, especially with regard to the criteria of

environmental protection and sustainable development, in keeping with Agenda 21.

Likewise, the new guidelines on food security and nutrition that emerged from the International Conference on Nutrition have already been incorporated into the working programme and budget and into the Medium-Term Plan submitted to this Conference; the document, Agriculture: Horizon 2010 also reflects these same guidelines in many of its chapters.

Mr Chairman, over the last 20 years the rate of growth of the production of the world's fisheries has decreased. This fact is a cause for concern, all the more so since a large number of nations, including my own, sees this activity as a very significant instrument in the production of wealth, work and food, thus meeting the basic necessities of their people.

There is today a greater conscience that the sustained development of those coastal regions and communities that are more dependent on fishing cannot be ensured without closer international and regional cooperation. More than merely regulating and rationalizing, we must harmonize the various systems of exploitation while fully respecting the 1982 Convention of the Law of the Sea and, consequently, the rights and duties both of coastal States and of the national fleets that operate in waters under the jurisdiction of such States and on the high seas.

The positions of the Community, as well as those of Portugal, point to a need for a balance of interests and a sharing of responsibilities, and for the development of solutions allowing greater protection for coastal populations, especially those less-favoured communities and regimes that are dependent on fishing.

A meeting was held in Portugal in 1991 on the "Mediterranean Forest". Portugal has always defended the need to develop an integrated vision of the problems of the Mediterranean region, putting into practice a more active cooperation between the countries that border the Mediterranean. My Government therefore reaffirms before this Conference its commitment to the advance of the forestry programme for the Mediterranean.

The 10th Session of the Intergovernmental Citrus Fruit Group was also held in Portugal last October. The chairmanship of this group is currently entrusted to the Chairman of our National FAO Committee. The Portuguese delegation is closely involved in the proposal to set up a Mediterranean cooperation network in the area of citrus fruit, similar to that of the existing inter-American network, and this proposal has received the unanimous approval of the group. We hope that the competent organs within FAO will be able to proceed with this decision of the intergovernmental group, since the problem of Mediterranean citrus fruit has specific aspects and a surrounding of common interest in its production, sales and scientific development.

It may also be opportune to underline Portugal's contribution, in conjunction with that of Finland, towards the organization of the Helsinki Conference on the Protection of European Forests. This conference adopted several important resolutions, among which, I would venture to stress for its importance, was the conservation of the biodiversity of the forests.

Portugal, now joined by Austria, will be responsible for the next European Conference which will be held in Lisbon in the near future.

In this connection, allow me to convey to the Conference the support and the applause of my government for the efforts made by FAO in the programme to conserve plant genetic resources and for its initiative in launching a new programme for the protection of zootechnical resources.

Mr Chairman, our participation in this Organization dates back, practically speaking, to its foundation, and we have maintained at national level a proper structure - the FAO National Commission - that ensures the links with the National Administrations through which these various subjects and themes transit.

Portugal would also like to recall the technical and financial aid that it has received in the past in order to put into practice several specific programmes of interest to our country. It also considers that the aid provided under the form of information, studies, professional training and the participation of our technicians in courses and seminars has been extremely helpful.

For all this, and as we believe in the positive role played by FAO in rural development and in helping to lessen hunger in the world, we would like from this podium to reaffirm our readiness to provide support.

A last word, Mr Chairman, to pay tribute to Mr Edouard Saouma at the moment of his departure from the position of Director-General of FAO for the contribution that he has made during all these years to the higher ideals of this important and absolutely necessary international organization.

Let me congratulate you, Mr Chairman, for your very efficient chairmanship and congratulate you and the Organization for the new incoming members and for the re-admission of the Republic of South Africa.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the head of the Portuguese delegation for his statement and his commitments to ensure that the Forestry Group will be able to do its work. I have just learned that the heads of the delegations of Mauritania and Albania are not present at the moment so I will now give the floor to the head of the delegation of Poland.

Mrs Marie ZWOLINKSA (Poland): I have the honour to speak on the national holiday of Poland, the 75th anniversary of regaining Polish independence.

The 27th Session of the FAO Conference is taking place at a crucial moment for the world. The collapse of the socialist system, economic transformations - spreading of a market economy in the world and a new stage of integration: the European Union, NAFTA and the GATT Round will have an impact now and in the future on world agriculture and international cooperation.

One has to admit and appreciate the fact that FAO's contribution to these transformations has been a major and a considerable one.

Today FAO faces even bigger challenges. We have to realize the historical importance of present years for world agriculture making decisions on issues which are discussed at the Session. This particularly pertains to FAO's Medium Term-Plan. The role to be played by FAO in a difficult process of transformations in the world depends on the understanding of the

significance of FAO's evolution. Poland is a supporter of the view that this role should be prominent, as in the future the importance of such organizations ought to be greater.

To our satisfaction the analyses submitted to the Session do not only reflect the situation of world agriculture properly but also define the macro-economic situation in the world accurately. They form the basis for appropriate choices of FAO's functions and tasks. One has to admit that the evolution of the Organization Programme can be seen. Poland is in favour of the idea of having greater changes in FAO's long-term programme and in its priorities. Offering to you our congratulations, Mr Jacques Diouf, on your election to hold one of the most important and honourable positions in the world, we would like to encourage you to introduce these changes and ensure that Poland will support you in these initiatives.

Poland's support for such changes is particularly well justified. The whole region of Central and Eastern Europe is in the process of transition to a market economy. We were the first to embark on these difficult reforms. We are now aware, on the basis of our four-year experience, of the complexity of these reforms and the resultant economic and social problems. We realize the need for determination as well as importance of technical assistance in solving these problems. We have already achieved some success : a balanced market, prices created by the market and internally convertible currency. Over a half of the population is employed by the private sector. The services sector is growing rapidly. Tens of thousands of new firms have been created, including a few thousand joint ventures. Banks and the state-owned sector in agriculture are being privatized. This year the first signs of an end to the economic recession have been seen.

However, we are bearing the great costs of this transformation. We have seen a serious drop in living standards which has lasted for a few years, a fall in food demand and consequently a collapse of agricultural production. High unemployment has been persistent in Poland, including rural areas, which brings about social problems and delays the improvement of the agrarian structure. A great potential of agricultural production has not been used.

Today, however, we know that part of the transformation costs could have been avoided if market economy systems, instruments and institutions, such as banks; credit, trade and investment insurance institutions; commodity exchanges; market information centres; chambers of agriculture and commerce; or private systems and institutions of health and social insurance had been developed more rapidly. This is decisive not only for the effectiveness of the transformation but it is also a condition for an inflow of foreign capital.

We have received considerable assistance from the EC, USA and other countries in creating these institutions. Besides, we were provided assistance from FAO as regards agricultural extension services. We highly appreciate this assistance, but it has not been large enough considering the scale of our needs. I do not touch upon this problem to get more assistance but rather because our path is being followed and will be followed by dozens of countries. They may repeat our mistakes or avoid unnecessary costs.

Poland, creating the foundations of a market economy, is in favour of far-reaching liberalization on the world market. We support this view and participate in the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations. In spite of the fact

that simultaneously we are in the process of associating with the European Union, we admit that liberalization of international trade is in Poland's and other countries' vital economic interest.

Poland fully liberalized its links with the world in 1990 abolishing all subsidies and tariff, tax and quantitative restrictions.

Many countries of our region are acting in a similar way. Poland was opened broadly to imports, including imports from developing countries. For instance within two years we became one of the major importers of bananas and citrus fruits from those countries.

It has turned out, however, that trade liberalization has not been mutual, and Polish exports - similar to those of other countries of the region - have faced numerous limits and restrictions. This has compelled Poland to reintroduce a moderate tariff protection of the domestic market within the scope of rules negotiated in the GATT. Once again the rule, stressed at the beginning of the GATT round, that only common and simultaneous trade liberalization is effective, has been confirmed.

Poland is not only in favour of the quick completion of the Uruguay Round but is also in favour of an increasingly greater role for FAO in the working of a new trade order in the world. We recognize, like FAO's precursors, that economic and trade issues are of greater significance for world agriculture than are technical transformations.

Coming to an end, I would like to emphasize once again our great interest in increasing FAO's role in transforming the agriculture of Central and Eastern Europe, in establishing institutions creating agricultural markets and environment, and in providing experience with regard to the privatization of agriculture. The universal character of FAO may offer greater security - of a neutral character - in advising the solution to these problems. Among other things, the initiative of organizing periodic consultation on the harmonization of agricultural policies, started in Budapest, should be continued. We would like to invite you to the next consultation at Warsaw in 1994. We would also like to provide our experience concerning agriculture privatization or the creation of market analysis and information systems.

Against this background it is evident that the magnitude and complexity of issues confronting Poland, as well as other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, call for more determined and comprehensive responses on the part of FAO.

Indeed, a new coherent FAO sub-regional policy is urgently needed in keeping with the decisions of the 18th FAO Regional Conference for Europe held in Prague, which unanimously acknowledged that assistance to Central and Eastern Europe should be given high priority in FAO regional action programmes. This decision was endorsed by the FAO Council at its 103rd Session, recommending that FAO should be prepared to respond to future requests for assistance coming from these member countries.

My Delegation strongly believes that our common views on the role of FAO in countries of transition in Central and Eastern Europe should be embodied in a resolution of this Conference and asks you for your kind support.

I am convinced that FAO will respond positively to this new request from the region and will thus contribute to overcoming the present difficulties.

Thank you for your attention.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the distinguished representative of Poland for her statement and would like to offer our congratulations to Poland on this 75th Anniversary of Independence.

Charles C. STOLL (Canada): On behalf of the Canadian Government I would like at the very outset to extend warm congratulations to Ambassador Jacques Diouf on his election. We look forward very much to working closely with him in moving FAO forward to meet the challenges of the future.

At the same time I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Mr Edouard Saouma for his lifelong dedication to the cause of alleviating hunger and malnutrition, and in particular for his service as Director-General of FAO for the past 18 years.

I also want to congratulate the nine new countries elected earlier to membership in FAO, as well as South Africa which has returned to our Organization. We welcome them into the FAO family and look forward to cooperating constructively and productively with all of them in advancing the work of this valuable multi-lateral organization.

In recent years agriculture has been a persistent and pressing aspect of international relations. We shall need to continue to concentrate our efforts to resolve agricultural problems in the future. As we approach the December 15th deadline, a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round is of vital importance in order to re-establish the viability of agriculture sectors in all parts of the world. As long as subsidies distort world trade in agriculture commodities, farmers and processors in both developed and developing countries will suffer. The prolongation of the debate is in nobody's interest and will only delay the inevitable adjustments that must occur. Some have suggested that trade liberalization is not in the interests of developing countries. However, the World Bank estimates that a reduction of 50 percent in the rate of trade protection by the world's three largest traders would result in an increase of US\$50 billion in export revenues to developing countries. Mr Chairman, this is roughly equivalent to a total official economic aid from all OECD countries to the developing world.

Trade liberalization is in fact an integral part of structural adjustments and economic reforms in most developing countries at the present time. In many Asian and Latin American nations for example, historical measures of protection are being replaced by trade liberalization with very positive effects on economic growth.

However, the sustainability of trade liberalization in these developing countries is in danger because it is not being matched by trade liberalization in industrialized countries. Mr Chairman, failure to achieve sizeable reductions in agriculture production in OECD countries would make it extremely difficult for these developing countries to continue the elimination of non-tariff barriers and reduction of tariffs.

The result would be reduced economic growth and increased unemployment and poverty.

Although the GATT remains the prime vehicle for trade negotiations, yet the efforts of the FAO in the trade support area are also vitally important and must receive priority. I am referring, of course, to such activities as the CODEX Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection

Convention and the trade and protection statistical programmes such as WAICENT. Many of the of importers and exporters alike should be met by these trade support programmes of the FAO.

Trade expansion, while a spur to economic growth, will not alone relieve poverty and hunger around the world. There are other important areas of development where national capabilities need to be strengthened, particularly in the world's poorest countries. We support the follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition, which will assist countries to design national plans of action to bring about increased food security and other forms of income security. Through increased involvement of all sectors of the economy, public, private, community and non-governmental, we are hopeful that workable programmes can be developed to achieve realistic results.

To facilitate increases in productivity in developing countries there is an urgent need for accelerated investment in human resource development and agriculture research technology aimed at yield enhancement and protection of natural resources from degradation.

Canada continues to be a lead supporter of international agricultural research and, like many members of this Conference from developed and developing countries, has shared in the benefits from increased food self-reliance and international systems. The impact of international research transcends national boundaries providing economies of scale where technology products are adopted and replicated in numerous developing countries.

Mr Chairman, another important challenge facing agriculture, forestry and fisheries involves the environment. As was seen at the Earth Summit in Rio, there are key roles to be played by managers and custodians of irreplaceable natural resources. We support FAO for the active role it is playing in the follow-up to UNCED and look forward to continued strengthening of initiatives in this area.

There are concerns in many countries about the cost of environmental protection and its potentially negative impact on economic growth. However, we are increasingly realizing that environmental management and economic growth can be compatible. The appropriate conservation and use of plant and animal genetic resources, for example, is good for both the environment and the economy. Canada attaches great importance to FAO programmes in these areas. The future viability and competitiveness of the agricultural sector depends on continuing access to genetic resources.

Technological advances through exchange of animal and plant germ plasm, for example, can help feed populations yet unborn. Through the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the FAO's domestic animal diversity programme the essence of a worldwide system can be seen. Canada supports the renegotiation of international undertaking on plant genetic resources to meet the requirements of the Convention on Biodiversity. We are also supportive of the domestic animal diversity programmes.

Another area of convergence between economic and environmental considerations is international trade and forest products. Green consumerism is increasing and the market is now sending green signals. The forest community needs to adequately equip itself to face this situation through internationally accepted, scientifically-based criteria, and from these national guidelines on the conservation and sustainable

development of forests. Such criteria for sustainable development of forests relevant to each bioregion would, from an economic point of view, be especially important in creating a clear set of expectations and objectives applicable to all those competing in the forest products market with similar ecosystems.

To define this criteria the forest community urgently needs to take advantage of the FAO's particular confidence and knowledge. Currently, global forest monitoring and intelligence systems are not providing the necessary information. There is a continuing need for analytical and strategic studies of various technical aspects of forestry and the status and trends of important physical, social and economic parameters of the forest sector. FAO is the main, if not the only, international organization with the global network capable of collecting this information. FAO should use its comparative advantage to assist the world forest community in developing the national capacity, the appropriate technology, the pertinent policy of plan and action to ensure the full and sustainable use of all types of forest. Furthermore, for the FAO to effectively meet the challenge issued by UNCED and adequately assume its forest-related responsibilities, we must address the issue of the grossly inadequate proportion of the FAO budget allocated to forestry. To that effect, Mr Chairman, Canada is tabling a resolution in Commission II under Item 12, Programme of Work and Budget, urging Member States to review the Organization's priorities and to progressively increase the forest budget in the coming biennium in order to better reflect the importance of forests within its mandate.

A reality being faced by most countries in this room is fiscal restraint and redefining the role of government. In Canada budget reduction is the order of the day. Great ingenuity must be exercised by all participants to keep up the level of service to our clients. Forging new relationships with the private sector and cutting out waste and duplication in government departments has been going on for several years now. Layers of management have been eliminated and we are rationalizing and reducing the delivery of many direct services which can be handled elsewhere. As painful as these changes are, more efficiency in government will bring about new benefits to the Canadian public.

Although some changes along these lines are evident in FAO, Canada looks forward to increased use of ingenuity and striving for excellence. Canadian taxpayers expect that international organizations to which we contribute, such as the FAO, will be subject to the same process of rationalization and increased efficiency as their own domestic programmes.

Given the level and complexity of current programme demands in the areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, it is a difficult but necessary task to look further forward. We would be remiss if we do not step back from the immediate concerns and look to the future of FAO into the next century. Many uncertainties will continue to confront us, and studies such as Agriculture Towards 2010 are essential. As we look to the future there are many questions, such as will production trends continue to increase in the next few decades, as they have in the past, or will the combination of forces that led to the fall in the proportion of under-nourished people be sufficient to carry us forward further, or will other influences such as environmental degradation outweigh these forces? The next 20 years will probably bring a far different world than one we now have. FAO must be in the forefront of anticipating those changes and rising to the challenges they create.

Some elements of the future are relatively predictable however. They include increased population, more intensive use of finite land resources, continuing food shortages in particular areas, conflicts over use of particular resources such as fish stocks, plant and animal health problems and further threats to genetic diversities.

All of these issues present challenges to FAO. FAO will need to respond through activities such as the dissemination of technology, statistical and early-warning systems, developing international food and phytosanitary standards, providing advice on food security and environmental preservation strategies, designing training programmes and serving as a forum for governments to negotiate agreements on the best way to manage the finite resources of this planet.

How these activities are to be designed and implemented remains open for discussion. A range of new and innovative alliances with other UN specialized agencies, the World Bank group, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations may be needed. We can only benefit from a vigorous dialogue on the issues. If FAO is to maintain its capacity as a centre for excellence, internal changes may be needed, as well. We would request the new Director-General to constantly review the challenges and ensure that FAO is in a position to meet them.

FAO has a key role to play in the response of the international community to a wide range of crucial world problems. It is of the utmost importance that the Organization be fully able to meet the high expectations which are placed on it. The new Director-General will have to face very difficult challenges. FAO has to find a new dynamism, a new breath, a new youth to be able to play fully its role in the world of profound changes.

Canada invites countries here gathered to help reflect on these changes. It is with particular pleasure that Canada is sponsoring a resolution regarding events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of FAO in October 1995. At the last June Council we were pleased to make a statement on this subject. It was supported by many other countries. At that time the Government of Canada and the Governor of the Province of Quebec offered to host commemorative events which would include a special World Food Day observance on October 16, 1995 at the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City. It is our pleasure to confirm this invitation, and it is our hope that further discussion of the 50th anniversary proposals will take place when a resolution on the subject is brought forward to this Conference.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the head of the Canadian delegation for his address. What really drew my attention was Canada's concern about the liberalization of trade in developing countries, which is not going hand in hand with liberalization in developed countries. I think we have all taken note of what he has said and the proposal to adopt a resolution in Commission II to reconsider the priorities of the Organization, and also what he had to say about duplication of efforts and the need for avoidance thereof and to rationalize expenditures. Lastly, the Chair would like to thank him for the invitation extended on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of this Organization to be arranged in Canada.

Rodney NEAL (Belize): Mr Chairman, may I commence my statement by offering through you my personal congratulations and that of the Belize delegation to the Honourable Seymour Mullings on his election to the esteemed position

of Chairman of this 27th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization. I am fully convinced that his performance in the Chair will continue to bring tremendous credit to him, his country of Jamaica, and the Caribbean as a whole.

To be in the forefront of growth and development, to be in the leadership role that demands the alleviation of rural poverty and the further improvement of food security set FAO and its newly elected Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, a gigantic international task.

As the leader of the delegation of Belize to the 27th Session of the FAO Conference, I recognize the services that all Ministers of Agriculture have for their respective peoples and cultures. Political and administrative leaders at fora such as these need to cross-fertilize ideas, policies and programmes which will lead to the development of sound nutritional systems, provide secure food supplies, and ensure full-time employment, especially for women and our young adults.

We are all too well aware of the rapidly unfolding circumstances which are negatively impacting on our terms of trade and to which numerous references have already been made during this Conference, both in small group discussions as well as in the Plenary. Under these circumstances of trade liberalization and formation of large powerful trading blocs when we are receiving less and less from the agricultural commodities that we export while paying more and more for manufactured goods and input supplies, the resolve, independence, economic stability and, indeed, self-respect and dignity of most developing countries are being put to the test. This is particularly so for small developing countries like Belize and others in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We have been saying for years, Mr Chairman, that we need to have improved marketing conditions for our agricultural exports since failure to do this could seriously undermine the stability of our countries, resulting in considerable economic and social unrest. We have been making these pronouncements for several years now in various fora; and whereas some may have regarded this as idle talk, recent events have served to confirm our analysis of the considerable upheavals which will inevitably result from our loss of markets in vital export crops such as sugar, citrus and bananas. Just a few days ago I shared with my colleague Minister from St Lucia the very unsettling news about the recent strike in his country by banana farmers who were demanding better prices for their bananas in a market which has been depressed for some time. During this period which involved some violence, there was an incident during which both his life and that of the Prime Minister were threatened. This occurrence is particularly unsettling in the circumstances where we expect that as our preferential market access comes under increasing attack prices will continue to deteriorate. What, therefore, can we expect in the future as the very underpinnings of our economies are removed and our export crop industries collapse, creating massive unemployment and deprivation.

The economy of Belize is based on the export of agricultural commodities such as sugar, citrus and bananas, which represent the bulk of our export earnings, ranking first, second and third in that order and all benefitting from special marketing arrangements. At the same time we are fully self-sufficient in production of our staple food crops, such as corn, rice, beans, beef, chicken and pork.

We, in Belize, have recognized the need to diversify the export earning base of our country and have in consequence adopted a policy to promote eco-tourism as a strong addition to our basket of export goods and services, making use of our world renowned record in the field of environmental protection, our pristine marine resources and the largest barrier reef in the western hemisphere, as well as our largely intact tropical forests.

But to this point these efforts have not developed or matured enough to replace our traditional exports, nor can they substitute for our ability to produce our own basic food. We hold this right and ability to be sacrosanct, Mr Chairman, and particularly so when we are being urged by some sectors of the international community to open our borders to subsidized imports from industrialized countries. You will be acquainted with the saying, I am sure, that he who feeds you, rules you.

So now, Mr Chairman, you may well ask, what relationship does this bear to FAO? Indeed, this does bring me to the singular purpose of this statement which is targeted at our newly elected Director-General, to the major donor countries and to the FAO Directorate and staff members in general. I believe that FAO needs to urgently strengthen its policies and programmes which are geared at ensuring self-reliance and self-sustainability of its member countries and particularly those of the developing world.

This may involve establishment of a special unit or division in the FAO which would have as its major objective offsetting the losses in revenue that are likely to occur as the terms of trade continue to deteriorate for the developing countries. In order then to level the playing field, the efficiency and competitiveness of our countries need to be improved significantly. You will agree, I am sure, Mr Chairman, that small developing countries like Belize cannot hope to easily conduct the basic research and development work required for such a programme. This work could be done, however, either directly by a special division of the FAO or through cooperative programmes with regional research and development institutions such as, in the case of the Caribbean, the University of the West Indies and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

As part of this singular message and challenge, then, Mr Chairman, I would like to invite, encourage and exhort the Director-General-Elect to give serious consideration to this proposal for a specific targeted programme approach aimed at ensuring that: FAO's member countries will continue to have the ability to feed themselves, and that this ability be firmly institutionalized; and secondly, member countries are buttressed against significant loss of foreign earnings by implementation of specific programme activities which will improve the competitive position of countries in specific commodities and develop new crops and markets which will adequately compensate for lost revenue.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, may I take this opportunity to offer our best wishes and farewell to Director-General Edouard Saouma as he leaves this Organization after 18 years of dedicated and outstanding service. Among the legacies he has left for us are the Technical Cooperation Programme, the only FAO programme from which Belize has directly benefitted. We hope that the incoming Director-General will preserve this Programme and at the same time we wish to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his election to the post of Director-General of FAO. On behalf of the Government of Belize, may I also wish him every success during his term of office and pledge the full

support and cooperation of Belize to this end. We would also hope that at some early opportunity he will find the time to visit Belize and the region to share our thoughts on ways by which we can secure and improve the sustainability of the agricultural production of our countries.

Eftim ANCEV (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia): Allow me to express my pleasure and appreciation for the participation of the Republic of Macedonia at the 27th FAO Conference as an equal member. Also allow me, on behalf -of the President of the Republic of Macedonia and myself as the Head of the Macedonian Delegation and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, to extend my greetings and wish the Conference successful work. Mr Chairman, I am honoured to congratulate you on your election as Chairman. I am particularly pleased to express my congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf, the newly elected Director-General of FAO. I also express my gratitude to Mr Edouard Saouma for his excellent leadership of FAO for the last 18 years.

I believe that it would be of interest to present to you some basic facts on the Republic of Macedonia and its agriculture so you could get familiarized with the State which I represent at this Conference. The Republic of Macedonia is situated in south Europe and occupies the central part of the Balkan peninsula. It is the cross-road of international traffic and trade communications, leading to the south and the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean and towards central and west Europe to the north. It covers an area of 25 713 sq km, and according to the 1991 census, has 2 034 000 inhabitants. The Republic of Macedonia is characterized by a Mediterranean climate in the south. There is a moderate continental climate in the east, and it is mountainous in the west. Thus, the main features are long, hot, dry summers with temperatures up to 45°C and severe winters with extremely low temperatures in some regions.

Agriculture plays a significant role in the economic life of the Republic of Macedonia, and participates with about 15 percent in the social product. Macedonia is primarily an agricultural country, although in the past it was, to a certain extent, in a subordinated position on account of the development of industry. This was mainly demonstrated through the measures of the economic policy by which a significant portion of the revenue and accumulations were redistributed to the other economic branches. Agriculture in the Republic of Macedonia occupies a total land area of 1 300 000 hectares which represent 51 percent of the total area of the State. The total arable area is 662 000 hectares and 664 000 hectares are pastures. In the total arable area the land under cultivation and gardens participate with 83 percent, the orchards with 4 percent; the vineyards with 4 percent and meadows with 8 percent. In the sowing structure the representation of cereals is the highest with approximately 60 percent, the industrial cultures with 15 percent and vegetable crops with 15 percent. Such a production structure is determined by natural factors, but also by the need for products of vital importance for the nutrition of the population. Wheat production is about 270 000 to 300 000 tonnes, with which approximately 70 percent of the State requirements are satisfied. Corn production is approximately 120 000 tonnes, with which 44 percent of the requirements are satisfied. The tobacco (production of approximately 28 000 tons) is one of the most important export products of our country. The orchards cover a total area of 21 472 hectares, and the most represented

types of fruit are apples, plums and sour cherries. The vineyards cover an area of approximately 35 254 hectares. The average grape production is about 270 000 tonnes of which 68 percent of grapes were for the production of wine, and 32 percent were table grapes.

The average wine production of the Republic of Macedonia is 130 000 tonnes, of which 70 percent is exported. Livestock breeding is an important field of agriculture in the Republic of Macedonia. The livestock funds consist of 280 000 cattle, 2 400 000 sheep, 170 000 pigs, 64 000 horses, 4 000 000-poultry, etc. The average production of meat is about 11 000 tonnes of beef, 11 000 tonnes of pork, 5 000 tonnes of mutton, 13 000 tonnes of lambs' meat and 7 000 tonnes of poultry. The Republic of Macedonia has a surplus in the production of mutton, especially of lambs' meat, which is primarily exported to west Europe.

In the Republic of Macedonia, processing plants have been constructed for the processing of agricultural products:-- for processing of fruits and vegetables, with a capacity of 60 000 tonnes; fresh meat - slaughter-houses with the capacity of 87 000; winecellars with a capacity of 196 000 000 million litres. I would like to emphasize that the Republic of Macedonia has slaughter-houses registered in the European Economic Community for the slaughter of livestock for export. The specific climatic conditions and the need of establishing the stable agricultural production in the Republic required the construction of several irrigation systems for irrigation of 114 000 hectares of agricultural land. The existing agricultural production and processing plants are a solid basis for the development of this economic branch; however, the production results in this field strongly depend on different extreme climate factors as well as on internal and external economic measures.

The Republic of Macedonia, especially after its independence, makes great effort to maintain the production and marketing of its agricultural products. For the past two years the Macedonian economy has been strongly affected, directly and indirectly especially its agriculture, by the war in the former Yugoslavia. These limitations have negative impact on the marketing of the agricultural products which are in surplus in the Republic, such as tobacco, wine, rice, lambs' meat, vegetable products, and others.

Under conditions of extremely unfavourable socio-economic and political surroundings, and despite the commitments by the competent authorities to control the situation, great efforts are being made to maintain the agricultural production cycle.

The Republic of Macedonia inherited economically and financially depreciated agriculture, insufficiently flexible to accommodate to the newly created economic conditions. The building of the new socio-economic system under extremely unfavourable economic and political circumstances is especially, for an economic branch, as is agriculture, directly dependent on both natural and economic factors, a challenge which is difficult to resolve even in more developed countries.

We are aware that the development of agriculture should be based on a long-term, consistent agrarian policy. However, due to the existing conditions in the Republic of Macedonia, we were forced to undertake urgent, efficient and short-term measures. Consequently, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted a series of anti-inflatory and stabilization measures that were relevantly applied in agriculture. Thus,

in conditions of an economically and financially exhausted agriculture, the financing of certain stages of the reproduction cycle was made from funds from the primary Emission.

We are quite aware of the inflatory influence of such a system of financing, and because of this, we permanently lead an extremely restrictive monetary credit policy with an orientation to abandon completely this system in 1994.

Regarding the price policy of agricultural products, several products are included in the system of protective prices in the Republic of Macedonia: wheat, sunflower, oil plants, sugar beat, raw tobacco, calves and lambs. Milk and bread prices are under direct control. But, the acceptance of a market-oriented economy model, will basically mean that the State will have less influence over this relationship in the market.

This influence has already been felt in the measures of the economic policy which have mainly been intended to give support to the primary production, especially the products in short supply which serve to satisfy the vital needs of the population and the already constructed processing capacities. There is a significant number of scientific and educational institutions operating within the territory of the Republic of Macedonia in the field of agriculture. At the University "St Cyrilus and Methodius" there is a Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Forestry. Also of special significance are the Institute of Agriculture, the Institute for Rice, the Institute for Tobacco, the Institute for Veterinary Medicine, etcetera.

The scientific and professional knowledge, especially in the field of genetics selection and reproduction, is directly implemented in agriculture. The scientific discoveries, together with other limited relevant factors, are a strong basis for development of agriculture in the Republic of Macedonia.

I deeply believe that with the membership of the Republic of Macedonia in this important and distinguished United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture, a new field for acquiring knowledge and experience and new horizons in the field of agriculture will be offered to us. I hope that we shall find common interests for all nations in the world in this field. Thank you very much.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Constantin G. POLITIS (Greece): We all know that repetition is the mother of studies. I am sorry that I have to draw the attention of the Chair and distinguished delegates present for the second and, I hope, for the last time; but, quite recently, we have admitted among us new Member Nations, and one of them is The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. My delegation knows that it was among a concert of many mature political considerations -and the contribution of my country was not among the most important - into accommodating a rather delicate state of affairs in the Balkanic Peninsula. And it is, by general agreement, agreed and sealed in New York and in the whole United Nations system that the state under, I repeat and underline,

the name "The Former Republic of Yugoslav Macedonia," was admitted as a Member Nation of this Organization.

We all know that our Organization is being confronted with a grave problem and a very grave state of affairs. One billion people do sleep every night on empty or half-empty stomachs. Let us concentrate our efforts to fight this form of hunger.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPONSE

DERECHO DE RESPUESTA

Eftim ANCEV (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia): Mr Chairman, with reference to the statement of the Greek representative, I would like to point out the fact that the Resolution 817 of the Security Council, regarding the recommendation of the admission of my country to the United Nations, cannot be interpreted as to prohibit the constitutional name of my country. The constitutional name of my country, as is well-known is the "Republic of Macedonia." My delegation strongly believes that, pursuant to the charter of the United Nations, no one has the right to impose the name on a sovereign and independent country. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the head of the delegation of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of Delegations, before adjourning I would like to thank you all and, God willing, we will meet tomorrow at 8.30. The meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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**Twenty-seventh-
session
PLENARY**

**Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE**

**27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA**

ENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1993)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours

Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50

sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Décima Sesión plenaria a las 09.50 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, this 10th Plenary meeting is now called to order. Before we proceed with statements by heads of delegations, I wish to give the floor to the delegate from the Cook Islands who wishes to make a short statement to Conference.

Inatio AKARURA (Cook Islands): Many of the delegates attending this Conference travelled to the Vatican yesterday for an audience with the Holy Father. They heard the Pope address them on important matters, and I would like to request that his address be circulated as an official document of this Conference. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Delegates have heard the suggestion of the distinguished delegate of the Cook Islands. Are there any comments?

José Vicente SANCHEZ SOSA (Colombia): Buenos días. Sólo para respaldar la propuesta del señor Delegado de las Islas Cook.

Steven NJINYAM (Cameroon): Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Following on what the delegate of the Cook Islands has just said, we understand that during the visit yesterday, the Pope unfortunately had a fall in front of all the delegates who went to see him. The Cameroon delegation is requesting that the Conference send him a message of quick recovery from that occasion, and regret what took place.

Vincent AGNIMEL (Côte d'Ivoire): Thank you Chairman. The delegation of Côte d'Ivoire supports the suggestion of the delegations of Cook Islands and Cameroon.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you delegate of Côte d'Ivoire. Is there general agreement to this suggestion raised by the delegate of the Cook Islands and further extended by the delegate of Cameroon? If there are no objections I take the suggestion as agreed.

We will now commence with the statements by heads of delegation in this Plenary, and the first delegation to be heard this morning will be that of Cameroon. I invite the distinguished delegate of Cameroon to take the floor.

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- ELCARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- ANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Steven NJINYAM (Cameroon): I would also like to congratulate all the new Member Nations which have joined the Organization especially our brothers from Eritrea and South Africa. We are confident that these new members will not only increase our membership but will also provide enriching

experiences to strengthen our common endeavours to assure a better life and food security for all the people from all the regions of the world.

This 27th Session of the FAO Conference will be remembered as the one during which was elected for the first time in its history, an African as Director-General.

The Cameroon Government would like to pay a special glowing tribute to Mr Saouma for his exceptional leadership and numerous achievements which have shaped the functioning of the Organization over the last two decades. Cameroon will recall especially and among many others, the creation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) which has become, despite its limited resources allocated, the most significant representation of the FAO fundamental roles and functions. After a long transparent and democratic balloting, our distinguished brother from Senegal Mr Jacques Diouf was elected Director-General of the FAO. I would like to seize this opportunity to address to him the warmest and most sincere congratulations of the Cameroon Government and its People. I would also like to assure him that we shall continue to support him as we did to his predecessor.

Mr Director-General elect, permit me to say a few words which may not be befitting in the generally accepted decorum during these types of occasions. As a matter of fact, Mr Diouf, you will have to face many unusual challenges out of which the first and foremost will be to erase the preconceived negative impression already circulating of mismanagement, incompetence and laxism generally attributed to African Senior Managers. Also, the most difficult one will be to prepare and reshape the FAO in order to be able to meet the food and agricultural challenges of the present, and this you did so eloquently highlighted in your acceptance speech on November 8.

You must do all in your powers, to get all hands on deck in order to restore the credibility so as to encourage donors to continue to support the Organization.

Yes, Dr Edouard Saouma did establish his own typical "Saouma Style". Cameroon, the African countries, Caribbean, Asia, Latin-American, North American and European countries are looking with eagerness for a "Jacques Diouf Style of Management".

It is our fervent hope that all the Member States who were present at this historic 27th Session of the FAO Conference will with the same brotherly spirit give the new Director-General our total support because we all set out the roles and massively elected him.

This present session of the FAO Conference is taking place at a time when my country, like many others in Africa and elsewhere, is seriously hit by the vicious effects of the world's economic recession resulting from unfair trade practices which have a negative impact on the agricultural and food situation. In fact, the world food production we are told, will decrease in 1993 by 0.5 percent and despite a modest increase of 0.6 percent in food production in developing countries, the situation will remain precarious because of certain unpredictable factors that are characteristically typical of the African continent.

The future does not look bright with the uncertainties hanging over the conclusion of the Uruguay Round Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the world economic growth. This means that our countries and other regions will

continue to face the persistence of protectionists and other unacceptable trade practices, the debt problem, the persistence of low prices for the major tropical commodities and the decline in food security exacerbated by civil conflicts and other natural disasters.

In order to overcome this economic crisis, the Cameroon Government was obliged to engage in a serious structural adjustment programme which has resulted in the liberalization of the economy, especially in the agricultural sector.

The crisis-stricken economy should naturally be revived by making the agricultural sector more diversified and more dynamic through increased productivity and competitiveness so as to meet the domestic and foreign demands.

With all these constraints and in view of revamping the economy and providing jobs to the hundreds of trained and unemployed men, the Government has taken a decisive option to reinforce and diversify its agricultural production.

All these efforts would need the genuine and effective support from the international community in order to cope with the population growth.

We therefore seize this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to FAO and other United Nations institutions for their diversified and valuable support to the Cameroon people during this period.

Following the two important world gatherings that took place in 1992, namely the Rio Earth Summit and the International Conference on Nutrition, the Cameroon Government has taken action, with the support of multilateral donors, to prepare national plans of action on environment and on nutrition. For this, again, we will count primarily on our own dynamic efforts but the assistance of the international community will be most welcome.

I would like to solemnly reiterate here the support of the Cameroon Government for the liberalization of world trade. This is why we express hope for a speedy conclusion of the GATT negotiations. We would, however, like to stress that this liberalization process should take into consideration the regional characteristics, the existing trade and cooperation agreements, and the impact of all these on the fragile economies of our states. This is why Cameroon, like all the other African-Caribbean-Pacific countries, strongly supports the recent regulations adopted by the European Community for the Banana Common Market Organization. We consider it as a fair compromise and an absolute necessary transitional step before the complete liberalization of the market, provided that the accompanying measures attached to it are implemented effectively and rapidly.

This historic Conference will open, we strongly hope, a new era for FAO and its Member States, especially with the election of the new Director-General and the new team with new ideas that he will put in place. We believe that this is an opportunity to consider and evaluate thoroughly the way the Organization has up until now operated and to structure the FAO to respond effectively to meet the aspirations, food needs and challenges in a rapidly changing world.

May the Almighty God bless you and your families and bring you all the best things you have always longed for during Christmas and the New Year.

Habib A. KASSIM (Bahrain) (Original language Arabic) : In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Mr Chairman, honourable heads and members of the delegations, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a pleasure for me to head my country's delegation to this session. I should like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the Chairman of the general conference for the confidence participating Member Nations placed in him by electing him Chairman of this session.

I also wish to express my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the new Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, who has been elected for a six-year mandate. Undoubtedly, his election to this important post reflects the general recognition of his capabilities, qualifications and wisdom. However, this does not in any way underestimate the qualifications and eligibility of the candidates who were not so lucky. We do hope nevertheless that they will remain in their respective positions staunch supporters of this Organization.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to Dr Edouard Saouma who guided this Organization for the last 18 years. Thanks to his able leadership, insight and resolve he was able to assist this Organization to expand the scope of its services under the most difficult and critical circumstances. There is no doubt that Dr Saouma will leave a clear and indelible stamp on the Organization.

Furthermore, I would like to welcome the new Member Nations of this Organization hoping that their membership will further strengthen and foster FAO's activities, capabilities and efforts so that a greater impetus will be provided to its continuous efforts to achieve its objectives, targets and aspirations. It is indeed an auspicious opportunity to meet here two years after our last session in order to review and to examine what has been achieved in the last biennium and also to shed light on the food and agricultural development in an ever-changing world. Indeed, this does put a major responsibility on this Organization in its dealings with thorny nutrition issues in a world characterized by major challenges, namely: fluctuations in food supplies, desert locust invasions threatening Africa and Asia, and natural disasters that leave in their aftermath a trail of destruction, victims, great losses and environmental pollution that threatens life, sea and atmosphere, in addition to other challenges obstructing humanity's progress and welfare.

In this connection I am pleased to pay tribute to the Director-General, his collaborators and all departments within this Organization for the sound preparation of the conference documents that have made it possible for us to grasp the present situation and to have a clear view of the relevant issues. All this contributes to the achievement of our targets, namely, reaching practical resolutions and recommendations in support of FAO's lofty goals and objectives.

The first and foremost objective of world food security as endorsed by FAO a decade ago was the supply of adequate and needed basic needs for all peoples at all times. However, ten years after this objective was adopted we wonder how close we are to achieving this goal. This hinges on several factors such as the adequacy of world food production, the levels of food reserves, price stability which would help food deficit countries secure

sufficient supplies. This, in turn, depends on the ability of these countries to import foodstuffs. Despite the indicators that show an improvement in the 1992 world food security situation, many developing countries, despite some progress, have not increased their cereal reserves, which puts them in a very critical situation. This becomes more obvious when we note that, out of the sixty-eight low-income food-deficit countries, the per caput share of cereal production in more than two-thirds of this category of countries during 1992-93 was well below the average level that prevailed during the second half of the last decade. Furthermore, despite the existence of sufficient food supplies in the world, one-fifth of the world's population in the developing countries during 1989-90 suffered from chronic malnutrition. Therefore, steady efforts should be made in order to reduce the rates on the basis of the principle whereby the satisfaction of food requirements is a basic human right for each and everyone.

Bearing in mind the fact that the supply of large numbers of people in the food-deficit countries with food depends to a large extent on the indigenous production, the logical and sound approach would therefore be to help those countries to use their own potential in order to increase food production levels.

Under the prevailing world circumstances, the Organization is called upon more than ever before to embark on a comprehensive strategy aimed at securing food supplies and fostering production levels in the developing countries. There is no doubt that the FAO is now fully equipped to undertake such a mandate, particularly as our world is at a turning point where the new world order is shaping up after the end of the cold war. FAO should take advantage of these dividends and chart its future course in the light of these new factors at work in order to secure the most efficient impact.

The new atmosphere of detente in the world and the peace initiatives looming in the Middle East horizon represent favourable opportunities for FAO to shoulder its responsibilities in rehabilitating and reactivating agricultural sectors in this region. Here I should like to make a special reference to the agricultural sector in the occupied territories, particularly in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where agriculture suffered a major setback because of the limitations of the occupation situation and also because of the critical water situation.

Since the international community is now endeavouring to breathe new life into the administrative structures of this region as the outcome of the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, the international community should pay special attention through FAO to the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector in the occupied territories. It goes without saying that other regions, as well, do need support and assistance in order to promote their own agricultural sector and to upgrade their own productivity. In fact, this is a harbinger for a new era of continuous and intensive efforts to assist developing countries to devise agricultural policy, implement prospective plans based on self-reliance in terms of their own needs, prepare adequate plans to secure the optimum use of available resources, improve the terms of trade in such a way as to guarantee the interests of all parties on an equal footing, create an adequate climate leading to the alleviation of commercial obstacles, protectionist measures applied by some countries on the basis of their shortsighted and blinkered self-interest without any regard to the interests of the international community at large.

Two months ago, FAO celebrated the World Food Day under the slogan "Harvesting Nature's Diversity", which is indeed a vital theme, closely linked the world food supply and the safeguarding of sustainable development. Sufficient attention should be attached to the biodiversity conservation programmes and the best use of such diversity for the benefit of all peoples.

Against this background, I should like to suggest that the Organization adopts a plan for assisting food-deficit countries to better exploit nature's diversity and also to diversify food intake and find new alternative resources likely to increase food production so that production keeps pace with population growth.

Such an objective will of course require legislation, programmes and projects geared towards the preservation of nature's diversity and the stepping-up of cooperation between the different countries in this field. I am happy to indicate, that my country's celebration of World Food Day coincided this year with the decision to set up a National Committee with the objective of raising the citizens' awareness about the conservation of nature's spontaneous forms of life, natural heritage, bio-diversity and also the protection of rare species threatened by extinction in Bahrain. Environmental pollution is, without doubt, one of the factors affecting bio-diversity and threatening the environment, food resources and public health in general. During recent years the Gulf countries have had to face major environmental pollution problems related to oil slicks and the chemical wastes disposed of in the Gulf waters. Dead fish were found in some parts of the Gulf waters which represents a major threat to a vital food resource for the peoples of the region. From this rostrum I should like to call for a special importance to be given to environmental pollution and also for stronger cooperation in combating pollution in the sea, on the land and in the atmosphere in order to protect mankind from these dangers.

The present world trend is towards forming major economic entities and blocs. This has been dictated by the present circumstances, since small entities no longer satisfy the requirements of the modern age and are no longer viable. On this basis, the Gulf Cooperation Council's creation provided a suitable platform for stability, survival and prosperity for its member nations. It is also a factor of stability in the region and a model example of the cooperation formula for homogeneous groups of countries. This structure also contributes towards agricultural integration through the tapping of all countries resources for the collective benefit of their peoples. FAO, thanks to its well qualified pool of expertise and skills, is in a good position to play a vital role in setting up strategies and plans devised in such a way as to secure optimum use of available natural resources and achieving integration in the field of agriculture. Turning to the national level, my Government is making every effort to foster agricultural development, which witnessed a strong impetus since the beginning of the last decade.

Relevant projects and programmes have been implemented with a view to enhancing the capabilities and capacities of agriculture, improving production quality with the ultimate goal of achieving self-sufficiency, particularly in dairy products, poultry, vegetables, fodder and fisheries. Special emphasis has been laid on building infrastructure and the implementation of pilot schemes to give incentive to private investors to follow suit. The focus was also on providing basic services, production inputs and concessionary loans to enable the farmers and animal breeders to

promote their activities and to apply the up-to-date agricultural methods. Furthermore, due to the critical water situation in my country, special emphasis has been placed on finding alternative irrigation water resources. Hence, an ambitious project was introduced in order to use treated sewage water for agricultural purposes. However, given the high cost of such a project, it is being implemented in a piecemeal fashion.

Having set up the adequate infrastructure, my country is embarking on a new strategy aiming at promoting the contribution of the private sector in all agricultural fields in order to draw on the capabilities and the potential of this sector. This would also help the private sector render the best possible services, which would in turn have a positive impact on agriculture.

I wanted to be brief and concise in my statement, and I therefore conclude my statement by referring to the difficult situation of the Organization. The financial situation of the Organization is due to the failure of some Member Nations to pay their assessed contributions, which forced the Organization to resort to borrowing in 1990-91 with interest payment amounting to US\$1.6 million. We also note that staff costs account for a large share of the Budget. Thus, while urging Member Nations to make prompt payment of their assessed contributions to help FAO honour its obligations and render its services, we also hope that FAO and the administration of the Organization will strive to balance the budget appropriations so that its plans and programmes will not be paralysed by financial shortages. We do also hope that a proper and adequate balance will be struck and harmony achieved between FAO's resources and its aspirations so that this Organization can remain the umbrella contributing to the alleviation of suffering from all sorts of plights and disasters and retain its leading and pioneering role at the service of agricultural development in all corners of the earth.

Dasho Leki DORJI (Bhutan): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

May I congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the Vice Chairmen, upon your election to chair this Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO General Conference. I am sure that under your wise leadership, we shall have very constructive and fruitful deliberations.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to also congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General Elect, of our Organization, on his successful election to this high office. My delegation is confident that under his leadership FAO will be responsive to the present and emerging needs related to the performance of world agriculture.

I would also like to extend our appreciation to the outgoing Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, for his many years of dedicated and distinguished services to FAO, often under difficult and trying circumstances. I wish him the very best in the future.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the ten new members of our Organization.

Mr Chairman, we stand at the beginning of the 1990s, and into the future, across what remains of the 1990s, and into the twenty-first century. We see that we are indeed in a fast-changing world - a world with ever-increasing

demands on the earth's natural resources; a world in which population growth remains high. And yet a world in which the human aspiration for improved living standards continues to grow, and cannot be neglected. In very simple terms, these aspirations translate into the drive for freedom from hunger, disease, illiteracy and ignorance: for us today, for our children, for their children, and for the other generations to come. This, Mr Chairman, we believe to be the essence of sustainable development.

In spite of the fact that we have enshrined sustainable development in the policies of almost every nation on earth, and also into the policies of virtually all international organizations, the world's performance in meeting the simple aspirations of our people still falls far short of expectations. From the point of view of resource use, the global environment is fast deteriorating, mainly through resources depletion and all kinds and manner of pollution. Yet we have little to show for this aberration in terms of improved livelihoods: the number of poor, hungry, malnourished, disease-ridden, and illiterate people in the world remains high, and is becoming even worse in some countries.

Thus as we head towards the twenty-first century, the challenges to agricultural and rural development remain as critical as ever. An equitable and sustainable globe requires that we all work towards solving the problems confronting mankind as a whole. It is at times like these and for challenges like these that we need FAO the most. The most important direct challenges for the Organization and us to tackle together at this time are the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition, while conserving the natural resource base and the environment.

Only recently, these multifaceted challenges have been addressed on a global level through the Rio Earth Summit on Environment and Development, and through the International Conference on Nutrition, organized here in Rome by FAO and WHO. Mr Chairman, I would like to commend these fora for bringing perhaps the most outstanding problems confronting mankind today to the forefront. But I would also like to caution against complacency: that is, the temptation to be satisfied with the rhetoric of the day, and neglect to take the follow-up action to turn our good words into action.

While acknowledging the immensity of the problems before us, we also recognize that there are opportunities for us to meet the challenges before us. In particular, progress in the areas of technology, organization and management offers some real opportunities to break away from the vicious cycle of low unsustainable production that afflicts most developing countries. Our major constraint appears to be our imagination to innovatively use the technology and organizational and management methods intelligently and sustainably for the benefit of mankind. But we are also constrained by limited access to the technology and organizational and management methods, as well as the lack of financial resources to facilitate their adoption.

Within a comprehensive food security framework, and with the help of FAO, we in Bhutan are trying to develop a framework of policies, strategies and plans to ensure long-term food security. It is not an easy task as it encompasses the totality of economic activities. Yet it is, in our view, essential to adopt such an approach, in the spirit of sustainable development. Otherwise, sustainable development cannot be ensured as all the peoples do not benefit from development over time. Instead, the scope for lopsided developments are real, if strategic positions are not taken by governments well ahead of time.

We are also in the process of reforming our institutions and pricing policies. Our institutions are being reorganized to more effectively handle the inter-relationships between the various sub-sectors in the agricultural economy. Through such a restructuring effort we hope to be more relevant and responsive to our farmers, who undertake their tasks with a holistic perspective and purpose.

With regard to pricing policy, we are rapidly withdrawing all the subsidies in the interest of allocative efficiency. Our output pricing is market-based and -efficiency oriented.

All these are taking place alongside the developments that are evident in our region. Liberal economic policies and the benefits of trade in the region are a cause for optimism. The vast economic potential inherent in the region is about to be unleashed for the benefit of the common man.

For sustainable development to be truly in place the earnest desire to develop mankind as a whole must exist in principle and in practice. And for this to happen it is essential that there is a true sharing of all of human resources for the equitable benefit of all countries and all citizens. Agricultural trade policies would need to be rationalized and harmonized across all countries to start with.

Global growth and poverty alleviation are essential to sustainable development. As such, growth will have to be carefully nurtured. This calls for a holistic, rather than sectoral, approach to agricultural development. Under this system, all countries are expected to live together as if in one global village. Thus each country will have to take into account its resource endowments and future potential in the light of a dynamic global economy. To cope with rapid change, uncertainty, and inequality, there is a need to adopt a set of effective growth-sharing instruments.

As we go about charting a new course for FAO during this Conference, let us be optimistic and have faith in human ingenuity, perseverance and zest. My delegation is confident that we can collectively confront the challenges that lie in state and ahead in world agriculture.

José Antonio OCAMPO GAVIRIA (Colombia): Señor Presidente, señor representante del Director General, señores Delegados, quisiera, en primer término, presentar en nombre de mi país un caluroso saludo, en particular a usted, señor Presidente, que representa a nuestro hermoso Caribe, y a todas las delegaciones aquí presentes y ratificarles nuestro respaldo a los principios que nutren el Sistema de Naciones Unidas y a la Organización para la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Deseo también agradecer al Director General saliente, Edouard Saouma, por toda la energía y orientación que le ha dado a esta Institución a lo largo de dieciocho fructíferos años. A él y a nuestra compatriota, su esposa, Inés, quiero expresarles nuestros mejores deseos de éxito en esta nueva etapa que inician.

El proceso democrático que vivimos el día lunes con la elección del nuevo Director General enorgullece a todos los países participantes. Quiero felicitar al nuevo Director, Jacques Diouf, y a todas las naciones africanas por este nombramiento y ofrecerle, en nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, todo nuestro apoyo en las labores que inicia y, especialmente, en la tarea que planteó en su presentación inicial, de contribuir a la más noble de las batallas de la humanidad: la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo. Deseamos igualmente felicitar a todos los otros aspirantes a este

cargo, que con sus hojas de vida enaltecieron este debate, pero, en especial, a los candidatos de la hermana República de Chile y de Australia, con quienes nos une la batalla que hemos librado en los últimos años en el marco del Grupo Cairns.

Nuestro país, como la mayoría de las naciones del continente americano, ha hecho grandes esfuerzos en los últimos años por modernizar sus estructuras productivas y abrir sus economías a las oportunidades, pero también los retos del comercio internacional. No hay ningún otro continente que pueda presentar entre sus ejecutorias recientes una contribución igual a la liberación del comercio mundial. No hemos tenido una respuesta similar de nuestros socios comerciales y, especialmente, de los países más desarrollados. De esta manera, mientras abrimos nuestras economías a sus productos agrícolas e industriales, vemos cómo mantienen casi incólumes sus barreras al comercio y a sus subsidios a la producción y a las exportaciones agrícolas, que constituyen, sin duda alguna, las fuentes de las grandes distorsiones al comercio de bienes rurales y generan, con sus efectos depresivos sobre los precios internacionales, el mayor impuesto que debemos pagar los países en desarrollo con fuertes ventajas comparativas en la agricultura.

Como miembros del Grupo de Cairns hemos hecho, a lo largo de las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, propuestas ambiciosas, que buscan corregir estas grandes inequidades que caracterizan el comercio agrícola mundial. Estas propuestas quedaron apenas tímidamente reflejadas en el proyecto de Acta Final de la Ronda, que presentó el Director anterior del GATT, en diciembre de 1991. No obstante, y pese a los inmensos compromisos que dicha Acta implica para nosotros en materia de propiedad intelectual, liberación del comercio de bienes y servicios, mayores disciplinas en materia de subsidios, inversiones relacionadas con el comercio y uso de restricciones cuantitativas durante las crisis de balanza de pagos, la aceptamos como base de acuerdo, con el convencimiento de que las mínimas disciplinas que en materia agrícola establece el borrador del Acta son, al menos, el punto de partida para un proceso de larga duración en el cual se obtendrá en forma gradual lo que aspirábamos como meta inmediata.

Desde entonces, observamos cómo lo que había sido la negociación comercial más importante de la historia mundial se convertía en un diálogo bilateral, en el cual la mayoría de los países no éramos más que simples espectadores. Lo que es más, vimos cómo algunos países y regiones intentaban por esta vía restringir el alcance de las negociaciones multilaterales precedentes o, peor aún, imponer unilateralmente regímenes comerciales más restrictivos que aquellos que han servido de marco para el crecimiento de nuestras exportaciones en los últimos años. En muchos casos, como acontece con el nuevo régimen bananero de la Comunidad Económica Europea, esas acciones violan compromisos adquiridos en negociaciones anteriores o el principio de Punta del Este, según el cual las nuevas reglas comerciales no deben restringir el acceso a los mercados en relación con los niveles previamente alcanzados.

Hemos visto con satisfacción y apoyado abiertamente el compromiso más reciente de los grandes socios comerciales de terminar la Ronda Uruguay antes del 15 de diciembre del presente año. Un nuevo fracaso en lograr un acuerdo antes de esta fecha podría ser catastrófico, ya que profundizaría la crisis económica internacional y, peor aún, las tendencias proteccionistas y regionalistas, que amenazan con frenar el proceso de

liberación comercial de largo aliento que ha tenido lugar en las décadas que sucedieron a la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Para que la Ronda llegue a su fin, es necesario, sin embargo, como lo ha reiterado el Grupo de Cairns a lo largo de los últimos años, que el paquete final cumpla tres requisitos indispensables: ser global, balanceado y resultado de un verdadero acuerdo multilateral. Ello excluye, como es obvio, un paquete que deje de lado a la agricultura para negociaciones posteriores, o que excluya alguno de los elementos que ha hecho parte de las negociaciones agrícolas (el acceso a los mercados, los apoyos internos, los subsidios a la exportación y disciplinas en el uso de normas fitosanitarias) o que trate de imponer sobre otros socios, a través de debilitamientos sucesivos de las tímidas cláusulas de liberación incluidas en el borrador de Acta Final, las decisiones unilaterales de alguna de las partes.

Queremos resaltar que, en contra de las interpretaciones erróneas de nuestros puntos de vista, no pretendemos que la liberación del comercio agrícola mundial se haga a costa de los países pobres importadores de alimentos o de las preferencias otorgadas a los países menos desarrollados. Por el contrario, apoyamos la conveniencia de que dicha liberación esté acompañada de medidas adicionales de apoyo a los primeros, como lo establece el borrador de Acta Final de la Ronda. Defendemos, igualmente, las virtudes de un ordenamiento mundial en el cual se otorguen preferencias comerciales especiales a los países más pobres, que les permitan articularse más favorablemente a los flujos del comercio mundial. Pero afirmamos enfáticamente que no puede haber un ajuste adecuado y equitativo de la economía internacional si los países más desarrollados no aceptan reducir sustancialmente sus excesivas protecciones y medidas de apoyo interno y, por ende, su participación en la producción agrícola mundial, para permitir la ampliación de la oferta, mucho más eficiente, proveniente de países en desarrollo.

El marcado deterioro de los términos de intercambio agrícola de estos países, asociado de manera no despreciable al creciente proteccionismo, es, sin duda, una de las tendencias más desfavorables que señala el informe sobre "El estado mundial de la alimentación y la agricultura" presentado a esta Conferencia. Este deterioro, del 40 por ciento en promedio entre 1979-81 y 1990-92, según el informe, ha sido particularmente dramático en el caso del café, cuyos términos de intercambio se redujeron en un 66 por ciento a lo largo de estos años, sin que dicha tendencia fuera amortiguada de manera significativa por el aumento en la productividad o los mayores volúmenes de producción.

El efecto de esta caída de los precios del grano debe medirse en función de la importancia que tiene el café para los países en desarrollo, no sólo como una de las principales fuentes de divisas de muchos países, sino, ante todo, como una de las principales fuentes de generación de empleo en el Tercer Mundo. Dada su gran importancia económica y social, a lo largo de tres décadas fue regulado por un gran acuerdo internacional entre los países productores y los principales consumidores, el más fructífero de su género, sin duda alguna. No quiero retomar en esta ocasión las razones que llevaron a su colapso, a mediados de 1989, sino simplemente resaltar que no existen en la agenda internacional mecanismos alternativos que permitan estabilizar los mercados internacionales de materias primas. Las propuestas que en tal sentido se han hecho desde hace dos décadas o más, de establecer fondos internacionales reguladores, no se han tomado nunca verdaderamente en serio. Tampoco han avanzado más allá de su carácter de iniciativas

ingenuas las que plantean algunas agencias, de que sustituyamos todos los mecanismos de estabilización por el uso activo de mercados de futuros. Y digo ingenuas porque cualquier conocedor sabe que estos mercados miopes no permiten coberturas más allá de unos pocos meses, que son claramente insuficientes para estabilizar los ingresos en productos cuyos ciclos de precios pueden alcanzar 20 ó 25 años.

Por este motivo, mi país defendió hasta el último día el Acuerdo Internacional del Café y ha sido el gran promotor de todas las negociaciones posteriores orientadas a restablecer alguna regulación internacional del mercado. Lo hicimos pese a que estábamos convencidos de que éramos el país más preparado para enfrentar un mercado libre, ya que contábamos con el mejor ordenamiento institucional de cualquier país productor. Así lo han ratificado, por lo demás, los hechos posteriores.

El reciente pacto de retención de café firmado por la mayoría de los países productores de América Latina y Africa, y algunas naciones asiáticas, es el primer intento de encontrar una solución a la coyuntura de bajos precios, que amenaza ya con generar un verdadero colapso de las estructuras productivas de café, con todos los funestos efectos que ello tendría sobre el mundo en desarrollo. Somos conscientes de que se trata de una iniciativa subóptima, ya que la experiencia del pasado nos enseña que los esfuerzos más duraderos de estabilización deben incluir a todos los productores y a los principales países consumidores. Abrigamos la esperanza de que el esquema actual, de emergencia, evolucione hacia una solución estable, que sin duda corrija los defectos de esquemas similares del pasado. No obstante, vemos con inmensa preocupación la respuesta desfavorable de los Estados Unidos, que reaccionó a este esquema con su retiro de la Organización Internacional del Café, cerrando así las puertas de la negociación y del restablecimiento de esquemas de este tipo en el futuro.

Son muchos los retos que plantea el ordenamiento agrícola mundial para los países en desarrollo. El establecimiento de un nuevo orden comercial, en el cual estos países tengan una participación creciente en la oferta agrícola mundial, y el diseño de nuevos mecanismos de estabilización que permitan en forma mancomunada evitar los desastres que generan caídas dramáticas de los precios internacionales, son, sin duda, algunos de los más importantes. He querido centrar mi atención el día de hoy sobre ellos.

Espero que esta Conferencia y los trabajos de largo alcance que lleva a cabo esta importante Organización contribuyan decididamente a abrir el paso a las ideas que aquí he expuesto y que representan, a juicio del Gobierno de Colombia, los verdaderos intereses de los países en desarrollo.

Milad Abdessalam SHMEYLA (Libya) (Original language Arabic): In the name of God the compassionate the merciful. Mr Chairman of the Conference, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: the delegation of the Great Arab Libyan People's Socialist Jamaharia are pleased to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your friendly country on your election as Chairman of the 27th Session of the FAO General Conference. The way that you have so far run the sittings of this Conference is proof of your patience, experience and wisdom - all characteristics which will be of great help for the Conference to reach well-targetted and practical resolutions.

I would also like to extend our congratulations to the three vice-chairmen and the friendly nations which have joined this international family. I

wish them well and hope that their admission will help them meet their aspirations and be a reinforcement to FAO.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Lebanon, our brother country, has honoured our Conference by delivering the MacDougall Memorial Lecture, and his Excellency the President of Italy has also honoured us by making a statement on the same occasion. The two statements covered a large number of important issues and policies which we all hope will implement what is appropriate for our countries, either directly or through the future programmes of our Organization.

During this session Dr Jacques Diouf, the nominee of our African continent, was elected Director-General of FAO to succeed Dr Edouard Saouma, the present Director-General, who has been an example of a knowledgeable, expert, firm, unyielding manager when it comes to issues which may compromise the objectives of the Organization. He has devoted all his efforts and time during the long years of his mandate as Director-General to the development of the Organization's activities. This has made him gain the respect and appreciation of all Member States. Dr Saouma's accomplishments have left their print in the history of the Organization and deserve our deep appreciation. They will remain forever as a guiding light for his successors who will bear the responsibility of preserving the great achievements of Edouard Saouma for the benefit of Member States.

Dr Jacques Diouf belongs to a friendly African country with whom my country enjoys long political, cultural and civilization relations. We have known him for a long time; he is a well-known development expert in the African continent and enjoys an established reputation at the international level. My country is confident that he will assume his responsibilities as the successor of Dr Saouma with great competence and will prove his ability to occupy the post of Director-General of FAO, the largest international organization, with its heavy responsibilities.

We pledge our support and cooperation to Dr Diouf in his endeavour to attain humanitarian objectives, namely the eradication of poverty and famine, the preservation of natural resources and their protection from deterioration and misuse for the benefit of future generations.

Mr Antoine Saintraint, the independent Chairman of the Council, has presided over the two last sessions of the Council of the Organization and has proved to be an example of wisdom and patience. His interventions at the right time always led to rulings serving the objectives of the Organization, and his expertise has been a guiding light to enable the Council to come to decisions and recommendations difficult to reach without his excellent management ability of the Council sessions. We should like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to convey to you, Mr Saintraint, the appreciation of the Great Jamahariya for the effort that you have been making for the success of international cooperation and its objectives. I should like to commend the excellent statement that you made at this Conference. Indeed it was a valuable lecture by a well informed expert whose main concern is to see the international Organization attain its objectives in the absence of undemocratic interventions.

Our delegation feels optimistic after reading the reports and studies on the issues related to world agricultural production. They clearly indicate an increase in the food production rate exceeding population growth rate. We believe that this is due to technical development and international cooperation in this area, and also due to the efforts deployed towards

ensuring food security by a number of countries, including the Great Jamaharia, whose people have achieved self-sufficiency in the production of most components of their food and are still working to mobilize its water resources for increasing agricultural production and exporting the production surpluses, thus contributing to the international efforts aimed at solving the problems of poverty and malnutrition.

In spite of this optimism, however, my country is deeply concerned because of the deterioration of the food situation in many poor countries in the world. Indeed, we believe that balanced nutrition is a natural right for every human being and that cooperation is essential to ensure this right for all, and to stop all practices which might jeopardize this right, such as the economic embargos unfairly imposed on a number of countries trying to build and develop their societies in order to ensure the well-being of their people, as well as other measures, aimed at hindering the movement of agricultural inputs and marketing agricultural products, the things which lead to the aggravation of food shortages and jeopardize human rights.

My country supports the efforts exerted by FAO for increasing agricultural production especially in the poor and food-deficient countries, and we approve the programme budget submitted to this session of the Conference because we are convinced that it aims towards this end. We hope that future programmes will include, among their priority areas, regional programmes which tackle the problems of drought and shortage of water resources and cover the issues of sustainable agricultural development and the protection of the environment, including desertification control.

My country thinks that it is important to develop FAO Regional Offices and provide them with the necessary support to enable them to face the problems mentioned above at the regional level, and to carry out scientific studies and projects on the basis of the realities prevailing in the regions concerned.

We would like to take this opportunity to urge the Organization to do its best in order to coordinate with the other international organizations concerned with food production and nutrition to ensure the continuity of their programmes in the interest of the beneficiaries.

Finally, Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I wish this session of the Conference success and extend my best wishes to the new Director-General together with my wishes of good health and happiness to Dr Saouma and Mr Antoine Saintraint.

Mario Leopoldo Carlos REBELO CABRAL (Guinée-Bissau): langue originale portuguais): Messieurs les Délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, La Guinée-Bissau a le plaisir de présenter au Président de la Conférence de même qu'aux membres du Bureau ses vives félicitations pour leur brillante élection. Nous sommes convaincus que la grande expérience de M. Mullings, bien démontrée par ailleurs au cours de l'élection du Directeur général qu'il a su conduire avec tant de générosité et de sagesse, sera mise à profit pour continuer à diriger nos travaux qui, je le souhaite, seront couronnés d'un plein succès. Ce succès que nous attendons tous est vital pour l'avenir de notre Organisation tant la complexité des tâches qui nous sont assignées exige une définition claire de nos responsabilités dans un cadre institutionnel efficace.

Chers délégués, honorables participants, il est vrai que notre Organisation a démontré à bien des égards dans le passé qu'elle était largement à la hauteur des ambitions et des attentes des pays membres grâce à l'engagement ferme de la direction générale dont la compétence et le dévouement, ainsi que ceux de son personnel, méritent que nous lui rendions ici hommage.

C'est également le moment pour nous de féliciter M. Edouard Saouma pour les longues années d'effort constant où il s'est trouvé à la tête de notre Organisation dans une lutte très difficile mais victorieuse contre la faim et la malnutrition. Le moment est venu pour nous de lui souhaiter une excellente retraite bien méritée et le plus grand succès dans ses nouvelles fonctions. Il restera une figure remarquable et nous sommes sûrs qu'il ne disparaîtra pas de la scène internationale.

Quant au nouveau Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, nous lui présentons au nom de la Guinée-Bissau nos félicitations très sincères et chaleureuses pour son élection à la tête de notre Organisation. Au moment où les enjeux présents et futurs exigent plus que jamais de la FAO une capacité d'anticipation remarquable liée à un savoir-faire de qualité qui ne peuvent être obtenus sans expérience et sans un dialogue nourri et constructif avec tous les partenaires, M. Jacques Diouf possède non seulement le profil et les compétences nécessaires pour ce faire, mais il a également, à travers son discours de remerciement, démontré qu'il avait une conscience claire des enjeux ainsi qu'une stratégie en tête pour les aborder avec succès, surtout dans le domaine du combat contre la faim qui est un problème majeur pour l'Afrique car il s'agit d'un problème de survie pour ce continent.

Il n'est pas inutile de rappeler que les acquis de la science et de la technologie qui confèrent aujourd'hui à l'humanité des atouts indéniables pour faire face à ses besoins alimentaires sont rarement exploités dans un souci d'équilibre mondial.

Comment s'étonner alors des divergences observées çà et là quant au partage des responsabilités et des obligations ou quant à la gestion de notre patrimoine commun, la terre?

Oui, comment ne pas s'étonner qu'au nom de la division du travail, de la liberté du commerce, de la recherche de la vérité des prix, on voit tellement d'obstacles mis en travers de la route pour limiter les chances de développement de l'agriculture de la plupart des pays membres de cette Organisation?

Les pays africains comme le nôtre vivent ce paradoxe, se devant de faire face à la fois aux besoins croissants des populations de plus en plus attentives à tout ce qui se passe dans le monde, de plus en plus conscientes de la nécessité de préserver leurs ressources naturelles pour contribuer à un équilibre écologique salubre de la planète et qui, pour autant, ne disposent pas de la solidarité nécessaire pour faire face à la situation, d'autant plus que, comme l'a dit M. Edouard Saouma dans son discours d'introduction à cette Conférence, les prix des matières premières baissent tandis que ceux des équipements et des marchandises montent. L'augmentation des investissements en agriculture est une donnée incontournable pour soutenir les progrès dans nos pays.

Dans notre pays, La Guinée-Bissau, nous avons établi une stratégie destinée au secteur agricole, concentrée sur la formation des ressources humaines, la recherche appliquée, la vulgarisation des nouvelles techniques et technologies, visant d'abord à atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire, mais

également à produire en vue de l'exportation. Cette stratégie sera mise en échec si la situation macro-économique mondiale n'est pas modifiée en notre faveur car nous nous verrons écrasés par le poids de la dette extérieure.

Comment concevoir une modernisation de l'appareil de production dans un contexte mondial dominé par le ralentissement de l'activité économique et la récession des prix de nos produits? L'agriculture africaine en cette fin de siècle subit de plein fouet la réduction constante et régulière de son espace commercial. Si les pères de notre indépendance ont longtemps dénoncé la détérioration des termes de l'échange, nous avons le triste privilège d'ajouter à ce fléau celui de l'absence quasi totale de marchés pour nos produits.

Au moment où tout concourt dans nos pays au développement des libertés et à l'élargissement de la démocratie, à une explosion des idées et des initiatives de base, la conjoncture internationale devient de moins en moins favorable au progrès de nos pays.

Que de défis pour notre Organisation! Il ne s'agira pas seulement pour la FAO de se contenter d'enregistrer des faits, de les interpréter, mais, je le répète, de les dénoncer à la lumière de sa longue expérience, afin de se convaincre et de nous convaincre que notre avenir, l'avenir de tous, est commun et que cela exigera une plus grande solidarité pour que fiat panis, pour que cela devienne une réalité.

La Guinée-Bissau espère donc la mise en application réelle des décisions prises au sommet de la terre de Rio de Janeiro et à la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, avec le plan d'action forestier tropical. Notre pays espère également l'établissement d'une convention sur la désertification de la part des pays membres du CILSS auquel nous appartenons.

La Guinée-Bissau participera aux discussions sur les différents documents présentés au cours de cette Conférence: le Programme d'action à moyen terme, le document "L'Agriculture mondiale à l'Horizon 2010" et autres documents.

Je ne saurais terminer sans féliciter et remercier M. Saintraint, Président indépendant de la FAO, pour les efforts qu'il a faits tout au long de son mandat qui lui ont permis de visiter récemment mon pays. Je voudrais le remercier également pour le discours magistral qu'il a fait devant cette Conférence.

Permettez-moi enfin de saluer les nouveaux Etats Membres récemment admis pour la confiance qu'ils accordent à la FAO. Nous espérons qu'ils contribueront ainsi à son universalité et à renforcer sa vocation. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

R.E.W. ELLIOT (New Zealand): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Over successive Conferences, New Zealand Ministers of Agriculture have focused on two major issues that still dominate international agriculture today. These, as so many speakers at this Conference have said, are the continuing problems of hunger, malnutrition and food shortages in many parts of the world; and secondly the surpluses arising from agricultural support and trade policies of the industrialized world. At yet another FAO Conference we must again note that even while large parts of the developing world are faced with food shortages, in many

parts of the industrialized world high domestic support prices and other forms of assistance have created surpluses that are then dumped on the international market at subsidized prices. There have been any number of studies that have shown that domestic support and export subsidization policies of developed countries have imposed very real costs both on themselves and on developing countries. It is time to change.

In calling for changes to international agricultural and trade policies New Zealand is not proposing one set of rules for the world and another set of rules for -itself. On the contrary we have implemented one of the most rigorous programmes of economic reforms that have been put into place anywhere in the world. Before 1984 our economic policies were based on high levels of government intervention. The government set interest rates and exchange rates and intervened in negotiations over wages. It protected domestic industries from competition through import licensing and high tariff measures.

All this has changed. Since 1984 the government has floated the New Zealand dollar; removed price controls; reduced protection; liberalized financial markets; sold its specialist bank for rural loans; and deregulated labour markets. Policies applied in the decade of the 70s had proved to us that economic growth cannot be based on domestic controls and heavy external borrowings.

In these reforms, the government reduced assistance to many sectors including agriculture, and allowed resources to flow freely within the economy. Assistance to agriculture, for instance, fell from an average of 24 percent in 1984 to zero in 1992. The reforms have not been without some pain. From being a society with full employment, New Zealand has had to contend with unemployment which now stands at around 10 percent, and many businesses just did not make the painful transition from a protected environment to one driven by the market.

However, the impact of the reform programme has so far been positive. Our industries, including our agriculture, are now operating more efficiently in both the domestic and external markets, and this is a point I must stress. The extent to which we can now build further on this progress will depend on the pace of liberalization in a world where there is still far too much protection. It is a world in which still too many countries say one thing and practise another, and we think that it is the Uruguay Round that provides us with the best opportunity to stimulate global agricultural activity through a concerted programme of economic reform and trade liberalization, and I will return to that point.

An integral part of the reform programme was to aim for a more efficient and more competitive public sector. The government moved to commercialize many services and made fundamental changes to how those services were provided and how they were paid for. Since 1990 indeed, the government has implemented policies under which many of the costs are met by those who actually use the services.

If I were to summarize, I would say that in a way we have embarked on a large social, as well as an economic experiment. The key policy has been to remove government intervention wherever citizens could do the job better on their own. Citizens are challenged to make their own decisions on what they want to do with their own resources, and to take the consequences themselves.

Now having noted that the government has given away many tasks, we have in the process developed a much clearer idea of the tasks that must stay with the government in our society. As far as agriculture is concerned, food safety is an inescapable responsibility of the government. At the international level we are actively supporting the work of Codex in developing a harmonized set of standards that are acceptable around the world. We see Codex as a very important part of FAO activities against the prospect of a successful conclusion of the GATT Round.

Along with the Codex work on standards, we are pleased with the progress being made by FAO with the International Plant Protection Convention and the efforts that are currently going into constructing and promoting international phytosanitary standards.

Since the last FAO Conference the Earth Summit has been held, and while it did not achieve all that was expected of it, many important decisions were made. New Zealand has ratified the two conventions concluded at Rio and will contribute to the global environmental facility. We place a high value on the natural environment. We are also now implementing a comprehensive resource management law, which has a very clear objective. The sustainable management of natural and physical resources will enable us today to reach the standards that our children want tomorrow.

New Zealand fully endorses FAO's Plan of Action for integrating women into agriculture and rural development. The vital role that women play in agriculture is still not adequately recognized. New Zealand women are asserting their rights to full participation in the economy and we recognize the very important role FAO is playing in promoting the full participation of women everywhere in rural development. We would not hesitate to support the call from this rostrum by a number of speakers for FAO to employ more female staff at senior levels of management.

As a fishing nation New Zealand is an active participant in international fisheries discussion, both in this forum and elsewhere. We look forward to the conclusion at this Conference of the Agreement on the Flagging of Fishing Vessels. From the start we have been a supporter of the concept of a Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and we congratulate the FAO Secretariat for its preparatory work. We are happy with the aim of completing this work in time for the 1995 meeting of the Committee on Fisheries. Such a timetable will allow members to take account of important policy decisions which are now being developed in the context of the United Nations Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Species. Our discussion here should contribute to but not pre-empt decisions in the UN Conference.

I would like to touch briefly on the issue of good governance. After our experience in the public sector reforms we look forward to seeing FAO, under its new leadership, further improve its planning and its priority setting and rationalizing services where it is possible to do so. All members should be confident that their contributions are being used and targeted as efficiently and as effectively as possible. Members will also want to see complementary agencies collaborate rather than compete.

Finally, I want to return to our main concern. New Zealand must call on FAO to support a successful outcome for the Uruguay Round. We are not making this call alone. We are joining our colleagues in the Cairns Group, the Rio group of countries, the ASEAN Economic Ministers, the Commonwealth Heads of Government and the African Ministers of Trade. We have been heartened, too,

to hear calls for a successful conclusion from so many colleagues sharing this rostrum.

New Zealand must reiterate that change is possible. It should not be avoided because of short-term political discomfort. We are convinced that as long as subsidized exports dominate LDC markets at cut-rate prices or as food aid those countries will find it difficult to develop viable agricultural production industries of their own. Will they find it easy to develop viable exports of primary products? Without reform we will reinforce the dreary cycle of food aid and dependency which has selectively inhibited economic development in so many countries. It just cannot go on.

We make no apology for emphasizing this point yet again. Trade reforms will confer significant economic benefits to all countries, including the developing countries. You know of the recent World Bank/OECD study which estimated the benefits of trade liberalization for developing countries at over US\$70 billion. We have noted at this Conference the concerns expressed by a number of developing countries about the adverse short-term impacts of trade liberalization and the particular adjustment problems they might face as net food importers. These problems are recognized, and we agree that any final agreement must include reduced obligation for such nations and more effective food aid measures.

We believe that trade reforms must be used to bring about real changes to international agriculture. They will discourage the capital and chemical intensive forms of agriculture that have degraded the environment and encouraged overproduction.

Dr Saouma completes his long and notable term of office and, as the new Director-General takes up his position, New Zealand considers it is timely and appropriate to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of this Organization. We acknowledge and accept the awesome responsibilities that those ideals place on each of us.

We congratulate Jacques Diouf as our new Director-General. We look to him to help us fulfil our obligation to others who share this globe with us. I can assure him, in turn, of our help as he applies the skills and resources of FAO to its daunting but inescapable tasks.

Anselme BANKAMBONA (Burundi): M. le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, permettez-moi de me joindre aux orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter, M. le Président, ainsi que tous les membres du Bureau, pour votre élection à la présidence des présentes assises et pour votre prestation remarquable.

Je souhaite aux pays qui viennent d'intégrer la FAO en tant que membres une chaleureuse bienvenue. J'adresse mes félicitations au nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, M. Jacques Diouf, à qui les pays membres viennent de confier la noble et lourde tâche de diriger la FAO. Je lui souhaite plein succès dans sa nouvelle mission.

Je voudrais, M. le Président, rendre un vibrant hommage au Directeur général sortant, M. Edouard Saouma, pour les efforts que la FAO n'a cessé de déployer pour appuyer le développement agricole au Burundi tout au long de son mandat.

En effet, avec l'appui notamment de la FAO, le Burundi progressait petit à petit vers une autosuffisance alimentaire et une modification positive du paysage agricole grâce à une approche participative dans sa politique agricole qui responsabilise davantage les principaux acteurs du développement, à savoir les familles rurales représentant 90 pour cent de la population.

Comme vous le savez, les efforts de développement menés par le Gouvernement viennent d'être gravement compromis par un putsch criminel survenu dans la nuit du 20 au 21 octobre 1993. L'armée mono-ethnique et régionaliste du Burundi vient de décapiter les premières institutions démocratiquement élues dans l'histoire de notre pays en assassinant sauvagement le Président de la République S.E. M. Melchior Ndadaye, le Président et Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale et d'autres hautes personnalités comme le Ministre de l'Administration du Territoire et du Développement Communal, l'Administrateur général de la Documentation et des migrations, deux gouverneurs de provinces, l'épouse du Ministre des relations extérieures et de la coopération ainsi que de très nombreux dirigeants locaux du parti vainqueur des élections libres et pluralistes de juin dernier.

Le mort du Président Ndadaye et des autres dignitaires de la République a malheureusement provoqué la colère et la fureur populaires qui se sont exprimées, chez les populations Hutu, dans des escalades de violence à l'endroit de la population Tutsi. De même, des Tutsi dressés et entraînés idéologiquement par les concepteurs du coup d'Etat et autres acteurs directs et indirects de la tragédie, ont commencé à traquer et massacrer des Hutu avec le concours de militaires pratiquement enragés.

Tous ces faits ont entraîné un cycle de violence, dans un véritable engrenage qui a mis le pays à feu et à sang.

Aujourd'hui, tout le pays est plongé dans la désolation. L'Administration territoriale, tant au niveau provincial que communal, est complètement déstabilisée, démoralisée et terrorisée.

Le Gouvernement du Burundi, traqué et pourchassé par les putschistes, a été contraint de s'exiler à l'Ambassade de France à Bujumbura dont il n'est sorti qu'il y a seulement 3 jours. Près de 600 000 personnes ont fui le pays portant ainsi à 850 000 le nombre de réfugiés burundais à l'extérieur, ce qui entraîne une pression sociale sans précédent dans les pays voisins qui les hébergent.

Il ressort de tout cela que l'action entreprise par l'armée au cours de la nuit du 20 au 21 octobre 1993 a de graves conséquences politiques, diplomatiques, militaires, et humanitaires graves tant à l'échelon national qu'à l'échelon sous-régional.

Face à ces crimes contre l'humanité, nous sommes gré à la Communauté internationale qui, dans son unanimité, a condamné leurs auteurs et exprimé tout son soutien au peuple burundais. Je voudrais, Monsieur le Président, avec votre permission, demander à tous les membres des délégations ici présents, d'exprimer à leurs Gouvernements qui comptent toujours sur cette solidarité internationale dans son action de stabilisation définitive du pays et dans l'oeuvre exigeante de reconstruction nationale.

Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour remercier particulièrement la FAO qui, dès le 28 octobre 1993, a lancé une alerte spéciale pour mon pays

en vue d'une aide humanitaire d'urgence, demandé qui elle a réitérée ce 2 novembre 1993.

En terminant mon intervention, je voudrais en outre remercier la FAO pour la confiance qu'elle a placée dans mon pays, en acceptant qu'il puisse abriter la prochaine Conférence régionale en juillet 1994.

Fort de la confiance que lui a témoignée son peuple, et avec le soutien agissant de la communauté internationale, le Gouvernement du Burundi espère qu'il pourra, dans un très proche avenir, confirmer la possibilité d'abriter cette importante session. Je vous remercie.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Burundi. I am certain members do regret to hear of the very unfortunate developments that have taken place in Burundi, and we should hope that peace and stability will return to that country before long.

May I invite the distinguished delegate of Kenya to take the floor.

Simeon NYACHAE (Kenya): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf to extend warm congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of the Conference. We have every hope that you will guide the deliberations of this session to a successful end.

Let me also extend my delegation's congratulations to the new Director-General, His Excellency Ambassador Jacques Diouf on his election, and hope that under his dynamic leadership, FAO will find new directions and approaches to the many challenges that face the world up to the turn of this century and beyond

In the same spirit, I pay tribute to the outgoing Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma on his very successful stewardship of the Organization for the past 18 years

My delegation believes that the 27th Session of FAO Conference comes at a time witnessed by momentous changes in the international political and economic environment.

The reasons for stating this are obvious in that such changes are expected to have substantial impact on the international economic prospects in general and in particular on agricultural production and trade and consumption, which in turn will have considerable influence on a large section of the world population in terms of nutrition and good health. These are issues that naturally fall within the mandate of FAO.

Permit me to express our views on some specific items of the agenda. First, we would like to recognize that the concern on food inadequacy and increasing rural poverty is not new. We note that over two decades, this has been at the forefront of the agenda for FAO. In this regard we do recall that it was through FAO initiatives and leadership that the World Food Congress of 1974 analysed and exposed the precarious situation with regard to food production and supplies in developing countries. As a result of decisions and resolutions of the World Food Congress we have witnessed the birth of new institutions such as IFAD, among others.

However, Mr Chairman, the state of world agriculture has not improved in spite of the noble aims of the Food Congress. In the current assessment of the state of food and agriculture, we note with dismay that while there has been marginal improvement on worldwide food production and trade, the state of affairs with regard to Sub-Saharan Africa has continued to decline. Two major consequences arise out of this state of affairs. One, Sub-Saharan Africa now largely depends on cereal imports to meet their domestic requirements. This in itself points to serious obstacles to development programmes since these countries have to allocate over 50 percent of their foreign exchange earnings on food imports. The second consequence of this is the deepening of poverty in these countries accompanied by widespread deterioration of the nutritional status of the poor and disadvantaged, especially women and children.

We in Kenya are inclined to agree that one of the causes of the misfortunes can be attributed to a policy mismatch with regard to agriculture vis-a-vis import substitution, industrialization and over-reliance on primary commodity production for exports. Needless to emphasize, Mr Chairman, frequent droughts over the last decade have been a major cause of the decline in food production in Africa.

While accepting that the developing countries have been partly responsible for the mismatch in policy which has led to the current alarming declines in food production and per capita consumption, Kenya would like to state that the international community, especially the developed north, could play a more effective role in mitigating this emerging catastrophe. Mr Chairman, this is a plea for equitable distribution of global resources for eradication of poverty, malnutrition and ill health. In this regard, we take note that the documentation before the Conference indicates that resource flows from the developed countries have not only declined in absolute terms but that despite the pledges made in the past two UN development decades aimed at reaching 0.7 percent of GNP of developed countries to be devoted to development assistance to developing countries.

This has not been achieved. Both official and private inflow of resources to developing countries have declined for reasons that are neither economic nor humanitarian but political. In sum total, Mr Chairman, the evidence is clear that instead of the presumed inflow of resources from the north to the south, there has been a net outflow from the south to the north.

This brings me to the subject of external debt. The debt crisis is such that repayments alone have risen to over 100 percent of the average foreign exchange earnings from exports or to over 50 percent of GDP for many of the developing countries. For whatever reason these debt obligations were incurred, it has become imperative that in the new economic order we deal with the issue with a great sense of justice and equity.

Whereas we note that attempts have been made to mitigate the negative impact of external debt in terms of cancellations, rescheduling or debt-for-equity arrangements, these efforts have at best been feeble and ineffective. Kenya wishes to add its voice to those in the forum of the group of 77 and the African group in the UN system for the need to re-examine the debt issue.

Regardless of various perceptions and possible future arrangements for debt relief, we must also consider international trade arrangements which appear to influence the outflow of resources from the developing south to the developed north. In this context, it is interesting to observe that while

one of the prescriptions for structural adjustment reforms is liberalization of trade internally and externally, it still remains a fact that the developed economies remain more or less closed to the products from developing countries except for raw materials, which nevertheless are priced below their opportunity cost.

Let me turn now to specific themes on the Conference Agenda. In this respect I will start with the subject of forestry. We are in general agreement with a wider view about the role of forests in the preservation of terrestrial ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. In this regard, we would urge FAO to review its priority programme in the following areas. First, FAO should continue research into more efficient utilization of forest resources, especially in using such resources to meet the energy needs of the rural poor. Second, FAO should take measures to encourage afforestation programmes with specific aims of preventing soil erosion and protecting water catchment areas through community and household agroforestry and enhance the role of women in this process. Thirdly, to examine ways of promoting forest habitats for various animal species that are of current and future potential to life-supporting systems. Fourth, through the development of bio-technology, FAO should encourage the preservation and use of the traditional edible plants by local communities, and redouble their efforts in the preservation of plant species and genetic biological diversity both in situ and ex situ.

Mr Chairman, I will now turn to the fisheries sector. Several concerns about fisheries have begun to emerge. First, through industrialization and expansions in human settlements, pollution in marine and inland waters is threatening the fishing industry worldwide. Secondly, over-exploitation of certain species is becoming increasingly evident to the extent that such species are becoming extinct or are in the category of being endangered. We therefore urge FAO to provide guidelines and codes of conduct for responsible fishing to achieve a sustainable fishery industry and to preserve species diversity.

As already observed in the documentation before this session of the Conference the global food situation is not secure, especially so long as the per capita food production in Africa is lagging far behind demand as determined by population growth. In our view this situation though intractable can be reversed. The opportunities available of course hinge on correct domestic policies of the individual countries but as we have said before, it also relies on international cooperation. The promotion of increased agricultural production and productivity today requires new technologies through research and development. The key to this process lies in the development of both plant and animal species that are drought, pest and disease resistant and higher yielding. It also depends on the use of agrochemicals. In Kenya, like in other developing countries, the opportunities for increased agricultural production from the use of these technologies is still largely untapped, especially in small scale farming areas. However, the use of agrochemicals presents us with a new paradox in terms of long-term environmental sustainable agriculture, as between the use of organic and inorganic inputs. While there seems, however, in spite of the need to develop new environmentally friendly agricultural systems, the key question still remains with the need to increase investment in agricultural sector in the form of access to credit, better distribution and pricing of agricultural inputs and development of appropriate farm technology. In this regard, we would once again express our concern with the continued decline in aid assistance to developing countries, especially to the agricultural sector.

My statement would be incomplete without mentioning the enormous contributions that Kenyan women have made in the development process in Kenya. Indeed, women are the major producers of food commodities let alone their unique role in traditional family support activities. You will recall Mr Chairman the UN Women's Conference took place in Nairobi in 1985. In that Conference, a Women's Charter was evolved. In this respect Kenya has prepared an elaborate plan of action for integrating women in the main-stream of the development process.

With regard to the role of NGOs we recognize that in many countries the relations between government authorities and NGOs have not always been cordial. Kenya has learnt the vital role NGOs can play and have played in mobilizing community efforts and resources for the promotion of the welfare of the rural and urban poor. We therefore believe that the NGOs are a vital link between the government and rural and urban communities.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, Kenya recognises that FAO is entering a new era faced with new challenges. With admission of new members we see a new sense of dynamism and participation. We congratulate most sincerely the new members that have just joined us during this session of the Conference and hope their contribution will enrich the work of the Organization. Meanwhile, Kenya, like many other Member States would like to reaffirm continued support of FAO so that the Organization can deal effectively with the challenges ahead.

Thomas Brothy FARATI A (Vanuatu) : Chairman of the 27th Session of the FAO Conference, distinguished delegates, Director-General, representatives of international organizations, ladies and gentlemen, greetings from the people and Government of the Republic of Vanuatu. I should like to compliment the Director-General and his staff on the excellent arrangements under which the business of the current session of the Conference is being conducted. A special thank you to the Italian people and Government for the warm hospitality which is evident all around us in this beautiful, historical city.

The Secretariat, I know, does not encourage lengthy discourse upon domestic development issues in our countries, but my country is categorized as a least developed country. It is also located on the other side of the world; our delegation probably travelled the longest distance to get to Rome. So I intend to give this august body a brief introduction to my country before making some broad observations upon the comprehensive agenda items in front of us. Our views upon the future priorities of FAO and its resource allocation and programming necessarily reflect the development constraints that we face in Vanuatu and the strategy that we have in place to address them.

Vanuatu is a relatively small, isolated country. It is made up of numerous islands dispersed over a large area. We have a population of just under 150 000 at present. The containment of our population growth rate, now 2.8 percent per annum, is an important priority of ours.

Population growth rate is declining steadily, but urban drift continues at a rapid pace resulting in the current urban ni-Vanuatu population growth rate of 7.5 percent per annum against 2.1 percent for the corresponding rural rate.

Our economy is highly vulnerable to external economic shocks over which we have no control and to frequent natural disasters, such as hurricanes, which regularly frustrate our development efforts; they are responsible for widespread damages to social and economic infrastructure such as housing, schools, hospitals, roads, airports and telecommunication facilities and for lost agricultural outputs with consequent loss in income and untold suffering to the population. Our national economic base is narrow, depending mainly on copra - economy. Future economic growth sustainable development and the improvement in the standard of living of our people will therefore depend critically upon how we develop our rural sector.

Our third national development plan covering the period 1992-96 reflects the high priority which our government accords to our rural-based industries. We are allocating resources to and will be implementing programmes for further beef, cocoa, kava and new cash crops development. The technical issues associated with increased and good quality production, given financial resources and know-how, are relatively easy, in our experience, to solve. But we do find difficulties with the long-term problems of distribution and marketing. We are finding that production should be determined by demand, by what the people in the markets want to buy. This is an important area in which FAO, which tends to focus heavily on production, should examine in the course of formulating its future programmes and activities. We are experimenting with alternative cash crops such as pepper, vanilla and ground nuts. The feasibility studies of these items will incorporate careful assessments of developments in the market place.

Forestry presents Vanuatu with considerable potential. With the support of donors we have ventured out into tree-planting programmes. This reflects our long-term approach to development in our country. The exportation of logs we have discouraged, favouring forestry activities which add value to our economy. The potential of the fisheries sector we have not fully developed. The domestic market for fish is expanding while exporting will require substantial investments and know-how. Joint ventures with overseas interest will be required in the course of fully realizing the potential of this important sector.

Our current development plan emphasizes the importance of traditional crops and subsistence activities for Vanuatu and presumably for most developing countries. Food security implies increased capacity for producing traditional crops for subsistence and sale to the home and possibly external markets. But the importance of traditional crops reaches well beyond food security. Increased production and consumption of these food items imply falling food import bills, and therefore improved balance of payments and external reserve positions. We know that balance of payments problems have frustrated economic and social development in many of our countries. These problems lie at the root of macro-economic imbalances and difficult and painful adjustment programmes which many of our countries have had to put in place. So the improvement of productivity in the subsistence sector and the technical inputs which FAO could provide to this important activity should, I believe, feature prominently in its future programming.

Turning to the substantive agenda in front of us, Mr Chairman, I should like to first touch upon the future role of FAO in the area of international agricultural marketing. I have indicated that FAO's focus has tended to weigh heavily upon production. That is fine provided it is driven by the imperatives of the market place.

Most of us here are concerned about the outcome of the current round of the general agreement on tariff and trade, GATT negotiations. Countries which export agricultural products, which include most developing countries and many developed ones, face mounting tariff and quantitative restrictions against agricultural exports in the industrial countries. Ministers of Agriculture in the industrial countries sometimes adopt the attitude that international trade in agriculture should be a matter for domestic policy alone. Clearly such an attitude, though understandable in terms of domestic politics, cannot be acceptable to those of us who face difficulty in market entry and -to artificially depressed international market prices for our agricultural exports.

We understand that the successful outcome of the current Uruguay GATT Round of Negotiations now depends critically upon a deal in agricultural trade between the EEC and the United States. The future costs and lost income to these two powerful parties and to the rest of the world that might follow in the wake of an unsuccessful Uruguay Round is likely to be immense. Some observers estimate such lost global income at over US\$200 billion a year. The emergence of world trade groupings and the likelihood of their evolving into protective trading blocks, should GATT negotiations fail and GATT itself become increasingly marginalized, is causing a lot of anxiety to many developing countries. The spectre of regional trading blocks replacing open global trade, with smaller countries left out as frustrated observers, cannot at this stage be fully discounted. The heavily indebted developing countries and the transition economies of eastern Europe, the former soviet republics, like all developing countries, clearly need to have increased marketing outlets for their agricultural and other exports if they are to hope for sustainable development in the medium term. I should therefore like to appeal to agricultural ministers in this august gathering, and to the FAO Conference and the Secretariat to work actively with others towards ensuring the success of the current GATT negotiations and to strengthening and entrenching the rules and role of GATT.

Turning to the future programmes and activities of the FAO, Mr Chairman, I intend to cover what we think should be the future focus of this Organization in the Pacific Region.

Food security and nutrition programmes should centre upon strengthening the subsistence sector. Appropriate technologies and know-how which aim at rapidly increasing productivities in this sector should be accorded priority by the FAO. The success of these activities will release resources, time and labour inputs, for other income generating, social and community activities. Their impact on rural living standards and the health of women, who normally work long hours in the rural sector, would be significant. The FAO, as you know, has had subsistence production programmes in some developing countries in the past, but more should be considered and allocated sufficient resources to make significant impacts in our region.

Closely associated with subsistence activities is the important programme of integrating women into agriculture and rural development. We believe this to be a subprogramme of mainstreaming women into the development planning and central decision-making process of governments. The increased participation of women and the release of the potential which they have in support of the national development efforts require change in attitude and appropriate policies in all the departments and agencies of governments. Within this framework, women's issues should be specifically mainstreamed into the policy and decision-making machinery of the ministries of

agriculture, fisheries and forests. Since women feature prominently in production in the rural sector, policies and programmes of governments, bilateral donors and multilateral donors such as the FAO should be closely tailored to the needs and activities of women in this important sector.

Mr Chairman, as mentioned earlier, we advocate a more holistic approach by the FAO in its future activities. There is much more to agriculture, fisheries and forests than the technicalities of production. Marketing, as I have observed, should drive production, and not the other way round, in this increasingly competitive world. Also agricultural, fishery and forestry practices should be firmly constrained by the need for maintaining the integrity of the environment, a precondition to the achievement of sustainable development. Many international and regional bodies are devoting energies upon sound environment management as a necessary condition for sustainable development. But FAO, because of its responsibilities under its charter, clearly has a locus standi in these areas. Specifically it could help us in the Pacific Region by advising upon: land use surveys; the formulation of land use legislations; forestry utilization practices and legislations; sustainable natural resources extraction rates and practices; effective policing of legislations which address and promote environmental integrity in the natural resources sector.

The FAO will, of course, need to coordinate its efforts with other relevant bodies when formulating its regional and country programmes in these fields. It certainly has much to offer given the pool of technical expertise to which it has access and the corporate memory which it has in these important fields.

There is a final area of focus which I would like to suggest for intensified efforts by the FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in the Pacific region. We need ongoing pipelines of bankable projects in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Sometimes funding is relatively easy to access. However, good projects, I think we can all admit, are relatively scarce in most of our countries, so we suggest that FAO and IFAD devote more technical and financial resources to identifying and appraising projects in the rural sectors of our economies. An important component of this programme should be the training of operatives in the natural resources ministries, the development banks and private sectors of our countries. The pipelines of bankable projects which come out of such a programme will enable us to tap effectively the resources of bilateral donors, regional development banks, the World Bank and, of course, IFAD. They are essential for the development of our rural sectors and, by extension, for sustainable development in all our countries.

Mr Chairman, I should like to end by congratulating you upon your appointment and for the effective way with which you are tackling your important responsibilities. I also take this opportunity to extend warm congratulations to the new Member States of FAO admitted at the current session of the Conference and, finally, my delegation wishes to congratulate the new Director-General. My country looks forward to continuing close cooperation with the new chief Executive of FAO and the Secretariat in the pursuit of mutual interests during the coming years.

Roberto RONDON SACASA (Nicaragua): Sr. Presidente, Sres. Delegados. Quiero iniciar por expresarles que mis colegas de Centroamérica me han solicitado que me dirija a ustedes en nombre de nuestra región, honor que he aceptado

gustosamente motivado por los esfuerzos que nuestros Gobiernos realizan con el fin de volver a conformar la gran patria centroamericana.

En nombre de los más de veinte millones de centroamericanos, permítame expresar nuestro saludo cordial a los delegados al Vigésimoséptimo período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Sesión que reviste una singular trascendencia por la elección del Dr. Jacques Diouf como nuevo Director General, quien sin duda alguna, sabrá continuar la labor tan encomiable que el Dr. Edouard Saouma ha realizado en pro de la humanidad. Para el Dr. Saouma, el reconocimiento y la gratitud sincera del pueblo centroamericano. Para el Dr. Diouf nuestras más encarecidas felicitaciones y nuestro compromiso profundo de apoyarle en tan importante gestión.

Es de todos conocido que la crisis económica de los años ochenta afectó la economía mundial en su conjunto, pero sus efectos más fuertes recayeron sobre aquellos países, que como los nuestros, presentan un menor desarrollo relativo. Ante estas circunstancias, los países de América Latina y el Caribe han venido realizando esfuerzos para la recuperación de sus economías y más concretamente los Ministros de Agricultura de América hemos manifestado nuestra voluntad política para que se jerarquice el papel del sector agropecuario a fin de que se convierta en un eje dinámico de acumulación que contribuya efectivamente a retomar la senda del crecimiento equitativo y del desarrollo sostenible.

De esta manera manifestamos nuestro deseo de que se asigne al sector agropecuario el rol protagónico que le corresponde, el cual fue deliberadamente disminuido en los esquemas de desarrollo que prevalecieron en las últimas cuatro décadas en nuestro continente y que redundó en una masiva transferencia de recursos hacia el sector industrial en detrimento del sector agropecuario, lo que ensanchó, entre otras cosas, la dualidad entre el campo y la ciudad.

Indiscutiblemente, la asignación priorizada que se brinde al sector agropecuario en el marco de un nuevo esquema de desarrollo, deberá ir acompañada de acciones inmediatas y directas en el resto de sectores para potencializar el empuje del agro.

No podemos hablar de desarrollo agropecuario sin tener en cuenta los ingredientes básicos de la equidad y el desarrollo sostenido. Reconocemos que para ello habrán de removerse numerosos obstáculos, pero tenemos la firme convicción de que con el esfuerzo nuestro y el apoyo de la Comunidad Internacional, podremos avanzar hacia una sociedad más justa, más humana y más integrada. En ese sentido, Sr. Presidente, consideramos de vital importancia que la FAO intensifique sus acciones en el combate a la pobreza rural, como condición previa e indispensable para lograr un desarrollo rápido y sostenible de la agricultura y de la economía en general en nuestros países. Deberá propiciarse fundamentalmente la complementariedad de los sectores agrícolas e industriales, así como, también, promover el resurgimiento del comercio y otros servicios en las áreas rurales.

Como región centroamericana que se esfuerza en la consolidación de la paz y la democracia, deseamos utilizar este Foro para hacer una llamado vehemente y dramático a los países desarrollados para encontrar una feliz conclusión a la Ronda Uruguay del GATT. Sin esto nuestras economías se verán amenazadas al punto de poner en peligro la estabilidad de la región. ¿De qué sirve producir más alimentos para el mundo si no los podemos vender a precios justos? Este noble y necesario esfuerzo debe ser complementado con

un incremento sustancial en la generosa ayuda financiera que los países centroamericanos requieren para poder convertir el esfuerzo y sacrificio de nuestros pueblos en una realidad de crecimiento equitativo y de desarrollo sostenible.

La FAO debería concentrar su apoyo también, en la modernización de la agricultura, fundamentalmente de la agricultura campesina, con el fin de elevar su productividad, aumentar la producción, mejorar sus ingresos y sus condiciones de vida. El apoyo a las organizaciones campesinas resulta en este contexto de fundamental importancia por cuanto posibilita el acceso de los pequeños productores a ciertos beneficios que de forma individual no los tendría.

En mi país, Nicaragua, estamos llevando a cabo en el Ministerio de Agricultura un programa conocido con el nombre de Polos de Desarrollo, mediante el cual se apoya al pequeño productor rural en la definición de un modelo de desarrollo integrado y organizativo que le garantice un mejoramiento en su nivel de vida a través de su autogestión y capacitación técnica aprovechando racionalmente los recursos naturales para producir, conservando, y diversificar su producción agropecuaria en un marco de sostenibilidad. El apoyo a este tipo de programas debería estar entre las primeras prioridades de la Organización.

La FAO debería priorizar en Centroamérica como en el resto de los países, aquellos programas dirigidos a alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria, entendiéndose como tal el acceso material y económico de todas las personas a los alimentos que necesitan.

También considero de suma importancia para contribuir a superar la problemática del sector agropecuario, intensificar acciones en la reducción de la dualidad agraria entre productores tecnificados y tradicionales. Esta dualidad agraria se manifiesta en un diferenciado uso de tecnología en el sector, lo cual se traduce en productividades marcadamente diferenciadas y, por consiguiente, en ingresos, también, muy desiguales entre los distintos agentes productores. En este sentido la FAO debería concentrar sus acciones en apoyar aquellos programas que permitan transferir el uso y tecnologías de aquellos segmentos más destacados a los menos favorecidos dentro de un país o región. En esta forma se estaría contribuyendo a mejorar la productividad, la producción, los ingresos y el nivel de vida del productor y su comunidad.

Importante es señalar también, el papel de la mujer en la agricultura y como eje central del hogar; a ellas nuestro reconocimiento. La FAO apoya la participación femenina y debe intensificar ese apoyo. Estos esfuerzos deberían ir acompañados también, de otras medidas complementarias, como son el acceso al crédito, a los sistemas de información de precios y de mercados, así como al establecimiento de un tipo de cambio realista que fomente las exportaciones a través de una mayor competitividad y, permita un ajuste en la distorsión de los precios relativos. Es así, y sólo así, que nuestros países podrán volver de la ciudad al campo.

El deterioro de los recursos naturales es uno de los problemas más graves que está afectando al continente americano. Aproximadamente un cincuenta por ciento de los bosques tropicales densos del mundo están situados en América y el Caribe. El ritmo de deforestación en nuestro continente es alto; destruyéndose aproximadamente, unos siete millones de hectáreas y destinando esa superficie a otros usos. En mi país, en un lapso de tan sólo cuarenta años, se ha reducido de manera alarmante el área de bosques en un

cincuenta por ciento. Si ese ritmo de explotación continuara, los bosques productivos de latifoliadas en nuestro territorio, podrían desaparecer durante los próximos doce años. Ante esta necesidad imperiosa de proteger los bosques y de utilizar los recursos forestales del mundo de manera más racional y estable que en el pasado, la FAO, el Banco Mundial, el PNUD y otras Instituciones, formularon en 1985 el Plan de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos (PAFT), que constituye ahora la estrategia aceptada internacionalmente para la conservación y el uso de los recursos forestales en los países en vías de desarrollo.

La Organización debería centrar sus esfuerzos ahora, en conservación de los recursos naturales que se encuentran en etapa de perfil.

La Organización debería centrar sus esfuerzos ahora, en Centroamérica, en apoyar la formulación de proyectos de conservación de los recursos naturales que se encuentran en la etapa de perfil para llevarlos al nivel de factibilidad y transformarlos en proyectos bancables para ser sometidos a los organismos correspondiente.

Los países centroamericanos estamos dando cada vez mayor importancia al sector pesquero por su alta capacidad para generar divisas, por el impacto en el consumo interno y por constituirse en una fuente de empleo en las zonas del litoral. Paralelo a esto, la acuicultura está tomando gran importancia en Centroamérica; la región cuenta con un extraordinario potencial que podría contribuir a elevar el valor de las exportaciones, mejorar el empleo, así como también, el ingreso en las zonas marginadas. No obstante, el bajo nivel de especialización de los recursos humanos nacionales, hace necesaria una presencia cada vez mayor de la FAO en estas áreas.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para agradecer a la FAO el valiosísimo apoyo brindado en el área de la agricultura, la ganadería y los recursos naturales, así como el gran esfuerzo desplegado en erradicar el hambre y la desnutrición de nuestro Planeta, que para el año dos mil contará con seis mil millones de habitantes que se convertirán en nueve mil millones pocas décadas después.

Estamos en la conclusión del siglo XX y a las puertas del siglo XXI. Grandes retos nos deparan para garantizar responsablemente a las futuras generaciones un mundo de paz y bienestar.

En los últimos cuarenta y siete años, FAO ha sido factor determinante de progreso y desarrollo. Hoy, en esta Ciudad Eterna y ante el Dios de las Naciones, debemos todos los países del mundo comprometernos a seguir encontrando caminos de entendimiento fraterno, a trabajar con todas nuestras fuerzas y entorno a nuestra FAO, para que el próximo siglo pueda ofrecer a las generaciones venideras un bienestar económico equitativo y un desarrollo sostenible. Muchas gracias.

Andom KIFLEMARIAM (Eritrea): Mr Chairman, Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I feel honoured to attend the Twenty-Seventh Session of the FAO Conference and deliver Eritrea's maiden speech to this assembly. Let me join the other distinguished delegates in congratulating you for your election as Chairman of the Conference, and Mr Jacques Diouf for his election as the first African Director-General of FAO. I would also like to thank the honourable

delegates, once again, for their good wishes upon our becoming members of the Organization.

It is not my intention to weary this assembly by presenting details of Eritrea's agriculture or its development programmes. I would, however, like - as it is the first time - to briefly explain the state of agriculture in my country and outline the policy directions that are gradually emerging.

As you are aware, Eritrea has just come out from a 30 year war of liberation. The result of this bellicose period, among other things, was the destruction of the country's economic and social fabric as well as its physical infrastructure. In particular, the agricultural sector has sustained severe destruction and decline - entire farm areas and villages have been abandoned by fleeing farmers, livestock has been decimated, and the environment degraded as the result of deforestation and unwise farming practices. The war situation was further aggravated by successive droughts, especially in the nineteen-eighties, where crop and livestock production have declined to levels unheard of in the history of our country. During this period the livelihood of most of the population was secured thanks to international solidarity, which provided food aid.

In brief, when the country was totally liberated in May 1991, the scene in front of the Eritrean Government was, to say the least, disastrous. We found destitute people totally dependent on food aid; empty villages and ghost towns; half empty villages with hardly any able-bodied persons; abandoned peasants and commercial farms; destroyed infrastructure; nonfunctioning institutions; and, as I mentioned earlier, degraded environment and decimated livestock. In a nutshell, a desolate picture.

This was our starting point, Mr Chairman. However, on the bright side now, peace is reigning all over the country and we are living in peace and harmony with all of our neighbours. As is always the case, that peace is more appreciated by people who suffered from war. Our people are now relishing the peaceful situation and looking forward to reconstruct their country.

The initial activities undertaken by the Government in the agricultural sector were emergency-related, such as the distribution of seeds, farm implements, draught animals. Since the private sector has virtually disappeared as the result of war, it was left up to the Government to deliver the inputs and equipment. In this emergency endeavour, we received limited assistance from donors including FAO. A two-year multi-donor programme, spearheaded by the World Bank, was prepared last year and is under implementation.

In spite of our limited resources, we managed to reach an important segment of our rural community in 1992, and delivered inputs and support services necessary to jump-start the agricultural sector. The rains in 1992 were particularly good and so were the harvest levels. Unfortunately, however, we were not able to cultivate a significant part of the available land, mainly due to lack of draught power. Even then, we succeeded in producing about 60 percent of our food requirements; much higher than the levels obtained in previous years. We were better prepared for 1993 and ensured that more land was cultivated. However, the distribution of rain was poor this year. Attack by pests, notably by locust and army worms, has also severely affected most parts of the country. Although we are still in the process of assessing the 1993 crop production, it is already clear that it is below the levels of last year. This situation has only further

strengthened our resolve to harvest, conserve and utilize our surface water as well as to make use of underground water with a view to reducing the current dependency on erratic rainfall patterns.

While attending to the emergency needs, Mr Chairman, we have also been busy assessing our resources and capabilities, articulating our policy objectives, and prioritizing development programmes. This process is still continuing and we are in dialogue with all major donors. A World Bank coordinated multi-donor mission has just visited Eritrea with the aim of understanding the overall structure of our economy, and eventually to agree with the Government on broad sectoral policies. Likewise, an agricultural sector review mission from FAO visited Eritrea last September and October 1993, and is currently finalizing its report here in Rome. The two study teams have been working very closely with Eritrean officials. We are expecting the final reports early next year. We are hoping that these studies will provide us with a sound basis for charting a development strategy for the agricultural sector, planning and drawing appropriate development programmes, and for identifying specific investment and pre-investment projects.

In the meantime, we have made significant progress in defining our objectives and setting our priorities. My Government has placed top priority on agriculture and put food security as its main objective of the sector. Although we have no illusions on the difficulty of such a task, we are confident that agriculture can play a major role in our economy. The available water resources are practically unutilized and modern rain-fed production techniques have yet to be introduced. The abundant lowland areas are yet to be developed and there are proven commercial farms that need to be rehabilitated.

Above all, my Government believes that its major resource is its own people. Eritreans are known for being industrious and hard-working. They have managed to survive - some even to improve - their livelihood, under severe natural and man-made disasters for over 30 years. We believe that if our farmers are provided with basic support services and adequate incentives, they would respond positively. In this endeavour, my Government expects the private sector to play a key role. There is no intention for the public sector to be involved directly in agricultural production. At Independence, we were forced into undertaking some agricultural activities on farms we have inherited, and we have decided to dispose of these activities by selling the assets to the private sector. This is necessary, Mr Chairman, because the job is typically of a private nature.

This is, in short, the current state of agriculture in my country. Before concluding, allow me to briefly summarize the problems we are facing and to indicate some areas where we think we could benefit from international assistance.

As the dearth of professional and technical staff is a critical immediate problem, we could benefit from training programmes that could upgrade the existing staff without disrupting the ongoing and planned development activities.

In our planning and programming endeavours we are often hampered by the lack of reliable data. Water is the most undeveloped resource in Eritrea. Unfortunately, even indicative figures on rainfall and water are lacking. The hydrogeological data and the extent of the underground water needs further detailed study.

Planning and designing investment proposals is difficult without such reasonably accurate data. Unfortunately, several years will have to pass until sufficient data are generated. While we support that systematic data gathering should commence immediately, we hold the view that there must be ways of initiating investment activities in some areas without having to wait a long time. Our urgent problems, such as the settling of half a million refugees, do not allow us to wait. We also believe that improved rain-fed farming technologies could be introduced immediately since Eritrea has never benefited from known technical packages for rain-fed agriculture. At the same time, obtaining appropriate technologies to arrest the degradation of the environment, promoting reforestation programmes for soil conservation, timber production and livestock development are among the priorities of my Government for the immediate future.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, I would like to assure this Conference that my Government firmly believes that the actual burden and initiative for development rests with its own people. The country will primarily rely on its own resources for development. However, we also believe that carefully selected and timely external assistance can serve as a catalyst for our development effort. In this regard, we are preparing the groundwork to create appropriate conditions and a suitable atmosphere for both bilateral and multilateral assistance and for private investment. We hope that the business atmosphere we are creating and the international solidarity that we are receiving will enable Eritrea to benefit from the flow of international resources, technology and know-how.

Hilroy R. HUMPHREYS (Antigua and Barbuda): Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first let me congratulate the Chairman on his election and also wish our new Director-General, Dr Diouf, all the best in his new endeavours.

I am especially honoured to have this opportunity to address this important body which has as its mandate the most fundamental objective in man's quest for survival and also, as we all now fully appreciate, development.

My country, Antigua and Barbuda, is a twin island state in the Eastern Caribbean. Notwithstanding my country's size and its daily struggle to overcome the difficult problems of providing the basic needs of its citizens and meeting the ideals of their aspirations, we, too, are very concerned about the status of world hunger, poverty and threats facing agricultural development and the environment.

Today more than ever this Organization, our Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, faces its most serious challenge in its attempts to fulfil its mandate. Never before have we had such great inequality in man's development as we see now in the conditions of food surplus countries and countries made hell-like with the ravages of hunger and the suffering and deprivations of poverty.

Perhaps one could argue that this has been so for more than two decades. Clearly though, Mr Chairman, today the power of world communication systems, initially driven by profits to be gained from creation of a single world market, has ensured that the vast majority of the world's citizens cannot only hear but graphically see the wretched effect of hunger and poverty.

This has added another dimension to the challenges facing FAO, that of the effect of seeing a world which has conquered the intricacies of complicated

technology, made possible by the supply of an overabundance of food, not having the will power, the sense of moral obligation, the outrage for fulfilment of basic human rights of all peoples or the milk of human kindness to tackle effectively so fundamental a scourge as the death and deprivation of millions of human beings from the first and most basic of all needs, hunger and poverty.

The world, virtually on a daily basis, is monitoring the impact of the work of our Organization and its effectiveness in meeting the immediate needs of starving masses, as well as putting in place sustainable systems of production that will ensure the adequate supply and access to food by all peoples. Our inadequacies, our inefficiencies, our lack of commitment, are all now laid bare before all the world, most times in graphic televised pictures, we can no longer hide behind the dullness of bare statistics or the mountain of documentation, however useful and analytically correct they may be. Nothing short of a dramatic impact on the status of world hunger and poverty will suffice. FAO, our Organization, cannot shy away from this, its greatest obligation.

Clearly, FAO will need other collaborators, none more important than Member Governments and other peacekeeping agencies, as the making of war has complicated and in some instances made impossible the implementation of corrective measures for the problem of hunger and poverty. As Member Governments we must ensure that together with FAO we meet this challenge head on.

This is not the only challenge facing our Organization, although it is the most fundamental and critical in determining how the world perceives the work of this Organization.

The important issue I would like to address today has to do with the modernization of agriculture in developing countries with a view of ensuring that the sector can contribute its full potential to the development efforts of these countries. I will only deal with a subset of this issue, which concerns micro-island nations, since other speakers will no doubt address the other category of countries.

Micro-island nations by definition have inherent and peculiar limitations by virtue of their physical size. Most of these we are familiar with, including small internal markets, limited capital formation, inefficient financial markets, inadequate and inappropriate technology, inadequately trained human resources, fragile ecosystems, limited physical space and high risk areas for natural disasters, among others.

Of special importance, though, is the false perception engendered from utilizing traditional economic indications as barometers of the quality of well-being of our people. Small size, Mr Chairman, falsifies the reality of per caput indicators of development. Hence, the needs and threats to the sustainability of our development process, based on the various traditional economic and social per caput indicators, tend to be grossly understated with the resultant inadequacies of resource flows.

In the Caribbean most of our countries have a highly skewed development process. The typical one-commodity one-export market economy used as a pure model analytical tool in many economic classes is still in existence in many of our countries. The case of bananas is well-known and will be further highlighted during the Conference. This case speaks to the underlying truth that the basis of our survival in island nation states is

tenuous at best with our countries' economic well-being quite vulnerable to the smallest of external shocks to which we have no defence or mitigating capabilities. Our countries can move from several years of growth and high per caput income by Third World standards, to total economic disaster in the second it takes for ink to dry on an agreement for free trade in bananas.

Agriculture, including fisheries development, is the most vital component in any plan and programme of sustainable development and growth in micro-island states. Our countries call for interventions within the context of programmes designed to bring about concrete actions on the ground. These programmes must be designed and implemented in conjunction with regional experts who are familiar with the detailed nature of the challenges and the potential of alternative solutions.

In essence, Antigua and Barbuda is expecting that it will see a shift in the structure, operation and orientation of FAO. This change should include a devolution of power and personnel from the centre to sub-regional programme implementation offices, which in our view should become major activity centres with programmed resources and the necessary decision-making powers.

It is my country's view that the proliferation of bureaucrats at the head office at Rome will not strengthen the Organization's capacity to tackle hunger, poverty and the modernization of agriculture in the various sub-regions of the world.

It is in this context that Antigua and Barbuda strongly support the establishment of a specific island nations programme, fully dedicated to serving the particular needs of these countries. We too share the view that our people must be directly involved in the design and implementation of the various programmes that will be carried out under this aegis.

FAO has done a tremendous amount of good work in the past. The present challenges, though, are indicative of the need for greater efforts in the future. Our focus must not only be advisory, but FAO must use more of its own resources as well as provide leadership for the sourcing of additional resources that can be directed towards tangible actions on the ground, designed to combat hunger, poverty and the acceleration of the modernization process.

Micro-island states will find it difficult to withstand the pressures of free trade, which the mega trading blocks seem ready to enforce on all countries. The question I am forced to ask is who will protect the interest of micro-island states, in this relentless pursuit of free trade, which is only free in terms of the exchange of goods and which still promotes restrictions on factor movements, disregard for inequalities in the productive forces and disregard for historical trading patterns and special arrangements? Who will defend the right of micro-island states to maintenance and enhancement of their food security status; who will defend the right of micro-island states' people to a life of dignity and self-respect which fundamentally is derived from earning ones way in the world? Who will speak out against the negative impacts standard structural adjustment programmes are having on the agricultural sector and hence the need for adjustment in some of these programmes, taking into account the special need of agriculture?

I would respectfully submit that FAO has an important role to play in issues like these. FAO must direct its capabilities to ensure that it defends the interests, rights and food security priorities of the hungry, the poor and the undeveloped. FAO's voice must be loud in the debate on issues which affect the poor, the dispossessed and the fortunes of agricultural development. Mr Chairman, we cannot accept less.

In closing let me express my country's appreciation to FAO for the assistance received. My country looks forward to continued close-working relationship with FAO which will be leading the battle against hunger and poverty.

My country expects to be a part of a much more visible FAO through its expanded field programmes, as we seek to sensitize the world to take action, in an effort to overcome man's first challenge in his battle for survival and development.

Hasan HALILI (Albanie) (Langue originale albanais): Qu'il me soit permis de vous féliciter, au nom de la délégation de la République d'Albanie, pour votre élection au poste de Directeur général de notre Organisation et de vous souhaiter plein succès dans votre travail pour résoudre les problèmes qui préoccupent notre Organisation.

C'est pour moi un grand honneur et un réel plaisir de présider la délégation du Gouvernement démocratique de la République d'Albanie et de participer à la Conférence de la FAO après les élections du 22 mars 1992, au moment du renversement de la dictature communiste, la plus longue et la plus sévère de l'histoire mondiale moderne. Je suis venu ici pour présenter la situation de l'agriculture albanaise, et les efforts de ceux qui travaillent et vivent de l'agriculture, qui constituent les deux tiers de notre population. J'illustrerai les difficultés et les premiers résultats encourageants du processus de transition entre l'économie centralisée et l'économie de marché, et je parlerai du programme du Gouvernement albanais pour le développement ultérieur de l'agriculture.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre la gratitude et les remerciements du peuple et du Gouvernement albanais pour l'aide et le soutien que la FAO leur a apportés au cours de cette période difficile. Indépendamment du fait que le monde doit aujourd'hui faire face à de nombreux problèmes importants et complexes, qui demandent une solution urgente, nous sommes convaincus que la FAO, grâce à son expérience et à la contribution de ses personnalités et de son personnel, est et sera à même de concevoir des stratégies plus efficaces pour aider l'agriculture à progresser, dans tous les continents, à l'avenir.

L'Albanie, après un isolement d'environ un demi siècle, marche de façon sûre vers une économie de marché en mettant au point la réforme économique entreprise dans toutes les branches de l'économie nationale.

Considérant la période de transition entre une économie centralisée et une économie de marché comme la phase la plus importante, le Gouvernement albanais a spécialement conçu une stratégie et des politiques pour cette phase visant à revitaliser rapidement l'économie agro-alimentaire albanaise et à faire face plus facilement aux problèmes sociaux.

La réforme économique en Albanie entraîne des développements économiques qui se traduisent par l'accroissement des indices macro-économiques et par

une transformation accélérée de l'environnement agricole dans un sens positif.

Le Gouvernement considère que l'agriculture est le secteur prioritaire et stratégique de toute l'économie du pays. La privatisation immédiate des terres agricole a été l'élément déterminant de la réforme.

Elle s'est accompagnée de la suppression des coopératives agricoles et du démantèlement des fermes d'Etat.

Le soutien aux agriculteurs privés qui représentent la structure de base de la production agricole avec des intrants, du machinisme agricole etc., est une pièce essentielle du redressement de la production et de la renaissance de l'agriculture.

La libéralisation des prix des produits agricoles, de l'élevage et de l'industrie alimentaire a été l'élément déterminant de la réforme.

L'organisation et la restructuration de l'agriculture ont fait ressortir l'impérieuse nécessité de créer un cadre législatif tel que ceux qui sont en vigueur pour la terre, la production végétale, le service vétérinaire et l'élevage, la protection des plantes, de l'environnement et des forêts, la pêche, etc.

Le Gouvernement a prêté une attention particulière à l'élaboration d'une stratégie pour assister socialement l'ensemble des zones rurales et en particulier soulager la pauvreté dans les zones rurales à faible développement économique. Il a également été attentif à élaborer des politiques sectorielles afin d'aider les agriculteurs privés, par des subventions, à faire face à certaines dépenses d'irrigation ou de mécanisation, etc.

Ces mesures ont stoppé la chute de la production agricole, qui s'améliore même rapidement de jour en jour en Albanie.

La production totale agricoles, de 1992 par rapport à 1991, s'est accrue sensiblement. On prévoit un accroissement supérieur cette année. La stratégie à court terme a pour objectif d'obtenir en 1995 le niveau le plus élevé de la production agricole réalisé jusqu'à maintenant en Albanie.

Nous sommes actuellement dans la phase finale de privatisation des terres. Certaines difficultés restent encore à régler notamment dans nos relations avec les ex-propriétaires, ou dans la création d'organismes d'enregistrement de la terre et d'organisation du marché de la terre, processus qui sera consolidé par le droit de l'individu sur la terre.

Le Gouvernement albanais prête actuellement une attention particulière à la privatisation rapide des petites et moyennes entreprises de l'industrie agro-alimentaire. Ce processus se déroule à un rythme satisfaisant.

L'Albanie jouit de ressources naturelles nombreuses lui donnant une place importante parmi les producteurs de produits agro-alimentaires, tant sur le marché intérieur qu'à l'exportation vers les autres pays d'Europe.

Dans ce contexte, les forêts représentent une ressource potentielle du pays. Il faut donc encourager le développement de l'infrastructure de ce secteur, l'extension des superficies forestales, l'afforestation ainsi que la lutte contre l'érosion, et la protection de la flore et de la faune.

Nos objectifs visent à assurer très rapidement, et de façon considérable, la sécurité alimentaire du pays en utilisant graduellement les aides et les crédits des différents organismes donateurs pour le soutien et l'élargissement des activités de production, l'amélioration de la technologie, le développement rural des zones particulières, le soutien de la recherche, la formation des experts albanais, etc.

Le Gouvernement albanais apprécie le rôle positif joué par la FAO pour soutenir la restructuration de l'agriculture albanaise vers une économie de marché, dont l'assistance technique l'aide à résoudre les problèmes de privatisation, de marketing, de législation agricole et alimentaire, d'étude et d'évaluation des ressources en eau et des ressources forestières avant d'entamer le développement de projets de coopération technique.

Le Gouvernement albanais est convaincu, dans les conditions actuelles, que le succès économique du passage à une économie de marché dépend du succès de la réforme agraire. Un Plan de développement économique à court terme, pour 1993-96, a dernièrement été approuvé dans lequel la restructuration de l'agriculture occupe une place importante et notable.

La politique macro-économique du Gouvernement, pour la période 1994-1996, tend à ce que la production agricole couvre les principaux besoins du pays en denrées alimentaires, et vise d'une part la diminution graduelle de l'aide alimentaire de la Communauté européenne et, d'autre part, l'accroissement de l'aide des donateurs bilatéraux et multilatéraux.

Pour la période 1994-96, il est prévu une croissance agricole annuelle de 7-9 pour cent, c'est-à-dire une stabilisation de la production selon les priorités suivantes: les produits de l'élevage 50 pour cent, les céréales panifiables 20 pour cent, les légumes 20 pour cent et les autres produits 18 pour cent. La stratégie suivie pour atteindre ces objectifs est basée sur les trois axes suivants : la poursuite de la politique de stimulation des prix, l'amélioration des infrastructures rurales, et le soutien des agriculteurs par des crédits et des programmes spéciaux.

Le programme prévoit aussi le soutien des agriculteurs privés pour leur permettre de transformer leurs petites exploitations en exploitations commercialement plus rentables en augmentant leurs parts de marché.

Pour réaliser ces objectifs, des mesures seront prises au cours des années 1994-96, sur les points suivants: des investissements pour la reconstruction du système d'irrigation et l'amélioration des structures d'activité du secteur de l'eau; les fournitures de l'agriculture (des intrants, machinisme agricole, semences, fertilisants, pesticides, etc.); la mise en place des structures nécessaires pour la commercialisation, le transport, le service et la promotion des produits agricoles.

Le Gouvernement poussera l'agriculture à s'approvisionner en intrants, en poursuivant une politique d'encouragement de crédits et d'impôts douaniers.

Le soutien du Gouvernement aux populations des zones rurales pauvres afin d'alléger la pauvreté et d'améliorer le niveau de vie de la population se fait au moyen de crédits et par des projets encourageant la production agricole et l'élevage, l'infrastructure et l'emploi de mains d'oeuvres disponibles. La mise au point d'un service d'assistance technique et de conseils aux agriculteurs privés est un autre objectif du programme.

L'agriculture albanaise a besoin de réaliser des projets et des applications, pour améliorer et aménager ses systèmes d'irrigation, pour développer la viticulture dans les zones rurales pauvres, pour la production de semences, et pour l'exploitation optimale des ressources agricoles.

Elle a besoin d'une assistance technique au service des agriculteurs privés, de former des spécialistes, de restructurer la recherche pour mieux s'orienter vers l'application de solutions, pour les connaissances en marketing, l'introduction aux nouvelles technologies dont l'Europe a une riche expérience.

Pour tout cela, nous sommes convaincus que la FAO n'épargnera ni son assistance ni son aide et nous espérons qu'une priorité sera accordée à l'Albanie qui est désireuse de mobiliser ses réserves matérielles et humaines, jeunes et pleines de vitalité pour le développement de la production agricole.

Nous sommes convaincus que le nouveau Directeur général mettra sur pied une stratégie visant à résoudre les défis de cette fin de siècle rencontrés par notre Organisation, afin de promouvoir et de protéger la production agricole, les patrimoines génétiques -notre héritage commun- ainsi que la diversité de nos espèces pour le bien des générations futures.

La FAO, sous la direction du Directeur général, s'orientera vers de nouvelles tâches internationales et vers les priorités de ses pays membres, apportant une contribution particulière à l'accroissement de la production agricole, et une aide à la finalisation des processus de restructuration économique, au développement des politiques agricoles, et des politiques des prix des produits agricoles, et à la réduction "gap technologique" entre les pays d'Europe et les autres dans des conditions agricoles comparables.

La délégation albanaise, unissant ses espoirs à ceux du monde entier, espère que la FAO, comme toujours, sera dans l'avenir un forum mondial de l'agriculture, de la politique agricole et de l'assistance. Je vous remercie.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, distinguished delegate of Albania. Distinguished delegates, that statement takes us to the end of this morning's session. Before we rise, I would like to thank all the delegates who have participated in this morning's session. We have had some fourteen statements made this morning, and I think that all the delegates have cooperated in keeping their statements within the fifteen-minute limit. When we resume this afternoon, there will be some fifteen delegations which we expect to hear from, beginning with the delegate of the Cook Islands. We will also expect to have the report of the General Committee this afternoon. With that, I would wish to bring this morning's session to a close.

The meeting rose at 13 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

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Twenty-seventh Session

PLENARY

Vingt-septième session

PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones

PLENARIAL

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

11ª SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1993)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Inatio AKARURÜ (Cook Islands): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, as this Organization approaches the fiftieth year of its existence, it enters a new era in which the bipolar international environment that we have all known for so long has largely disappeared. Unfortunately, as we all know, many problems still impact upon and challenges face this Organization.

The global media has brought this reality into our daily lives, no matter how distant we may actually be from such problems. We are better informed of the situations in certain countries and parts of the world than our fathers would have ever thought possible.

On the basis of that exposure alone, we might be forgiven for thinking that such problems, albeit serious, were nevertheless limited in geographical scope, and that other parts of the world of which we hear little or nothing, are free from difficulties. That, of course, Mr Chairman, is far from the truth.

Little appears in the media about the small island States of the South Pacific. The common image is that of tiny oceanic paradises where life is supposedly easy and work all but unnecessary. Those far away rarely, if ever, think of, or understand, the problems faced in attempting to meet routine needs, including the production of food from our soils and the seas around us. Many small island States in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and elsewhere share a wide range of common problems such as:

The high cost of administering and providing essential services to widely dispersed islands; limited manpower and expertise in many areas crucial to development; high transport and communications costs; small-scaled production and domestic markets; dependence on a narrow range of tropical products for export to volatile world commodity markets; vulnerability of domestic foods and livestock to exotic plant and animal diseases; heavy and, in many cases, increasing dependence on food imports, emphasizing the importance of food security; very large fishing zones, important for subsistence and commercial production, but which at the same time are both vulnerable to foreign exploitation and costly to manage; narrow, low-lying coastal zones that are threatened by sea-level rise and population growth; often weak linkages between agriculture, forestry and fishing and "growth sectors" of economies, such as tourism; and frequent natural disasters which strike our region such as cyclones.

Such problems place the small island States into a special, sizeable category of FAO Members, and we join with previous speakers in urging the Organization to accord them particular consideration and assistance tailored to their special developmental requirements.

Comprising 15 tiny islands spread over some 1.2 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean, the Cook Islands suffers many of the problems which I have just listed. Divided into Northern and Southern Groups, with our main

island and capital in the South, our most distant island, for example, is some 720 miles north of the capital. A coral atoll of only a few square kilometres in land area and less than 1 000 inhabitants, its economy had long been based on copra until recent years saw the virtual collapse of the market. Apart from fish and coconuts, staple foods throughout the Cook Islands, all other food and materials are imported, oil and fertilizer from half a world away. Other islands and peoples of the North experience similar conditions.

Even on the main island and other islands in the Southern Group, the difficulties are considerable. Land holdings for food cultivation are often very small, allowing few if any economies of scale. Although often fertile, the soil still needs costly and sometimes scarce, imported supplements.

With very limited capacity to increase public sector employment, we must expand employment opportunities within the agricultural and fisheries sectors to enable our people to earn both a good living and to remain on their own islands rather than being forced to better their positions through emigration.

Although some constraints cannot be overcome, at least completely, the situation is nevertheless hopeful. As foodstuffs comprise fully one quarter of the Cook Islands' total imports, for example, there is ample scope to increase agricultural production and fisheries activity. Furthermore, an expanding visitor industry has served to heighten that demand.

In sum, the Cook Islands' agricultural sector is in a unique position to simultaneously promote tourism, retain an increasing proportion of tourist expenditure in the country, contribute to a reduction in the balance of trade deficit and broaden private sector participation in the economy.

Some progress has been made in that regard. However, demand remains largely unsatisfied and there is much scope for expanding production. To address that situation, my Government is endeavouring to make agriculture competitive, profitable and an attractive choice for income generation.

To enhance profitability and competitiveness, for example, priority is being given to increasing productivity and reducing costs of production. This will be achieved to a large degree by strengthening the Research and Extension Services of the Ministry of Agriculture. As well, efforts are under way to develop adequate irrigation systems. Encouragement is also being given to the establishment of small-scale agro-processing plants and export ventures aimed at targeting niche markets, thus increasing farm income especially for those living in the Outer Islands.

Access to sufficient farm land has posed a major constraint to making commercial agriculture attractive as a full-time occupation. Various possibilities are being explored to overcome this problem, including the zoning of prime agricultural land.

Since time began, the Cook Islands have looked to the sea and their lagoon waters for daily subsistence. While still true particularly in the Outer Islands, there is also scope to expand fishing and other marine activities to satisfy a growing local demand for foodstuffs and as alternative sources of permanent employment.

My Government's aim, therefore, is to make optimum use of the resources found within both the Cook Islands' large exclusive economic zone and in

the potentially rich lagoons of our Northern atolls. Encouragement is given to the establishment of fishing fleets through joint ventures and the development of aquacultural projects to cultivate black pearls and other marine products such as bêche-de-mer. We would like to express our appreciation to FAO for its assistance in this regard, as well as for the provision of valuable legal advice concerning domestic fisheries legislation.

In light of our own situation, Mr Chairman, my Government considers the Medium-Term Plan for 1994-99 to be a positive contribution towards setting the course of this Organization for the next five years, and we support in principle the various programme and sub-programme objectives contained therein.

I wish to touch on certain aspects of the Plan and the FAO's operations that the Cook Islands considers to be of primary importance.

My Government is pleased to see strengthening of activities relating to environment and sustainable development in support of Agenda 21 activities; in particular, the areas of emphasis endorsed by the Council and the increased importance to be given to coastal zones and small islands. The specific project relating to the protection of coastal fisheries from inland sources of national legislation and institutional capacities both coincide with our own ongoing, high priority activities.

As a small, low-lying island country, the Cook Islands endorses FAO's activities relating to climate change, as any significant rise in sea levels could threaten the very existence of a number of its islands. Biodiversity, of course, is of crucial importance to us all, and the proposed medium-term, post-UNCED follow-up action has our full support.

The Cook Islands has long recognized the importance of women in the development process as well as people being directly involved at the grass-roots level in planning and implementing their own programmes and my Government is pleased with the priority assigned by the FAO.

My Government also supports SARD and its expansion to include forestry and fisheries activities, the latter being of high priority for us. It looks forward to participating actively in SARD activities during 1994-95.

The Cook Islands considers the Natural Resources Programme as being particularly important in the context of development of small-scale farming operations in its Outer Islands, where employment options are very limited. At the same time, FAO activities concerning water supply development must continue to complement rather than overlap those of other UN Agencies.

FAO's activities concerning plant protection and pesticides are particularly valuable and directly relevant to our own efforts. Programmes relating to the production utilization and marketing of cassava, sweet potato, yam and other root crops which are grown in the Cook Islands are also of great potential, and we would like to see taro included in those being studied.

Agricultural engineering and rural agro-processing are similarly of key importance to the Cook Islands, particularly in the context of the Outer Islands development, and the need to realize value added benefits for our rural producers.

In common with many other developing members, the Cook Islands assigns high priority to FAO activities relating to assistance in policy advice for sustainable agricultural and rural development, and those aimed at updating agricultural extension services, improving marketing services and infrastructure, and making finance more readily available to the Outer Islands.

My Government has instituted a special nutrition programme encouraging farmers in the Outer Islands to grow fresh fruits, vegetables, livestock and poultry for home consumption and, wherever possible, sale on the local market.

FAO activities undertaken through its nutrition programme, therefore, are of great interest to the Cook Islands.

Marine fisheries are of vital concern to many FAO Members, including the Cook Islands. The fishery activities of this Organization are of great value, and we look to the FAO to maintain a strictly balanced approach to fisheries matters between the interests of coastal states and distant water fishing nations.

Recent years have taught us that practical and legal limits must be imposed on the principle of freedom of the seas as it applies to fishing. Fisheries, Mr Chairman, must be managed and exploited in a sustainable manner and based on a precautionary approach.

The FAO is to be commended for its efforts regarding both the reflagging convention and the development of an International Code of Conduct or Responsible Fishing.

My Government looks forward to receiving information of proposed activities relating to the Code's further refinement.

At the same time, we consider that the continuing efforts to formulate and develop that Code must serve to complement rather than conflict with negotiations taking place elsewhere, most notably at the United Nations Conference in New York on straddling stocks and highly migratory species.

The Cook Islands has benefited from a small but very useful FAO forestry project in the Outer Islands, for which I wish to express our appreciation.

As a small island State, My Government often lacks the manpower or technical expertise to address critical problems in specialized areas within FAO's mandate such as those I mentioned, and the Technical Cooperation Programme provides an ideal vehicle for the Organization to assist the Cook Islands and other countries facing similar constraints in a form tailor-made to our needs and supplementing such assistance as may be made available through sectoral programme activities.

The Cook Islands share the paramount personnel management concern expressed in the Medium-Term Plan, regarding the ability of this Organization to attract and retain staff of the required calibre. Given the resource constraints faced by FAO, we strongly support the statement by the Independent Chairman of the Council earlier this week, that "the FAO's greatest asset is the quality of its staff members" and his emphasis on the need to resist nepotism and to focus on professionalism within the Organization.

In that regard, the Cook Islands wishes to pay special tribute to the recipients of the B.R. Sen Awards. They are excellent examples of the great many dedicated men and women working in FAO. We must welcome and indeed encourage their constructive comments, ideas and advice as being essential for future improved operations of our Organization.

We would like to welcome the new FAO Members, and my Government looks forward to working closely with them for the common good of the Organization.

The Cook Islands would be remiss in not recognizing the part played by the out-going Director-General, Dr Saouma, in the evolution of this Organization.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my Government would like to congratulate most sincerely Dr Jacques Diouf on his election as Director-General. The Prime Minister of the Cook Islands and I each had the personal pleasure to receive him in the Cook Islands earlier this year and to discuss with him both our Government's own development plans and his personal ideas regarding the future operations of this Organization. We are confident, therefore, that we have in our new Director-General an individual with not only a knowledge of but also a genuine interest in the small, Pacific Island Members of the FAO. We are greatly heartened by his pledge to work on behalf of all members of this Organization. There will be difficult times ahead and difficult decisions to make, but Dr Diouf will be able to count on the wholehearted support of all those seeking to better the FAO and to work to achieve the objectives for which it was established. My Government, Mr Chairman, will do everything possible to assist him in his task. And thanks to you all.

Ram Chandra POUDEL (Nepal): Mr Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, may I extend, on behalf of my delegation and on my own, as a Minister of Agriculture and Local Government of Nepal, our hearty congratulation on your election to the Chair of this august body.

I also take this opportunity to extend our hearty congratulations to the Director-General elect, Mr Jacques Diouf. I would also like to welcome and congratulate the new Members including South Africa in our FAO family.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to use this forum also to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr Edouard Saouma for his outstanding contribution as the Director-General of the Organization for nearly two decades. We wish him a long, healthy, happy and prosperous life.

Mr Chairman, we are meeting in this Conference at a juncture of history when, while an unprecedented capacity to feed and nourish the entire humanity has been created, an equally unprecedented number of people are forced to be deprived of food and other basic necessities of life. In fact, the problem of hunger, malnutrition and poverty has become one of an alarming dimension.

The seeming benefits to human society of bio-technology notwithstanding, a large majority of plant and animal species provided to us by mother nature are yet unexplored. My own country, Nepal, abounds in bio-diversity. Our experience so far shows that countries like Nepal need concrete assistance in enhancing their capacities in conserving and utilizing bio-diversity to

the benefit of the mass. Nepal is willing to cooperate with other countries in this noble endeavour.

It has become our vested interest as well as collective responsibility to join minds as well as hands in order to seek for a solution to the above problems. We believe that there is a solution. But, to have that, we need to address certain issues - collectively and in a forum like this. The issues facing us today are:

- How best to extend the globally available technology in food production to where it is needed most?
- How best to balance the present needs and aspirations against the requirement of the future?; and
- How best to conserve and sustainably use the plant, animal and other natural resources of this globe?

In a nutshell, Mr Chairman, how can we steer technology, nature and mankind in a balanced way on the road to development? Perhaps this is the question that the present civilization of ours is seeking for an answer. I feel that the overriding goal of an international forum like this should be directed to this noble cause.

It is with this background that Nepal comes to this Conference and views the agenda and the documents prepared for it.

Soon after the present popularly elected government took office in 1991, our priority has been to give a sense of direction to the economy and its development since it is our firm belief that without commensurate economic achievements political changes alone cannot benefit the people. Given the pivotal role played by agriculture in our economy, Nepal's eighth Five-Year Plan (1992-97) has accorded top-most priority to agricultural development and has set as its goals: poverty alleviation, environmental protection and sustainable development, and enhancement of people's participation. Within this framework, a number of priority areas for the food and agricultural sector were identified, including: food security and nutrition; efficient growth of the sector based on agro-ecological comparative advantage; diversification and intensification of agriculture based on farmers' resource endowment; promotion of sustainable farming systems, and a greater market-orientation. In addition, the enhanced role of NGOs in development is also a part of our development strategy.

In recent years, we have taken a number of measures directed towards achieving these goals. A high-level National Environment Protection Council is set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. This apart, a bottom-up planning approach has been adopted where plans are formulated by the local people themselves at the village and the district levels. A separate division with a mandate to assist women farmers has also been created in the Ministry of Agriculture. Similarly, a unified extension service has been formed and an autonomous agricultural research system that can respond to the country's priority of hill and rainfed agriculture has been established.

We have also embarked on the task of preparing a perspective plan for the entire agriculture sector of the country with a longer time horizon. In fact, some of the problems identified in FAO's "Agriculture Towards 2010", namely one of limited natural resource base and its over-exploitation

amidst a rapidly growing population, are also the issues facing Nepal, this planning exercise, we are attempting to address issues such as enhancement and sustainability of agricultural growth in order to meet demand of increasing population, appropriate strategy for minimizing environment and development trade-offs, and the trade-offs between aggregate growth and interregional and interhousehold disparities, etc. Issues such as poverty alleviation and participatory rural development also be addressed. We seek FAO's assistance in this exercise as we progress.

Mr Chairman, I am also pleased to mention that within the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), we have been able to initiate a process to develop, promote and accelerate closer collaborative efforts for the enhancement of, among other things, agricultural production, and science and technology.

Mr Chairman, while we strive for a sustained agricultural growth, the sector continues to be affected by natural disasters. In Nepal, a severe and widespread drought of 1992 and the damaging hailstones of early 1993 were followed by floods and landslides in different parts of the country in mid-1993. These natural calamities did not only take tolls in terms of valuable human life but also damaged vital infrastructures and cut down harvests. While reporting this, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Director-General for his quick response to our appeal for help in our efforts to rehabilitate agriculture. The assistance of the Organization, through the emergency Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects, has been of immense help to the affected families. Considering such events in Nepal and many other developing countries we strongly support the Director-General's proposal on TCP. I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to World Food Programme and other multilateral agencies and friendly countries for their kind assistance and deep concern shown to the distressed people affected by the drought and recent floods and landslides in Nepal.

At this point let me also state that the role played by FAO Representation in developing countries like ours for the promotion of agricultural development is crucial. They are instrumental in availing us such critically important inputs as technical advice and information apart from serving as a source of link between Nepal and FAO.

On the broader agenda of the Organization, we find the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95, as proposed by the Director-General, to be in conformity with our needs and priorities. With my firm conviction that the Programme will be translated into action, I express Nepal's full support to it.

Mr Chairman, the Agenda of this Conference and the documents prepared by the Secretariat cover a wide range of topics and issues. What I have presented here has touched upon only a few of them. Nevertheless, I assure you that members of my delegation will be presenting Nepal's view on specific aspects as we progress in this Conference.

Before concluding, I would like to express our appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Italy for their warm hospitality. I also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the untiring efforts made by the Secretariat in preparing for a successful Conference.

Jacinto JIJON CAAMAÑO BARBA (Ecuador): Señor Presidente, señores delegados del Director General, señores delegados, señoras y señores. Es una de las primeras intervenciones en este foro un distinguido Jefe de Delegación señaló, con mucha verdad, que el origen de toda cultura es, precisamente, la agricultura. Quisiera elaborar un poco sobre este concepto diciendo que, más aún, salvo algún caso realmente extraordinario, todo proceso de desarrollo económico y social de un pueblo o un país ha estado históricamente, está y seguirá estando, íntimamente ligado al desarrollo agrícola de esa nación.

No es una coincidencia que aquellas regiones del mundo con un mayor desarrollo industrial, y aquellas con el más alto nivel de desarrollo social, cuenten además con los mejores índices de productividad agrícola. Tampoco fue una coincidencia histórica que la Inglaterra del siglo XVIII, cuna de la revolución industrial y tecnológica, haya -antes- desarrollado y popularizado la más avanzada tecnología agrícola de la Europa de ese tiempo. Por fin, el desarrollo industrial de los Estados Unidos de América vino luego de que ese país se había convertido en la más grande potencia agrícola del mundo.

Me parece evidente, señor Presidente, señoras y señores, que el mundo está ahora mismo en el umbral de una nueva de aquellas grandes revoluciones que han transformado a la Humanidad. La revolución del comercio y el dominio de los mares cambiaron la geopolítica de los siglos XV y XVI, pero dieron paso también a un cambio cultural sin precedentes. La revolución de la industria y el dominio primero de la energía afectaron en los siglos XVIII y XIX, no solamente a las instituciones productivas, sino, directa y profundamente, a cada uno de todos los habitantes de la Tierra.

El desarrollo tecnológico de las últimas décadas ha cubierto casi todos los campos de la ciencia y del quehacer humano; pero esta vez no son los elementos de fuerza bruta, el dominio de cantidades, cada vez mayores, de energía, los que forjarán los nuevos rumbos de la Humanidad. Al contrario, la velocidad y la cobertura global de las comunicaciones, la informática en todas sus aplicaciones y formas, y la ingeniería genética, tendrán en los próximos -muy próximos- años consecuencias en la forma de vida de los pueblos, en la forma de trabajo de los hombres y mujeres de esta misma generación, consecuencias que ahora apenas alcanzamos a adivinar.

La "globalización de la economía", como se denomina al hecho de que las fronteras artificiales van cediendo, al menos en lo económico, a la presión ineludible de esas realidades, es -diríamos- un primer y elemental síntoma de las transformaciones que se avecinan. Otro fenómeno del proceso de evolución es el nuevo rol de los Estados y su relación con los ciudadanos : un rol subsidiario ante la creciente y protagónica participación de hombres y mujeres cada vez mejor informados y capacitados. Por fin -y esto habla bien de la naturaleza humana- los conceptos de solidaridad, por un lado, y de libertad por otro, están dejando de ser privilegio de altruistas, para convertirse en piezas fundamentales del pensamiento humano.

Y vale la pena que se haga hincapié en que estos fenómenos de la "globalización de la economía", del rol subsidiario de los Estados, de la libertad y de la solidaridad, no son, de ninguna manera, temas de decisión política. Puesto que no se eliminarán las telecomunicaciones, ni la informática, ni el fax, ni la cobertura inmediata de los medios de comunicación, no es cuestión de aceptar o no aceptar políticamente la nueva realidad. Es cuestión, esto sí, de saber o no saber entender y aprovechar una coyuntura histórica irreversible. Igual se equivocarían los pueblos

chicos si pretendiesen mantener formas de aislamiento, como los grandes si pensarán en términos de autosuficiencia.

No está dicha cuál será la forma de vida del siglo XXI; pero está claro que será substancialmente diferente de la actual. Quienes sepan intuir la tendencia podrán liderar el futuro de la humanidad.

La supervivencia y la utilidad de las organizaciones locales, nacionales e internacionales se ponen a prueba precisamente en las épocas de cambio universal.- La FAO, en su indiscutible rol de directora moral del pensamiento agrícola en el Mundo, tiene ahora más que nunca el reto y la responsabilidad de asumir el liderazgo en una de las áreas de mayor trascendencia para la Humanidad: la agricultura.

Por varias décadas, y en muchas partes del mundo -y eso incluye a Latinoamérica- se creyó en un modelo de desarrollo basado en una industrialización compulsiva, supuestamente planificada, destinada a la sustitución de importaciones. Los resultados puramente económicos quedaron cortos con respecto a las expectativas, y los resultados en términos de desarrollo social han sido en general desastrosos. Creo que se pueden establecer cuatro grandes razones para el fracaso del modelo:

Primera: Porque el modelo de sustitución de importaciones y de proteccionismo interno conllevaba un peligroso germen de aislamiento político y económico.

Segunda: Porque era un modelo de desarrollo no armónico, que rezagaba a otras ramas de la actividad económica, en especial a la agricultura.

Tercera: Porque en su afán de promover pequeñas autosuficiencias, el modelo olvidaba el más elemental principio económico de las ventajas comparativas. Y, tal vez la más importante, la

Cuarta: Porque el modelo era apreciablemente anti-agrario. En efecto, la agricultura se vio no solamente olvidada y perjudicada por omisión, sino que fue en general obligada a subsidiar al proceso de industrialización. Para probar este punto basta citar unos poquísimos ejemplos:

- Intervenciones directas sobre los precios agrícolas tendientes a la provisión de alimentos baratos para la población urbana, industrial.
- Políticas macroeconómicas distorsionadas que gravaban la competitividad del sector agrícola.
- Desestabilización de la tendencia de la tierra y sus fuentes de trabajo con el consiguiente éxodo de mano de obra a las ciudades.

Quisiera, señor Presidente, referirme ahora brevemente a la política agraria del Ecuador y del Gobierno que tengo el honor de representar. Y quisiera hacerlo no como una declaración de principios para cumplir con el programa de esta Conferencia, sino más bien como una manera de intercambiar información sobre nuestra realidad, con el objeto de que ésta pueda servir para fomentar posibles relaciones de intercambio y cooperación.

En el campo interno, la política agrícola del Gobierno ecuatoriano se establece en los siguientes términos generales:

1. Liberalización de los mercados de insumos y de productos agropecuarios y agroindustriales.
2. Apertura de la economía al comercio regional y mundial.
3. Eliminación de subsidios y de restricciones cuantitativas y no arancelarias al comercio agrícola.
4. La intervención del estado en actividades relacionadas con investigación, estudios, capacitación, asesoría y asistencia técnica, promoción, etc.
- 5 El plan de riego y programas de Desarrollo Rural en beneficio de los agricultores más pobres.
- 6 La desinversión estatal en áreas de producción directa, comercialización, almacenamiento y, sobre todo, subsidios.
7. El aprovechamiento y conservación de los recursos naturales y del medio ambiente, estímulo a la reforestación y al desarrollo sostenible

En el campo de las relaciones internacionales, señor Presidente, señores delegados, en ese campo y en el del comercio agrícola, el Ecuador propugna, por un lado, la apertura de los mercados como la más valedera opción de solidaridad internacional para el desarrollo económico y social de nuestros pueblos y, por otro, la eliminación total de políticas de subsidios y de "dumping" cuya consecuencia es la destrucción de la estructura misma de las economías más débiles.

En el Ecuador, como en todos los países en desarrollo, se necesita que se fomenten los mecanismos de financiamiento y de inversión en el campo agrícola y de desarrollo rural. Necesita de la comunidad internacional en general, y de la FAO en particular, asistencia técnica y financiera, impulso a la producción y exportación de productos competitivos no tradicionales y, sobre todo, apoyo a los esfuerzos de liberalización del comercio, sin los cuales resultaría absurdo pensar en un desarrollo sostenido y sostenible de nuestra economía.

Si bien la globalización de la economía es una tendencia que he tratado de describir como una necesidad histórica, también el medio ambiente y, por lo tanto, la calidad de la vida futura en el planeta son prioridades de interés global.

El Ecuador ha logrado mantener un claro liderazgo en el tema de la conservación ecológica, tanto en las Islas Galápagos como en una importante red de parques y reservas ecológicas en el interior del país.

El Gobierno ecuatoriano está, por lo demás, profundamente consciente de los gravísimos problemas de contaminación, deforestación, degradación de recursos, etc., que afectan a la calidad de su medio ambiente. Pero debe notarse, por otro lado, que la dificultad de mantener el entorno es tanto mayor cuanto menor sea la capacidad financiera de un país. A nivel regional y global, creemos que una de las materias de mayor y más urgente atención por parte de las organizaciones internacionales debe ser el problema de la deforestación de la Amazonia. Vale mencionar que, en la vertiente oriental de los Andes ecuatorianos, ya se han sentido en los últimos años los síntomas climáticos y pluviométricos que resultan de esa deforestación: miles de kilómetros allende de sus fronteras.

Permítame, señor Presidente, que termine felicitándole en nombre del Ecuador por la acertadísima conducción de esta Conferencia, y que haga llegar, igualmente en nombre de mi país y su Gobierno, la más calurosa felicitación, tanto al Dr. Edouard Saouma por tantos años de abnegada y fructífera labor, como al Dr. Jacques Diouf, por su elección como nuevo Director General de la FAO. Que Dios le ilumine y le guíe en esta difícil tarea de servicio a la Humanidad. (Continúa en inglés).

I would like to take the opportunity of this forum to present to His Holiness the Pope John Paul II a message from my Government in the sense that we are extremely concerned for his health, much preoccupied and very thankful for his participation in this Conference, and I would like to move - if it has not been done before, that the Conference as such would send a message to the Pope wishing him the fastest and best recovery.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, distinguished delegate of Ecuador. I would just like to inform the distinguished delegate and others who may not have heard that the Conference this morning took note of the accident of the Pope yesterday, of the speech that he delivered to us yesterday, and we have sent a message thanking him for his speech and hoping for his early and fullest recovery.

Ntsukunyane MPHANYA (Lesotho): It is an honour and privilege for me to have the opportunity to address the FAO Conference for the first time since I assumed the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Co-operatives and Marketing. I first of all wish to extend to this Conference warm greeting and messages of goodwill from the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Dr Ntsu Mokhehle, his Government and the people of Lesotho.

I would also like to associate my delegation with other delegations who have congratulated you, Mr Chairman, and your bureau for the unanimous election to the high office of this august body. We are confident that under your able leadership and guidance the deliberations of this Conference will be carried to the successful conclusion.

Please allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to commend the outgoing Director-General Dr Edouard Saouma for the selfless service rendered to this organization during the time of his stewardship. He should take comfort in the fact that the majority of us believe that he served with distinction, always bearing the interests of the least-privileged communities into full consideration. We wish him a happy and refreshing retirement.

We, at the same time, wish to welcome the new Director-General Dr Jacques Diouf and congratulate him for his deserving victory in the elections which were preceded by a massive campaign which has not been seen within the United Nations system. We are looking forward to a fruitful partnership as he delivers promises made during his campaign.

Reference has been made in the FAO Medium-term Plan 1994-99 regarding the daunting challenges confronting Africa. Among these challenges, we can single out erratic rainfall and current drought, pest infestation, desertification resulting from declining soil fertility and soil and water erosion, and the generally low level of technology applied by farmers. In particular, in the past three years the southern African sub-region,

including Lesotho, was plagued with long spells of drought which resulted in the active shortage of food supplies and water for both people and animals. We are grateful for assistance rendered by the international community during these difficult years of our time.

We are, however, not yet out of danger considering that in Lesotho we still have a shortfall of grains supply of 200.4 tonnes for the 1993-94 marketing year. We have embarked on a programme to reduce this deficit, and plan to achieve self-sufficiency in the foreseeable future.

Addressing ourselves to the long-term solution of our problems, we are aware that for some time now the African governments have been making serious attempts to deal with the aforementioned challenges. They did so utilizing FAO expertise to the maximum extent possible within the FAO's limited resources. For example, through the assistance of FAO, national irrigation policies have been formulated. Expanded aid-in-kind for agricultural inputs was suggested by FAO and welcomed by African Governments. It has also been proposed and accepted that if African farmers are to break out of the subsistence level category and be able to feed themselves, they should have access to more and better farm power, tools and equipment. But all these efforts and proposals are meaningless without clear and unambiguous support from the donor community.

Indeed, it is regretted that the donor community has been less enthusiastic to include the proposed solutions to the African problems in the package of their assistance to agricultural projects in Africa. This has been so, irrespective of the fact that African farmers, like those in Lesotho, have always been prepared to pay for the cost of the assistance as long as they were offered credit facilities. Instead, series of attempts have been made, perhaps with good intentions, to imagine solutions to African problems; solutions not based on research.

We feel it is about time that the international community takes a critical examination of all proposals made so far by FAO in favour of Africa, with a view to assist African governments with resources to implement these proposals on an incremental basis. The International Fund for Agricultural Development is showing the way within its own limited possibilities. It is now up to the donor countries to play their part. One of the safe and preferred systems would be "Trust Funds" allocated to FAO to finance, supervise and monitor projects in Africa which are well designed and within the social habits of their communities.

Speaking about the design of projects based on research and/or experiments, we are reminded that FAO is able to perform these activities under the Technical Cooperation Programme Fund. Unfortunately, budget allocations made to this fund under the "regular resources" do not always match the demands. It is for this reason that the proposal made under the "review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations" in 1989 continues to be relevant.

It was proposed then that: "In addition to the allocation from the regular programme funds to the Technical Cooperation Programme, the possibility of attracting voluntary contributions for Technical Cooperation Programme be further explored. Consideration should also be given to utilize the bilateral trust funds for Technical Cooperation Programme". We strongly feel that this recommendations needs to be further pursued and progress on it be reported during the 1995 Conference. It is a challenge that we place before the new Director-General of FAO.

In the meantime, the African governments should not despair. Instead, they should rise up to the challenges with even greater determination within their limited means. The new democratic Government in Lesotho intends to do just that. On assessing the past and present performance of agricultural sector in Lesotho, the new Government has found it desirable to adopt new strategies and approaches in order to achieve the required results from agricultural activities. In order to provide clear direction to donors for their intervention with technical and financial assistance in specific programmes, we wish to expound briefly on the intentions of the new Government- of Lesotho.

The highest priority is placed on the protection of the land base from further deterioration. Aggressive soil and water conservation programmes are being pursued through conservation farming systems, which encompass both production on the land while the resource is being protected from deterioration. The watershed management system and environment protection technologies are being improved. In general, we reiterate our commitment to the conclusions of the Rio Conference and to a follow-up implementation of suitable recommendations of Agenda 21. In this regard, the Government has taken a concrete step by establishing the Ministry of Natural Resources, and we are in the process of establishing an environmental secretariat under the Prime Minister's office.

We would also like to renew our support to the conclusions of the International Conference on Nutrition which was held in this beautiful and historic city of Rome in December 1992. In this regard, we have already embarked on nutrition and food security projects which are being implemented by the people at the grassroots level.

With respect to production, the Government of Lesotho has instituted an extensive campaign for increased and improved productivity in both crops and livestock. Taking advantage of relatively good rains for the 1993-94 cropping year, and in order to meet the farmers half-way, a fleet of Government-owned tractors have been distributed in all 65 constituencies to complement the private tractor service. Not surprisingly, the farmers are quite prepared to pay for this service which is intended to facilitate timely preparation of soil and planting of crops.

Livestock farming practices are being improved, and rangeland laws are being reviewed with the active participation of the farming communities.

In order to rationalize agricultural activities and Government involvement, commercialization and privatization are being encouraged and supported.

As far as we can manage, we also consider it imperative to provide further incentives in the form of proper input packages to farmers on reasonable terms. To this end, lending institutions are motivated to consider favourable lending policies for agricultural activities.

The Government strives to achieve its aims and strategies for agricultural development through the involvement of farmers themselves in the planning, design and implementation of agricultural projects, avoiding tendencies to impose projects on people. The people's participation is being encouraged by mobilizing cooperative organizations, farmers' associations, and other grassroots' groupings through the improved extension services of the Ministry of Agriculture. In organizing cooperative undertakings we are mindful that they should be based on shared responsibility of risks and liabilities, accountability and mutual interdependence. The Government is

also formulating an aggressive training programme for farmers. The intention is to maximize utilization of the National Cooperative College, the Agricultural College and several farmers' training centres in the country.

For the rural people with limited access to land or no land at all, the Lesotho Government is devising, encouraging and supporting other forms of income-generating activities. These activities, which are done through local initiatives at village/rural level and mostly by women in cooperative undertakings include, among other things, small-scale intensive livestock production; handicrafts; cookery; and brick-laying. In the process, the communities themselves are encouraged to mobilize funds according to accepted social norms.

Notwithstanding our determination to help ourselves, we are painfully mindful that the success of the outlined Lesotho Government intentions will depend on the availability of supportive resources and technical assistance from friendly donor governments and international organizations, including FAO.

For FAO to fulfil its mandate of providing the required technical assistance, it needs an operational budget. The Director-General's proposal on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 is before this Conference for consideration. It is a product of intensive discussions by FAO Technical Committees, the Programme and Finance Committees, the Secretariat and the Council, we therefore feel comfortable to lend our support and recommend its unanimous approval.

Let me conclude by congratulating the new members to the FAO. I particularly wish to congratulate the Lesotho's one and only neighbour, the Republic of South Africa, upon its being re-admitted into this Organization. We believe that together we shall meet these expectations on behalf of this Organization in the most deep of the continent.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.

Ilia KONDOV (Bulgaria): Tengo el honor, en nombre de la Delegación de la República de Bulgaria, de saludarle a usted y a los participantes en el 27º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO y desearles un trabajo fructífero.

Nosotros consideramos que esta Conferencia se celebra en una atmósfera marcada por los siguientes grandes desafíos hacia la FAO y los países miembros de la Organización: el proceso irreversible hacia la democratización de las sociedades en el mundo y, en particular en Europa central y del Este; las conclusiones, las apreciaciones y las decisiones de importantes foros internacionales que tienen una relación directa con nuestra actividad (las conferencias internacionales sobre el medio ambiente, el desarrollo y la alimentación); los problemas de la producción y el comercio con los productos agrícolas, incluso las resoluciones del GATT; la necesidad de perfeccionar la actividad de la FAO, en correspondencia con las exigencias de la actualidad.

Nuestra Delegación expresa su acuerdo de principio con los análisis y las conclusiones de los documentos y proyectos de resolución sobre los problemas fundamentales del orden del día de la Conferencia. Se puede decir que, durante el período de discusión, la Organización ha continuado con sus

esfuerzos por dinamizar su actividad en las condiciones financieras existentes de prestar ayuda directa a los países miembros y, sobre todo, a los países en vías de desarrollo por una solución de los problemas del desarrollo de la agricultura, la economía forestal y la pesca, como también la alimentación de la población. Ha sido mejorada la coordinación y la cooperación con las demás organizaciones internacionales. Apreciamos positivamente la participación de la Comunidad Europea durante el período pasado como miembro colectivo de la FAO. Aprobamos la actividad realizada y los resultados alcanzados, evaluados en el informe para 1992-93. Podemos aceptar en principio el programa de trabajo y el Presupuesto para 1994-95, como también el plan para el período de medio plazo 1994-99.

Apoyamos el crecimiento cero del Presupuesto, pero al mismo tiempo subrayamos la necesidad de una estructuración más eficiente, limitando los gastos para actividades administrativas rutinarias y aumentando los resultados de la cooperación directa con los países miembros.

Deseando un trabajo fructífero al nuevo Director General de la FAO, doctor Jacques Diouf, quisiéramos expresar nuestra esperanza en que el próximo período bienal va a marcar un mejoramiento y un perfeccionamiento sustancial de las actividades de la FAO, de sus organismos y técnicos.

Nuestras propuestas en este campo van orientadas hacia las siguientes direcciones : determinar nuevos criterios para la selección de los temas y los proyectos, como también un análisis y una evaluación más profundos de los proyectos técnicos de desarrollo; concretizar más claramente los programas de colaboración con otras organizaciones en relación con las resoluciones de los altos foros internacionales y la aprobación de los proyectos correspondientes de cooperación con los países: medio ambiente y desarrollo, alimentación, recursos genéticos; nuevos contenidos de la colaboración regional, sobre todo en la región europea, dirigida hacia la orientación de las granjas y de las cooperativas agrícolas, los investimentos, los problemas agrícolas, la calidad, la asistencia a los productores y comerciantes por parte del Estado y de las organizaciones sectoriales.

Nosotros consideramos también que existe posibilidad de incrementar la actividad y el papel del Centro de investimento de la FAO para estudiar y elaborar proyectos de investimento destinados al desarrollo del sector en los países del Centro y del Este europeos.

La economía agrícola búlgara sigue reestructurándose sobre la base de los principios de mercado. La base de esta reestructuración son las leyes aprobadas por el Parlamento sobre la propiedad y el uso de las tierras rurales, la privatización, las cooperativas, los investimentos extranjeros, el valor añadido, la ganadería. Próximamente serán aprobadas también las leyes sobre el arrendamiento de la tierra, el tabaco y sus productos, sobre la bancarrota, etcétera.

La restitución de la propiedad de las tierras cultivadas que se lleva a cabo en estos momentos es un fenómeno único y sin precedentes, y es acompañado de grandes dificultades de carácter financiero, organizativo, técnico, social y jurídico.

Según las evaluaciones del Gobierno, hasta el final del año en curso, el 60 por ciento de las tierras agrícolas serán restituidas a sus propietarios anteriores y sus herederos. Están constituidas ya miles de granjas

agrícolas privadas, como también más de 1 600 cooperativas agrícolas de propietarios de tierra.

Lamentablemente, durante los últimos dos años, la producción agrícola continuó disminuyendo a causa de la liquidación de las viejas cooperativas, la descentralización y la destrucción parcial de los fondos básicos, incluso la disminución del número de animales, como también la falta de nuevas estructuras de producción. La gran sequía de 1993 ha tenido consecuencias sumamente negativas.

Las nuevas unidades de producción están enfrentando ahora serias dificultades, tales como falta de máquinas, equipamientos y edificios, así como también de créditos en el país, a causa de los altos intereses bancarios; estancamiento del mercado interno y externo para los productos agrícolas y alimentarios búlgaros; estructuras institucionales aún no establecidas, como asociaciones de productores y otras entidades y organizaciones empresariales; ningún tipo de créditos extranjeros.

Consecuencias muy negativas para el país ha tenido la observancia rigurosa del embargo de la ONU contra Iraq y contra Serbia y Montenegro. Quisiera recordar en esta relación la propuesta de nuestro presidente, Dr. Gelev, ante la última sesión de la Asamblea General de la ONU, en el mes de Octubre, en Nueva York, respecto a la necesidad de una Resolución de la Organización para compensar las grandes pérdidas provenientes de la observancia del embargo indirectamente con medidas económicas tan necesarias para la restructuración general del país.

Es muy útil para nosotros la ayuda técnica del Programa FAR, como también la elaboración de proyectos sobre bases bilaterales con diferentes países. Con satisfacción podemos constatar el inicio de una colaboración más activa con la FAO, como la ejecución de algunos proyectos técnicos y el seminario sobre la creación de haciendas privadas celebrado en el mes de septiembre de 1993 en Sofia, con la participación de representantes de catorce países.

Nuestra intención y nuestro deseo es continuar con esta colaboración y organizar y ampliar las escalas en diferentes campos acordados. Nuestro país cuenta con la participación activa de la FAO en proyectos e iniciativas que interesan a Bulgaria, tales como: creación y funcionamiento de haciendas agrícolas privadas y estructuras de investimento; mejoramiento del control epizootico en la región y cooperación en la reglamentación de las relaciones mutuas en este campo con otros países y el intercambio comercial de productos agrícolas; incremento de la cooperación y el intercambio de los productos fito y zoo-genéticos, con el fin de mejorar el proceso y los resultados de la selección; ayuda a los propietarios privados en la aplicación de tecnologías efectivas y adecuadas, sobre la base de la experiencia de los países desarrollados; ejecución de proyectos técnicos de desarrollo con importancia particular para el sector.

En conclusión, nosotros consideramos que la FAO, en colaboración con otras organizaciones internacionales, debe responder, aún más adecuadamente, a las exigencias del tiempo actual, en relación con los problemas sociales para la solución de las tareas más importantes del desarrollo.

Kutaiba M. HASSAN (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate, Mr President, Your Excellencies, honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen: it gives me pleasure to represent Iraq at this, the 27th Session of the General Conference of the FAO; and, in the

name of Iraq, I would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General for his fruitful efforts to develop and strengthen the agricultural sector in many member countries and, especially, his contribution to agricultural development and food security in developing countries.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election; and I would like to congratulate all new members in this Organization. I would also like to congratulate the newly elected Director-General of the Organization, Dr Jacques Diouf, wishing him every success in achieving our Organization's noble goals.

Mr President, agricultural policy in Iraq, since the Revolution of 17 to 30 July 1968 has led to the development and expansion of agriculture and livestock production and this led to a tangible improvement of per caput income which, in turn, was positively reflected on the standards of health, education, and the revenue of citizens.

The Government of Iraq, since the 1970s, accorded increasing importance to the agricultural sector within careful and practical and scientific plans. A number of achievements were realized, especially in agricultural infrastructure, for food production. The State tackled the problem of saline land reform since all agricultural matters must begin with land reform. Hence, more than half a million hectares were reclaimed together with the construction of a large number of dams and storage centres in order to control and rationally use water resources.

These accomplishments went hand in hand with steps taken to improve agricultural production and increase yields. The chemical fertilizer industry was developed to supply farmers' needs, pesticides were made available to control various pests and the State played a leading role in providing improved seed varieties for wheat, which is the basic food product in Iraq, and the Government distributed them among farmers and investors. At the same time the State raised purchase prices for grains, oils and horticultural crops to encourage farmers to expand this type of agriculture as well as to raise their levels of income.

The State also extended consumer price subsidies which led to a jump in the levels of protein and carbohydrate consumption. Livestock has increased in a marked way during the past decades as a result of the provision of vaccines and free veterinary services.

After all these achievements and successes which Iraq accomplished during the past years in the agricultural sector came the war waged by 30 hostile countries against Iraq to destroy the infrastructure and the basis of agriculture in Iraq. The attack was carefully preplanned and rigorously carried out with the aim of destroying Iraq's food security for specific political purposes. The bombardment of irrigation stations and irrigation project areas led to their complete destructions. This made it impossible to control water resources. The attacks also destroyed a large percentage of dams and locks which had been constructed along rivers and streams. Also destroyed were electric and oil networks and factories, which led to a paralysis of irrigation schemes and great damage to field crops.

The heinous attack on Iraq did not stop at the destruction of irrigation and energy networks but went beyond to destroy seed refining factories, cold storage plants and fertilizer and pesticide factories, leading inevitably to a disastrous drop in agricultural yields and an invasion by pests.

Mr President, the total economic embargo imposed on Iraq for more than three years is still there. It continues to be the main reason for the sharp decrease in the quantity of food required by Iraqis and this was confirmed in various reports by missions from international and nongovernmental organizations. It is incumbent upon me here to mention Special Warning Number 237 of July 1993 issued jointly by FAO and WFP after their visit to Iraq between 14 and 28 June 1993. The mission carried out independent surveys to assess Iraq's grain production, its present yields of food supplies and basic requirements of food imports during 1993-94. We totally agree with the foreword to the report which stated that had normal conditions prevailed, Iraq would not have been subjected to food insecurity, nor would it have been eligible for international humanitarian aid because of the natural resources it has been blessed with.

However, the economy of this country was destroyed not only by military aggression but also by the imposition of a total embargo since August 1990. This embargo has led to endemic shortages, hunger, malnutrition and untold human suffering. For example, the embargo led to the decrease of poultry by 80 percent and of milking cows by 50 percent as a result of the severe shortage of medicines and veterinary vaccines. The result has led to a high mortality rate especially amongst infants, and this inhuman embargo has also led to the collapse of 85 percent of meat, 65 percent of eggs, 85 percent of fish and 100 percent of poultry production.

In addition, the embargo has caused the breakdown of a large percentage of agricultural machinery because of the lack of spare parts. Inevitably the process of soil preparation and planting has been delayed, as have been all other automated processes such as planting and harvesting. The Special Warning Number 237 of the joint mission pointed to constraints in the face of yield increases because of the lack of organic fertilizers. Yield losses have doubled in the last three years and diseases and pests are prevalent all over the country. Some areas have been cleared with the help of FAO but large areas remain untreated due to pesticide and equipment shortages. The Special Warning also mentioned that areas in mid and southern Iraq which depend on irrigation were not only exposed to severe yield shortages due to lack of water but also faced the problem of raised ground water levels which has led to dangerous salination and the loss of large areas of arable land. The lack of spare parts has also led to the breakdown of farm machinery, forcing farmers to resort to manual methods with inevitable delays in planting, harvesting and post-harvesting losses.

Some of the 30 countries which took part in the aggression did not find the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure or insistence on maintaining the embargo sufficient, but went further to ensure maximum harm to Iraqi crops during the two past cropping seasons by instructing their military planes to burn wheat and barley fields in the north and destroying thousands of tons of these crops by setting them alight with torches.

In the circumstances of the economic embargo, we would like to ask at this important international forum if the farmer can practise his craft and earn his livelihood in the absence of essential agricultural components, the import of which is refused by certain countries who imposed their will on the Security Council of the United Nations.

This is happening at the same time as FAO is trying to promote and increase agricultural production in every country. Is it not the right of people to have the means of food production? Does not this embargo negate all customs, all beliefs, and all principles, especially as Iraq has fully

complied with Security Council Resolution 687? I would like to quote from the paragraph on page 3 of Special Warning Number 237 of the joint mission. In this paragraph I find a hint of an answer to my questions:

"In view of the range and extent of the food crisis faced by Iraq, the mission has urged the international community to respond urgently to find a solution. Experience during the past three years has shown that sanctions, irrespective of the reasons leading to their imposition have led to wide scale deprivation and the exposure of a majority of the Iraqi population to severe hunger and malnutrition, and in particular children under 5 years old, women who are pregnant and breastfeeding, widows, orphans, the old, the handicapped and the sick. The mission does not believe it possible to continue the imposition of sanctions in their present form without it leading to further deterioration of an already acute crisis of food supplies in Iraq. The permanent solution to the present crisis in food lies in the rehabilitation of the Iraqi economy and this is only possible through a resumption of international trade. Such action would not only put an end to human suffering in Iraq but would also liberalize the scarce amount of humanitarian aid allocated to Iraq at present, and bring relief to a large number of people suffering from hunger all over the world."

It is said on page 10 of the report: "The country's needs are enormous and cannot be covered by charitable supplies. The only solution to the acute problems of food supplies is to make suitable arrangements whereby Iraq could import all its food needs from commercial sources."

Mr President, we have submitted some aspects of the state of food and agriculture in Iraq. I refer you to Special Warning Number 237 of the joint mission. We hope and expect your august gathering to take a fair and just decision, calling for an end to the inhuman economic sanctions and reiterating Iraq's right to export its basic commodities and products to be able to secure its urgent need of food and medicine and as a first step to avoiding a humanitarian disaster before it is too late.

Mr President, the importance of food security is such that it is imperative to accord it greater attention in the phases of agricultural planning and investment. New approaches must be adopted in a large number of countries to reach the goals of self-sufficiency and food security.

We are happy, Mr President, to see the importance that this Organization attaches to global studies on the future of agricultural development and its concern for the environment and women's integration in rural development. We believe that these topics, as well as those items submitted on this session's agenda, are of great importance to societies which are anxious to promote and encourage the process of growth and development. We are confident that FAO will continue effectively to increase food production in spite of the difficulties and challenges that it faces. We are just as confident that it will fulfil its humanitarian mandate and play a leading role in strengthening world food security. Thank you very much, Mr President.

Alexandre José ZANDAMELA (Mozambique): Mr Chairman of the Conference, Director-General of FAO, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Allow me to begin my short intervention with very special greetings to His Excellency Dr Jacques Diouf for his election as Director-General of FAO. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, of my delegation, as well as in my own name, I wish you lots of success in the difficult but

noble mission as helmsman of such an important institution as FAO during the next six years of your mandate.

We would like as well, Mr Chairman, to pay tribute to Dr Edouard Saouma for the work of excellent quality carried out over the 18 years of his mandate as Director-General of FAO, and we wish him long life and happiness.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the nine countries for their admission as members of FAO, as well as the Republic of South Africa for its re-admission, which will, without any doubt, strengthen our Organization.

Mozambique is a very large country with an area of some 800 000 square kilometres. The country's agricultural potential is immense, characterized by a diversified climate, with about 36 million hectares of arable land, 40 million hectares of forest, 27 percent of which are covered by high commercial value species. With the existing and identified water resources, it should be possible to irrigate annually around 3.3 million hectares of land.

The 2 700 km long coast, the natural beauty and the relatively abundant and diversified wild life give the country equally high potential for tourism. Nevertheless, agricultural production is the most important activity in the national economy as the main source for consumption and accumulation. In effect, agricultural production has a share of 45 percent of the GDP, employs about 80 percent of the rural population and contributes around 80 percent of the export earnings. But despite this wide potential, it is estimated that only 20 to 30 percent of the arable land has been exploited. However, and in spite of the relatively primary technologies predominantly used, the country was able in the past to produce almost all the essential food requirements for its population, and was also an important producer/exporter of products such as cashew nuts, coconut, tea, cotton, citrus and others.

With the insecurity caused by the war, the agricultural frontier was drastically reduced so that it was almost restricted to the surroundings of the main cities and the provincial capitals, being estimated that about 70 percent of the rural population used to work only 10 percent of the maximum areas once cultivated in the past.

The war has also changed deeply the farming systems and the crop patterns and increased the degradation of the environment, apart from the destruction of human lives, the economic and social infrastructures such as warehouses, roads, commercial networks, health centres, schools and so on.

Institutional weaknesses, and severe drought that during the past two years has struck the whole southern African region, has worsened the economic and social problems of the country.

The situation I have just described does not constitute a novelty for most of you, given that it was presented during the 26th Session when reference was also made to the steps being taken to restore peace through negotiations between the government and Renamo.

It is a great pleasure for me to recall today that the General Peace Agreement was signed here in Rome on 4 October last year, the first anniversary of which we have just effusively celebrated in Mozambique.

More than in the past Mozambique is relying on the various support of the international community for the peace so arduously achieved, for strengthening the ongoing democratization process, for the implementation of the national reconstruction plan which intends to restore the economic and social tissue destroyed by the war, and for the normalization of the life of the population.

As the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr Joaquim Alberto Chissano has emphasized during the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York "We are convinced that the success of the present efforts and the large national reconstruction plan will, to a great extent, depend on the creative spirit, determination and hard work of all Mozambicans". On the other hand, the success of this same project will also depend on the generous support of the international community. We appeal to our partners to provide timely assistance for the delays which we observe in delivering the already committed one, which in many cases has been partly responsible for the weak performance of the economy.

Allow me to make a brief reference to some aspects of the work which we should like FAO to carry out.

Mozambique, as on many other occasions, stresses the wish to see FAO more and more involved in a continuous process of changes, more open to the adoption of new forms of technical cooperation with member countries, more involved in the professional and academic training of our technicians in an effort to build up the capacity of member countries in such a way as to draw themselves the most adequate solutions for their own problems.

To this end, we would like FAO's work to be implemented in our countries with a better institutional framing so as to create local capacities on a sustainable basis. The projects with FAO support cannot constitute parallel units to existing institutions, but should be integrated into them, and strengthening them. Greater emphasis should be given to the training of local staff, so as to establish the basis for the gradual substitution of the international technical assistance which always constitutes a high cost in our projects to the detriment of other more substantive components. We would like to see FAO's bureaucratic procedures become more expedite since at present they are very heavy and slow.

I would not like to finish my statement, without congratulating you for your election as Chairman of this Conference and for the highly competent way you have been performing your task, which constitutes the guarantee of the success of this session.

Thank you very much Mr Chairman.

Victor Hugo HERNANDEZ (República Dominicana): Señor Presidente, distinguidos Ministros, señores Delegados y Representantes de Organismos aquí presentes; Damas y Caballeros. Constituye para mí un gratísimo honor, dirigirme a esta magna asamblea, oportunidad que deseo aprovechar para externar nuestras inquietudes en torno a las implicaciones que tienen para los países como la República Dominicana, las transformaciones que se precisa realizar en el sector agropecuario a fin de hacerlo más eficiente y competitivo, y compartir, además, algunas experiencias que hemos vivido luego de la aplicación de ciertas medidas de ajuste estructural en nuestra economía.

Quiero antes que todo, felicitar a usted, señor Presidente, por la forma magistral en que ha dirigido los trabajos de la Conferencia y extender dicha felicitación al Dr. Edouard Saouma por la forma en que dirigió la FAO durante estos últimos 18 años. Debo felicitar, además en nombre del Presidente de mi país, Dr. Joaquín Balaguer y en el mío propio, al Dr. Jacques Diouf por su elección como Director General de la FAO, a quien solemnemente comprometo nuestra cooperación y ayuda para el éxito de su gestión al frente de esta organización mundial.

Hemos acudido a esta cita, con el ánimo de examinar ante este selecto auditorio, las posibilidades que tienen nuestras naciones en vías de desarrollo, de acometer con determinación los procesos de modernización de su agricultura; de lograr el mantenimiento de la base de los recursos de producción y de alcanzar al mismo tiempo, mayores estándares de vida para sus ciudadanos. Todo esto en un entorno de globalización económica, caracterizado por la conformación de grandes bloques mundiales de comercio, situación de la que ya no podemos mantenernos al margen, y que nos obliga a adherirnos con decisión y voluntad, para así lograr nuestros propósitos comunes.

La modernización de la agricultura tradicional, es un imperativo de nuestros pueblos que requiere de esfuerzos decisivos, para propiciar los cambios tecnológicos que este proceso demanda y la asignación de mayores recursos para la inversión.

Sin embargo, la falta de equidad en los ingresos, los bajos precios de los productos agrícolas en el comercio mundial, en beneficio de los países importadores de materia prima, y el alto grado de protección, unido a las exigencias y ajustes agrícolas inapropiados por parte de los gobiernos y organismos financieros, han restringido por años, la disponibilidad de los recursos necesarios para solventar los programas de adecuación y mejoramiento de las estructuras productivas.

Sólo basta recordar que en la década de los años 80, América Latina vivió uno de sus peores momentos, donde casi todo el Continente fue golpeado por la crisis económica y sometido a duros ajustes para honrar su cuantiosa deuda externa. Esto se hizo sentir en la población que vio disminuir el alcance de los programas gubernamentales en la educación, la agricultura, la salud e inversiones públicas. En este período, nuestras naciones produjeron más, pero recibieron menos recursos frescos que en cualquier otro período similar, debido en parte a la permanencia de términos de intercambios muy desfavorables con los países desarrollados y al pago del servicio de la deuda.

En consecuencia, nuestras economías se mantuvieron bajo extremos constreñimientos y sin recursos disponibles para modernizar su aparato productivo. Los excedentes internos para fomentar nuestro desarrollo nunca existieron y las fuentes internacionales de empréstitos se tornaron cada vez más rígidas y exigentes.

El resultado de esta patente realidad ha sido la postergación del proceso, evidentemente retardado, lo cual constituye hoy un reto ineludible que debemos enfrentar con determinación.

Un caso a tomar en consideración es el deterioro que acusan los recursos naturales en la isla de Santo Domingo, la cual compartimos con la República de Haití.

Como consecuencia de la deforestación de las montañas y laderas, el uso inapropiado de los suelos, la agricultura nómada, el pastoreo intensivo a que son sometidas importantes zonas, la erosión ha alcanzado niveles alarmantes. Para sólo tener una idea de la magnitud de este problema, la erosión en suelos de ladera se estima en 1.5 pulgadas por hectárea y año.

Para los campesinos de nuestra isla es, en fin de cuentas, un problema del hombre y el medio ambiente; de educación versus potencialidades, y de existencia o desaparición.

Un segundo tema de agenda, que es propicio reiterar en esta Conferencia General, es el referente a la pobreza y la marginación en que viven importantes núcleos de productores de América Latina y el Caribe.

Profundamente atento y consciente de las características de este escenario mundial y de las particularidades que matizan la problemática nacional, el Gobierno dominicano ha actuado con previsión. Bajo la gestión presidencial de su Excelencia, el Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, se ha logrado ajustar la economía, sin que los sectores menos pudientes de la sociedad hayan cargado sobre sus espaldas el peso que conlleva este reordenamiento económico. Se ha auspiciado, mediante un manejo mesurado y prudente, la apertura de nuestra economía y un mejor acoplamiento de los distintos sectores económicos del país.

Para el sector agrícola, este programa prevé profundizar la apertura de los mercados, liberalizando aún más los precios internos, al tiempo que se estimulan las exportaciones, a través de la eliminación de todo tipo de barreras y de la adopción de diversas medidas de incentivo que serán puestas en práctica, una vez entre en vigencia un proyecto de ley que actualmente se discute con este propósito. Paralelamente, propicia la inversión financiera y el mejoramiento de la comercialización y de los programas de investigación, extensión y capacitación agropecuarias.

Simultáneamente, se encaminan pasos firmes para la reforma del sector agrícola en general, para lo cual ya se dispone de un "Diagnóstico y Estrategia Sectorial", que en los actuales momentos está siendo validada, a los propósitos de que sirva de marco para el diseño de las políticas y los planes, que habrán de ejecutarse con este objetivo en el futuro inmediato.

Dentro de este contexto, un asunto al cual le hemos conferido marcada importancia es el relativo a los problemas del medio ambiente y al adecuado manejo de nuestros recursos naturales, lo cual se manifiesta en el alcance de las medidas que hemos adoptado, y al orden de prioridad con que las mismas se ejecutan.

Los compromisos asumidos por mi país en la Conferencia Mundial de las Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente, celebrada en Río de Janeiro, Brasil, en 1992, están siendo honrados con los trabajos que actualmente realiza la comisión de alto nivel creada al efecto, la cual es presidida por el honorable señor Vicepresidente de la República.

Los problemas de deforestación, erosión, contaminación de las aguas, degradación de las costas y empobrecimiento del ambiente, que son los más críticos en nuestro entorno vivencial, hoy son manejados desde una perspectiva diferente, que focaliza al hombre como propiciador de las alteraciones desequilibrantes. Bajo este esquema de acción, el hombre que nace, se desarrolla y vive en su ámbito rural, se integra a la preservación de su habitat, incorporándolo al manejo de estos recursos y concienciándolo

de la importancia que tiene mantener en equilibrio el ecosistema donde permanece.

Con igual entusiasmo, hemos acogido las obligaciones y los compromisos contraídos en la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Nutrición, encaminados a reducir la pobreza de nuestros pueblos, como medio eficaz para el mejoramiento de la alimentación y la nutrición.

El hambre y la malnutrición, como se consigna en la declaración mundial surgida de este cónclave, son innecesarias e inadmisibles en un mundo que posee tanto los conocimientos como los recursos necesarios para poner fin a esta catástrofe humana. Hemos encarado con decisión y voluntad política acciones de gran eficacia, dirigidas a fortalecer los programas de alimentación, generación de empleos, educación y salud.

Particular interés reviste para nosotros la desinteresada cooperación que desde hace cuarenta años recibimos a través de la FAO. La incidencia de esta Organización se hace ostensible en todos los procesos evolutivos que se han verificado desde entonces en nuestra agropecuaria.

Hoy día, la asistencia que recibimos mediante la ejecución de diferentes proyectos de cooperación técnica cubre desde la extensión pecuaria hasta el mejoramiento de laboratorios de semillas, lo que para nosotros constituye aportes de inmenso valor.

En la presente coyuntura, en la que un dominicano ha sido electo Director General del Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación Agrícola, (IICA) , cuya responsabilidad principal radica en la conducción de la cooperación agrícola en América, son propicias las condiciones para aunar esfuerzos dirigidos a lograr una mayor concertación de voluntades y ventilar, bajo los signos de los tiempos, alternativas que posibiliten, en un futuro, la adopción de modelos progresivos de integración entre este Instituto y la FAO, similares a los que con tanto éxito se implementan en otras áreas de servicios, lo que aseguraría mayor racionalidad en el uso de recursos y un mejor aprovechamiento de los avances de la ciencia.

J.M. MAKWETA (Tanzania): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, may I on behalf of my delegation, the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania first congratulate you, Mr Chairman, for having been elected to chair this 27th Conference Session. We promise you active support during your period of leadership.

Allow me also to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the newly-elected Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, and wish him success in his new office. We know he is going to shoulder heavy responsibilities which will demand dedication, courage, vision and firm commitment to the Organization's ideals. My delegation and the Government of United Republic of Tanzania would like to assure him of our full support.

At this juncture I wish also to thank and congratulate most sincerely Dr Saouma, who has just completed 18 years of devoted service, for the valuable contribution he has made to FAO and FAO member countries. During the last 18 years of service to FAO Dr Saouma has demonstrated great vision, sensitivity to human problems, decisiveness and firmness in his decisions and actions. We wish him good health and success in the future.

After these introductory remarks let me turn to the food and agriculture situation in Africa. For two consecutive seasons, 1990-91 and 1991-92, the food and agricultural situation in sub-Saharan Africa has been bad due to drought, high costs of agricultural inputs and implements, falling prices of commodities and civil strife in some countries.

Along with natural and man-made problems, production and productivity have been seriously affected by insistent pressures on liberalization and privatization in a short time. Liberalization in agriculture has been at the centre of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Although the negotiations are not complete, it is a fact that developing countries will require a long period to build-up capacity and competitive production in order to gain from liberalized trade. We hope the initiative taken by the Common Fund for Commodities, if maintained, will enhance the growth of commodity export earnings for developing countries.

Much as we see the need and urgency for liberalization of trade and privatization of the economy, it is important to note that in the case of some Third World countries these steps are not necessarily a panacea to all of the socio-economic problems. In some countries the problems are more complex and complicated than they appear to be. For instance, in a year of bumper harvest of maize in Africa, intra-regional trade cannot absorb all the surplus maize due to constraints in storage, transport and marketing. Such a situation would thus result in considerable post-harvest losses and depression of prices to the farmer. This is what happening today in some parts of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania.

Tanzania would like to express her appreciation to the leadership of the FAO and World Food Programme in general for articulating these problems. We so hope that FAO and the new leadership will continue to find their solutions in collaboration with Member States and the international community.

Turning to my own country of Tanzania, in the period under discussion there were significant increases in production of food and cash crops. Unfortunately, the increases in production in most cases did not result in a corresponding increase in income to the farmer. Due to economic recession at home and abroad the markets were depressed. This negative trend has had a very unsettling effect on both the farmer and the country. For the farmer, his standard of living went down because he could not meet even his basic necessities. And for the country, loss in foreign exchange earnings meant reduction in services and a growing debt burden.

Tanzania has about 89 million hectares of land of which 55 percent is arable. However, cultivation is confined to 17 percent of the potential arable land and is dominated by small-scale farming on an average holding of less than two hectares per household. Extensive and shifting cultivation in some of these areas leads to environmental degradation. In order to make agriculture sustainable, there is a need to strengthen the land management aspect and, in particular, to integrate food security measures with environmental protection. This is necessary in order to enable the farmers to meet their food security requirements, reduce rural poverty and retain young and energetic farmers on the land.

Mr Chairman, given the rich experience and the expertise which the FAO has in environment and sustainable agricultural development, my country will be most grateful to continue receiving FAO's assistance in these and other related fields.

The livestock sector contributes between 10-15 percent of the GNP and does not meet the national demand for livestock products. The poor performance of the livestock sector is mainly due to inadequate essential extension services, disease, inadequate water supply, lack of improved pasture, low prices for livestock products, poor marketing infrastructure and inadequate supply of veterinary drugs and vaccines and their exorbitant prices, when available. The Government is preparing modalities for the improvement and development of the livestock industry. One of the measures to be taken is to involve the private sector in the procurement and distribution of veterinary drugs. Other measures include the improvement of extension services for better animal husbandry and the introduction of improved breeds and pasture.

Forests and woodland occupy about 44.0 million hectares of our total land surface. Of late, due to clearing of forests for agriculture, overgrazing, charcoal burning, woodfuel harvesting, bush fires and harvesting for industrial use, the forests and wood are disappearing at a faster rate than that of afforestation. It is estimated that Tanzania is losing between 300 000 and 400 000 hectares of forests and woodland each year. In the effort to deal with the problem, the Government has embarked on several programmes. The major ones are: the Tanzania Forestry Action plan (TFAP), the Livestock Programme Year 2000, Land Use Plan, Plan of Action to Combat Desertification Programme (PADC), the Integrated Soil and Water Conservation and the National Conservation Strategy. The latter aims at providing guidelines on optimal use of the national resources.

In the fisheries sector, the Government has a three-pronged approach, to ensure sustainable fishing. Firstly, the motivation of the private sector to expand their involvement. Secondly a conscious mobilization of the small fisherman, and lastly but not least, with the help of International Organizations such as UNDP, FAO and donor support, improvement in credit facilities, research and data collection.

As regards policy reforms, Tanzania has liberalized the marketing of food, cash crops and inputs.

However, the major problem confronting inputs procurement by private sector, apart from logistical problems and low profit margins, is inadequate cash cover to purchase foreign currency. As an interim solution to this problem, the Government is in the process of establishing a special Agriculture Development Fund that will provide the local cash cover and hence solve the liquidity problem as well as minimize delays in the procurement of inputs. This is a new approach, so it therefore needs time to perfect.

On the whole, the current policies are geared towards creating an enabling environment for the full participation of the private sector in national development at the same time reducing progressively Government involvement in direct production. The major tasks of the Government in the agricultural sector will be to provide training and extension services to the farmers, carry out research and dissemination of research findings to the farmers, undertake disease and pest control, strengthening of policy formulation, data collection and information services. Other objectives are the registration of cooperatives as well as strengthening the Strategic Grain Reserve.

In Tanzania, women play a key role in agricultural production and are the major food producers. In an effort to integrate them in the development

activities, the Government is committed to improving their education. Currently the banks, non-governmental organizations and various donors are extending loans to rural women on concessionary terms to improve access to credit. I would therefore like to use this opportunity to thank the banks, the donor community, and other international non-governmental organizations for their continuing support and assistance in this endeavour.

Cooperation between developed and developing countries is an imperative. In order to foster this cooperation the governments both in the rich and poor countries should not make a mistake of ignoring the basic requirements of the poor. The property of the rich will only be protected by improving the living conditions of the poor people. Here I can do no better than to quote Mr Jacques Chirac, the Major of Paris and former Primer Minister of France, who recently in Rome said:

"The industrialized countries will not regain either prosperity or progress if dire poverty and despair reign a few hundred kilometres from their doorsteps. It is unthinkable that we should allow the countries of the South to become increasingly marginalized. As they develop, so shall we. These countries have enormous needs that must be met, and the countries of the North have untapped production capacities. The crisis cries out for tighter solidarity, for it is only together that we can find out our way back to the path of growth. This battle can only be won through increased solidarity and a greater awareness of our common destiny, in full respect of our diversity."

Mr Chairman, in conclusion let me again on behalf of my delegation commend FAO for its continued support to my country in our effort to develop ourselves.

Abdalla Mohamed Ahmad ABDALLA (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): It is a great pleasure for me to address this august assembly on behalf of the people and Government of Sudan. I would like, first of all, to congratulate you on your election and for the trust bestowed upon you by the Conference. Yours is a well-deserved election because of your acknowledged wisdom and qualities. Your role of conducting the business of this session is increasing in importance as is the role FAO is called upon to play in the light of the changes, challenges and threats facing the world in the economic, social and environmental fields whose indications are becoming clear and affecting many parts of the world. This requires serious reflection, clear vision and goodwill, together with well-thought-out actions to avert their negative effects on our developing countries in particular.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Mr Saouma, who led this important organization in an exemplary, able manner during 18 years - 18 years during which he dealt effectively and in an impartial manner with major issues in food and agriculture for the benefit of all. We note with pride and admiration FAO's role, which increased considerably under his wise leadership. Thanks to his innovative initiatives which resulted in a strong relationship with the member countries and the UN system as a whole, thus enabling FAO to gain the respect and support of both the developing and developed countries, FAO played its role in agricultural development effectively. It also dealt in an able manner with the difficult development matters. All this took place thanks to the Director-General's open mind, clear vision and readiness to cooperate with all.

Sudan highly values the achievements made under Mr Saouma's Leadership. We would like to emphasize that the solid basis laid should be expanded, and FAO's capabilities should be further enhanced to enable it to deal with the substance of the issues that determine humanity's fate. This, of course, requires a big boost to the UN system as a whole by ensuring regular resources and by defining the criteria to be observed by the different agencies. There is no doubt that FAO should achieve its objective within this overall framework and in harmony with the member countries in order to bring about prosperity and stability and in order to combat poverty and depravation.

I would like to emphasize that Mr Saouma, the outgoing Director-General, is leaving behind a strong organization more than ready to continue its good work and to face the challenges in the fields of food, nutrition, balanced agricultural development and environmental protection.

I would like to congratulate the new Director-General for the trust placed in him by the member countries. I would like to reiterate my country's support for him in this heavy task which he has been elected to undertake. We congratulate ourselves on his election at this critical juncture.

The last year has seen major events that highlighted the role played by FAO and other UN agencies, events such as UNCED, which was held in June 1992, the International Conference on Nutrition held in December 1992 and its declaration, as well as the International Conference on Women in Development. We think that ICN was a culmination of a long organizational and scientific work directed towards dealing with the problems of food and nutrition in the developing and the developed countries. We also think that UNCED defined the principles and the challenges our planet will face in the 21st Century and stressed the need for rational utilization and preservation of our natural resources for their sustainability as well the role of the various sectors. We think that the orientation and the programmes defined by UNCED constitute the focal point for FAO in the future activities that it is going to carry out with the other organizations and the member countries.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the features and orientations of the agricultural development in Sudan as well as some of the successes we achieved in agricultural production and the efforts we are making in order to preserve our natural resources and rationalize their utilization. Thanks to our huge resources like vast areas of fertile land, abundant water supplies from rivers, valleys and rain, underground water resources, forestry resources, pastures, livestock, and thanks to the stable agricultural policies, we made great strides in the production of various crops like sorghum, millet, wheat, vegetable oil, sugarcane, pulses, vegetables, and fruits, as well as animal products. We managed to secure an appreciable level of self-sufficiency as well as creating a surplus for export, thereby helping to achieve and consolidate the basis for food security on the national level. The last three agricultural seasons were characterized by adequate rainfall that enabled us to achieve an increase in the gross national product in spite of the impact of the market economy measures taken during the last two years within the framework of the macro-economic policy. These measures removed subsidies and liberalized trade. This increase was achieved in spite of the difficult international trade conditions that depressed the prices of two major export commodities, cotton and oilseeds. Thanks to the stability of the agricultural and economic policies and the heavy emphasis put on agricultural production, Sudan managed to achieve, during the last two

years, a growth rate in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than 11 percent. This is a direct result of the increase in the agricultural sector in Sudan.

What appears, in fact, from time in some technical and non-technical, official and non-official reports on the difficult food situation in different parts of Sudan, reflects only the situation in some areas of instability like the South of the country or the areas affected by the drought waves. In fact, a big food surplus that could feed the whole country is achieved.

The government is currently negotiating in order to bring peace to the south of the country. We sincerely hope that these efforts will bear fruit so that the south will enjoy peace, stability and contribute to the overall development of the country.

In view of the growth in the agricultural sector that led to self-sufficiency and surpluses in most agricultural products, in view of the efforts being made to bring peace to the south of the country, and in view of the efforts made to mobilize and to secure and expand the people's participation in economic and political decision-making, we are sure Sudan will play its natural role in achieving national and regional food security, a role commensurate with the size and diversity of its natural, environmental and human potential. That is because our agriculture policies are formulated in such a way as to achieve overall agricultural development by harnessing our diverse natural resources within an environmental balance that would help achieve sustainable development for the benefit of the future generations.

Mr Chairman, we highly value FAO's role and its interaction with the developing countries in order to achieve a balanced, sustainable agricultural development. We pay tribute to the achievements made by FAO and its leadership. We would like to stress the need for FAO's continuing along this road and express our deep concern regarding any attempt to divert FAO from its current course or to reduce the role it is playing by virtue of its Constitution.

We are convinced that the new Director-General will continue playing this role. We expect him to get more support that would enable him to fully use FAO's diverse capabilities to make it more effective in dealing with agricultural development problems in the developing countries. Therefore, we think it is necessary to support FAO's policy by putting more emphasis on the Technical Cooperation Programme that proved its effectiveness, and by enabling FAO to continue its support for the environmental projects, for the projects aimed at women and integrated rural development, as well as those aimed at upgrading the human resources in the agricultural field and transfer of technology. We should also support FAO to increase its interaction with the regional organizations and the economic blocs in a way that would enable it to meet its commitments to the farmers and all the poor of this world.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to call on FAO, the international neutral organization, to undertake a more vigorous role in a world characterized by breathtaking developments and by the setting-up of unbalanced economic blocs and to take the initiative in playing a coordinating role between these groupings in a way that would pry open their markets for the agricultural products of the Third World, thereby protecting the developing countries of any attempt aimed at containing their products, because, if

this is to happen, it will have an adverse impact on agricultural development in the developing countries.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I wish this Conference every success. Thank you for your attention.

Francis KANGAUDE (Malawi): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, in the first place, I would like to join those who have delivered their statements before me in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this august assembly. Secondly, I would like to convey the congratulations and best wishes of the Government of Malawi to Dr Jacques Diouf on his election to the post of Director-General of FAO. My Government promises to cooperate with him and to support him in his work. I would also like to congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma and to thank him for all the good work he did in his 18 years of service to FAO.

Mr Chairman, I would also like to welcome all new members to this Organization including South Africa which has been admitted in anticipation that she will soon be on the the transitional path to true nationhood.

I would now like to discuss the state of food and agriculture in my country, Malawi.

There are about 1.8 million smallholder farmers in Malawi who live mostly in rural areas and produce most of the food needs of the country. Smallholders are, however, constrained by the size of their holdings, which average less than 1.0 hectare. Within the smallholder farmer community, women form approximately 70 percent of full-time farmers.

Although the majority of the women work side by side with their menfolk in various crop and livestock activities, there are many who work on their own as result of either being widowed, divorced, or their husbands being away from home for long periods. In an effort to ensure that extension field officers reach not only men, but also women, special programmes are formulated for the women farmers. For example, the formation of farmers' associations (called farmers' clubs) exclusively for women is encouraged. It is through these clubs that new technical messages are delivered. In addition, credit facilities for women to acquire farm inputs are channelled through these farmers' clubs. This strategy has assisted a lot in boosting food production in Malawi.

Agricultural credit for smallholder farmers in Malawi has played an important role in boosting smallholder agricultural production in general and food production in particular. The Ministry of Agriculture administers this through an organization known as the Smallholder Agricultural Credit Administration (SACA). Basically, the following two types of credit are offered: (a) short-term or seasonal credit for seed, fertilizer and agrochemicals; and (b) medium-term credit for ox-drawn implements, irrigation equipment, baling machines, livestock etc.

Of much concern to us now is seasonal credit. Smallholders are organized in clubs and it is through these clubs that credit is issued and recovered. Due to various reasons, including the effects of a recent drought, most farmers were not able to make repayments on the 1991-92 rescheduled credit and the 1992-93 credit. This has led to depletion of the credit fund so leaving insufficient resources for lending through the next agricultural year.

This is a very unfortunate situation for the country considering that the majority of farmers will not receive inputs on credit for the 1993-94 season because the loans have not been repaid in full. What this means, Mr Chairman, is that Malawi's food production will go down dramatically in 1994. Therefore, through you, Mr Chairman, Malawi is appealing to the international community for assistance in bridging the smallholder credit financing gap. Considering the current cost of inputs, Malawi needs a total of about US\$60 million to fulfil the projected lending budget for the 1993-94 season.

Maize is the staple crop in Malawi, occupying about 80 percent of cultivated land. Most of the land is put to local maize varieties which are low yielding.

Fish is another important food commodity in Malawi, being the main source of animal protein for the local community. At the moment, over-fishing is a major problem which is mainly dictated by the high demand for fish.

For most years now, Malawi has attained and sustained food self-sufficiency status. It is only in years of extreme calamities such as the drought of last year that Malawi requests for food aid from friendly countries and organizations.

On behalf of my Government, I would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO for the assistance it extended to Malawi during the difficult period of the 1992 drought. FAO provided us with funds with which we bought and distributed fertilizer and hybrid maize seed to farmers who were hardest hit by the drought.

Malawi's success story in food production stems mainly from rainfed agriculture. The potential for irrigation is, however, quite large, estimated at about 2 00 000 hectares, of which only one twentieth is currently utilized. The severe drought of 1992 also underscored the importance of irrigation for food production.

Plans are at an advanced stage to develop a large-scale irrigation scheme known as the Shire Valley Irrigation Project in the southern part of the country. Due to funding constraints, however, implementation of the plan cannot start immediately. Malawi is, therefore, appealing to the international community to assist with the funding.

Also, for the coming five years or so, several low-cost self-help irrigation schemes under the Small-Scale Irrigation Project will be developed throughout the country. While some schemes will be financed under the upcoming World Bank Agricultural Services Project scheduled to start early in 1994, there are many others remaining that lack funding. We are making a similar appeal for funding these smaller self-help projects.

Like in previous years, Malawi participated in celebrating this year's World Food Day, whose theme was "Harvesting Nature's Biodiversity". The FAO chose this theme in order to alert the world community to focus attention on the importance of biodiversity and its contribution to humanity and food security as a whole.

It is worrying to note that nature's biodiversity is, by and large, being lost at an alarming rate. In Malawi, forests are recognized as a natural resource that has great productive value as well as important environmental

function for water, soil and wildlife conservation, and for social and recreational activities.

One hears and reads that natural habits have elsewhere been partially lost or completely destroyed. Definitely such destruction is a threat to world agriculture and invariably humanity at large. We, therefore, call for a concerted effort by all nations to conserve biodiversity at all costs.

Malawi's efforts in conserving plant genetic resources are coordinated at the Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre based at the Chitedze Agricultural Research Station in the central region of the country. The Centre implements its programmes in collaboration with local institutions such as the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi and with other countries. The work includes plant genetic resource conservation for a cross-section of plants, namely: field crops, forestry, ornamental, medical and wild plants.

While nutrition is a subject which cuts across ministries or sectors, the Ministry of Agriculture in Malawi is particularly charged with food security at national, and, more importantly, at household level. Despite being self-sufficient at national level, some families lack food during certain months of the year. These food-insecure families comprise the landless, those with little land and those who cannot procure inputs.

To address this problem of resource-poor farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture has put into place food production programmes especially targeted at such vulnerable groups. The programmes include food for work and the growing of high-value crops such as burley tobacco from whose income farmers can buy food.

I would not do full justice to my brief if I did not highlight the political changes which are taking place in my country. I must, therefore, brief you and the distinguished delegates about that. These changes have a strong bearing on our agricultural production. If I may remind you, Mr Chairman, it was at the Consultative Group (CG) meeting at the Paris Club last year when donors decided to withhold development aid to Malawi until practical measures were taken to introduce multiparty democracy and to pay attention to certain human rights issues which were in question.

Malawi paid due attention to all the issues. A national referendum on whether the people wanted to replace the single party system of democracy with a multiparty democracy was held on 14 June this year. A multiparty system was chosen, as you may already know. As of now, we have a National Consultative Council (NCC) and a National Executive Committee in place to review the Malawi constitution and initiate all necessary laws for the re-introduction of a multiparty system of democracy. So far, the transition has been smooth and it is hoped that it will be so until multiparty elections are held in May next year.

Malawi's commitment to good governance and respect for human rights is unquestionable as can be attested by the mechanisms in place during this transition period and the work that is being done by the NCC to ensure that this goes into laws. In this connection, Malawi is appealing through this assembly to the international institutions and donor countries to resume their aid. We hope that the next Consultative Group meeting on Malawi next month will result in full resumption of aid to Malawi. As I have said earlier, much aid to Malawi is for direct support to agricultural production.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you very much for your attention.

Hans POPP (Suisse) (Langue originale allemand): Monsieur le Président, chers Ministres, chers Délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, j'ai la joie et l'honneur de représenter la Suisse pour la treizième fois à la Conférence de la FAO. Ce qui veut dire que je suis et accompagne les travaux de la FAO depuis 25 ans environ. L'importance des tâches et des défis auxquels doit faire face notre Organisation n'a pas diminué, bien au contraire. C'est pourquoi la Suisse souhaite poursuivre sa collaboration fructueuse avec la FAO, en la renforçant encore si possible.

Je tiens à assurer le nouveau Directeur général de notre pleine collaboration. Et je tiens également à féliciter Monsieur Jacques Diouf de son élection. Nous lui souhaitons plein succès dans sa tâche difficile et astreignante. Nous espérons que son élection donnera un nouvel élan et un espoir renouvelé aux pays d'Afrique.

Mais je tiens aussi à dire à Monsieur Saouma, en tant que Directeur général sortant, combien je le remercie de ses inlassables efforts et de l'excellente atmosphère de collaboration et de confiance qui a régné entre nous. Monsieur Saouma a dirigé avec talent et avec sagesse les destinées de la FAO, et je formule les meilleurs vœux pour son avenir.

Mesdames et Messieurs, la Suisse est depuis longtemps un membre actif de la FAO. Nous soutenons cette Organisation pour son rôle indispensable à l'accomplissement de tâches tout à fait essentielles telles que la lutte contre le faim et la malnutrition, l'encouragement d'une agriculture durable et respectueuse de l'environnement, l'amélioration du bien-être de millions d'êtres humains dans les régions rurales en luttant ainsi contre l'exode rural et une urbanisation malsaine toujours accrue.

Ces défis sont de taille et, si solution il doit y avoir, ce ne sera possible qu'ensemble. De nouvelles tâches s'y ajoutent; je pense notamment aux besoins de l'Europe de l'Est et des pays de l'ancienne Union Soviétique. Dans cette région, l'aide de la FAO est également essentielle comme l'honorable délégué de la Bulgarie nous l'a d'ailleurs dit cet après-midi en termes très clairs.

La Suisse a fondé sa politique sur l'aide au développement et l'a adaptée à ces défis et à ces besoins primordiaux en recherchant à aider les pays à s'aider eux-mêmes. En ce sens, les critères que le Gouvernement recherche sont le renforcement des institutions et l'encouragement à la production.

Outre l'assistance bilatérale importante, la Suisse mise depuis toujours sur l'assistance multilatérale en passant également par la FAO.

En 1992, nous avons fourni à la FAO, directement ou indirectement grâce à des ressources extra-budgétaires environ 20 millions de dollars, c'est-à-dire 4 ou 5 fois la contribution au budget ordinaire. A cela s'ajoute l'aide alimentaire.

Nous attendons de la FAO une utilisation aussi efficace que possible des moyens.

Des programmes tout à fait essentiels tel que le programme pour l'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire, ne peuvent être couronnés de succès

que s'ils trouvent une place dans une politique de stratégies agricoles avec toutes les mesures nécessaires d'encouragement à la production. C'était là la conclusion d'une mission d'évaluation de 14 pays à laquelle j'ai été mandaté par la FAO pour y participer.

Là où ces conditions ne sont pas remplies, la FAO doit aider les pays à créer les conditions de cette collaboration avec les autres pays donateurs.

A cet égard nous plaçons pour un renforcement de la FAO en tant qu'Organisation responsable de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Nous voyons aujourd'hui une trop grande prolifération des projets et un éparpillement des moyens.

Monsieur Saintaint, Le Président indépendant du Conseil, dans son rapport de mardi, nous a d'ailleurs fait part de ses considérations. Il a demandé à juste titre du courage pour recentrer le rôle de la FAO.

Nous voulons aussi mettre en garde contre la création de nouvelles institutions comme des conseils et des comités.

Mesdames, Messieurs, je reviens au thème central, pour dire qu'une politique agricole cohérente est la condition sine qua non pour résoudre les problèmes nutritionnels et de l'emploi. Une telle politique agricole requiert quatre mesures :

- 1 - l'établissement d'une infrastructure minimum y compris en recherches, formation et conseils;
- 2 - l'encouragement à la production, surtout grâce à une politique de stabilisation des prix et à une structure de commercialisation efficace;
- 3 - le bon fonctionnement du marché pour les intrants les plus importants, pour que les agriculteurs aient accès aux moyens de production qui leur sont nécessaires;
- 4 - la protection adéquate contre les importations ruineuses.

L'expérience a démontré que là où ces conditions alimentaires sont remplies, il n'y a ni famine, ni sous-alimentation. Les agriculteurs réagissent positivement à de tels encouragements et à de bonnes conditions générales.

Une certaine protection vis-à-vis de l'extérieur est nécessaire car chaque peuple a droit à une sécurité alimentaire minimum, ce qui requiert une production intérieure propre.

Mesdames, Messieurs, à cette Conférence, comme d'ailleurs les années précédentes, on condamne à nouveau les politiques dites protectionnistes. Je voudrais toutefois dire ici qu'il faut veiller à parler d'une façon plus nuancée et comprendre qu'une certaine protection des importations est absolument nécessaire pour des millions de paysans, surtout dans de nombreux pays en développement. C'est pour eux une question de survie et la sécurité alimentaire de peuples entiers peut en dépendre.

Pour le maintien de beaucoup de gouvernements, il serait d'ailleurs responsable de laisser l'agriculture du pays subir la concurrence d'un agrobusiness, souvent égoïste et subventionné.

Nous attendons de la FAO que sur une telle question, une attitude claire soit adoptée pour protéger des millions de petits agriculteur et dans l'intérêt de la sécurité alimentaire.

Si nous oeuvrons sérieusement dans le sens de la production durable et de la protection de l'environnement, nous devons en fait protéger les agriculteurs qui emploient des méthodes de protection de l'environnement. En général, ces agriculteurs coûtent plus cher à court terme, mais leur action est à plus long terme.

Ainsi, nous en sommes arrivés aujourd'hui au commerce international des produits agricoles. Je crois que tout le monde s'attend, peut-être trop, à la solution de ces problèmes. Le commerce est nécessaire mais n'est pas une panacée, comme mon collègue de la Tanzanie le disait dans sa déclaration. La Suisse est en fait un des pays qui importent le plus de produits agricoles dont une grande partie viennent des pays en développement. Ces importations sont en constante augmentation. Or il y a peu de taxes sur ces produits. Mais, nous aussi, comme les pays de la Communauté européenne, nous avons connu une augmentation de la productivité durant ces 40 dernières années, et même une vraie révolution agricole due à ces progrès techniques, l'offre des produits agricoles ayant beaucoup augmenté.

Ainsi, Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est là la cause de la surproduction des pays industriels et non pas vraiment les prix. Le Gouvernement de mon pays lutte contre les excédents avec une série de mesures telles que: limitation de l'offre, mise en jachère de certaines terres, primes accordées aux agriculteurs qui protègent l'environnement et enfin le découplage de la politique des prix et des revenus. Cette réforme de la politique agricole est en voie d'introduction en Suisse, dans les pays de la Communauté et dans d'autres pays européens. En fait, cela permettra de diminuer les excédents et, par voie de conséquence, puisque c'est essentiel, on diminuera les subventions jusqu'à ce qu'on puisse les supprimer complètement.

Mais il faut un certain temps pour en arriver là et, évidemment, il faut également réduire le nombre des paysans (moins de 5 pour cent dans mon propre pays).

Le changement de structures a ses limites; limites que nous pouvons imposer à nos agriculteurs.

Aussi, la Suisse souhaite le succès du GATT mais ne veut rien faire au prix de la sécurité alimentaire et ne veut pas non plus sacrifier entièrement l'agriculture car, chez nous comme ailleurs, les agriculteurs sont plus que des producteurs; ils garantissent la sécurité alimentaire. Ils veillent à nos terres et maintiennent la terre productive en bon état. Les agriculteurs doivent remplir ces tâches pour la société tout entière. Ils doivent donc être protégés et, dans beaucoup de pays, ils ont besoin de l'aide de cette Organisation dont l'objectif est de parvenir à un plus grand bien-être de toutes les populations et de lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous ne voulons pas la confrontation mais la solidarité. Nous voulons une collaboration dans un esprit de confiance et je crois que c'est là le mot d'ordre actuel.

Fourth Report of the General Committee
Quatrième Rapport du Bureau
Cuarto Informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished Delegate of Switzerland for his statement. Distinguished delegates, I think we ought to take advantage of a quorum in the Hall at this time to receive the fourth report the General Committee. The document C 93/LIM/29 has been circulated, and it sets out the report of the 4th meeting of the General Committee. I hope we can accept this report as being read. If members have no comments on the report, which does include the resolution printed on page 2 of the report, I will take this report as having been accepted by Conference.

Fourth Report of the General Committee, including the Resolution,
is adopted

Le quatrième rapport du Bureau, comprenant la résolution, est adopté

El cuarto informe del Comité General, incluyendo la resolución, es aprobado

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Ivan TARNAJ (Croatia) (Original language Croatian): Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I have the great honour and particular pleasure of addressing, as Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Croatia, the participants of the 27th FAO General Conference.

The Republic of Croatia became a member of the United Nations in 1991. Membership in other specialized UN agencies - UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO - followed in the wake of this event, confirming Croatia's commitment to join the countries which promote democratization processes through mutual cooperation and agreement, and to integrate itself into the family of countries with already developed democratic systems and market economies.

Having become member of FAO, Croatia does not only want to promote its agriculture, but also to gear it to the future food requirements of the members of this specialized organization.

The Republic of Croatia enjoys highly favourable natural conditions for a varied and efficient agricultural production. It is at one and the same time a Balkan and a Central European country, a Mediterranean and a Danubian-Pannonian country, a country of mountains and lowlands alike.

Croatia's agricultural production resources are noteworthy: it has 3.2 million hectares of agricultural land, 63 percent being accounted for by arable areas and 36 percent by pastures. In 1990, 21.6 percent of this land was owned by state (socially-owned) integrated factory farms and 79.4 percent by private farmers.

The basic types of agricultural estates prevail in the Republic of Croatia: state or socially-owned, and private farms. The number of the former in

1989 was 585, the average farm area was 797 hectares, but almost six-tenths of such farms owned less than 50 hectares. At the same time, the four largest state-owned farms owned more than 20 000 hectares of land each.

State-owned farms achieve high yields per unit of area and a high output per head of cattle because they have the best land, good equipment, quality seed, and well-trained operators and specialists.

In the same period, 569 000 private farms had an average area of 2.9 hectares, -usually split into 6 to 7 plots. The supply of equipment was low, and the farmers poorly trained and - on the average - old.

Even farms wishing and having the capability to develop agricultural production on a greater scale were limited by the maximum land holding of 10 hectares. Croatia also abounds in forests: 43.5 percent of its area is accounted for by woods and forest land. Out of the 2.1 million hectares of forests, 81 percent are state-owned and 19 percent are in private ownership. The rate of field crop production differs depending on whether state-owned or private farms are involved, which is the result of the already indicated policy of the state in respect of both farm categories. Crop yields achieved on state-owned farms match the yields attained in countries having a developed agriculture. Thus, in 1990 the yields per hectare amounted to the following: wheat 6.91 t/ha., barley 6.01, maize 5.40, and sugar beet 40.83. The yields of the same crops on private farms, in the same year, were as follows: wheat 4.03 t/ha., barley 2.53, maize 3.54, and sugar beet 39.14.

In 1990 Croatia had a sound foundation for a faster development of livestock breeding: it had 39 000 horses, 830 000 head of cattle, 1.6 million pigs, 751 000 sheep and a poultry stock of 17.1 million.

The difference between livestock productivity achieved on private and state farms was considerable. State farms ran intensive, and private farms extensive and semi-intensive production. In 1990 the milking capacity per cow and sheep amounted to, on state farms 5 725 and 83 litres, respectively, and on private farms to 1 827 and 30 litres, respectively. State farms produced 19.04 pigs, and private farms 12.37 pigs, per breeding sow.

The final value of agricultural production is also unfavourable, and in 1990 livestock breeding accounted for only 46.8 percent of the total.

Croatia also has relatively well-developed facilities for the processing of agricultural products. In 1990 there were 499 foodstuffs and tobacco industry plants of varying scale and product range. Some of these facilities are over-dimensioned and poorly coordinated, for example, slaughterhouses and meat processing plants. In forestry, the volume of wood in state-owned forests is estimated to be about 270 million cubic metres, and in privately-owned forests to be about 37 million cu.m. The annual increment is about 7.6 million cu.m. in state, and only about 1.1 million cu.m. in private forests. The inadequate development and the poor structure of agriculture and forestry production in Croatia are mainly due to the inappropriate agrarian policy enforced from 1945 to 1990. Such a state of affairs required rapid changes, especially of tenure property, as soon as the country attained independence. However, the initiated transformation processes in Croatian agriculture were soon interrupted by the war imposed on Croatia in 1991, which has not yet ended in either formal or real terms. 551 000 hectares of arable area and about 120 000 farms are still under

occupation in the UNPAs and the so-called "pink zones". Farmers account for most of the 250 000 displaced persons, citizens of the Republic of Croatia forcibly driven out of their homes and still sheltered in a number of hostels, hotels, hospitals and refugee camps. At present Croatia is caring, with the help of the international community, for 525 184 refugees and displaced persons, a figure equal to 12 percent of its population, which is a globally unique example of relief efforts.

The war has brought terrible suffering to Croatia: 6 829 persons were killed, 25 951 wounded, while 12 721 are still missing. Along with destroyed cities, industries and infrastructure, agriculture has also suffered substantial damage.

According to 1992 data, the so-far recorded direct damage has been particularly high in livestock breeding: more than 120 000 cows and heifers, 65 000 sows, 14 000 horses, 232 000 sheep and 2.5 million poultry have been destroyed or misappropriated.

Furthermore, about 40 percent of production and storage facilities of the Croatian foodstuffs and processing industries have been destroyed or occupied. During war operations, about 15 000 hectares of forest were burnt down or deliberately set afire.

Orchards and vineyards also suffered damage. Farming equipment has not been spared either: about 18 000 machines and attachments have been destroyed or misappropriated.

The list of destroyed facilities includes the Faculty and Institute of Agriculture in Osijek with very valuable laboratory equipment.

Even the so-far recorded direct damage suffered by Croatia's agriculture owing to the war shows that it has been extensive. According to expert estimates, indirect damage is even higher. A considerable part of areas involved in war operations have not been farmed for three years. Forests are not being renewed. Livestock breeding activities cannot be fully restored without the prior reconstruction of stables and other facilities.

Raw materials are not available for a number of processing plants because the required areas or livestock are occupied or misappropriated, for example, sugar beets, grapes and milk. The communications between the northern and the southern parts of the country are still difficult, and this has disrupted the flow of raw materials and semi-manufactured and finished products. Croatia has lost some of the foreign markets for its farming products because it cannot deliver them in time and in the contracted quantities.

Along with these hardships and with the damage caused by war, Croatia is also feeling the consequences of two severe droughts and other natural adversities caused by hail and floods in 1991 and 1993.

All these vicissitudes notwithstanding, the great vitality of Croatia's agriculture is also confirmed by the fact that the country has not experienced food shortages or hunger despite the severe destruction brought about by war, the occupation of part of the most fertile land, and the great number of displaced persons and refugees. However, this does not mean that we neglect or detract from the importance of food donated through international relief operations.

The foregoing considerations imply that the reconstruction of Croatian agriculture is a top priority task. Reconstruction should be understood in a broader sense of the word. That is, it should involve alike the offsetting of the consequences of the 45-year-long inadequate agrarian policy and the reconstruction proper of farming areas affected by war. These are long-term and demanding tasks.

Through agrarian policy measures the Republic of Croatia is endeavouring, to the extent permitted by war-time circumstances, to transform agriculture from a socialist to a market activity. The Farming Land Law regulates the basic property relationship. The 10-hectare maximum has been abrogated and the privatization of socially-owned integrated factory farms has started with the establishment of a greater number of smaller independent enterprises. The enactment of the law on denationalization and the restitution of land unlawfully appropriated and nationalized after the end of the Second World War is currently under way. The restitution of nationalized land and property to their lawful owners will allow for the completion of the process of transformation and privatization of integrated factory farms.

A considerable difficulty in this process is posed by the unfavourable age structure of the farmers and the related relatively high resources required for an appropriate welfare policy. Another important factor is the ensurance of equal business activity conditions for both state-owned and private farms. Attempts have been made to reduce the price of agricultural produce by cutting down direct and indirect subsidies to agricultural producers. The Government also promotes increasing liberalization of agricultural produce exports and imports.

Having become a member of FAO, the Republic of Croatia has joined the family of countries wanting to cooperate, within the international community, in the promotion of agricultural production and the improvement of the global food situation. Having wrestled itself free from socialism, the Republic of Croatia, with its millennial history, European tradition and major agricultural potential knows the way out of its current vicissitudes.

The Republic of Croatia and its agriculture look forward today to FAO's understanding and assistance in order themselves to be able tomorrow to assist all the member countries requiring help. In the restructuring of its agriculture and its post-war reconstruction, Croatia first of all looks forward to FAO's professional and technical help. Croatia has a sufficient number of well-trained and competent experts of various backgrounds who, in cooperation with FAO specialists, can draft the best way towards a profitable, high-quality and environmentally acceptable agricultural production in Europe.

Let us take this opportunity to express our gratitude to FAO and the World Bank experts already engaged in two projects in the Republic of Croatia. We believe that this is a sign of trust and of interest in Croatia's agriculture. We also hope that these projects mark the beginning of a long-term and successful cooperation, and that the Croatian delegation will be able to report the results achieved at the next Conference.

As a full member Croatia will provide every support to all FAO endeavours to reduce the present imbalance in the production and consumption of agricultural products, foodstuffs in particular, and to offset food shortages wherever required. By feeding hundreds of thousands of refugees

from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and its own displaced persons, over the past years Croatia has acquired substantial experience and knowledge of this problem affecting Europe now on the eve of the 21st Century.

We believe that the century-long experience of Croatia's agriculture, its European environment, major potential, hard-working farmers and well-trained specialists can significantly contribute to the work and activities of such an eminent specialized organization as the FAO. We, therefore, look forward to mutually beneficial future cooperation.

Mme Madina LY-TALL (Mali): Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Honorables Délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand honneur et une grande joie de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée.

M. le Président, l'occasion solennelle qui m'est ainsi offerte me permet de vous adresser au nom du peuple malien et de son gouvernement mes très vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette vingt-septième session. La présente Conférence sous votre éminente direction vient également d'élire le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO. Vous me permettez, à cet égard, de souligner notre appréciation des efforts très louables déployés pendant dix-huit années par le Directeur général sortant, M. Edouard Saouma, pour la réalisation des nobles objectifs de notre Organisation. Dans ce cadre, le programme de coopération technique FAO qu'il a initié a eu une incidence positive sur la résolution des problèmes urgents de nos pays au plan tant national que régional. Ces programmes ont effectivement contribué au renforcement de nos capacités de mise en oeuvre des différents projets avec les partenaires au développement.

Nous avons été très sensibles par ailleurs à sa perception du rôle de la femme dans le développement économique et social, en général, et à la dynamique imprimée en particulier à la promotion de la femme au sein de notre Organisation.

Sous votre sage et clairvoyante direction, la Conférence vient d'élire pour la première fois en 48 années d'existence un responsable africain en la personne du Dr. Jacques Diouf du Sénégal pour diriger notre Organisation, ce qui, pour reprendre un de mes prédécesseurs, constitue certes une célébration pour l'Afrique, mais est aussi un grand défi. Nous tenons en tout cas à lui réaffirmer notre engagement total et à lui donner l'assurance de notre disponibilité entière.

Les éléments de programme du nouveau Directeur général visant à faire de la FAO un centre d'excellence, à perfectionner la programmation des activités et la vision qu'il a des dimensions régionales et sectorielles de la problématique de l'alimentation, constituent à n'en pas douter les garants d'une réussite certaine.

La session de la Conférence de la FAO offre traditionnellement l'opportunité à la communauté internationale de débattre de la situation alimentaire mondiale. Cette situation reste dominée par l'accroissement de la dépendance de l'Afrique au cours des dix dernières années. Cette évolution négative liée aux effets conjugués de facteurs endogènes et exogènes ajoute à la paupérisation du monde rural dont les besoins essentiels restent encore à satisfaire.

Nous nous devons de trouver ensemble les moyens d'une croissance économique durable dans cette partie du monde ayant davantage à l'esprit le nouveau contexte de démocratisation. Dans cette perspective, le Mali, avec l'appui de la FAO, a élaboré en 1992 un schéma directeur de développement rural. Ce schéma demeure encore le cadre privilégié pour l'orientation des activités aux court, moyen et long termes.

Les options, choix et priorités retenus sont l'aboutissement d'un large débat national, notamment la Conférence nationale et les états généraux du monde rural qui non seulement les ont confirmés mais ont réclamé une plus grande responsabilisation des populations rurales, une relecture des lois foncières et un accès plus large des ruraux aux intrants, aux équipements et au crédit.

Lors de ces consultations nationales, il est apparu une volonté manifeste du monde rural de changer la nature de ses relations, de ses rapports avec l'administration générale et les services techniques du gouvernement. Ces grandes options viennent d'être récemment traduites en objectifs stratégiques dans un plan d'action à court terme au Ministère du développement rural, plan d'action qui vise à traduire dans les faits toute une volonté de changements : changement de structure et de mode d'intervention en matière de développement rural, changement par rapport à la perception du rôle de l'Etat. Il ne s'agit plus d'encadrer, voire d'enrégimenter le paysan, l'éleveur, le pêcheur, l'artisan, mais d'entretenir avec lui des relations de partenariat pour une forme de développement dans laquelle ses intérêts particuliers aussi bien que ceux de la collectivité seraient préservés. Il s'agit, à travers la décentralisation et la privatisation, de restituer aux populations rurales individuellement ou organisées en collectivités, l'initiative, le choix, la forme et la gestion des activités qui concourent à leur développement.

Dans cette nouvelle approche, les structures du développement rural ont pour rôle de promouvoir la création du cadre législatif et réglementaire propice à l'éclosion des initiatives, d'en contrôler le respect, d'assister, de conseiller et de former. Elles se retirent progressivement de leur fonction antérieure.

Parmi les autres éléments constitutifs de ce plan, une attention particulière est accordée aux femmes pour leur permettre de valoriser leurs compétences au bénéfice du développement, notamment par la promotion de l'éducation et de la santé en milieu rural. Un intérêt accru est porté également aux jeunes ruraux pour lesquels il est prévu une formation plus adéquate et l'amélioration du cadre de vie dans les villages afin de lutter contre le sous-emploi et la tentation de l'exode.

Enfin, dans le cadre de l'application du Pacte national qui nous lie avec l'ancienne rébellion touareg, le suivi et l'appui à la réalisation du programme d'investissement dans le nord du pays seront renforcés.

M. le Président, au Mali nous sommes profondément convaincus que la sécurité alimentaire et la prospérité que nous voulons pour les populations dépendront essentiellement des efforts que la collectivité nationale est prête à fournir en recherchant la participation active et consciente des hommes et des femmes en milieu rural. Cependant, la pleine manifestation de la solidarité nationale ne peut qu'améliorer les chances de succès de notre lutte commune contre la faim, la malnutrition, la pauvreté et la maladie.

Face à l'ampleur et à la complexité des problèmes, M. le Président, il est important qu'en plus de la compétence nous ayons la foi. En souhaitant la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres de notre Organisation, je fonde le vif espoir que les travaux de cette vingt-septième session de la FAO ouvrent à l'Afrique de nouvelles perspectives.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPOSE

DERECHO DE RESPUESTA

Ms Naima AL-SHAYJI (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic): The Kuwaiti delegation has asked for the right of reply in response to the statement made by Iraq. Thank you very much for conceding this to us. Very briefly, during this sitting we would like to say that the discussion and the way in which the resolution from the Security Council of the UN has been changed, is something which does not fall within the jurisdiction of the General Conference of the FAO.

Frank D. BUCHHOLZ (United States of America): The United States agrees with Kuwait that this is an inappropriate forum for discussing Security Council resolutions. We regret that the delegate of Iraq has sought to politicize this Conference with his statement. UN sanctions are designed to secure Iraqi compliance with the terms of the cease fire resolution and all other relevant resolutions. The international community strongly supports the continuation of sanctions until Iraq fully complies with the terms. The international community has made every effort to minimize the suffering of innocent Iraqi civilians, including exemption of foodstuffs, medicines and other essential supplies from the embargo. The adoption of resolutions 706 and 712 and relief efforts total hundreds of millions of dollars. Any hardships being suffered by the Iraqi people are due to the policies of the Iraqi regime, not the actions of the international community in maintaining sanctions in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom): We, too, agree that this is not the appropriate forum for discussing Security Council Resolutions. We do not believe that sanctions should be lifted until Iraq complies fully with relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. We do believe that Iraq could help their own population by implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712. These Resolutions permit Iraq to export oil. Proceeds from this would go to a United Nations account to fund UN operations, including a humanitarian programme. But Iraq decided in early October not to continue negotiations on possible implementation of the Security Council's Resolutions. The international community has no quarrel with the long-suffering Iraqi people, and it is well known that food and medicines are permitted under the sanctions' regime.

Waleed A. ELKEHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): We in our turn would like to support this and say that these sanctions are not within the ambit of this Conference. We would agree with what has been said by Kuwait, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): La délégation française voudrait s'associer pleinement aux remarques qui ont été formulées par les quatre orateurs qui m'ont précédé et nous insistons une nouvelle fois sur le fait que la Conférence générale de cette Organisation n'est pas le lieu de discussion des résolutions du Conseil de sécurité - Je vous remercie.

The meeting rose at 18.10 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 10.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.10 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 93/PV/12

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt- septième session
PLENIERE

27º período de sesiones
PLENARIA

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
12ª SESION PLENARIA
(15 November 1993)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours

Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: On Friday the matter of a message to the Pope was raised by the delegate of the Cook Islands and received general support from the Conference. I wish to inform you that in accordance with the Resolution of Conference, I sent a message to the Pope and I would just like to read the message sent to His Most Emmiment the Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Secretary of State, Secretariat of State:

"Your Eminency, on behalf of the delegations to the 27th Session of the FAO Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and in my own name, I have the honour to extend to His Holiness the Pope John Paul II through your high offices our deepest sympathy for yesterday's incident during our audience with him as well as our warmest wishes for his prompt recovery. On this occasion I wish to extend to His Holiness John Paul II our sincerest appreciation for the noble words of encouragement in our efforts to resolve world food problems and for the extraordinary example of courage that he has set for all of us. Our prayers are with him."

This was the message sent by me on your behalf.

Christian BONAPARTE (Haïti): Monsieur le Président, la vingt-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO se réalise à un moment où mon pays est confronté à l'une des crises les plus aiguës de son histoire, crise provoquée par le refus systématique d'une poignée de militaires de respecter la volonté de tout un peuple librement exprimée lors des élections de décembre 1990, et ce en défi ouvert aux normes les plus élémentaires du droit international. Tout un pays, en dépit des forces contraires, continue de croire, au bord du désespoir, au concours de la communauté internationale pour assurer ses droits à la vie et à la recherche du bonheur.

Au nom du gouvernement constitutionnel, je profite de l'occasion pour féliciter la FAO d'avoir, tout au long de ces deux longues années de crise, respecté rigoureusement les résolutions des Nations Unies et de l'Organisation des Etats américains visant à appuyer le peuple haïtien dans ses efforts pour la restauration de la démocratie.

Les tendances à la globalisation de l'économie mondiale liées à une révolution technologique sans précédent ont eu indubitablement leur influence sur l'agriculture et l'alimentation des peuples. Elles ouvrent une ère de compétitivité et d'efficacité qui ne peut être que bénéfique pour le progrès humain et pour la prospérité des peuples. Pour des pays extrêmement pauvres comme le nôtre, elles offrent une opportunité peu commune de faire un bond vers la modernité et d'améliorer le sort de nos populations.

Bien des pays du tiers monde ont fait des efforts considérables pour s'adapter aux nouvelles circonstances de l'économie internationale. Durant

les sept mois au pouvoir du président Jean Bertrand Aristide, le Ministère de l'agriculture avait commencé à mettre sur pied les bases sûres pour la modernisation du secteur agricole avec des perspectives de forte collaboration des organismes de coopération internationale et régionale, en particulier de la FAO. Malheureusement, ces espoirs de fructueuse coopération ont été violemment fauchés après le coup d'Etat du 30 septembre 1991. Nous comptons pouvoir les revitaliser une fois rétablie la démocratie en Haïti.

Toutefois,- force est de constater qu'en dépit des possibilités d'augmentation de la productivité du secteur agricole, les problèmes de l'alimentation et de la nutrition demeurent encore plus cruciaux pour une grande partie de la population mondiale.

Face à la tendance à une amélioration qualitative de la diète dans les pays riches, les nouveaux minima de calories et de protéines recommandés par la FAO continuent de subir une dégradation alarmante pour l'ensemble des pays du globe. En d'autres termes, les efforts de modernisation de l'agriculture ne sont pas accompagnés d'un plus grand bien-être pour l'ensemble des peuples. Tout au contraire, il y a eu un mouvement en sens contraire, ce qui pose question s'agissant des lignes de stratégie et des modalités d'application.

Par ailleurs, en dépit des conférences, séminaires, réunions, déclarations et prises de position multiples de la part de gouvernements et divers types d'organismes en faveur d'un développement durable, peu a été effectivement fait dans ce sens. La logique de la rentabilité à court terme du capital gagne du terrain, imprimant d'une façon inexorable son rythme dévastateur aux relations de l'homme avec la nature. Ainsi, des millions et des millions de familles de petits producteurs appauvris se voient acculées à écorcher l'environnement pour y soutirer les maigres ressources nécessaires à une survie indigne d'un être humain. Et comme ultime solution, des millions de personnes abandonnent chaque année la campagne pour se réfugier dans des bidonvilles immondes, préférant vivre dans une promiscuité abjecte que de mourir d'un simple tétanos en pleine lune.

Dans cette fuite désespérée vers la survie, les femmes prennent le devant. A elles, le milieu rural offre encore moins qu'aux hommes des possibilités de croissance. Bien souvent, dépossédées de leur droit à l'héritage familial au profit des hommes, plus sensibles aux pénuries de la famille, dotées d'une capacité plus diversifiée pour le travail, plus souvent forcées à se laisser exploiter, elles sont les premières à souffrir des effets de la désarticulation du monde rural.

Comment donc parer à cette macro-céphalie anarchique de nos grandes villes? Comment redonner un sens à l'urbain et au rural dans nos pays?

Une plus grande compétitivité dans les relations commerciales à travers des mesures de libéralisation et d'une meilleure dotation technologique apparaissent comme des préalables requis pour le développement rural. Mais à la longue, elle a beaucoup de chance de se retourner contre lui si elle n'est pas capable de se combiner ou de s'articuler avec d'autres éléments susceptibles d'une dynamisation à long terme. D'ailleurs, elle n'a de sens que dans la mesure où elle peut contribuer à augmenter le bien-être de la population. Aucune mesure de politique, aucune stratégie de développement ne saurait avoir de sens en soi. Elle ne saurait être bénéfique à long terme. Elle contribue à renforcer la domination d'un petit groupe oligarchique.

Ici se pose la nécessité de l'équité et de la participation réelle des acteurs dans le développement, vieux thèmes qui reviennent toujours sur la scène mais qui, dans la réalité, n'ont fait l'objet que de timides politiques de la part des gouvernements et des organismes internationaux.

Monsieur le Président, à notre sens, les problèmes de base auxquels est confrontée l'agriculture aujourd'hui après de louables efforts pour augmenter sa performance ont pour cause principale une considération insuffisante de ces deux facteurs. Sagement combinés avec une politique d'augmentation de la compétitivité, ils auraient évité la polarisation désastreuse des acteurs avec les conséquences relatives sur la sécurité alimentaire et sur la nutrition chez les groupes vulnérables. La résolution des problèmes mondiaux de l'alimentation et de la nutrition ne peut prioriser une approche d'importation d'aliments et encore moins de l'aide alimentaire permanente.

L'expérience a démontré que l'aide alimentaire peut bien servir d'appoint à une politique tendant à assurer un revenu décent aux producteurs ruraux à travers une augmentation de leur production. Mais elle a aussi dévoilé le mal-fondé de la prétention de fermer les portes à la compétition internationale. Cette vision étriquée de la politique agricole s'est traduite par un manque d'attention vis-à-vis de l'économie paysanne. Dans les pays à faible poids du secteur paysan, elle n'a pas eu de graves effets sur l'alimentation de la population mais elle en a eu dans ceux où la structure agraire est à dominante de petites exploitations, comme c'est le cas d'Haïti. Elle a remarquablement contribué à aggraver la situation alimentaire dans une bonne partie de la population, situation à laquelle les politiques d'aide alimentaire et d'importation d'aliments n'ont apporté qu'un faible palliatif. Pour nous, Monsieur le Président, l'une des manières les plus efficaces d'attaquer le problème de l'alimentation en Haïti est sans nul doute de favoriser les productions locales susceptibles d'accroître l'offre d'aliments et surtout d'assurer un revenu minimum aux familles vivant en milieu rural, dynamisant ainsi la demande de produits de première nécessité et limitant les risques de sous-alimentation et de malnutrition. Tout cela ne peut se faire que par une volonté manifeste de démocratiser les structures de production en milieu rural. C'est aussi la meilleure façon de fixer les populations dans leur lieu d'origine et d'éviter l'exode effréné vers les villes et vers d'autres pays avec les conséquences désastreuses que nous connaissons tous.

Toutefois, ceci ne va pas à l'encontre de la nécessité urgente de dynamiser le secteur industriel, de le transformer en une source importante de création de nouveaux emplois. Mais, si nous voulons coupler le développement industriel à une adéquate politique alimentaire, il nous fait prioriser les industries locales susceptibles de dynamiser en aval la production de matières premières d'une part et, d'autre part, d'être sources de revenus même modestes pour les familles vivant en milieu rural.

Nous croyons fermement qu'une politique de développement rural devrait pouvoir allier des mesures tendant à la compétitivité internationale et visant l'équité et la participation de la population. La modernisation ne doit pas seulement toucher une petite élite de producteurs. Elle n'aurait d'effet positif soutenu que si elle cessait d'être l'apanage d'un petit groupe et si elle cherchait les moyens d'atteindre le plus grand nombre possible d'acteurs, même si les effets immédiats paraissent timides.

La solution est sans doute dans une articulation intelligente des deux approches. Toute démarche tendant à simplifier le problème et à le réduire

à l'un de ces éléments risque de créer des blocages et d'annuler les possibles effets multiplicateurs des actions entreprises.

Il ne fait pas de doute que la FAO devrait renforcer son expertise et son appui en matière de stratégie de développement rural et de sécurité alimentaire, en fonction des nouvelles tendances de l'économie internationale et des multiples expériences d'échecs enregistrés en matière de politique alimentaire et de nutrition.

Dans les pays pauvres, comment concilier une franche ouverture de marchés agricoles avec la sécurité alimentaire? Comment réaliser une modernisation en faveur de la majorité des producteurs? Autant de questions complexes qui n'acceptent pas de recette et encore moins de solution simpliste.

Plusieurs chercheurs et spécialistes en matière agricole ont reconnu que la République d'Haïti possédait une paysannerie profondément inventive dans la gestion de ses maigres ressources. Cependant, non seulement elle n'a pas eu l'appui qu'elle méritait de l'Etat, mais elle a souvent été considérée par celui-ci comme un ennemi à abattre: une paysannerie sans nul droit, traquée par les pouvoirs en place, mais tenace au travail. Aujourd'hui, elle est la proie d'une répression aveugle de la part du pouvoir militaire. Multiples sont les projets à réaliser, soit directement avec les paysans, soit avec l'appui d'organisations non gouvernementales ou de la coopération internationale qui ont été brutalement détruits à partir du coup d'Etat qui a mis en exil le Président Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Le nombre de petits producteurs assassinés ou forcés de prendre le maquis ne se compte plus. Leur crime? Avoir voté massivement pour le Président Aristide et avoir continué de manifester en faveur de son retour, en faveur du retour de l'état de droit.

Nous sommes conscients que ce n'est pas ici le lieu idéal pour dénoncer les violations des résolutions prescrites par la Charte des Nations Unies. Mais force est de rappeler brièvement ces faits, car nous demeurons plus que jamais convaincus que l'agriculture ne peut se développer en dehors d'une ambiance démocratique. Les exemples en ce sens ne se comptent plus. La grande vague de démocratisation qui secoue le monde a plus de peine à atteindre le monde rural que le monde urbain. Bien des pays pauvres continuent à être les victimes de la rapacité d'une oligarchie démodée et de la violence des forces dites de l'ordre. Les réformes agraires n'ont pas eu lieu ou bien n'ont pas eu la vertu escomptée de démocratiser les structures existantes. Le monde rural fait d'emblée partie de ce qu'on a appelé les majorités silencieuses.

Au terme de mon intervention, Monsieur le Président, je m'en voudrais de ne pas réaffirmer l'état de régression alarmant de notre agriculture, aggravé par la crise politique qui secoue Haïti depuis plus de deux ans. En dehors d'une solution démocratique, les perspectives de règlement de cette crise sont plutôt sombres. Une intervention urgente et de grande envergure, capable d'assurer un niveau de production alimentaire suffisant aux populations rurales et urbaines et d'arrêter la dangereuse dégradation de notre environnement, paraît la seule alternative valable et notre seule planche de salut. C'est donc justement là que nous souhaitons vivement recevoir l'appui de la FAO et de tous les pays membres de cette prestigieuse institution.

J'aurais pu, dans cet exposé, vous donner des chiffres, Monsieur le Président, mais puisque nous sommes dans une enceinte traitant de

l'agriculture il vaut mieux recommander de planter du riz, de planter du maïs ou de planter du sorgho; mais il faut aussi planter des hommes.

Most Rev. Alois WAGNER (Holy See) : I have the honour to convey to the participants of the 27th Session of FAO Conference the best greetings of the Holy Father who has very much appreciated your best wishes. He tried to greet everyone as he was going out but he was blocked a little bit through his falling down on the right hand.

His Holiness Pope John II is sending the Blessing of the Almighty God for a fruitful outcome of this Conference.

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Permanent Representatives, ladies and gentlemen. Taking the floor in this assembly of experts, first of all I wish to congratulate Mr Mullings upon his election as Chairman of the Conference. I take this opportunity to thank all those who attended the Audience which Pope John Paul II granted to the participants of this Conference.

I feel the need to address particular greetings to Mr Edouard Saouma, who has for so many years led this Organization with a high level of professional competence combined with a deep devotion to the aims, activities and the "cause" of FAO.

To Mr Jacques Diouf, chosen by this Conference to bear the weighty responsibility of leading the largest of the specialized agencies of the United Nations System, the delegation of the Holy See has the pleasure in offering its congratulations, while encouraging him in his delicate task, and it confirms its solidarity with the future action of the Organization.

The Holy See's support, as everyone knows, is different from that of Member States. Nevertheless, it is no less explicit and effective. FAO was the first of the International Organizations with which the Holy See established permanent relations.

The items on the Agenda show that the agricultural sector is the focal point of all economic activity, even in a world that seems to be more and more conditioned, in every aspect, by the experiences of advanced technology. Moreover, agriculture represents the basic reference point not only for all activities aiming to promote the development of peoples and nations, but also for general economic growth worldwide.

Consequently, the agricultural policies themselves put into effect by both developing and developed countries should not be conditioned by this opinion, nor should they pay attention only to the profits gained from agricultural products, while neglecting direct action in rural areas on behalf of those living there.

In fact, the guidelines given by FAO in the document Agriculture Towards 2010, in the agricultural aspect, the agricultural sector and related food production require the utmost attention both from national policies and from action which is proper for international cooperation.

The delegation of the Holy See considers particularly important the question of the imbalance between world agricultural production and the decrease of production levels in the areas considered at risk where underdevelopment, environmental degradation, demographic increase and other

socio-economic factors help to create and maintain poverty, and bring about conditions for a new food crisis.

In spite of the universal affirmation of the global nature of the economy, the agricultural policy guidelines of some of the biggest agricultural producers are mainly directed by internal price mechanisms. Such a national focus neither looks to eventual consequences in the "areas of poverty" nor raises the question of how to coordinate farm policies with development needs in the poorest countries.

In this perspective it is impossible not to mention the unanimous conclusions of FAO's Regional Conferences and other FAO meetings, about the manifold negative effects on production, trade, and distribution - and therefore on food security - of the long-stagnant GATT negotiations. It seems that especially the rural world hopes for concrete results from the happy conclusions of the Uruguay Round.

It is not the Holy See's role to give technical suggestions about economic theories or policies, but it is convinced that international economic policies should never be guided by the particular aims of single states or groups of states.

Looking at matters from the perspective of human dignity and the solidarity of mankind, we encourage the economic decision-makers of the largest nations to commit themselves to searching for original solutions, as well as to give their support to all bilateral and multilateral cooperation which could make possible the sustainable development of the whole rural world at the same time as preserving the rights of farmers.

Attention to internal problems, however serious they may be, must always go hand in hand with attention to claims for a just order of world trade, and particularly to the voice of the weakest countries asking for a place in the world economy, in order to achieve full development for their rural population.

Mr Chairman, the delegation of the Holy See hopes that this exchange of experiences will not remain only a mere item of information, but will become a basis for FAO action in the matter of environment. In fact, the conclusions of the Rio Summit call for FAO to engage in the realization of the main issues of Action 21, particularly in the Medium-Term Plan 1994-99, with special reference to land use and fishery and forestry resources.

FAO is called to apply its experience to the conservation of agricultural, forestry and fishery resources. In fact, thanks to FAO much has already been done to protect the ecosystem. One of the main difficulties remaining is to bring about the full realization of the conclusions of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development convened by FAO already in 1979.

Finally, we wish to call upon this Conference to assure that in the actions of FAO the development process is not focused only on technical aspects or upon those related to production alone, because here efforts at education are indispensable. Education for development is, therefore, the main issue in specific FAO activity.

The Holy See delegation hopes that FAO will recognize and emphasize the role and the approach of non-governmental organizations.

In this perspective the Catholic Church, through their institutions engaged in social role by action and in development activities all over the world, can assure FAO of support and collaboration. In fact, the development of the rural poor and the central role of agriculture are important elements of the Social Teachings of the Church. These priorities are emphasized in all Encyclical Letters.

Mr Chairman, these are hopes of the Holy See's delegation for the conclusions of this Conference. Together with the rural communities, we look forward to a renewed dedication to actions and to international cooperation with respect to the challenges arising from agricultural activities in favour of people in rural areas.

Nguyen MANH DUNG (Viet Nam): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous adresser, Monsieur le Président, les félicitations les plus chaleureuses de ma délégation pour votre élection à la présidence de cette importante Conférence. Je suis fermement convaincu que, sous votre direction, ce sommet de l'agriculture aboutira à des succès escomptés.

Ma délégation est très heureuse de l'élection de Monsieur Jacques Diouf au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Son élection est un hommage bien mérité rendu à ses éminentes contributions à la sécurité alimentaire globale ainsi qu'au développement agricole. Soyez sûr, Monsieur le nouveau Directeur général, du soutien et de la pleine coopération de mon gouvernement dans l'accomplissement de votre noble mission.

Monsieur le Président, depuis plusieurs années, on assiste à une sensible amélioration de l'approvisionnement alimentaire des pays en développement. Mais la faim est loin d'être vaincue. Elle résulte des catastrophes naturelles et surtout de la pauvreté et des guerres. Cette situation est d'autant plus inquiétante que la population du monde s'accroît chaque jour de 250 000 personnes et que les termes de l'échange continuent à se dégrader.

Il est donc impératif d'augmenter considérablement la production agricole, d'accroître les rendements tout en préservant la qualité et la diversité de la nature. Et pour ce faire, il faut poursuivre les réformes agraires ou structurelles, mobiliser le monde scientifique, favoriser l'avènement d'un nouvel ordre économique international juste et équitable, et renforcer la solidarité et la coopération internationales qui, dans ce monde interdépendant, sont bénéfiques à tous les pays - développés et en développement.

Créée pour relever les plus grands défis de l'humanité, ceux de la faim et du développement, la FAO, dès sa naissance, a axé ses fonctions fondamentales et son rôle constitutif sur ces objectifs. Aujourd'hui personne ne peut nier que la FAO est devenue l'une des organisations internationales les plus efficaces dans la lutte contre la faim et pour le développement dans le monde. Et cela, malgré les difficultés financières énormes qu'elle a rencontrées ces dernières années.

Ma délégation a examiné avec soin le Programme de travail et budget pour 1994-95 et est prête à se rallier au consensus lors de son adoption. Elle exprime sa satisfaction à l'égard des priorités que la FAO accorde au programme de développement durable et aux problèmes de l'environnement.

La présente situation économique mondiale n'est pas idéale pour l'accomplissement de la noble et difficile mission de la FAO qui doit travailler dans les deux prochaines années avec plus de contraintes financières. Cela supposerait une répartition rationnelle de ses ressources et une amélioration de l'efficacité de ses services.

Depuis sa création, le Programme de coopération technique a beaucoup aidé les pays en développement à débloquer les situations de crise dans la production agricole. Ma délégation estime que ce programme est très utile et devrait être maintenu. Il est regrettable que les ressources réservées au TCP connaissent une certaine réduction dans les deux années qui viennent.

Au moment où un grand nombre de pays, en particulier ceux en développement, sont en train d'effectuer des réformes agraires et structurelles, l'étude des politiques agricoles et la formation dans ce secteur s'avèrent très nécessaires et constituent des domaines où la FAO devrait promouvoir pour pouvoir aider efficacement ces pays à éviter des erreurs parfois catastrophiques.

Depuis plusieurs années, à travers sa politique de rénovation économique, le Gouvernement vietnamien a engagé le pays dans une économie de marché. Il a mis en application de nombreuses réformes agraires encourageant les paysans à travailler la terre pour leur propre compte, supprimant le contrôle des prix, attribuant aux paysans les droits à long terme à la terre... Grâce à ces réformes, le Vietnam a enregistré des résultats importants dans la production agricole. Pour la première fois depuis des décennies, notre pays a atteint l'autosuffisance alimentaire et est devenu exportateur de riz. Cependant, Monsieur le Président, il nous reste beaucoup à faire pour arriver à une réelle sécurité alimentaire et pour améliorer le niveau de nutrition de la population. Des efforts ont été déployés pour la mise en oeuvre des orientations suivantes:

Premièrement, assurer en 1993 une production vivrière de 24,5 millions de tonnes malgré les calamités naturelles qui ont frappé une bonne partie du centre du Vietnam; promouvoir la culture intensive de riz; éviter cette culture dans les régions présentant moins d'efficacité économique, surtout quand celle-ci s'avère désastreuse pour l'environnement; multiplier les variétés de riz de bonne qualité et bien résistantes aux intempéries ainsi qu'aux insectes.

Deuxièmement, diversifier la production agricole en faisant valoir les avantages de l'écosystème de chaque région et en rehaussant l'efficacité de la mise en valeur des terres; développer l'élevage ; imprimer un nouvel élan à l'économie jardinière; développer la culture du caféier, de l'hévéa, du thé, contribuant ainsi à la réalisation du programme de reboisement.

Troisièmement, accorder une digne attention au développement et au perfectionnement de l'industrie agro-alimentaire en la considérant comme la clef pour augmenter la valeur et l'efficacité de l'agriculture. Cette industrie aidera à améliorer la qualité des produits traités au Vietnam, répondant aux besoins du pays et renforçant la capacité de concurrence des produits vietnamiens sur le marché mondial.

Pour favoriser le développement de l'agriculture et l'édification d'une nouvelle vie à la campagne, nous avons pris de nombreuses mesures. Récemment, l'Assemblée nationale du Vietnam a adopté "la loi agricole amendée et modifiée". Cette loi a créé les conditions fondamentales

susceptibles d'encourager les paysans à investir dans la culture intensive et dans le défrichage, de mobiliser les capacités de 10 millions de familles paysannes, le concours de l'Etat aidant, dans la mise en valeur des terres cultivables. Nous continuons à favoriser le développement de l'économie familiale tout en renouvelant les coopératives agricoles sur la base des services prestataires à l'avantage de l'économie familiale. De nouvelles politiques ont été adoptées pour favoriser le transfert de technologie et la production comme celle sur le prêt de capitaux aux paysans qui permet d'augmenter le pourcentage des bénéficiaires des crédits de l'Etat.-

Une partie de ces crédits sont accordés aux familles pauvres à un taux d'intérêt convenable. Quant à celle relative aux prix des produits agricoles, elle a pour objectif d'assurer l'intérêt légitime des paysans en cas de risques dans la production.

Dans son oeuvre d'édification, le Vietnam a bénéficié d'une assistance effective de la FAO. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour exprimer la gratitude de mon gouvernement et de mon peuple pour cette précieuse aide. Nous accordons une grande importance à la coopération avec la FAO et continuons à apporter notre soutien aux efforts déployés par la FAO et par son Directeur général dans la lutte contre la faim et pour le développement.

Je ne peux terminer, Monsieur le Président, sans rendre particulièrement hommage à Monsieur Edouard Saouma, Directeur général sortant de la FAO. Par le talent, la sagesse politique, la détermination et l'inlassable dévouement dont il a fait preuve depuis 18 ans, Monsieur Saouma peut être légitimement fier des résultats très importants qui ont marqué son mandat, même dans les circonstances les plus difficiles. Le Gouvernement et le peuple vietnamiens sont reconnaissants à Monsieur Saouma pour l'effort qu'il a consenti pour la coopération, le développement et la paix dans le monde.

Baron VAEA (Tonga): As Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, I am deeply honoured to address this Assembly on behalf of my Government and the people of Tonga.

I am glad to congratulate you on your unanimous election to the Chair and efficient manner in which you have steered our Conference.

I commend Dr Edouard Saouma very highly for his vision and leadership of FAO during the past 18 years. As he surmised in his statement, the challenges are tremendous and overpowering and the survival of the human race is at stake. I highly commend him on his tireless endeavours to uphold the objectives of FAO.

I take this opportunity also to extend our warmest congratulations to the new Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, on his election.

I am very impressed with the quality and thoroughness of the various country statements, all of which have raised key issues that are relevant and applicable to many countries, including Tonga. However, from the point of view of a small island developing state, I would emphasize the following issues :

Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture: I acknowledge and endorse those programmes of FAO that deal not only with direct food aid and emergencies but with all aspects of production, from land preparation to post-harvest, marketing, consumption and nutrition. This includes reference to the 12 Special Action Programmes for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. Tonga benefits greatly from these to include root crops development and processing, strengthening of the planning capability of our Ministry of Agriculture; agricultural statistics, virus disease management campaign, feasibility studies on livestock, participation in short training programmes, workshops and seminars on extension, quarantine and pest management. I am glad, too, that food security is still our primary aim in Tonga. We are blessed with a robust, rotational mixed-cropping system that has survived and sustained our people for many generations. Due to degradation and destruction of the ecosystem by certain modern farming practices, I would suggest to FAO perhaps seriously to consider the merits of existing successful traditional farming systems around the world.

Technical Cooperation Programmes(TCP): Tonga has taken advantage of these great opportunities, and we have found TCP projects to be of great value to our agricultural developments. I wish to confirm our strong support for the continuation of TCP programmes.

Trade Liberalization: Tonga's economy is agriculturally based and we exist with the inherent disadvantages of smallness, remoteness, sea-locked and geographical isolation. We are, however, fortunate in finding limited opportunities in seasonal "niche" marketing. We have had some success in squash export to Japan and vanilla to the United States and France. Nevertheless, we are continually confronted with the barriers of quarantine restrictions, duties and tariffs, low prices, far-reaching quality standards, excessive costs of sea and air transport and supplies, preferential treatments and severe competition with other nations. To us, the small island developing nations, we find these barriers to be most frustrating and disheartening. It is in this context that I, together with other Commonwealth Heads of Government, in recognizing the importance of trade liberalization to economic growth and development, issued the Limassol Statement of the Uruguay Round in which we reaffirmed our commitment to comprehensive, equitable and balanced conclusions of the Round by December 15, 1993. In the meantime, the small island nations of the Pacific are grateful to the United States of America for its concern to encourage mutual trade and investments with the countries of our region. On the same token, I commend highly the efforts of FAO and associated organizations on global harmonization of plant quarantine.

Tonga is very supportive of the FAO Forestry programmes, and has taken advantage of FAO training programmes and technical services. Though we do not have large land areas of forests, Tonga still experiences environmental and soil degradation due to reducing forest cover. We urge particular attention to agro-forestry in small island nations of the Pacific, and the growing of trees to provide windbreaks and protection from soil and ocean erosion and salt sprays. It is of interest for FAO to realize that large areas of coconuts in Tonga are senile and require immediate milling before they die and fall to the ground. It is our Government's wish to upgrade the living standards of her people by constructing dwelling houses in rural areas. These senile coconut trees should be milled for construction materials. It is hoped that FAO would see its way clear and assist in this project.

Mr Chairman, emphasis has been directed to the importance of women in development in most countries of FAO, and Tonga is no exception. The Tongan women are actively participating in various development projects with great enthusiasm. Tonga commends FAO on its efforts and promotion of women's welfare throughout the world. Our Ministry has benefitted from participation in FAO-sponsored workshops on nutrition, home economics and rural development. We anticipate more involvement of Tongan women in the FAO Women in Development Programmes.

We are thankful for the assistance by FAO, technical advisors, consultants and training on aquaculture, research, data collection and general fisheries development, from which we have benefitted greatly. I would like to commend the efforts made by FAO on the Draft Agreement to promote compliance with international conservation and management measures by fishing vessels on the high seas. We are supportive of this in principle.

Grégoire MOUBERI (Congo): Dans cette ville de Rome, berceau de la civilisation moderne, nous voilà réunis pour parler des problèmes vitaux de l'humanité afin de tenter d'imaginer de manière collective et concertée des solutions appropriées.

L'accueil et l'hospitalité du Gouvernement italien ne sauraient être ignorés car la réussite de ces assises en dépend. Que le Gouvernement et le peuple italiens amis trouvent ici l'expression de notre gratitude. La présence du Président italien à l'ouverture de l'actuelle session est la preuve supplémentaire de son attachement aux idéaux de notre Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais rendre hommage à votre auguste personne pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de notre Conférence. Mes hommages s'adressent aussi à tous les membres élus du bureau de la Conférence.

L'occasion est aussi toute agréable de témoigner notre gratitude à Monsieur Edouard Saouma dont le mandat vient de prendre fin. Le Dr Edouard Saouma a été un infatigable serviteur de notre cause commune. A lui, toute notre reconnaissance. Je suggère, Monsieur le Président, que la FAO reconnaissante consacre à notre serviteur émérite un symbole souvenir à la hauteur des précieux et loyaux services rendus à notre Organisation.

Nous venons d'élire un nouveau Directeur général. Nous saisissons cette opportunité pour lui présenter nos sincères félicitations.

Depuis l'avènement en 1991 de la démocratie dans notre pays, les pouvoirs publics multiplient les efforts pour relancer la vie socio-économique nationale. Dans le domaine agricole, ces efforts destinés à le réorganiser sont constitués pour l'essentiel des réformes en profondeur conçues, dans la plupart des cas, avec le concours technique de la FAO.

La relance suppose aussi un effort de coopération plus accru. Dans ce domaine, la FAO a fait preuve de beaucoup d'attention à notre égard. Tout dernièrement une délégation a séjourné pendant près de trois semaines dans notre pays.

Le Professeur Pascal Lissouba, Président de la République du Congo, évoque avec beaucoup d'à-propos l'application intelligente de la science et de la technologie dans nos économies. Il est humainement impossible de vaincre la pauvreté, la sous-alimentation sans changer fondamentalement les ressources

mentales et culturelles des acteurs économiques. Autrement dit, comment se nourrir au 20ème siècle en utilisant les techniques du néolithique? Il n'est pas possible, croyez-nous, de parvenir à une autosuffisance en maintenant les structures et mécanismes de production, de distribution et d'échanges en leur état actuel.

Les réformes que l'on peut proposer, les stratégies que l'on peut adopter, les résolutions que l'on peut prendre ne peuvent avoir un impact réel qu'à condition d'intégrer la dimension modernisante à l'agriculture, autrement dit d'intégrer la science et la technologie, ce qui est, à notre avis, capital. Nous souhaitons que le prochain mandat soit consacré non au transfert mécanique des savoirs mais à la promotion de la recherche -développement pour nos économies. Le principe scientifique reconnu est que l'on ne procède pas à une recherche sur ce qui a fait l'objet d'une découverte préalable. Cela suppose que l'Afrique peut parfaitement tirer profit de l'essor extraordinaire de la science du 20ème siècle.

Je voudrais, fût-ce très brièvement, réaffirmer ici les sentiments de la délégation de mon pays concernant les points que nous considérons comme les plus importants de l'ordre du jour de notre Conférence.

Nous approuvons les axes de priorité qui sont proposés à notre Organisation pour l'exercice 1994-95, à savoir le suivi des résolutions de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement et le Développement et de la Conférence Internationale sur la Nutrition ainsi que l'appui envisagé au programme forestier. Mais en même temps, nous pensons aussi que certains programmes importants, tels que l'appui aux programmes de lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs et la valorisation de la biodiversité, devraient continuer de bénéficier d'une réelle attention de la part de notre Organisation.

De même, le programme de coopération technique à travers lequel notre Organisation apporte une aide technique d'urgence aux pays membres devrait également continuer de bénéficier de davantage de ressources.

Sans vraiment adopter l'idée de la croissance zéro, nous sommes obligés de faire contre mauvaise fortune bon coeur en acceptant la base de 676,9 millions de dollars qui a été proposée pour le budget 1994-95 de notre Organisation. C'est pourquoi nous continuons d'espérer que, dans un avenir proche, ce niveau sera augmenté de façon à permettre à notre Organisation de disposer pleinement des moyens de sa politique.

Nous ne nous inquiéterons jamais assez des méfaits du protectionnisme et de la baisse prolongée et généralisée des prix des produits agricoles à l'exportation. Alors que nos cris de détresse se perdaient dans le désert, voilà que la France, durement touchée elle aussi, vient de révéler à nouveau ces méfaits, confortant ainsi notre position sur cette question. Comme elle, nous souscrivons pleinement à l'idée d'une conclusion rapide et fructueuse des négociations commerciales de l'Uruguay-round aboutissant à un accord équilibré et prévoyant un traitement particulier et différencié pour les pays en développement.

Voilà, très brièvement présentés, les axes de nos efforts actuels de relance du secteur agricole dans notre pays ainsi que les sentiments de la délégation qui m'accompagne sur quelques sujets brûlants inscrits à l'ordre du jour de notre Conférence.

Je voudrais, avant de terminer, vous assurer, Monsieur le Président, que la délégation de mon pays ne ménagera aucun effort pour faire aboutir, dans un esprit d'ouverture propice au consensus, tous les points inscrits à notre ordre du jour.

Plein succès à la 27ème Conférence: tel est le message du Président congolais, le Professeur Pascal Lissouba, agronome de formation à l'endroit de notre forum. Il joint ainsi sa voix à la nôtre pour contribuer à la recherche de solutions aptes à éliminer la faim de notre planète.

Dimitri DAMIANOS (Greece): First allow me to convey Minister Moraitis' warmest greetings to the 27th Conference of FAO. He regrets that a heavy schedule made it impossible for him to participate in person.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate you as well as the other members of the bureau for your election to the Chair.

On behalf of the Greek Government and the Minister of Agriculture, please let me offer my warmest congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf for his election as Director-General of FAO.

You will permit me to add, however, our deep appreciation to Mr Edouard Saouma's sincere efforts to strengthen FAO's role as a forum contributing to the struggle against hunger and malnutrition and promoting the political dialogue among our nations.

The general economic environment is rather gloomy. The recession which started in 1990 is still present and the prospects for recovery in the near future are weak. Furthermore, the recent political changes have added to the problem of economic social and political instability, which is a major obstacle in the process of economic recovery.

Nevertheless, stability and the well-being of all nations depend greatly on the ability and will to surpass the present impediments by strengthening political dialogue and international cooperation, in achieving specific goals in an effective manner.

Despite significant differences between developing and developed countries, many functions of the agricultural sector should operate in both groups. In particular, three principal objectives should underline policy-planning:

- the first one effective production and food distribution;
- second sustainable agricultural development which is promoted by the protection of the environment conservation of natural resources and biodiversity
- and the third rural development.

Thus integrated policy approaches which address simultaneously the above issues should be employed. This is the way we understand the application of the Common Agricultural Policy in our country, as a member of the European Union.

The issue of effective production and distribution of food is a very complex one. It requires at least, first, the promotion of structural adjustment through the adoption of more market-oriented agricultural policies and, second, food security.

As you know, the European Union has already proceeded to a radical reform of the main part of its Common Agricultural Policy and 1993, this year, it the first year of operating the new policy. The reasons, whether internal or external, have been already properly analysed, so I am not going to repeat the relevant arguments. However, I would like to underline that agricultural reform is a difficult and long-run objective requiring concerted actions by all participants as well as flexibility in the choice of the means for its implementation.

The challenge before us is to achieve a more market-oriented agricultural sector and, at the same time, to ensure adequate income and acceptable living conditions for our farmers. It is very important to secure stability in domestic markets, while meeting the legitimate concern for low-income producers, thus reducing income inequalities within agriculture and the rural sector.

The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round Multilateral Trade Negotiations on an equitable and balanced base, which we wish and envisage, could contribute significantly to an international economic recovery. Regarding agricultural negotiations, I would like to point out that the final agreement should not jeopardize the durability of the CAP and should not undermine its basic principles.

Allow me to draw your attention to the central issue of food security. Hunger and malnutrition is an old problem of humanity with dramatic socio-economic consequences. The International Conference on Nutrition, which took place in December 1992, here in Rome, provided us with two very useful instruments; namely, "The World Declaration of Nutrition" and "the Plan of Action", which should guide our future actions to reduce global hunger and malnutrition and to improve the nutritional status of the world populations.

The International Conference on Nutrition recognized that the main causes of hunger and malnutrition are poverty, social inequality and lack of education. The study examining the prospects for "World Agriculture Towards the Year 2010" which is under consideration in the present Conference, indicates that some 650 million people will continue to suffer from hunger and malnutrition through the year 2010. This prospect sends a clear signal for intensifying our efforts at the national as well as the international level to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

We agree with the conclusion of the Brundtland Commission, that the reconciliation of the long-term objective of sustainable development with the short-term objectives of increasing agricultural and food production, as well as income for the present generation, is a difficult task.

Indeed, we understand that developed and developing countries attach different priorities to the protection of the environment. However, we believe that development should be viable and lasting. The protection of environment, the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, were the focal points of the debate of UNCED. Agenda 21 provides us with a comprehensive philosophical approach for achieving sustainable agricultural development.

Agriculture can have adverse effects on the environment. It can contribute either to the protection of nature and of the environment, or the deterioration of its quality. Specifically, agricultural reform could contribute positively to environmental protection and to the conservation

of natural resources, only if it leads to the adoption of less intensive and more environmentally-friendly methods of production.

Therefore, if we want to enhance the beneficial effects and reduce the negative impact, we have strong reasons to incorporate environmental aspects in agricultural policies by adopting:

- measures of positive and negative financial incentives;
- management agreements regulatory measure and so on.

The role of the farmer or the rural citizen as the guardian of both the rural world and the environment has not been fully appreciated. Especially, farming activities in the mountainous and less favoured areas are of high importance, both socially and environmentally. Therefore, these activities have to be maintained and enhanced. In this regard, we believe, there is a clear need to support farmers living in the ecologically fragile areas.

The issue of rural development will be my last and final point, Mr Chairman. Agriculture is the main but not the only activity in the countryside. Therefore, an intersectoral approach is needed for the development of rural areas. Rural development objectives are much broader to those pertaining to agricultural development, and aim at allocating more effectively the existing resources in rural areas.

Rural development, however, is not only an issue of increasing rural finance, improving infrastructure in rural areas, enhancing the adoption of new and appropriate technologies, or coping with the problem of inefficient and ineffective institutions; it is also, and most importantly, an issue of development of human resources.

In this regard, the active participation of farmers or other citizens living in rural areas in the local organizations that promote rural development is of great importance. Finally, particular emphasis should be given to the role of women in the development process, by encouraging and promoting their contribution in social and economic activity. The elimination of sex discrimination should be one of the basic policy objectives, in order for our society to use efficiently the human resources.

Especially we should focus on the participation of rural women in social and cultural activities which should be promoted along with the cultural development of the rural areas. Otherwise, rural women would not realize that they belong in the society of the community where they live. We believe, therefore, that we should introduce specific policy measures aiming at improving social care and other activities and services in rural areas, thus enabling women to realize their full potential.

Ibrahim ADAM (Ghana): It is my greatest honour and pleasure to address this 27th Session of the FAO Conference.

On behalf of my delegation from Ghana and on my own behalf, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you for doing such a good job in conducting the affairs of this Conference. I would also like to seize this opportunity to congratulate Dr Saouma for the able manner in which he has guided FAO through stormy weather.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this particular Conference is very significant to my delegation and also, I believe, to several of us here. It coincides with the 48th Anniversary of the founding of FAO and also now gives us a distinguished son of Africa as the new Director-General. It also coincides with the first anniversary of parliamentary democracy in my country, Ghana.

Perhaps at this juncture it would be wise for us to revisit the visions of the founding fathers of this august body. We all know what FAO stands for, and that is that its principal objective is to eliminate hunger and want from within the rank and file of mankind. The founding fathers of FAO came out of some very useful visions which, I think, are as relevant to us today as they were several years ago when the Organization was being founded. These men of vision, as I would call them, realized at that time, Mr Chairman, that poverty was the main cause of hunger and malnutrition in the world. They also believed and indeed expressed that progress by individual nations, that is, the attainment of a higher standard of living by individual nations, would go a long way to solve larger economic problems. They concluded that freedom from want could not be achieved without effective collaboration among nations.

Well, as I said earlier, these observations are so very relevant today, especially in light of the fact that poverty, whether man-made or unavoidable, plenty of bountiful harvests and hunger in the midst of surpluses are still co-existing in the world, notwithstanding the tremendous gains made in the areas of science and technology and transport and communication.

I do not really want to say that the world is unable or, rather, that man is unable to feed himself. We all know that, despite the fact that our populations are growing in leaps and bounds, we have the means of feeding ourselves.

It is our belief, that is, the Ghana Delegation's belief, that the non-fulfilment of the second belief or aspirations of the founding fathers of FAO, that is, freedom from want, cannot be achieved without effective collaboration among nations as the result of various factors. And, Mr Chairman, if you will permit me, I would say that the most important of these is our inability to collaborate to the extent to which the founding fathers expected us to as Member Nations.

This statement does not imply that FAO has failed in its mission. It only indicates that in spite of the tremendous progress made over the past years, a lot more needs to be done not only by FAO as an organization but by all Member Nations of the United Nations, rich or poor, large or small, North or South, developed or developing. No country should let any opportunities slip by, no matter how small, in contributing its share towards ensuring that this world becomes a little more pleasant for the poor and the hungry.

It is a matter of regret to observe that after seven years of negotiations, the nations of the world have not been able to achieve the objectives of the Uruguay Round even though it is clear that the benefits of freer world trade in addressing world poverty and hunger will far outweigh the difficulties that some of the least developed countries may face.

I believe it is not beyond the capacity of the world to put in place measures that will minimize the adverse impact of freer world trade on the

most disadvantaged nations in spite of the ongoing worldwide economic downturn.

I need not remind distinguished delegates that FAO and the United Nations were themselves set up to provide united responses to global crises with political, economic and agricultural dimensions similar to the current global situation.

I am referring particularly to the fact that the ongoing recession, with its attendant high and rising levels of unemployment and widening fiscal deficits, is tending to undermine the united approach needed to address the global recession problem - hence the difficulty in concluding the Uruguay Round.

The process of economic restructuring in the former USSR and other centrally-planned economies has resulted in high rates of inflation in that part of the world, as well as loss of significant market outlets there for the products of many developing countries, including Ghana.

The net result of these unfavourable global economic situations is that many developing countries continue to experience increasing poverty and hunger. Admittedly, some of these problems can be traced to regional conflicts including wars, drought, desertification and environmental degradation as a result of rapid population growth, inter alia.

The external debt position of most developing countries continues to deteriorate. Today most indicators of the degree of indebtedness such as debt-to-exports ratio, debt-to-service-to-exports, debt-to-GNP ratio, debt originated from agriculture-related projects, and so on, do not give much room for optimism. Indeed indications are that there is a net transfer of financial resources from developing countries to donor countries by way of debt and interest repayments, thus putting additional strains on the economies of most developing countries.

While we must pay our debts, we believe that in the spirit of international cooperation, a more humane combination of debt reduction and rescheduling will make it possible to ensure net positive transfers of financial resources to the poor members of this body of nations without sacrificing the interests of the nations in transition in Eastern and Central Europe.

Speaking of these nations, I note that it has become fashionable to claim that they would drain resources destined for the developing world. We do not wholly accept this cliché. Some competition there must be, but in our view there are enough resources world-wide, if only the rich would be more generous, to address the concerns of both groups of nations. In FAO in particular the historic marginalization of the Eastern and Central European nations must be reversed, and the undoubted human and technological resources of that region must now be tapped.

We notice with satisfaction that the difficult and painful structural adjustment programmes initiated by a large number of developing countries have started to bear fruit by way of increases in private capital flows into these countries even though there are severe regional disparities. In this regard, I am happy to inform distinguished delegates that Ghana continues to offer very attractive conditions for private investments in a wide range of activities.

Our aim is to secure for agriculture the stimulus of additional purchasing power for our hardworking small-scale farmers through sound development of agro-based industries. To improve the competitiveness of our industries, we have removed subsidies on all inputs and eliminated price controls in favour of attractive investment incentives. Hence our desire to see the elimination of agricultural subsidies worldwide to pave the way for a freer trade in agricultural products for the benefit of the countless rural poor.

I would want to conclude my address by making three special appeals. First, I wish to -appeal to all nations to work together to ensure the speedy and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round in order to release the potential benefits of a freer and expanded world trade. The founding fathers of FAO believed that equal access to materials and markets serves to expand production and purchasing power and is therefore indispensable to any comprehensive programme that seeks to advance agriculture. With a larger number of developing countries being able to increase their agricultural production at home in response to a subsidy-free international market for agricultural commodities, the few food-importing countries who will be adversely affected by a freer agricultural trade can be better targeted by FAO and the World Food Programme for special attention, thus making the impact of these two organizations better felt.

My second plea goes to my African colleagues and all those who helped in electing the new Director-General. The casting of the ballot is the easy part. Now the hard work begins. There should be a special effort on the part of all to endeavour to pay their contributions to FAO, even in small installments, in order to demonstrate our commitment to the Organization in more concrete terms.

Finally, I would like to appeal to all Member Nations of this fine International Organization devoted to the elimination of poverty and hunger to give the newly appointed Director-General their fullest financial, technical, political and moral support to justify the conviction of the founding fathers that "freedom from want cannot be achieved without effective collaboration among nations".

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Le Ministre d'Etat à l'agriculture et au développement rural m'a demandé de vous transmettre ses vœux de succès et de réussite. Il aurait bien voulu conduire lui-même la délégation malgache à cette Conférence, mais il n'a pu malheureusement s'absenter du pays, les affaires urgentes requérant sa présence étant nombreuses. Il vous présente ses excuses.

Nous voudrions d'emblée vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette vingt-septième session de la Conférence. Nos félicitations s'adressent également à tous les membres du Bureau.

Permettez-nous de joindre notre voix à celles des délégations qui se sont déjà exprimées pour réitérer nos vives félicitations à M. Jacques Diouf, élu Directeur général de la FAO. Le Gouvernement de la République de Madagascar l'assure de son appui chaleureux et permanent dans l'exécution de son noble mandat. En M. Jacques Diouf, nous sommes sûrs d'avoir choisi la personne capable de donner un nouveau souffle à l'Organisation et de mobiliser la communauté internationale au moment où le sort de l'humanité semble désespéré.

En effet, comment pourrait-on ne pas céder au pessimisme et être en proie aux préoccupations les plus profondes quand des foyers de guerres civiles, des génocides et des guerres tribales s'allument un peu partout dans le monde? La fin de la guerre froide et du conflit idéologique est-ouest avait fait entrevoir un avenir plein d'espoir et de prospérité à l'humanité car les ressources incommensurables consacrées à la fabrication d'armes auraient pu servir à promouvoir le développement, à vaincre la malnutrition et la pauvreté.

Ce sont malheureusement les fabricants d'armes qui ont trouvé et continuent à trouver leur compte dans cette situation. Jamais leurs activités n'ont été aussi florissantes. Et l'ONU, au lieu de se pencher sur les problèmes urgents de développement, se trouve dangereusement entraînée dans des conflits armés qui s'éternisent et épuisent les ressources insuffisantes dont elle dispose. Les crédits affectés pour rétablir la paix représentent trois fois le budget de l'Organisation: 600 millions de dollars en 1992, 2 milliards 800 millions de dollars actuellement, et il semble qu'ils pourront atteindre 4 milliards 300 millions de dollars. Nous ne pouvons que formuler le vœu que toutes ces hostilités cessent au plus vite et que les belligérants trouvent très rapidement la voie qui conduit vers la paix.

Un autre conflit, non sanglant au demeurant mais non moins menaçant, est celui qui oppose les parties prenantes aux négociations commerciales multilatérales du GATT. En vérité, la situation est pour le moins compliquée et incompréhensible, car ceux-là mêmes qui prônent, comme valeur incontournable, le marché libre, s'emploient à s'y soustraire. Nous, pays en voie de développement, souhaitons vivement que les confrontations stériles cessent car les conséquences d'une guerre commerciale sur nos économies ne peuvent même pas être imaginées.

Le manque à gagner des pays en voie de développement exportateurs dû aux politiques protectionnistes des pays industrialisés avoisinerait les 100 milliards de dollars; aussi n'est-il point difficile de comprendre pourquoi ces pays souhaitent vivement que les négociations aboutissent au plus vite.

Dans nos pays, démocratie et économie de marché sont devenues la condition sine qua non du développement, si ce n'est de l'aide extérieure. Les pays d'Afrique en savent quelque chose puisque c'est devenu un impératif dans la mise en oeuvre de leur programme d'ajustement structurel. Madagascar n'a pas échappé et n'échappe pas à la règle; les péripéties pour arriver à la troisième République ont été longues et sont douloureuses; sans un soutien vigoureux, agissant et soutenu de la communauté internationale, y compris des institutions financières et des organisations internationales, les sacrifices de la population seraient vains et la paix gravement menacée.

De nombreux pays africains partagent les mêmes préoccupations que nous; c'est la raison pour laquelle, à Tokyo, ils ont été unanimes à déclarer que "la véritable finalité des réformes politiques et économiques est de combattre la pauvreté et d'améliorer le bien-être de tous. Pour cela, il faut que les programmes d'ajustement structurel comprennent davantage de mesures destinées à offrir aux pauvres de plus grandes possibilités d'emplois rémunérateurs et un accès plus large à des services sociaux efficaces, tout en veillant à les protéger, dans la mesure du possible, des effets négatifs que peuvent avoir ces programmes sur le plan social".

Il est à signaler, d'après le dernier rapport de la CNUED sur le commerce et le développement, que c'est l'Afrique qui détient le record dans

l'application des programmes d'ajustement structurel aussi bien en intensité qu'en fréquence. Il n'est donc pas étonnant de constater que c'est dans la région que les soulèvements populaires ont été les plus nombreux; les sacrifices consentis et les privations dépassent, la plupart du temps, la limite du supportable.

Il n'est pas possible de continuer à exiger de ces populations d'autres sacrifices et il est temps de venir à leur secours, à court terme, par des aides alimentaires et sociales appropriées et, à plus long terme, en leur assurant des emplois leur permettant d'améliorer leurs revenus.

Les institutions et organisations internationales telles que la FAO ont un rôle d'assistance important, sinon déterminant, à jouer dans nos pays pendant cette période critique. Nous avons besoin de la FAO pour doter le pays de ressources humaines capables de concevoir des programmes et projets de développement appropriés et de les exécuter correctement. Nous avons besoin d'elle pour renforcer les institutions nationales de recherche et de développement et pour promouvoir le transfert et l'utilisation locale des nouvelles biotechnologies appliquées à l'agriculture. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons besoin d'une Organisation forte et vigoureusement soutenue par tous les Etats et toutes les organisations membres; c'est aussi la raison pour laquelle nous souhaitons qu'on lui garantisse des ressources suffisantes. A cet effet, le niveau du Programme de travail et budget 1994-95 est à notre avis un minimum au-dessous duquel l'action de l'Organisation devient inefficace et nous invitons la Conférence à l'approuver à l'unanimité.

L'appui que notre délégation accorde au Programme de travail et budget ne devrait pas nous interdire de regretter que le Programme de coopération technique continue de représenter un faible pourcentage du budget malgré la résolution de la Conférence le fixant à 17 pour cent. Nous souhaitons que les très nombreux témoignages de soutien qui ont été signifiés par les membres au Programme de coopération technique se concrétiseront par une nette reprise du Programme dans le sens indiqué par la résolution 9/89 de la Conférence.

Voter le budget est un acte positif vis-à-vis de l'Organisation mais cela n'est pas suffisant, loin s'en faut; il est nécessaire de la doter des ressources requises. "La FAO ne peut rendre de bons services qu'en s'appuyant sur un budget régulièrement approvisionné" a déclaré la délégation française dans son discours, la même délégation précisant qu'il n'est pas acceptable que les pays solvables paient leur contribution avec retard. Nous faisons nôtres ces commentaires.

Nous voudrions cependant, pour notre part, inviter la Conférence à adopter des mesures permettant à tous les Etats Membres, y compris ceux en difficulté, de contribuer financièrement. Une des mesures paraissant vraiment appropriée et encourageante serait la possibilité, pour les pays dont la monnaie n'est pas convertible, de payer partie ou totalité de leur contribution en monnaie locale. La Conférence devrait prendre des décisions dans ce sens pendant la présente session, tel que l'a d'ailleurs suggéré le Conseil lors de sa 104e session.

La meilleure solution est bien entendu de soutenir les efforts de ces pays dans la mise en oeuvre des programmes et projets de développement leur permettant de disposer des devises dont ils ont besoin; si leurs produits d'exportation étaient convenablement rémunérés sur le marché mondial et si leurs disponibilités en devises ne servaient plus à acheter les produits

alimentaires qu'ils pourraient produire sur place, ils n'auraient pas de problèmes pour remplir leurs obligations financières et ils pourraient devenir des partenaires valables et fiables.

Faire des pays du Sud des partenaires fiables et viables devient une condition sine qua non de la paix et de la sécurité mondiale dans le futur. Dans son ouvrage intitulé "Paysans du Nord et du Sud, gagner ensemble ou perdre les uns contre les autres" le Directeur général de la FAO nous indique que "l'humanité prospère ne pourra préserver ses valeurs en érigeant des barrières contre un monde extérieur qui lui est indispensable". Huit cents millions de personnes mal nourries et de santé précaire constituent une poudrière difficile à contenir et à contrôler. Beaucoup de hauts responsables des pays industrialisés ont compris qu'il faudrait aider les pays à trouver des solutions sur place pour ces populations déshéritées, mais aucune action concrète n'a jusqu'à présent été prise dans ce sens.

Nos pays continuent à s'appauvrir car ils consacrent les ressources dont ils disposent à régler leurs dettes au lieu d'investir dans le développement. Concernant la région Afrique, certains chefs d'Etat africains pensent qu'il faudrait un Plan Marshall si l'on voulait vraiment la délivrer de la situation catastrophique dans laquelle elle se trouve.

En attendant, nous pensons pour notre part que nous pouvons déjà engager la lutte contre la pauvreté avec détermination et beaucoup de chances de succès si nous utilisons comme il faut les outils précieux dont nous disposons; je voulais parler des institutions du système des Nations Unies ayant leur siège à Rome, leaders en matière de développement agricole et rural, c'est-à-dire la FAO, le FIDA et le PAM. Nous sommes convaincus que la conjugaison de leurs efforts mettrait en échec les goulots d'étranglement et ouvrirait la voie à un vrai développement agricole durable.

Il est inutile d'innover, faisons tout ce qui est en notre pouvoir et en notre capacité pour renforcer ces institutions, afin que la quatrième reconstitution des ressources du FIDA, qui surmonte actuellement des difficultés, puisse trouver une issue favorable, afin que le Programme de travail et budget de la FAO soit approuvé à l'unanimité et son Programme de terrain renforcé.

A ce sujet ma délégation ne peut que se féliciter de la déclaration positive de M. René Steichen, de la Commission des Communautés européennes, lorsqu'il précise que la Commission est décidée à approfondir et à amplifier sa coopération avec la FAO, coopération qui porte déjà sur 11 millions de dollars et susceptible d'être portée à 15 millions de dollars supplémentaires. Enfin, le PAM devrait disposer des ressources en espèces et en denrées alimentaires décidées par le CPA.

Nous voudrions clore notre discours en souhaitant la bienvenue aux dix nouveaux Etats Membres. Leur adhésion démontre une fois de plus l'attachement de la communauté internationale à l'Organisation qui va bientôt célébrer son cinquantième anniversaire. Toutes leurs expériences nous seront précieuses et nous les assurons de notre coopération profonde et soutenue.

Joze OSTERC (Slovenia): At the outset I would like to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Jacques Diouf on his election as the Director-General

of FAO and assure him of the full support and cooperation -of my country. It is my sincere hope that under his able guidance FAO will successfully deal with many pressing issues even more effectively.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and respect to the Director-General Dr Edouard Saouma for his untiring efforts towards solving worldwide food and agricultural problems. I am wishing him all the best for the future.

Allow me as well to thank all speakers for their kind words of congratulation at Slovenia's admission to FAO.

I consider it a special honour to be able to address this Plenary Session of the 27th General Conference of FAO as the representative of Slovenia. Since Slovenia is a new member of FAO, please allow me to begin with a short introduction.

With only two million inhabitants, Slovenia is a small country. It lies at the borders of Central Europe and the Balkans, bordering Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. Important routes from Western to Eastern Europe and the Balkans pass through Slovenia. It also lies on the shortest route leading from the Adriatic sea to Central Europe and the Baltic region. Due to its geographic position and easy access, Slovenia became a meeting point of trade routes and nations. All this has influenced its development.

The people that lived in the territory of the present-day Slovenia 2000 years ago produced the famous wine known as "Pucinum", a favourite of the wife of the Roman Caesar Augustus. After the arrival of the Slovenians in this region during the 6th century, agriculture developed rapidly, especially later during the 18th and 19th centuries when Slovenia was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In fact Slovenian farmers were already able to read in the 18th century. At the end of the 18th century they obtained the first specialized books on animal husbandry. Between 1764 and 1767 the provincial agricultural associations were established which were managed according to democratic and cooperative principles. These associations encouraged the genetic selection of animals and agricultural plants. Consequently, our agriculture was one of the most developed in Central Europe. Its high level of development was confirmed by the prize received at the Paris World Fair in 1867 and by the fact that Slovenians were at that time selling high quality cattle for breeding and apples to Austria, Bavaria and Italy.

After the First World War, links with Western Europe were largely cut off and development slowed down. It almost came to a standstill after the Second World War. Agrarian law and related regulations restricted land ownership to only ten hectares and the Yugoslav-planned economy presented an obstacle to the market orientation of agricultural production. As a consequence, when Slovenia gained its independence in 1991 its agriculture was confronted with numerous problems.

Farmers own 83 percent of all agricultural land, while 17 percent is temporarily owned by the State. Our farms are small and on average comprise only 3.7 hectares of arable land or 4.6 hectares of agricultural land. Only a small proportion (18 percent) are full-time farms, the rest belonging to part-time farmers, who also own over 70 percent of all agricultural land. Such a small-scale land ownership structure results in higher costs of production. The topography of Slovenia is not especially favourable for farming. For this reason the farms tend to be small, covering unsuitable

hilly terrain, and two-thirds of the farm areas are classified in the land category of difficult farming conditions. This also means that our agricultural production is expensive.

Until 1991, while still within the former Yugoslavia, Slovenian agriculture was part of the Yugoslav economic area and operated under Balkan conditions. In particular, Slovenia developed its food-processing industry and certain other types of agricultural production, such as the production of poultry meat, for the needs of Yugoslavia. Since Slovenia abounds in grassland and pasture, the raising of livestock developed rapidly and this resulted in surplus production of milk. Today we are facing the problems of unbalanced production and a substantial loss of the former Yugoslav markets. Such shortcomings cannot be eliminated overnight.

This year the Slovenian Parliament adopted a strategy for the development of agriculture. The deputies, who were democratically elected as the representatives of the people, decided on the ecosocial development of agriculture taking the family farm as the basic unit of agricultural production. The adopted law on cooperatives will ensure the association and organization of farmers according to cooperative principles. The implementation of the law on denationalization will ensure the return of land to some of the farmers from whom it was unjustly expropriated after the Second World War. This will make possible the establishment of some larger farms with over ten hectares of agricultural land, although most will remain small for a long time to come.

With the adoption of the strategy for the development of agriculture we decided to strive permanently to enlarge the size of our farms. For this purpose Slovenia passed a law establishing the Agricultural Lands and Forests Fund. The essential aim of the law is to regulate the traffic in agricultural real estate.

The available or unused agricultural plots will thus be leased on a long-term basis to professional farmers. This should contribute to a more rapid increase in the number of professional farmers and hence to greater agricultural productivity. Because of the unfavourable topographic conditions for farming as well as psychological and economic reasons, the greatest part of the agricultural land will remain in the ownership of part-time farmers. Small and part-time farmers can obtain rapid results by improving their knowledge and adopting labour-intensive production processes. For example, Slovenia lacks garden produce, which is an appropriate production activity for small farmers.

In order to offer farmers as much knowledge as possible we have ventured to organize and modernize agricultural education. Every school will be provided with some farmland where young people will be given practical training in agricultural techniques and where farmers will be given specific demonstrations. The schools are organized regionally and should become the centres for transferring new knowledge into practice. The public extension service that collaborates with schools is similarly organized on a regional basis. In Slovenia there are at present eight agricultural schools and 300 agricultural advisers.

One of the characteristics of Slovenia is the variety of its natural habitat, which has contributed to the richness of its range of cultivation and farming tradition. This is an important segment of European farm culture which we are duty-bound to preserve. But we can preserve it only if the countryside remains populated. To achieve this the countryside must be

properly organized and housewives, who usually play an important role in this, must be given proper training. For this purpose we are already establishing schools for farm women and are undertaking projects to organize the countryside. Some of the projects are run in cooperation with FAO organizations. We are certain that these initiatives will improve the social and economic circumstances of the Slovenian farmer.

Since Slovenia has only limited possibilities in agriculture, it will have to define its priorities, in which it must achieve the best quality which will help it to reach higher prices for its products on international markets. With acceptable prices it will be possible to reduce the negative effects of the smallness of our farms.

We will pay special attention to promoting environmentally-acceptable and integrated agriculture. By so doing we will protect our fertile land. In this respect we will strive to preserve genetic material and the genetic variety in plants and animals. In the production of fruit we are, for example, establishing an orchard with an assortment of over 100 traditional Slovenian species of apple trees.

Slovenia occasionally experiences serious drought, as it did this year. Consequently, we are preparing an irrigation project which we hope to build in the next few years.

I have listed some of the most important problems which Slovenian agriculture is facing and the tasks which we hope to accomplish. We are certain that the institutions and experts of FAO can offer us invaluable assistance in this. In turn, we are also prepared to offer our assistance, since we are aware that only those who have received can also give. Compared to the developed countries, Slovenia is perhaps in many ways better able to help the underdeveloped because we are closer to them in ways of thinking and can therefore understand them better.

We made our request for membership in FAO so that in accordance with our abilities and possibilities we could contribute to the greater success of FAO in the building of a more just and pleasant world.

Ahmed Abu EL GHEZT (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and deep appreciation to Mr Jacques Diouf, the newly-elected Director-General. We are confident that, out of his sense of belonging to the developing world and particularly to Africa, and considering his vast experience in their pressing problems and his deep knowledge of the many international variables surrounding us that necessitate further cooperation and interdependence based on constructive dialogue and the principle of participation, he will lead our Organization forward towards the achievement of the objectives for which this Organization was established and which are clearly identified in its Constitution.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend to Dr Edouard Saouma our deep thanks for the efforts he has deployed during the past 18 years while managing this Organization, and wish him every success and happiness in his future life.

Several events are troubling the world, which unfortunately have an adverse effect on international endeavour in all fields. Those events can by no means be separated from our scope of interest. It is regrettable that at

the same time when we are attending this Conference thousands of people are dying from hunger and malnutrition in many parts of the world for reasons that are not directly arising from poverty or deteriorating economic conditions. They are, unfortunately, due to political, tribal, ethnic and ideological conflicts and eruptions that leave behind their fire as their first victims innocent women, children and the elderly. In this respect Somalia and Bosnia Herzegovina are alive in our conscience.

The difficult economic conditions faced by the world at large and by the developing world in particular, in terms of recession, unemployment and decline of raw material prices, jeopardize the economies of the developing countries. In addition, the constraints faced by the trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round are factors that cause this Organization to shoulder a special responsibility which deserves to be supported so as to enable it to serve the developing countries.

Document C 93/3, Programme of Work and Budget 1994/95, indicates in the part concerning the financial position of FAO that the world economic recession, which began in 1990 and continued up to 1993, will persist. The document also refers to the fact that economic growth of industrial countries, whose share of world production amounts to 75%, is still less than expected. The high unemployment rates that are continuing to increase, the considerable cash deficit, which is ever-widening, and the high indebtedness accompanied by its negative impact, make it incumbent upon us to cooperate at the international level in mutual understanding. This cooperation must also be based on principles of participation and dialogue. Stress should be placed on the regional dimension of cooperation in order to lay down the foundations of stability that lead to economic and social development with special emphasis on science and technology in the face of these challenges.

FAO's Constitution clearly identifies its responsibilities for achieving food security for member developing countries through extending technical expertise and strengthening the capacities of national cadres to implement and manage development programmes and projects.

Hence, my delegation stresses the importance of supporting this Organization in order to increase its effectiveness as well as its capacity to achieve food security, optimum utilization of natural resources, sustainable agricultural development and protection of the environment.

Being one of the founding fathers of this Organization in 1945, my country attaches high importance to its activities, particularly those aimed at achieving economic and social development. My delegation took note of the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees, and have actually taken part in the Programme Committee and the 103rd Session of our Council. We approve of the budget level. However, we believe that this budget level, which is almost the same as that of the 1992-93 budget, is the minimum level that should be maintained so as to secure for the Organization the continuation of its programmes, projects and activities. Hence, my delegation believes that the FAO proposed regular budget for the biennium 1994-95 should be complemented by extrabudgetary resources. In this way the Organization's activities could be strengthened at the regional level and the emergency operations could continue, as well as the long-term construction projects, with the usual increase in appropriations in the field of animal diseases and pests, and through the world system of Early Warning.

My delegation welcomes the efforts deployed by the Director-General towards an increase of resources in the programme management and support services to maintain the economic and technical efficiency of programme performance. We stress our support for the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO. The TCP assistance has had a positive impact on the development programmes in many developing countries, and in cases of emergency and relief operation.

Egypt, with its agricultural civilization that dates back thousands of years, attaches great importance to agriculture as a source of employment, food security and foreign exchange. The agricultural sector is one of the pioneering sectors as far as economic reform policies are concerned, be they pricing, marketing or institutional. Such policies aim at liberating this sector and turning it into a market economy, while at the same time encouraging the private sector. These reforms are compatible with the political, economic and social developments, be they international, regional or national, since they all aim at achieving economic efficiency and social justice within the purview of sustainable development.

During recent years, new orientations have been taken in this sector in terms of the abolition of certain rules limiting surfaces that should be cultivated with crops, the system of mandatory delivery of certain crops, the government constraints that were imposed on the private sector in the export and import of agricultural products, the distribution of agricultural input. On the other hand, some institutional reforms were undertaken. The Agricultural Credit and Development Bank has been transformed into the Agricultural Development Bank. Private investment has been encouraged to participate in this field in the form of joint ventures. The Government's role is today confined to research, extension and support services and the collection and provision of economic and statistical information.

Concrete and positive results had been achieved by economic and structural adjustment programmes. They are reflected in the improved performance rate of the agricultural sector, the expanding reclamation and cultivation of lands by farmers and the increasing rate of self-sufficiency in crops. My country, Egypt, welcomes regional cooperation in the fields of common interest for the countries in the region, such as the combating of epidemic diseases that affect animal wealth, the eradication of the desert locust pest and in the management and investment of fisheries. We also welcome trainees from the developing countries in the agricultural sector.

FAO plays a major role in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by two most important conferences that were held in 1992. These were Agenda 21, adopted by UNCED, which focused mainly on issues related to sustainable development and conservation of natural resources, and the World Declaration on Nutrition and the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Nutrition. In this respect, I would like to emphasize the common nature and the organic correlation between those two conferences, since both of them deal with increasing agricultural production levels, improving the means of developing and distributing resources and the combating of diseases resulting from malnutrition, the eradication of poverty and its negative impact on the environment and nutrition, on housing, education and services. Hence, the follow-up of the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by those two conferences is the only effective means to achieve the vital objectives for which the two conferences were held.

In conclusion, I wish the Conference every success in achieving the results we aspire to, and we wish this great Organization continued success in the service of mankind which seeks a decent and free life, as well as prosperity and progress for our peoples.

K.M. KANGAI (Zimbabwe): At the outset, I wish to express our appreciation for your having been elected to the Chairmanship of this important conference. We wish to thank you for the manner in which you are handling some key issues. Zimbabwe also would like to express our gratitude to the incoming Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf. We will do everything in our capacity to support him, and we are confident that he will be able to execute his duties in a very, very, very effective manner, taking into consideration that he is a man who comes from the developing countries. We also wish to express our gratitude to the outgoing Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, who has provided very diligent services throughout the period he has been Director-General.

My statement will focus specifically on two FAO reference papers, namely, "The State of Food and Agriculture 1993", and "Agriculture: Towards 2010". These two papers have profound implications, not just for our deliberations at this session, but for the whole future of world agriculture.

In particular, I note that global agricultural production only rose by about one percent in 1992, with Africa recording a six percent fall in per capita agricultural production. Further, it is distressing to note that although we had projected in 1987 that the goal of food-for-all by the year 2000 would be achievable, this is no longer the case. This has necessitated the need for FAO to revise their perspectives for food and agriculture to the year 2010.

Since our 26th Session in 1991, there have been significant changes affecting the agricultural sector in the Southern African region, from which we can draw lessons for the future. The first one is the severe drought of 1992 during which the Southern African region received the lowest rainfall ever recorded in the history of the region, with disastrous consequences for the level of crop and animal production.

To illustrate the magnitude of the drought problem, cereal production and shortfall in all the ten Southern African countries of SADC, as estimated in March 1992, indicated that aggregate cereal production would fall to 6.2 million metric tonnes, or just over half of normal production. It was further estimated that an unprecedented 7.9 million metric tonnes of cereal would need to be imported, compared to an annual norm of less than 1.7 million tonnes. In addition, South Africa, a traditional maize exporter, estimated its own cereal import needs at 5.5 million tonnes. This meant that over 13 million tonnes of cereal, representing a six-fold increase above normal imports, would need to be imported into the region from overseas. Inevitably, this resulted in severe logistical problems for the port, road and rail system. I am pleased to say that, with the help of the international community, the import programme was handled in an efficient and timely fashion. The danger of starvation was averted.

There are a number of short-term and long-term lessons to be drawn from the drought experience. The drought has contributed to an increased awareness of the need for accurate early warning systems, effective donor coordination, cost-effective national and village level food reserve stocks, flexible intra-regional trade policies, transport preparedness, and

a more liberalized domestic trading environment. In the medium to long term, drought mitigation activities need to be enhanced by improved water storage and irrigation, construction of permanent input distribution warehouses, livestock management systems which take account of recurring drought. In Zimbabwe we now have a programme to construct over the coming years a medium-sized dam in each of the 55 districts of the country in addition to several large-sized national dams.

This programme requires a lot of funding for dam construction and irrigation: development. It also provides significant opportunities for external donors and private investors who want to invest in Zimbabwe. A National Farm Irrigation Fund was created under the Agricultural Finance Corporation to provide attractive credit facilities for large-scale commercial and smallholder irrigation projects. Donors are being encouraged to channel their assistance through this Fund, or directly for dam projects.

We not only have to respond in an effective manner to the immediate needs which result from the drought, but also to provide direct assistance to farmers to enable them to recover from the disaster. Our drought recovery programme in Zimbabwe involved the distribution of seed, fertilizer and breeding stock and the provision of tillage for small-scale farmers. The programme has produced positive results, which has led to the situation in which we have become once again a net exporter of food in terms of increased production. For example, in the 1992-1993 marketing year, which was affected by the drought, the Grain Marketing Board purchased only 12 000 tonnes of maize from local farmers, but this figure went up to a remarkable 1.3 million tonnes this year as a direct result of our drought recovery programme and reasonable rainfall. These figures exclude substantial levels of farm retentions and informal trade. Similar levels of recovery also occurred with other crops. This impressive performance has taught us some useful lessons in regard to future strategies for sustainable small-holder production and the sector's ability to respond to positive incentives.

The second area of change is in regard to policy reforms in agriculture which have continued within the overall framework of the structural adjustment programme adopted in 1991. The adjustment strategy is aimed at restoring macro-economic stability through fiscal and monetary restraint, supported by improvement of external competitiveness through a responsive exchange rate policy, and establishing a more diversified and efficient productive base through structural reforms, especially in the agricultural sector.

This strategy is already producing positive results. The encouragement of a more outward-oriented agricultural sector is providing further incentives for export expansion. Increased availability of farm inputs due to liberalization is inducing productivity growth and the expansion of food production. The increased role of the private sector in agricultural marketing is encouraging diversification and efficiency by providing farmers with alternative marketing incentives and processing opportunities.

Measures are in place to address any negative aspects of reform, in particular through the provision of carefully targeted assistance to cushion vulnerable groups. Substantial improvements have been made in the nutritional status of pre-school children, and infant mortality rates have declined sharply as a result of improvement in household food security. A combination of price and non-price incentives, including land reform, are

being provided to farmers to encourage diversification and sustained food security.

It is in this context that I fully support the efforts by FAO to look beyond the year 2 000 and alert governments to take early action to reverse any negative trends in food and agricultural production. FAO field programmes and advisory services should continue to work hand in hand with member countries to translate these programmes into concrete action. In this way we can reach the goal of food for all, if not by the year 2000 then very shortly afterwards. We should never lose sight of this goal - it is of such great importance to many people, particularly in Africa.

Gürsu OKURER (Turkey) : At the outset, I wish to congratulate you on your unanimous election to the Chairmanship. My delegation is confident that with your well-known professional qualities you will guide our deliberations towards a successful outcome.

We would also like to place on record our appreciation to the Director-General for his outstanding performance in steering the work of FAO for the past 18 years. Mr Edouard Saouma certainly deserves a special tribute for his distinctive and dedicated contribution to the efforts aimed at promoting the ideals of this Organization.

We also take great pleasure in expressing our sincere congratulations to Director-General Elect Mr Jacques Diouf and assure him of our full support and cooperation in his challenging task to lead this important UN Agency until the start of the next century.

My delegation welcomes and salutes the new members of our Organization. We take joyful pride in the fact that, with some of them, Turkey enjoys close ties of kinship, language and culture. Their presence and contribution will surely enrich and strengthen FAO and they, in turn, will benefit from membership of this Organization.

I feel particularly privileged to express the views of my Government at this occasion which appears to have a historic importance. Indeed at this particular juncture when the world food and agriculture problems have reached a peak and when multilateral institutions face growing pressures, our Conference has the great responsibility of giving the right impulse to FAO so as to enable it to strengthen its role and raise its efficiency.

In the past two years, since the 26th Session, the overall economic environment which directly affects developments in agriculture and in the food situation continued to be beset by uncertainties. Growing debt problems, continuing protectionism, high interest rates, unfavourable terms of trade and insufficient flows of financial resources still hamper the efforts of many developing countries to redress their economy. The darkest side of the global economic picture is the large number of developing countries that continue to see their situation worsen.

Agriculture is still the sector which is most affected by the adversities of world economic conditions. People dependent on agriculture still carry the heaviest burden of national adjustment policies, and the world still falls far short of the objective of ensuring freedom from hunger for all.

The fact that the world produces abundant supplies of food and agricultural products is no relief for most of the food-deficit, low-income countries

and their rural populations. The structural imbalances in the world's agricultural output and trade system continue to perpetrate the paradoxical situation whereby embarrassing surpluses and serious shortages, affluence and malnutrition, co-exist on our globe.

We certainly share the opinion that the best long-term hope for the prosperity of the world as a whole rests in the development of developing countries. We believe that, although the developing countries' self-help efforts are essential, stepped-up actions on the part of the international community and, in particular, of the developed countries bearing a decisive weight in the management of world economy, are very much needed for bringing about a sustained global recovery. At the close of the twentieth century and with the economic policies of all countries converging as never before, the time has come to launch a concerted effort to create an international economic environment more congenial for growth and sustainable development.

We are aware of the present economic difficulties faced by some industrialized countries, particularly by those in Europe. We, at the same time, believe that domestic problems and budgetary constraints should not divert our attention from our long-term and traditional challenge to reduce hunger and poverty and to attain sustainable development through international cooperation.

We regret that the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations has not yet been concluded. This raises fears of ever-increasing protectionism. Since trade is a major vehicle for developing countries to break free of the burden of external debt and to pursue their development efforts, the necessary political will must be displayed for a successful conclusion of these negotiations.

In this rather gloomy picture, another sore point is the external financial assistance to agriculture. The decline in the external assistance to agriculture is a regrettable trend which should be reversed with utmost urgency. The present level of official development assistance to this sector should be increased and, more important still, multilateral concessional channels should be reinforced, especially through the replenishment of IDA and IFAD.

International action is even more essential in the field of food security.

Africa is still the continent most seriously affected by food shortages requiring emergency assistance. Fourteen countries in the region are currently facing exceptional food emergencies and half of these countries are also being affected by civil strife. Ongoing conflicts in other parts of the world, particularly in the Balkans and the Caucasian regions, have caused severe food shortages, massive displacements of people and grave human suffering.

My Government considers the international action in the fields of development and humanitarian assistance as an essential component of the peace-building efforts.

Turkey, stretching to the utmost her budgetary means, continues to be increasingly active as a donor and contributor in the field of economic and humanitarian support and solidarity.

Since the beginning of 1992, my Government has implemented an economic assistance package which includes technical assistance, project financing, training grants and soft loans, made available to 32 countries in four continents. We are firmly committed to continue our efforts in this domain. To increase efficiency in terms of coordination, we have set up the Turkish International Cooperation Agency.

Over the same period, 28 countries in three continents stricken by natural and/or man-made disasters, have received a total of 213 million US dollars-worth of humanitarian aid from Turkey, in cash or in kind, as well as in various forms of refugee relief and accommodation.

The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in 1992 was a major event to broaden the scope for economic development in a sustainable manner. This Conference has accelerated the universal push towards global sustainable development. Turkey believes that this momentum is now irreversible. We appreciate FAO's contribution to the formulation of Agenda 21 and hope that it will continue its leading role in the implementation of the global strategy, particularly in the areas of combating deforestation, desertification and drought; sustainable agriculture and rural development; sustainable development and exploitation of marine resources.

The second major event in 1992 was the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) held jointly by FAO and the World Health Organization. ICN was an important and complementary step towards raising the awareness of the international community so as to place human nutrition and well-being at the centre of the Agenda for development. We endorse the outcome of this Conference and expect that within its follow-up activities FAO will develop appropriate programmes which will strengthen the momentum gained in this important field.

We welcome the initiatives taken by FAO to assist the eastern and central European countries with a view to developing the agricultural potential of these countries. We share the view that FAO should continue to play a prominent role in defining new strategies for the future of European agriculture with special emphasis on sustainable agricultural and rural development, natural resource conservation and environment protection.

It is also true that a new geographic horizon opens up to FAO with the changing world conditions. FAO can play a catalytic role in the search for means of accelerating the integration of the newly independent Republics of the former USSR into the global economy.

Turkey holds the view that a good way to work towards agricultural and rural development is through regional and sub-regional cooperation. The political changes of the past few years have broadened the opportunities for such cooperation. In full awareness of this promising trend, Turkey has taken the initiative to launch a comprehensive scheme for expanded cooperation among the countries of the Black Sea region. The development of agriculture and agro-industries is identified as one of the main fields of cooperation among the participating countries in the Black Sea region.

Now let me turn to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium. Turkey approves the strategies, priorities and programmes proposed by the Director-General in his "Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95". Our support is mainly based in the fact that these proposals reflect the result of a long process to which all member countries,

including mine, have largely contributed. We appreciate in particular the overall approach which aims to devote maximum available resources to technical and economic programmes including TCP, to refine programme priorities based on the outcome of the two major international conferences, namely UNCED and ICN and to increase efficiency.

To sum up, we consider that, given the present budgetary and financial constraints, the proposals before us seem to be realistic and balanced enough to deserve a consensus, including the budget level which foresees no net growth but even a slight nominal decrease in terms of assessed contributions, as a consequence of difference in exchange rates between the US dollar and Italian lire.

Before concluding, I would like to reaffirm my Government's willingness to participate more actively and effectively in FAO's work. We believe that our level of development, our agricultural potential, our expanding technical and food assistance are important assets which will allow us to assume greater responsibilities in FAO's activities.

I would like to close my remarks by expressing confidence that this Conference will give a new impetus to collective endeavours aimed at achieving the main objectives of the FAO.

Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland) : May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the Chair and for the success with which you have conducted the elections and the entire deliberations of the Conference up to this point in time. We wish you God's blessings through the remainder of the Conference agenda.

Allow me also to pay tribute to the outstanding leadership of the incumbent Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, who has led our Organization with excellence for the past eighteen years. His invaluable contribution to this Organization will remain visible for generations to come. We wish him good health and prosperity in the new life that lies ahead of him.

On behalf of His Majesty King Mswati III, the Government and People of the Kingdom of Swaziland, I would like to express our heartfelt congratulations to the new Director-General, His Excellency Dr Jacques Diouf, for his ultimate victory in a highly contested election. Through him, we believe that our Organization will be able to successfully address the challenges that lie ahead. Swaziland would like to assure him of her fullest support. It is our prayer that the Almighty God guides, protects and gives him wisdom as he discharges his duties and the responsibilities of this high office.

I also wish to welcome and congratulate the ten new members of FAO, and in particular, our neighbour, the Republic of South Africa. We look forward to their active participation and full commitment to the goals and ideals of this Organization.

Swaziland ranks among the smallest countries of the world and is one of the smallest members of this noble Organization. It is also handicapped in many ways as a land-locked country. In spite of its disposition between its two giant neighbours, the Republics of South Africa and Mozambique, Swaziland has pursued a free market economic policy in its development plans and programmes since its independence in 1968. This policy has played a vital

role in our efforts to develop and improve our resources and the quality of life of our people.

While this policy has had positive results on our Gross National Product and per capita income, as measures of economic performance, thousands of our rural people remain poor, unemployed and untouched by these benefits. The statistics that appear so positive are attributable to a few large private sector organizations which have boosted income levels for only a small proportion of our population. There is a skewed distribution of income. What is most unfortunate is that the economic indicators have tended to portray a false impression to the international community about the economic status of our country.

Consequent to this distortion, Swaziland has been inadequately classified and unfairly denied access to soft loan packages and the benefits offered by the international community to most developing countries. As a result, our rural poor have remained marginalized and desperate. The recent drought of 1991-92 only made the situation worse as thousands of our rural populations lost their limited means of survival and existence. Vast areas of crops were devastated while large numbers of livestock died as a result of loss of grazing and the drying up of water resources. We nevertheless cherish most sincerely the assistance rendered to Swaziland by the FAO and the international community during the distressful time when we faced the worst drought in living memory. In this regard, Swaziland would appeal to the international community for assistance in the development of her water resources as a long term insurance measure against the recurring droughts.

Only a few amongst us would know the painful experience of being poor and marginalized. Swaziland know the pains and the cries of the poor and the hungry. The world's poor cannot continue to survive on marginalization just as the world's rich cannot continue to relish at the expense of the poor. It is a naked fact that most of the world's raw materials are produced and processed either through cheap labour or with high technology which displaces the poor through retrenchments. Furthermore, it is the poor in the developing world who have to pay heavily for the finished products at the end of the day. This is a non-win situation, a vicious cycle which keeps pushing the disadvantaged to the brink of dismay and desperation. Our contention is that the world economy must be based on partnership and not merely on competitive advantage.

There is no doubt that technological advancement has boosted agricultural production worldwide. However, it is unfortunate that such technology can be afforded by a very few in proportion to the world's population. Furthermore, the few who can afford access to those benefits are the ones who are cushioned by massive subsidies especially in the world's rich countries. On the other hand, the poor farmers in the developing countries find that their products can hardly compete in the international markets against the subsidized products. This in itself is some form of protectionism against the developing countries whose low protective capacity and marginalization are thus perpetuated. While we favour the liberalization of trade, we feel that measures should be taken to safeguard the interests of smaller countries which have limited domestic markets for their produce. Export-driven economic growth is fundamental to agricultural development in Swaziland.

We are making these highlights simply to raise the conscience of this august Conference on some of the negative effects of agricultural protectionist policies and how they perpetuate the marginalization of the

world's poor. It is hoped that this Conference will take a clear stand on the issue of subsidies in the interest of sustainable agricultural growth in developing countries. We believe, Mr Chairman, that it is essential for the developed countries to seriously consider the removal of agricultural subsidies and create a fair and equitable climate in international trade that would attract and stimulate increased agricultural production in the developing countries. If the money that went into subsidies were directed at stimulating agricultural growth in developing countries, our Organization would move closer towards achieving its fundamental objectives.

The Kingdom of Swaziland is very proud to be a member of this Organization whose noble goal to combat hunger, pain and suffering and to conserve as well as preserve the world's natural and non-renewable resources we highly cherish. We are very happy to note in this regard that these objectives were expounded and embraced by the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) and the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) in 1992. We, in Swaziland, support the measures taken by this Organization to integrate the strategies and plans of action adopted by these two Conferences into the FAO Programme of Action. We remain committed to the principle of sustainable development enshrined in the Global Action Plan as documented in Agenda 21.

However, there is no doubt that this wider agenda will place enormous strains and put new challenges on this Organization in view of the meagre resources that must now support numerous programmes. On the other hand, we note with much sadness that during the past twenty years up to 1990, the level of Africa's population which is chronically undernourished has remained virtually static with only a marginal drop from 35 percent to 33 percent, a mere 2 percent change. Meanwhile, tremendous strides in this area were made in other developing regions, where drops in the undernourished populations were as follows: from 40 percent to 19 percent (21 percent change) in Asia and the Pacific; 22 percent to 12 percent (10 percent change) in the Near East and 19 percent to 13 percent (6 percent change) in Latin America. The need, therefore, exists for renewed commitment on the part of our Organization to assist in bringing more improvements on these figures particularly in the Africa Region. The multilateral approach and the monetization of food aid programmes of this Organization have no doubt played a major role in the significant strides seen in the regions which recorded marked successes.

The Kingdom of Swaziland, pursuant to the noble objectives of this Organization, has embarked on an exercise to review its sectoral policies and to develop long-term programmes that would ensure sustainable agricultural development and the conservation of its natural and nonrenewable resources. Our immediate goal remains that of attaining self-sufficiency in our basic food stuffs. In view of our limited resource base, we have no option but to intensify rather than extensify our agricultural production systems.

It is of utmost importance that we employ policies and programmes that will allow our rural populations to engage in sustainable agricultural production while participating actively in the conservation of our natural resources. Our rural people must adequately feed themselves as well as generate enough surplus for sale. In this way, they will continue to participate actively in the economy of the country while ensuring food security at the homestead level. Our determination towards this goal cannot

be realized without the support and assistance of this Organization and the international community at large.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPOSE

DERECHO DE RESPUESTA

Kutaiba M. HASSAN (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for allowing me to exercise the right of reply to respond to the comments and remarks made by the delegates of Kuwait, United States of America, Britain, Saudi Arabia and France on the statement of the Iraqi delegation. May I, on behalf of the Iraqi delegation, make the following remarks on the comments of the delegates mentioned above.

Mr Chairman, the five delegates said something which is in total contradiction with the preamble of the Constitution of this Organization which stipulates that the countries, by approving this Constitution, are determined:

1) to raise the nutrition levels and living standards of their peoples. Indeed this is what the Iraqi delegate has asked for in his statement, the bulk of the population of my country is facing a dire state of famine and malnutrition, particularly the vulnerable groups of children under five years of age. This was also emphasized by the new Director-General of this Organization, Dr Jacques Diouf, in his statement to the Conference after his election.

2) to enhance the efficiency of the production and distribution of food and agricultural products. This is, again, what the Iraqi delegation has called for, as a large proportion of agricultural inputs are lacking as a result of the aggression and continuing blockade against us.

3) To liberate mankind from famine... Here again my delegation warned that our people are on the verge of a dangerous human disaster, namely an extensive famine.

Mr Chairman, some of the five delegates pointed out that this forum is not the appropriate one for the discussion of this issue. Others called for the continuation of the economic (agricultural and food) blockade against Iraq.

I am really surprised to hear such an argument from delegates who have come to Rome to participate in a general Conference of an international organization whose main concern is to provide food to the peoples of the world in the best possible manner, and to liberate mankind from famine. Yet, here they are calling for a continuation of a man-made famine to which a whole people is exposed when such a situation can be controlled and avoided.

It is all the more surprising, Mr Chairman, that one of the delegates said that the sanctions do not include food and medication. This argument may be due to a great misunderstanding... why?

First, because the five countries together with others have frozen all the Iraqi financial assets in those countries. Secondly, because the sanctions included preventing Iraq from exporting its basic commodities and products.

It is only obvious that a developing country without any assets abroad and unable to export its products and commodities will find itself in an impossible situation and incapable of obtaining food and medication. Any way out is a miracle, and this situation is equivalent to an embargo.

What I have said so far in my right for reply is within the framework of food, famine and agriculture. So how can this forum be inappropriate for this issue as they have said.

I would like to affirm, Mr Chairman, that the call of the delegates mentioned above for the continuation of the embargo is a clear demand for the continuation of food insecurity in my country and for exposing the large majority of its people to famine and malnutrition. This is in total contradiction with the stipulations of the Constitution of our Organization and the objectives for which we are gathered here today.

This appeal (for the continuation of the blockade) come to confirm the argument submitted by the Iraqi statement that the blockade against my country continues according to a predetermined and well-calculated plan aiming at jeopardizing the food security of the Iraqi people and thus fulfil the objectives of a predetermined policy. The statement also clearly indicated that certain countries who impose their will upon the Security Council and the United Nations refuse to enable Iraq to import the basic agricultural inputs.

My delegation, Mr Chairman, thinks that we have to be careful at this stage, hoping that this image will not be reflected upon the members of our great organization and hoping that this organization will not be affected by the views of a few who wish to impose their hegemony upon it.

My delegation hopes that this Organization will always remain independent in its decision-making process. Indeed, the independent Chairman of the Council, in his wonderful statement to the Conference, warned us clearly against these dangers. We hope FAO will remain independent in its decisions as Dr Edouard Saouma has managed through his courage to maintain it throughout the 18 years of his management.

Therefore I would like to reiterate that my delegation expects this Conference to take a just and equitable decision calling for the implementation of the recommendations of the joint FAO-WFP mission, namely to urge the international community to respond promptly and find a solution for this crisis. Indeed, the experience has proven over the last three years that sanctions, whatever their justification, and I repeat whatever their justification, lead to a generalized state of deprivation and expose the majority of the Iraqi population to a state of severe famine and malnutrition. The commission recommended and I quote "The permanent solution to the present food situation lies in revitalizing the Iraqi economy, which is only possible through the activation of international trade with this country."

Thank you for your kind attention.

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

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

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C 93/PV/13

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESION PLENARIA

(15 November 1993)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas
baio la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

A.K. SESAY (Sierra Leone): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the Sierra Leone delegation would first of all like to thank the Chairman for the excellent and efficient way he has handled the proceedings of this Conference. A clear evidence of his wisdom and skills is the orderly and successful conduct of what we all regard as a historic election.

On behalf of my country and Head of State, Captain Valentine E.M. Strasser, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the new FAO Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf of Senegal. While I reaffirm our unreserved support, I wish him and the Organization every success.

In the same spirit I must express profound appreciation for the tremendous goodwill and valuable help we have received from Dr Edouard Saouma and his staff both here at Headquarters and in the field. Indeed, FAO's understanding of, and sympathy for the plight of the rural poor, as well as the courage, commitment and determination of its staff, have brought relief to millions of the needy around the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the nine countries that were admitted to the membership of FAO. In particular, we welcome the re-admission of South Africa to FAO, not least because of the immense contribution the country could make to a rapid increase in food security in its sub-region.

A careful reflection on several statements we have heard in this assembly reveals that most developing countries are in one crisis or another, and Sierra Leone is no exception. The difference lies in the nature and scale of the problems and strategies to address them.

Indeed, most critical issues affecting mankind are diverse, global and well known. They are of such dimensions and complexity that most of the Third World countries find them extremely difficult to handle without outside help.

In the case of Sierra Leone, the declining state of the economy is among the worst the country has faced for decades. Per capita income of the population, which largely depends on agriculture, has fallen far below the absolute poverty level in the last decade. In 1989 the country's external debt exceeded a controllable size, while the debt-servicing ratio assumed alarming proportions; and by 1991, the rate of inflation had approached 125 percent.

The economic decline was aggravated by the on-going unprovoked rebel war in the districts bordering Liberia, which in turn increased further the alarming levels of rural poverty, malnutrition, poor infrastructures, high infant mortality, low life expectancy, and high illiteracy. All of these parameters contributed to Sierra Leone's being classified in 1991 as the least developed country in the world. Although the situation has slightly

improved, a lot of effort is still needed to reverse such unprecedented negative trends, and promote the desired economic growth.

Once a net exporter of its staple food, rice, the country can only now meet 50 percent of some 480 000 metric tons of milled rice needed to feed its 4.2 million people, excluding hundreds of thousands in various refugee camps. The shortfall in production is met annually through imports using scarce foreign exchange which the country could ill afford.

In recent years, production of the main export crops like coffee, cocoa, palm products, and ginger suffered serious setbacks due in part to the fall in world market price and, more seriously, the rebel incursions in areas where these crops are mostly grown.

The country has a long tradition of shifting cultivation, and agriculture is essentially rainfed with crop yields sometimes very low and uncertain.

Livestock is poorly developed, and the areas already devastated by the rebel war face problems of restocking the indigenous Ndama cattle, small ruminants, piggery and local poultry.

The Atlantic Ocean provides Sierra Leone with fairly extensive and attractive fishing grounds. However, with grossly underdeveloped artisanal skills, and no national fleet, industrial fishing is confined mainly to large commercial foreign vessels with inherent problems of poaching, trans-shipment, and the destruction of juvenile stocks.

Problems encountered in the forestry sub-sector include uncontrolled logging, destruction of secondary forests, emergence of more savannah woodlands resulting from slash and burn methods of farming, harvesting of fuel wood, persistent bush fire as a crude means of hunting wildlife, and range management. The adverse consequences of the above practices on biodiversity are quite obvious, and the long-term effects on the environment as a whole are even more catastrophic.

Other major factors that have continued to hamper food, and agricultural production in developing countries with particular reference to Sierra Leone include lack of coherent policies and strategies; poor data base; limited extension packages; weak delivery mechanisms; lack of suitable arrangements for inputs, credit, farm power, agro-processing facilities, and marketing; and poor infrastructures.

It is deliberate that I decided to shift the role of our women in food and agricultural production towards the end of the long list of issues. In my opinion, their contribution is so important that only concrete actions rather than mere words can adequately reward them for all the drudgery they undergo, both on the farm, and in the house.

Similarly, the youths have displayed such enthusiasm and potential in the development process with respect to environmental management that we strongly believe something positive must be done to harness, and guide such human resources and talents to productive uses. We may not be unique in this respect and need to learn a lot from successful youth programmes in other countries with similar problems.

The Government of Sierra Leone is carrying out a number of activities directed at improving agriculture and the standard of living in rural areas. Chief among these include:

Preparation of Agricultural Master Plan. Funded by the African Development Bank (ADB), and a follow-up to an FAO Agricultural Policy Review, would provide direction and methodology for agricultural development in the decades ahead. It is expected to be completed in April 1994.

An Agricultural Sector Support Project (ASSP). Funded largely by the World Bank and to a limited extent IFAD, and Sierra Leone Government has as its main thrust institutional capacity building, technology transfer, input delivery, credit through Rural Banks, small-scale Agro-Processing facilities, and feeder roads. It covers the entire country.

North-Central Agricultural Project. Funded by IFAD, and the Government of Sierra Leone, focuses on effective research-extension delivery; a Farmer's Service Company with emphasis on strong organization; Rural Banks for credit, Inland Valley Swamp Development; work-oxen; feeder roads; and inputs and output marketing. It has a duration of seven years.

EEC Funded Projects. These cover Port Loko, Kambia and Koinadugu districts. With a duration of four years, the projects provide support to Farmers' Associations in the form of Inland Valley Swamp Development, work-oxen, input supply, credit, and extension backstop. It has a strong component for women.

Bo-Pujehun-GTZ Supported Integrated Rural Development Project provides inputs and extension backstopping to Farmers Associations. The project has an effective component for women farmers.

Projects supported from Trust Funds. Among the most successful of such projects in the Kabala Women's Project. Funded by the Norwegian Government, the main elements of the Project include production of vegetables, maize, groundnut, cassava, sweet potatoes, credit and marketing. The project is in its final phase, and it is envisaged that on its successful completion the Kabala women's project will be replicated in other parts of the country.

FAO/UNDP Projects include the Shenge Fisheries Project: preparation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan; Moyamba Inland Valley Swamp Development Project, and Rehabilitation Project for the war-torn areas.

African Development Bank (ADB) Funded Projects. These are confined to Bombali and Moyamba Districts. Both projects are at their terminal stage, and their main thrust is on extension support; training of livestock instructors, inputs and rural water supply.

Intervention by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Many NGOs operate in the sector without proper coordination, and this is causing serious concern. However, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry is now taking measures to ensure that the activities of all NGOs working in the sector are effectively coordinated.

Bilateral Cooperation with the Republic of Egypt. Arrangements are now being finalized by the Government of Sierra Leone and Egypt to cooperate in poultry production in Newton, and embark on medium-scale irrigation of rice at Mange on a joint venture basis.

Arrangements are pending for large-scale irrigation studies in selected low lying areas in the country with the assistance of the Kuwait Fund, Saudi Government and Islamic Development Bank.

The new policy orientation of the government is directed at diversified food production and improvement in rural incomes as a means to achieving food security. In this regard, the successful implementation of various initiatives will facilitate our efforts to achieve such a noble goal.

In addition to the activities I have indicated earlier, Sierra Leone will continue to seek assistance in certain crucial areas. These include: manpower development and training, especially in management; technical assistance in policy planning and analysis; agricultural census, statistics, and establishment of data bank; land and water resource development and conservation with emphasis on large-scale irrigation schemes; farm mechanization, including agro-processing facilities; food preservation; establishment of gene bank for endangered species; promotion of traditional food plants; exchange of agricultural information. We are aware of FAO's limitations in resources. We are also fully aware of the competence and depth of experience the Organization possesses in food and agricultural matters. We therefore appeal to all funding sources, organizations and donors to provide FAO with all the necessary support to enable it to meet the challenges to eradicate hunger, poverty and malnutrition in the world.

Samuel MANN (Guyana): It gives me great pleasure to address this august assembly on behalf of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in South America. This Republic, a newly-born democracy, is under the distinguished presidency of His Excellency Dr Cheddi B. Jagan.

With your permission, please permit me to extend my sincere congratulations to you on your election as presiding officer of this august assembly. Also on behalf of my Government and on my own behalf, I wish to extend best wishes to the Director-General Elect, Dr Jacques Diouf, who emerged victorious from a field of highly qualified and competent aspirants. It was indeed a hard fight. To all those aspirants who failed to secure the coveted prize, let me give them some words of friendly encouragement: "Don't give up. Try again. Better luck next time, as the saying goes. Who knows? You could be formidable opponents six years hence." To Mr Edouard Saouma, who ably held the post for 18 years, I say to him thanks for the services rendered to the grateful nation states of FAO. Best wishes for the future.

This 27th Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Mr Chairman, has been a tremendous learning experience for me.

First of all, please allow me to thank all those governments represented here today, which helped the Guyanese people in 1992 restore democracy in their homeland. Foremost among these helpers are the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Canada. We are indeed grateful and undertake to ensure the continuation of this new found Democracy.

Secondly, it is most important to utilize this Democracy to develop the national economy, with the private sector being the engine of development. From our point of view, economic development in Guyana hinges on agriculture, which is exactly where FAO, our bilateral and multilateral aid donors and financial well-wishers come in.

Already we have had significant initial assistance from the USA, UK, Canada, the IMF, the World Bank, the EEC, the IDB, the CDB, FAO, Italy,

Japan, China, India, Venezuela. These could be considered major contributors to our development thrust.

Our thrust into agriculture and agro-industry is being hindered however, by a heavy foreign debt burden of US\$2.1 billion. To service our debts in 1993 takes an estimated 90 percent of our revenues. This means that out of US\$175.2 million, servicing the debt gobbles up US\$152.3 million. Expenditures for 1993 amount to US\$318.1 million, a situation eased somewhat by debt relief of US\$48.4 million.

Agriculture amounts to approximately 3 8 percent of our gross domestic product. It is the largest segment in the GDP and the most labour-intensive area of the largely agrarian economy. Our situation is therefore critical, and we need help in a structured organized way. We need not only debt relief (some of which has already come from USA, UK, Canada, Australia) but fair trade within the context of free-trade principles.

It is our view that unless free trade is also fair trade, the fragile economies of the Caribbean and Guyana are in serious danger. The danger is perceived in the undercutting of our exports of primary products by more powerful competitors entering the European market. We are not prepared to stand by idly and allow this to happen. We are referring in particular to our exports of sugar, rice, and bananas, which have traditionally enjoyed preference in Europe.

We want to posit that Guyana with its vast natural resources (including rich mineral deposits) is instrumental in the maintenance of stability in the Caribbean, from the economic and job-creating point of view. Our Government has already thrown open the Guyana economy to foreign and Caribbean investors. We welcome investors of all sorts, particularly those from North America, Europe, Japan, China and India; and we are doing our best to streamline procedures and incentive packages.

We believe that meaningful development in the Caribbean will go a far way to curb drug trafficking, head off potential political turbulence and stem the flow of refugees to North America. The Caribbean area should be seen as an integral market, with Guyana as the agricultural base.

For this we need help from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, along with a Director-General of FAO who empathizes with Third World problems of development. Buoyant Third World economies, in our estimation, can lead to a big sustainable increase in trade between the Third World and the developed countries of the West, particularly for the procurement of capital goods.

The Government of Guyana is also deeply concerned about the environment, the ozone layer and global warming. It has in this respect conserved 900 000 acres of virgin rain forest under a programme known as the Iwokrama Project. With so many areas of forest taken out of development, and reserved to scientific observation in the greater interest of humanity, there ought to be no aversion by any nation to rendering meaningful assistance to Guyana as a compensatory gesture.

On behalf of the Government of Guyana, I pledge to give our fullest cooperation to the Director-General. We also expect in return, diligent efforts by FAO and its Director-General to help us boost agriculture in Guyana, the Caribbean, and Latin America. The Director-General can rest

assured that we in Guyana would be virtually camping on his doorstep where our needs are concerned. These needs include infrastructure, sea and river defences, water control systems, farm-to-market roads, animal and crop husbandry, research in grains, legumes and livestock, resource personnel, transportation and communication equipment, apiaries, et cetera.

Ahmadou Tidjane TRAORE (Guinée): Monsier le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de Délégation, Honorables Délégués, je voudrais tout d'abord joindre la voix de ma délégation à celles qui m'ont précédé pour vous transmettre Monsieur le Président, nos chaleureuses félicitations à l'occasion de votre brillante élection et saluer l'efficacité avec laquelle vous conduisez nos travaux depuis le début de la présente session.

L'occasion m'est aussi offerte de vous prier d'adresser au nom de mon Gouvernement, à Monsieur Saouma, un hommage mérité pour tous les efforts qu'il n'a cessé de déployer tout au long de ces 18 dernières années pour faire de notre Organisation un instrument efficace à la réalisation des nobles objectifs de la FAO dans un contexte international des plus difficiles.

Nos félicitations vont également aux nouveaux membres admis de notre Organisation et particulièrement à l'Afrique du Sud pour sa réadmission au sein de notre famille.

Vous voudrez bien transmettre au nouveau Directeur général élu, M. Diouf nos félicitations les plus chaleureuses et notre entière disponibilité à oeuvrer à ses côtés pour la réussite de sa mission. Nous sommes convaincus sa large expérience dans l'ensemble des problèmes agro-alimentaires, qui préoccupent l'humanité, donnera à notre Organisation une autorité morale méritée.

Cette élection intervient à un moment où le monde connaît de profonds changements à la faveur de la liberté retrouvée des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples, de la crise économique mondiale généralisée, d'une détérioration encore plus marquée des termes de l'échange et du maintien des flux financiers négatifs vers les pays en voie de développement.

C'est au regard de la conjugaison de ces multiples facteurs négatifs que mon Gouvernement, en concertation avec les bailleurs de fonds et la FAO en qualité d'opérateur de terrain et une forte participation des producteurs nationaux et d'organisations professionnelles connexes, a élaboré, une Lettre de politique de développement agricole (LPDA).

La LPDA sert aujourd'hui de cadre de référence et donc d'orientation de toutes les activités dans les sous-secteurs de l'agriculture: élevage, forêt, pêches, infrastructures rurales, production agricole, crédits, etc.

Conformément aux buts visés par la FAO, les objectifs fondamentaux de cette politique visent à réaliser la sécurité alimentaire de notre Pays, à développer les exportations tout en réduisant les coûteuses importations, à améliorer les conditions de vie de nos braves populations paysannes en particulier.

Aujourd'hui, grâce aux mesures d'encouragement prises en faveur des petits exploitants, la production agricole rizicole est passée de 350 000 tonnes de paddy en 1984 à 650 000 tonnes en 1992. Les productions de maïs et de tubercules ont respectivement augmenté de 50 pour cent et de 80 pour cent pendant la même période. Les plantations de café abandonnées en 1984 ont été réhabilitées et le rythme annuel de production dépasse deux pour cent, totalisant en volume près de 15 000 tonnes de café en 1992.

Pendant la même période, il a été expérimenté des systèmes plus viables de financement de la production avec une participation effective des sociétaires à la gestion et au suivi de leurs institutions de crédit. Parallèlement, des infrastructures de base ont été créées et se développent. Il s'agit essentiellement de pistes rurales pour désenclaver les villages et les marchés ruraux, de centres de santé, d'écoles, de forages et aménagement de source, etc.

La LPDA prend également en compte la conservation et la préservation des sources d'eau: c'est pourquoi plusieurs programmes d'aménagement des bassins représentatifs pilotes ont été mis en oeuvre ces dernières années avec le concours de la Communauté internationale. La cohérence de la politique agricole et du Plan d'action forestier tropicale assure à court et à long terme les voies à suivre pour assurer à notre population une alimentation suffisante et équilibrée sans endommager notre environnement au détriment des générations futures.

Toujours avec le concours de la FAO, dans le domaine de la pêche, des résultats encourageants ont été obtenus grâce à un meilleur équipement et encadrement des pêcheurs artisanaux, à la promotion des investissements privés dans ce sous-secteur et une meilleure gestion de notre zone économique exclusive. La consommation par habitant a notablement progressé en 8 ans.

Les redevances de pêche ont été multipliées par cinq depuis 4 ans, un plus grand nombre d'emplois a été créé grâce aux nombreuses coopératives et PME travaillant dans le secteur de la pêche artisanale. Tous ces résultats seront poursuivis dans l'avenir, mais dans un contexte de plus en plus difficile en raison de la rareté des financements bilatéraux et multilatéraux ou des conditionnalités difficiles pour leurs acquisitions. C'est pourquoi notre Organisation doit insister sur la nécessité de rendre plus justes, plus équitables les règles du commerce international pour tous, y compris les pays en voie de développement. En effet, il ne suffit pas de se contenter d'un accord entre des grands dont la finalité serait de monopoliser l'approvisionnement de nos marchés intérieurs notamment.

Il nous faut créer notre propre marché intérieur, sous-régional et régional et développer nos échanges sur la base d'un pouvoir d'achat plus réaliste des populations.

Il nous faut développer la productivité et la compétitivité de nos produits et promouvoir les investissements dans l'agriculture. A cet effet, la FAO en tant qu'organisme spécialisé des Nations Unies doit davantage coopérer avec nos pays dans ce sens. Elle ne pourra le faire avec succès qu'en améliorant la cohérence de ses interventions avec les autres agences, notamment le PAM et le FIDA. La lutte efficace contre la faim dans le monde suppose certainement davantage d'engrais, de produits phytosanitaires, de petits outillages agricoles et de transformation mis à la disposition des producteurs. Voilà un domaine de coopération FAO/PAM/FIDA qui pourrait par exemple être développé et exécuté avec le concours d'ONG.

C'est pourquoi notre délégation approuve le Plan d'action soumis à la présente conférence ainsi que le budget proposé. Elle appuie sans réserve l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural.

Je m'en voudrais de terminer ma déclaration sans adresser mes félicitations au Président indépendant, M. Sainttraint, pour la clarté de son exposé, le courage dont il a fait preuve dans son analyse a tracé un cadre efficace à nos délibérations. Qu'il en soit ici félicité. Je souhaite plein succès à nos travaux.

Joe WALSH (Ireland) : Mr Chairman, may I join with the other delegations who have congratulated you on your election to the Conference. The Irish delegation is happy that you are presiding over our deliberations.

Since our Conference session two years ago, the global scene has changed dramatically. However, the reality of today for many developing countries is that too little has changed. We see that countries continue to be devastated by civil conflict and war which leave behind trails of famine and hunger and human misery of tragic proportions.

Though it is difficult to quantify the scale of hunger and malnutrition, we are constantly reminded that it is the poor and the elderly, women and children who are as ever the first victims.

We cannot remain indifferent to the dilemma that exists today for all of us. The world's population continues to grow by approximately 100 million each year; 90 percent of this in developing countries with the result that more and more resources must be allocated to improve food production and distribution. At the same time the world economy is in recession. Many donor countries are struggling with the growing problems of unemployment, rising social costs, competitiveness, pollution, monetary instability and costs of maintaining peace. At a time of severe budgetary constraints, it is therefore all the more important for multilateral and bilateral efforts, aimed at tackling the problems of underdevelopment and poverty, to be more effective and more highly focused.

The dilemma is not a matter of indifference to us in Ireland. In July of this year a new strategy of consolidation and growth for Ireland's programme of development assistance was launched.

Our programme reaffirms Ireland's commitment to the millions of people in Africa and elsewhere who are in danger of death from drought, famine and disease or who are living in poverty and economic and social deprivation. Under the programme the Government pledges to increase Ireland's Official Development Assistance in 1993 and thereafter to pursue a steady increase towards achieving the UN goal of 0.7 percent of GNP.

We also recognize that, apart from aid, support is required for policies which will allow the economies of developing countries to grow, in particular for improved access to markets and a greater say for developing countries in issues of world trade. In this way, the developing countries can make a significant contribution to the improvement of their own situation.

Ireland's historical experience, the absence of colonial or exploitative interest, the fact that we experienced famine within the relatively recent past and our transformation from an underdeveloped rural economy have made

us especially aware of, and sensitive to, the economic and social needs of developing countries.

There is a growing recognition on the part of the international donor community that renewed efforts and imaginative approaches are needed to tackle the problems of underdevelopment and poverty which persist in so many parts of the world. The concept of sustainable development was strongly endorsed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and will remain an important objective for all developing countries.

In Rio, the international donor community renewed its commitment to provide the necessary financial and technical assistance to enable developing countries to make much greater progress in overcoming the problems which prevent their populations from achieving an acceptable quality of life.

The magnitude of the challenges clearly calls for concerted action by the international community. FAO takes this into account in its Medium-Term Plan 1994-99 and its Programme of Work for the next Biennium 1994-95 and by coordinating its activities with Member States, other agencies of the United Nations and non-Governmental Organizations.

The main challenges, such as poverty alleviation and promotion of sustainable agriculture, have changed little since our last conference in 1991. They must be seen in the context of FAO's own future which is inextricably linked to two paramount goals of mankind: the need for the world to feed adequately an additional three thousand million people by the year 2025; and the need to meet the demands for agricultural, forestry and fishery products for the projected global population of over eight thousand million. My Government supports FAO's efforts to achieve these goals.

The Agenda before us covers a very broad range of international issues such as fair trade, poverty alleviation, sustainable development and protection of the environment. These issues, and especially their relevance to sustainable agriculture and rural development, are, of course, of central importance. Also important is FAO's work on GATT, and on environment and international trade. In this context, we strongly support FAO's work on harmonization of plant phytosanitary procedures, on international standards for pesticide residues in foods, other food safety issues and labelling of organic foods.

Because of their importance to Ireland, I would now like to refer briefly to the GATT negotiations. As is well known, 15 December 1993 has been fixed as the deadline for concluding the current round of the negotiations.

There is little time left but we hope that the negotiations will be concluded by this deadline. The earlier deadlines were somewhat unrealistic given the very broad scope of the negotiations and the different objectives of the major players. While differences continue in a number of areas, substantial progress has been made over the past two years in reconciling divergent positions. There is also a strong belief that the multilateral system needs to be strengthened and that another failure at this stage after so much effort could have unpredictable consequences.

From our point of view, Ireland, as a small open economy with exports of goods and services amounting to the equivalent of two-thirds of our national output, remains committed to a successful conclusion of the negotiations. A final package needs to be global and balanced and not

impact disproportionately on any region or sector. There is still some way to go before this is achieved especially as regards the agriculture elements of the negotiations.

The Medium-Term Plan rightly charts the major intersectoral priorities that are to guide all of FAO's activities - the environment and sustainable development; consultative work on policy questions; people's participation in development, with special emphasis on the role of women; combating poverty; nutrition and food security; and economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. The Medium-Term Plan is clear and coherent and is closely linked to the Programme of Work and Budget for the Biennium.

One of the aims in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget was to reflect the needs of major priorities such as the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the International Conference on Nutrition without neglecting other legitimate priorities listed in the Medium-Term Plan. Reconciliation of the various needs should result in a harmonious synthesis acceptable to all.

The future of agriculture and its ability to provide for a world population that will continue to grow for several decades to come is something that obviously calls for our concentrated attention. The study "Agriculture: Toward 2000" was a decisive step in approaching this crucial problem. It evaluated population growth and production potential at different levels of cropping intensity and has now been updated in the light of the outcome of the two major world conferences in 1992 - UNCED and ICN. Its scope now extends to the year 2010. FAO is to be congratulated for this excellent document. It is a good example of how the Organization carries out its mission and contributes to providing solutions to major world problems.

FAO is to be complimented also on its work in the conservation and the rational and equitable use of one of humanity's major assets: its plant and animal genetic resources. The importance of biological diversity and genetic resources for food security, sustainable agriculture, rural development, environmental management and international trade have been emphasized in many fora recently. The contribution of biodiversity to the welfare of society, and the role of rural communities in conserving biodiversity, is well established.

World Food Day 1993 promoted an awareness of the importance of stewarding nature's diversity if we are to overcome the global problems of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Genetic resources, information, funds and technology are all essential and complementary resources in achieving food security and sustainable rural development. Using and sharing these resources in a fair and equitable manner is an obligation for the present generation and a condition for the survival of future generations.

Most delegations know that the Regional Conference for Europe is scheduled to take place in Killarney, Ireland, in June 1994. We in Ireland look forward to welcoming delegates from the Member Nations of the region, including the newly elected Member States, at this important time in the history of FAO, as it approaches its 50th Anniversary. We will also, of course, welcome those who attend as observers.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to the outgoing Director-General, Dr Saouma, who has served FAO for well over thirty years. He will be remembered for his resolve in the battle against hunger and malnutrition over the years.

The Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium sets the scene as FAO hands over the helm to its new Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf. We warmly congratulate him on his election and wish him well in the challenging task ahead.

Ahmed Bin Mohamed AL - RASBI (Oman) (Original language Arabic) : In the name of God the merciful the compassionate. Mr President, your Excellencies, heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen: I should like at the outset to extend to you, Mr President, my heartfelt congratulations on your election to the Presidency of this Conference. Your sagacity and knowledge of its workings will guarantee its success. My congratulations go also to all the Vice-Presidents.

Allow me on behalf of my delegation to welcome the newly-admitted Member States of FAO. We wish them every success in achieving the desired well-being for their peoples: and humanity at large.

We are meeting in this recurrent world gathering to examine questions relating to agricultural development at a time when agriculture and food self-sufficiency have become the essence of our destiny.

We are confident that the Conference will study these questions in depth and that its deliberations will lead to positive and serious recommendations. The agricultural sector in all countries acquires a great importance since it relates to food and its provision to the population. A great number of countries have adopted self-reliance as a general approach to meet most of its population food needs. In the Sultanate of Oman this sector has commanded the right interest by our Government especially in the last few years which highlighted the inevitable need to re-distribute the national income and broaden the national production base. The diverse geography of and climate over the Sultanate have resulted in the existence over its territories of varied species of plants and animals. Also this diversity has provided us with rich fisheries and agricultural resources although arable land is limited and water is scarce. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the Sultanate of Oman has endeavoured through its thoughtful development plans and its highly technical programmes to achieve the following objectives: first, to set up the necessary infrastructures in agriculture, irrigation and fishing. For example, dams, agricultural development centres, veterinarian clinics, research centres, as well as the ongoing building of coastal fishing ports. Second, to increase agricultural and fish productions to meet a reasonable percentage of food needs, and to increase the agriculture and fisheries share in the GDP. Third, to optimize the use of irrigation water limited in quantity by intensifying research and education programmes and applying modern irrigation techniques. Fourth, improve the living standards of farmers, fishermen and livestock breeders, and to create further employment opportunities for citizen in rural and fishery sectors. Fifth, to provide effective incentives to the private sector with a view to encouraging it to venture into projects relating to agricultural production, animal and fishery sources, and in food, agricultural and fishing industrial productions. In its developmental efforts to promote this sector the Ministry has focused on a basic strategy, namely an integrated comprehensive development, while ensuring a controlled exploitation and

development of the available natural resources to avoid squandering them. Also to this end the Ministry promoted research, education and prevention. These efforts have come to fruition, to wit a noticeable 5.6 percent rise per year in the aggregate domestic fish and agricultural production for the period 1985-90. Furthermore, the agricultural and fisheries share of the non-oil domestic product rose from 5.2 percent in 1985 to 7 percent in 1990. We hope that domestic growth rates reached by this sector will improve further, thus increasing its contribution to the universal objectives aspired to by the international community in the sector of agriculture and food.

Food for all is the joint responsibility of all the members of the international community, for without concerted effort and active contribution by all, each and everyone within its own capabilities, the world will not be able to overcome the world food crisis. The economic conditions in the world are a source of concern to us. They make it necessary for the Organization to play a more active role in the coming years to ensure the principle of solidarity and to strengthen cooperation between them. It is important in this prevailing environment to intensify regional and national actions with the help of the subsidiary and regional bodies of the Organization. We would be remiss in this regard if we were not to praise the Near East Regional Office and its timeless effort to accelerate agricultural development in the region. Also, I cannot but pay homage to the Regional Commission for the Control of the Desert Locust and its principal role in training technicians, promoting data exchange between Member States and providing assistance within its means. This assistance is all the more important with the growing locust assault in recent times. We hope the Commission will turn its attention to preventive measures as we believe it is the best means to combat this pest and stem its propagation.

The Middle East region has practised agriculture since time immemorial and assets for agriculture investment in it abound, yet it is a region that depends more and more, year after year, on others to provide food to its population. Its food imports are on the rise both in quantity and in quality. This shows that agricultural production in the region is below the required needs of the population growth despite success stories in some countries of the region. This situation has been exacerbated by the national disaster which flogged the region recently, such as floods, earthquakes, agricultural pests, which adversely affected its agricultural development.

There is no doubt that solving regional problems would pave the way for a breakthrough in world food crises. On that premise, we appeal to the FAO to further strengthen its regional and subsidiary organs working in the Near East to enable them to provide the necessary assistance to the countries of the region, an assistance which would go a long way in helping them to overcome their agricultural development problems and achieve higher food productions with a view to self-sufficiency. We should underline here the urgent need to develop a strategy for agricultural integration in the region based on close technical and technological cooperation.

It is my duty here to express appreciation for the Organization's interest in strengthening the role of women in food production and rural development. This interest should be maintained in this field.

In conclusion I cannot but praise all the efforts made to achieve the goals and execute the programmes of the Organization. It is my pleasure to single out Dr Edouard Saouma and pay homage to him for his relentless efforts, and

to his inexhaustible devotion manufactured by the great achievements of this Organization in directing and reforming agricultural developments. Now that his prosperous terms of office have come to an end, we owe him a debt of gratitude and appreciation.

While bidding farewell to Dr Saouma, we welcome Dr Jacques Diouf whose election testifies to the international community's confidence in his expertise and competence and that he is well up to the job. We assure him of our full support and cooperation, wishing him every success.

While on the one side the world is fighting with a lack of food, in the Central and Eastern European countries is going on the process of agricultural transition which brings also huge depression of production. Agricultural production in the Slovak Republic has declined more than 30 percent during the last three years. Agricultural policy makers and producers are getting more and more into complicated situations. These conditions are very complicated with regards to the forty years old heritage of our agrarian past.

Fifth Report of the General Committee

Cinquième rapport du Bureau

Quinto Informe del Comité General

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le rapport du Bureau de la cinquième séance vient d'être distribué; il figure dans le document C 93/LIM/33.

Ce document contient également deux résolutions que le Bureau transmet à la Conférence pour observations et adoption. La première résolution concerne les locaux du siège et la deuxième concerne le cinquantième anniversaire de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention des honorables délégations sur une erreur qui s'est glissée dans le texte de la première résolution qui a trait aux locaux du siège: à la quatrième ligne du premier paragraphe de la partie "Dispositif" au lieu de "l'octroi de quelque 30 milliards de liras", il faut lire "l'octroi de plus de 30 milliards de liras".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on the report of the General Committee including of course the very important resolutions? If there are no comments, I declare the Fifth Report of the General Committee as having been accepted by Conference.

The Fifth Report of the General Committee adopted.

Le cinquième rapport du Bureau est adopté.

El quinto informe del Comité General es aprobado.

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Mrs Maria KADLECIKOVA (Slovakia) : Mr Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to address the 27th Session of the General Conference of FAO on behalf of the Slovak Republic. I am delighted to pass to the new Director-General His Excellency, Dr Jacques Diouf, the greatest congratulation of the President of the Slovak Republic which is as follows: Excellency, allow me to congratulate you on the election to the post of the Director-General of the international Organization of the United Nations for Food and Agriculture. Election to this highest post is the culminating point of your creative work in favour of the development of the role of agriculture. I am convinced that under your leadership FAO will continue in a successful development and productive cooperation and organization.

The present situation in the world's agriculture and nourishment is characterized by the influence of many contradictions. Dominating is the discrepancy between relatively high food surpluses in the countries with developed economies, and the food shortage in some developing economies of Africa and Asia, and now even in some countries in transition.

The review of the food situation in the world indicates that in the last two years FAO bravely tried to find the solutions of this problem. In spite of the great effort, many activities and decisions must be still done to ensure that each man has the title for basic human right - the right of food.

The transition of agriculture to the principles of the market continues with partial success, but also with a lot of problems. We progress successfully in transition to ownership relations. The privatization of farm cooperatives is almost finished. They have been transformed into new entrepreneurial forms, namely, into cooperatives of owners or to the trade companies which prevail. The privatization of the state farm sector which is about 15 percent of the total land area, proceeds, as does the reprivatization of forest land. Almost half of the forest land has been already given back to its original owners. The private sector in the food industry already prevails, and it is realistic to assume that in the year 1994 this sector will be completely privatized. The privatization of this sector was on a high level supported by participation of foreign investments.

During transformation of cooperatives and state farms the number of private farmers has increased since 1991 to 10 000. More than 100 of them are farms of above 50 hectares. The transition to privatization of bigger farms is still in progress.

Our experiences show that the forced application of market rules in the non-existing market environment led to uneconomic degradation, chaos and losses that cannot be compensated for.

The liberalized economic environment resulted in a marked disparity between the price development of agricultural products and inputs into this branch. It led to high economic losses. During the last three years 40 percent of agricultural workers left this sector. It is the consequence of an inconsiderate, radical, restrictive policy and a significant fall in domestic demand for foods due to low purchase power of the population. In spite of this fact the deterioration of economic development has probably achieved its bottom and nowadays presents a stable level which gives reason for reasonable optimism.

It is necessary to mention that the decline of agriculture goes together with the recession in industrial production, which has declined by one-third. These circumstances cast doubt on another possible solution to declining agriculture production and purchase of foodstuffs abroad. The question is for what and from which financial resources?

In this connection we feel there is unreasonable pressure coming from international financial institutions and consulting centres which want us to apply even harder restrictive measures to our agriculture. The last GATT negotiations on limitation of support of agro-production show that the existing level of our support to agriculture is only one-third of the level of European Union countries.

During last year's session of the European Conference in Prague the Slovak Republic pointed out that under these circumstances our country and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe could change from clear food exporters to countries dependent not only on food imports but also on food assistance. This problem naturally belongs to FAO. It is too risky to play a passive observer's role and follow the creation in Europe of a new zone of food shortage. For the people living in this part of Europe it would be fruitful for FAO to prepare a complementary project on how to harmonize the given problems of food security, and involving the financial institutions in more intensive cooperation in those countries that are in transition. It is reasonable to expect that the world's financial institutions would accept the views of experts of such authority as FAO represents.

In the foreign exchange of goods we see as a barrier a highly supportive and protective policy of developed European countries, which prevents the freer development of food trade in this area.

The new economic environment requires working out and adoption of numerous legislative principles and provisions harmonized with the legal rules of the European Union. There are under preparation new laws on agriculture, land, forests, foodstuffs, including the Codex Alimentarius, and many others.

We appreciate the assistance provided to Slovakia by FAO in the last two years for a solution of our problems with the transformation of agriculture. Slovakia hosted many international conferences, workshops and seminars. Several specific projects were realized and many consultations were held. Among them we appreciate mainly the FAO mission which provided us with assistance in solving problems concerning purchases of cereals during the greatest drought of the century, which struck the most productive regions of Slovakia. All these events in Slovakia gained FAO high esteem and prestige.

We assume that our membership in FAO will open for us the possibility of direct access to the information databases of FAO to its development programmes, and that it will allow an active participation of Slovak specialists in the FAO projects.

I would like to mention also the fact that sometimes in this fast changing world certain forms of FAO assistance to the countries in transformation lose their efficiency despite their planned original effects. Accumulated macro-economic problems need conceptual programmes that would respect recommendations of such reputable grounds of discussion as, for example, the FAO Conference on Restructuring of Agriculture in Nitra in May 1992, the Ministerial Consultation in Budapest in August 1993, or the September

session of the European Agricultural Committee in Malta. It is necessary to work out the projects that will help to solve institutional problems and will lead to revitalization of agriculture. We do not expect just a financial flow from the FAO. We have in mind efficient consultations and assistance of the FAO brain tank in working out progressive projects. In additional activities we expect that FAO will be an honest broker indicating where to seek funds for realization of formulated projects.

A sensitive point of discussion at various sessions of FAO has been the issue of establishing the sub-regional centre for Central and Eastern Europe. The early solution of this problem is very necessary. It is impossible to further delay decision about its establishment. We think that the centre should be located in the place of existing and emerging problems. The arguments about financial obstacles are unreasonable if we start work with a category of the time and costs.

In the formal address of the Slovak Republic on the occasion of its admission to FAO it was noted that cooperation with FAO must be on both sides. The Slovak Republic is ready immediately to fulfil its financial commitment to FAO.

In spite of its own economic problems incurred by transition the Slovak Government has decided to reopen its former reasonable support for the developing countries through the offer of 150 scholarships particularly at the agriculture university, veterinary university, as well as the forestry university.

The Slovak Government also offers the participation of its Slovak experts in preparation and realization of FAO projects in Third World countries by means of our eventual future membership in the FAO Council.

To conclude my report I would like to assure all member countries of FAO and its newly-elected Director-General that the Slovak Republic will support the development of FAO as well as the realization of its most noble and human objectives.

Yun SU CHANG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I would like first of all to offer you, Mr Seymour Mullings, my warmest congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Conference and am convinced that under your able guidance the Conference will bear fruit.

On behalf of my delegation, I am pleased to extend congratulations to the new Member States of the FAO, and at the same time to the FAO Director-General and his staff who have made sincere contributions to the successful preparation of the Conference.

Mr Chairman, this Conference elected the new Director-General, as the 18-year term of office for Mr Edouard Saouma terminates this year. Mr Saouma, during his tenure, has made outstanding achievements by leading the Organization to meet the interests and requirements of Member Nations and assisting the developing countries in their agricultural development and food production, although the international situation changes and many difficulties and challenges face the Organization.

We highly appreciate and thank once again Mr Saouma for his efforts and the contributions devoted to the alleviation of worldwide hunger and poverty and to the solution of the food and agricultural problems.

It is my honour and pleasure to express our heartiest congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General Elect, on behalf of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He has taken up a very important post amid the high trust and expectations of all the Member States of the Organization. I am confident that Dr Jacques Diouf will take over the good traditions and exploits of his predecessor and further develop the work of the FAO in line with the noble mission and objectives of the Organization, and will make a great contribution to solving the worldwide food and agricultural problems.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will continue to support and cooperate with FAO and the new Director-General, as it has done in the past.

During the two years since the 26th Session of the Conference, FAO, though faced with severe financial problems and many other difficulties, has achieved great successes in implementing the Programme of Work and Budget of the last biennium, and hosted several important international conferences such as forestry and nutrition.

My Government compliments the measures taken and the work done by the Director-General and the Organization for the solution of the food and agricultural problems.

Despite such efforts, the world is not able yet to carry through turnover in the world food security and agricultural production, and world food crises such as hunger, malnutrition and starvation continue to be more severe day by day.

It is the first and foremost important work for all the member countries and the international community to increase agricultural production and achieve food security for today and the future of the humanity.

World food security can be achieved and maintained only when general agricultural production increases and food security of the individual countries is ensured. It is none other than the peoples of the Third World developing countries that suffer from critical food crises.

President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea teaches that the national independence and sovereignty, social progress and economic development are possible only when self-sufficiency in food is realized.

It is imperative for the developing countries to share with each other their abundant resources, advanced technology and good experiences by means of strengthening south-south cooperation and, at the same time, to make a concerted effort to establish a fair and a just new international economic order.

It is equally important for the international community to pay primary attention to strengthening the national capacity-building and development projects for the self-sufficiency in food of the developing countries without any collateral conditions.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which regards it as the supreme principle of its activities to promote the well-being of the people, carries out with success the Socialist Rural Thesis, Juche farming method and farming-comes-first policy set forth by the President,

and thereby has attained self-sufficiency in food and achieved progress and successes in the rural development and agricultural production.

This year we have had a bumper harvest, in spite of the bad climate conditions, thanks to the government policy and measures to provide farmers with sufficient assistance such as irrigation, good varieties and fertilizers and making the whole country support the countryside in seeding, weeding and harvesting on the basis of the firm material and technical foundations already laid in the country.

It is the common desire and hope of all human beings to live in a free, peaceful and happy world without hunger and poverty, starvation and malnutrition, which now prevail in our planet.

The present world economy and agricultural situation require member countries to make every effort to strengthen the FAO and enhance its function and role in order to solve the critical food crisis and achieve food security.

In this connection, I think the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 and the Medium-Term Plan 1994-99 and the world Agriculture: Towards 2010 are relatively well worked out, reflecting the targets and priority areas for the solution of the world food and agricultural problems based on the correct analysis of the challenges and requirements the Organization and its Member States are faced with at present.

These documents put particular emphasis on environmental protection, provision of biological diversity, sustainable development of agriculture, fishery and forestry, and illustrate the ways and means of implementing the plan of action adopted at the International Conference on Nutrition.

I welcome and endorse the documents with pleasure.

The Technical Cooperation Programme plays an effective and catalytic role in solving many urgent technical problems arising in the food and agricultural activities of the Member Nations.

Its high effectiveness and superiority have already been practically demonstrated in all the developing countries, including mine.

By the way, I'd like to express regret that the TCP fund allocation for the new biennium does not reach the level of 17 percent as in the resolution of the 25th Session of FAO Conference, I expect the Organization to make the best use of the resolution.

TCDC and ECDC are also very important activities that FAO should pay attention to for the agricultural development of the developing countries as they have done in the past.

But I am concerned that the funds allocated for the TCDC and ECDC are still at a low level, and I'd like to recommend that the Director-General make every possible effort for some additional fund to encourage these activities.

I feel satisfied at the cooperation made between my country and FAO and hope such cooperation will continue in the future.

I am convinced that this Conference will mark a turning point in the development of the Organization and sincerely wish Dr Jacques Diouf every success in his responsible work for the solution of the worldwide food and agricultural problems.

Pedro A. KANGA (Angola): C'est un honneur pour moi de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée, au nom de notre chef de délégation qui est rentré au pays pour des raisons de calendrier.

Je saisis cette occasion pour présenter à Monsieur le Président nos chaleureuses félicitations pour son élection à la présidence de cette vingt-septième session de la Conférence ainsi qu'aux autres membres du Bureau. Nous sommes satisfaits car, sous votre conduite, la vingt-septième session de la Conférence atteindra ses objectifs.

Nos sincères félicitations s'adressent également à M. Jacques Diouf, nouveau Directeur général de la FAO. Etant fils du monde en développement et ayant accumulé une expérience dans plusieurs domaines, nous sommes convaincus que vous serez le défenseur et le soutien du tiers monde.

Je voudrais également profiter de cette occasion pour exprimer notre reconnaissance à M. Edouard Saouma pour la façon, ô combien exemplaire, dont il s'est acquitté de sa tâche. Il a accompli un travail impressionnant.

Pour le situer dans l'histoire universelle, le Dr Saouma a été élu en novembre 1975, au moment même de l'accession de l'Angola à l'indépendance nationale. Durant ses trois mandats, il n'a pas ménagé sa peine pour venir en aide à mon pays notamment. C'est avec une grande satisfaction que nous nous rappelons le voyage qu'il a effectué en 1981 et qui est resté mémorable. Nous vous souhaitons, Dr Saouma, une bonne santé et plein succès dans vos projets d'avenir.

La vingt-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO se tient à un moment crucial pour de nombreux pays. La récession économique, les conflits régionaux, la sécheresse, la dégradation de l'environnement et la pauvreté du monde rural caractérisent le cadre général d'une grande partie des pays en développement. Nonobstant les facteurs décrits ci-dessus, certains pays sont obligés de mettre en oeuvre un programme de réajustement structurel et d'autres d'instituer la démocratie dans leur vie politique et sociale.

En Angola, la reprise de la guerre avec une atrocité indescriptible a obligé le gouvernement à interrompre l'exécution de certains programmes préconisés dans les domaines socio-économiques. Aujourd'hui l'espace agricole est réduit et des milliers de personnes continuent à mourir soit des suites directes de la guerre, soit des effets dus à la faim, à la malnutrition, aux maladies et à la sécheresse prolongée.

Notre gouvernement s'est engagé dans la recherche d'une solution politique pour résoudre la crise qui a suivi les élections et pour conduire à la paix durable. La solution de la crise angolaise passe nécessairement par un dialogue sérieux, franc et honnête et par le respect des principes démocratiques, des Accords de Bicesse et des résolutions pertinentes du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies sur l'Angola.

Dans ce contexte, nous sollicitons la solidarité et l'aide humanitaire de la communauté internationale pour assister les populations angolaises qui

souffrent des effets de la guerre et appuyer le Gouvernement angolais dans sa recherche d'un rétablissement de la paix le plus rapidement possible et pour qu'il puisse reprendre la reconstruction du pays.

Ainsi que vous le savez tous, notre pays connaît des moments très douloureux. En effet, l'agriculture est fortement touchée, l'infrastructure est totalement détruite, l'insécurité des voies d'accès ne permet plus la circulation des biens et des personnes, les agriculteurs sont complètement démunis. Les institutions chargées du développement agricole ont été complètement démantelées et d'autres transformées en institutions pénitentiaires par l'Unita.

Compte tenu de la situation que nous vivons, notre gouvernement a adopté un programme spécial de production agropastoral basé sur la réhabilitation des ceintures vertes des centres urbains, sur l'utilisation maximale des périmètres irrigués et sur l'appui systématique des populations paysannes déplacées. De la même manière, le secteur de l'aviculture mérite une attention particulière par sa capacité de produire rapidement des protéines. Pour cela, nous manifestons nos remerciements à l'égard de la communauté internationale, et de la FAO en particulier, pour l'appui que nous avons reçu.

Les pêches, à côté de l'agriculture, constituent un secteur d'extrême importance pour la vie socio-économique de l'Angola. Aujourd'hui, il est le secteur le moins affecté par les effets de la guerre. Il est devenu l'une des sources principales de protéines animales. Dans une certaine mesure, il constitue l'un des secteurs qui rapportent des devises au pays après le pétrole. Le gouvernement accorde une attention spéciale à ce secteur et les résultats atteints sont positifs. Nous profitons de cette opportunité pour remercier la FAO pour l'assistance technique qu'elle n'a cessé de donner.

Les forêts constituent une source de richesse et de subsistance pour de nombreux êtres humains. Pour cela, certaines actions dans le cadre du PAFT sont en cours de réalisation, principalement dans la zone côtière.

Dans le domaine de l'environnement, l'Angola a participé aux efforts de la communauté internationale en vue de l'adoption d'une politique de défense et de préservation de l'environnement. Ainsi, il a été créé un organisme gouvernemental, le Secrétariat d'Etat pour l'environnement, qui va exécuter la politique de l'Etat dans ce domaine.

Une attention spéciale est portée aux ressources phytogénétiques. Le pays possède déjà un comité national sur les ressources phytogénétiques qui est engagé dans la préparation de la législation nationale et la constitution des banques de gènes. Nous profitons de cette occasion pour informer qu'au cours de ce mois un séminaire sur les ressources phytogénétiques sera organisé.

La femme produit, dans le milieu rural africain, presque 80 pour cent de la production alimentaire et contribue considérablement au rendement familial. Malgré cela, elle n'a pas toujours bénéficié des programmes de développement dirigés dans le milieu rural. Reconnaisant cette situation, il est urgent de concrétiser des programmes essentiellement dirigés vers la population féminine rurale qui visent son autpromotion, son intégration dans le processus de développement, en lui fournissant les instruments nécessaires pour identifier, exécuter, gérer et évaluer ses projets et programmes. C'est pourquoi nous apprécions beaucoup le plan d'action pour l'intégration de la femme dans le processus du développement. Au niveau du

gouvernement, il a été créé un Secrétariat d'Etat pour la promotion et le développement de la femme, qui exécute la politique de l'Etat.

La vingt-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO possède un agenda bien chargé. Nous voulons faire ainsi quelques observations et commentaires sur les points qui sont traités en long et en large dans les différentes Commissions.

Nous avons examiné le Programme de travail et budget pour l'exercice 1994-95. Nous l'appuyons tel qu'il est proposé par le Directeur général, qui ne prévoit aucun accroissement net. Malgré cela, nous continuons à exprimer nos regrets de l'absence d'une augmentation réelle du programme pour deux raisons. La première est qu'à l'heure actuelle on enregistre de plus en plus les demandes des Etats Membres. La seconde nous amène à constater que les budgets de certaines organisations du système des Nations Unies ont enregistré une hausse nettement supérieure à celle du budget de la FAO sans qu'il y ait désapprobation de la part de ces mêmes Etats Membres, qui prônent le principe de la croissance zéro à la FAO.

Nous nous félicitons des augmentations proposées pour les grands programmes Pêches et Forêts.

A la suite des besoins identifiés à la fin de deux grands événements de 1992 (CNUED et CIN) et des situations d'urgence auxquelles la FAO doit faire face, nous sommes convaincus que le budget du Programme ordinaire ne suffira pas pour couvrir toutes les activités identifiées. S'avère donc indispensable la mobilisation des ressources extra-budgétaires.

Ma délégation rend un vibrant hommage aux efforts du Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial et au dévouement de son personnel au service de l'humanité.

Il est sans doute connu de vous tous que l'Angola est classée parmi les pays à haut risque. Malgré cette classification et les difficultés rencontrées, le personnel de terrain ne ménage aucun effort pour venir en aide aux populations déshéritées. A cet égard, nous ne pouvons qu'exprimer nos sincères remerciements et notre profonde gratitude.

Nos remerciements s'adressent également à la communauté internationale pour l'aide si précieuse qu'elle n'a cessé de nous octroyer.

Pour terminer, nous voulons exprimer notre satisfaction pour l'attention accordée à la formation qui, comme nous ne cessons de le répéter, est un élément primordial pour tout développement. Nous souhaitons que cet élément soit renforcé, plus particulièrement la formation féminine.

Nous ne pouvons pas clore notre déclaration sans féliciter les nouveaux membres, et en particulier l'Afrique du Sud, qui viennent se joindre à nous dans cette grande famille de la FAO. Nous croyons qu'ils renforceront avec leur expérience l'efficacité de notre Organisation.

Nous souhaitons aux participants de la présente session plein succès aux délibérations et sommes convaincus que des résultats positifs seront atteints.

Mathias BIGAYA (Rwanda): Monsieur le Président, distingués délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est pour moi et pour mon pays le Rwanda un grand

honneur de prendre la parole en ce moment devant cette auguste assemblée pour apprécier les efforts déployés par notre Organisation dans la recherche des solutions aux problèmes préoccupants de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

La crise alimentaire mondiale n'a jamais été aussi forte qu'à la fin de ce siècle où le monde en développement affronte le problème de la pauvreté dont les conséquences sont la sous-alimentation et la malnutrition.

Nous sommes également préoccupés par cette terrible crise alimentaire qui frappe de plein fouet un certain nombre de groupes socio-professionnels, particulièrement en Afrique.

La délégation rwandaise, lors de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition du 5 au 11 décembre 1992, ici même, a rappelé les causes profondes de la pénurie alimentaire constatée en Afrique et ailleurs:

- les troubles socio-politiques et économiques entraînant le déplacement des populations, l'éclatement des structures sociales et, partant, l'incapacité de produire;
- l'injustice sociale entraînant une mauvaise répartition des moyens de production;
- l'inéquité des termes de l'échange entre les pays du nord et ceux du sud;
- le déséquilibre entre l'accroissement démographique et la production alimentaire;
- les technologies agricoles et industrielles inadaptées.

Plusieurs facteurs complexes concourent à la détérioration de la situation alimentaire au Rwanda. Il s'agit principalement:

- de l'explosion démographique qui a pour conséquence la rareté des terres agricoles. En effet, notre densité démographique physique de 290 habitants/km² avoisinent les limites difficilement tolérables dans la mesure où ± 43 pour cent des familles agricoles rurales ont moins de 0,50 ha, superficie jugée économiquement non viable;

S'ajoutent à cela:

- la totale dépendance économique du secteur agricole;
- des aléas climatiques, en particulier la fréquence des sécheresses; et
- le déplacement des populations civiles dont l'effectif a atteint, avant août 1993, environ un million de personnes

Toute solution au problème de la crise alimentaire mondiale doit être la résultante des solutions aux problèmes spécifiques de chaque pays.

La contribution du Gouvernement rwandais dans ce domaine transparaît à travers les objectifs fondamentaux de sa politique agricole, à savoir:

- la participation à la sécurité alimentaire du pays;

- l'augmentation des revenus des producteurs pour les intégrer dans la dynamique économique nationale et internationale

Il est vrai que ces objectifs ne peuvent être atteints sans que des mesures de politique sectorielle ne soient judicieusement adoptées. Dans cette optique, le Gouvernement rwandais a pris, sinon envisage les mesures suivantes :

- la valorisation du capital sol grâce notamment à la révision du code foncier
- l'intensification agricole par le recours aux intrants modernes disponibles, d'utilisation maîtrisable et rentable;
- la promotion du secteur agricole soutenue par une politique de crédit agricole viable;
- la vulgarisation agricole s'appuyant sur des supports disponibles et à la portée des utilisateurs;
- la profonde restructuration de la recherche agricole déjà opérée depuis début 1993;
- la maîtrise de la commercialisation grâce particulièrement à une grande responsabilisation des producteurs;
- la réduction de la pauvreté à travers le Programme national d'actions sociales financé par la Banque mondiale et d'autres bailleurs de fonds ;
- et enfin la reconstruction du pays et la réhabilitation des zones touchées par la guerre qui a ravagé le pays pendant environ trois ans.

Je voudrais signaler avec amertume que la chute des cours mondiaux des produits agricoles d'exportation durant ces dernières années s'est répercutée sur la situation alimentaire déjà précaire des populations des pays en développement dont l'économie est largement tributaire de ces produits.

Le rôle de la communauté internationale se situe ainsi au niveau de l'équité dans les termes de l'échange garantissant la sécurité alimentaire, principal moteur du développement socio-économique de nos pays. Nous pensons que l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture est mieux placée pour influencer positivement les pays développés à accepter le droit des pays producteurs de matières premières à jouir des fruits de leur économie.

Le Gouvernement rwandais a hautement apprécié les aides aussi bien alimentaires, financières que techniques de tous les bailleurs de fonds durant la situation tragique de guerre qui, comme je l'ai évoqué, a duré environ trois ans. Ainsi, l'aide alimentaire qui était de 5 000 tonnes d'équivalent céréalier en 1981, avant le déclenchement de la guerre en octobre 1990, a atteint 17 000 tonnes en 1991 et 70 000 tonnes en 1993.

Il s'agit d'une contribution très modeste face au déficit global chronique national d'environ 200 000 tonnes de céréales, mais hélas très importante eu égard à la situation particulière d'urgence que traverse le Rwanda.

Cette situation déficitaire est aggravée du fait du retard des pluies de la saison culturale en cours, ce qui a entraîné une pénurie de denrées de base dont les prix viennent de doubler, mais aussi de l'afflux massif de 375 000 réfugiés venus du Burundi suite aux événements tragiques qui y sont survenus depuis le 20 octobre dernier. L'honorable délégué du Burundi l'a déjà souligné la semaine dernière.

Ainsi, nous pouvons estimer que les besoins alimentaires des déplacés de guerre se chiffrent à 17 000 tonnes par trimestre, ceux des réfugiés du Burundi à 15 000 tonnes, et les pertes dues à la sécheresse de septembre-octobre 1993 à environ 600 000 tonnes.

Au terme de la signature de l'Accord d'Arusha en Tanzanie entre les deux parties du conflit, nous continuerons certainement à solliciter le concours de la communauté internationale pour la réinstallation des réfugiés dans leurs biens où les besoins en intrants agricoles s'évaluent à \pm 28 000 000 dollars et la réintégration des réfugiés rwandais dans le pays dont les besoins sont encore en cours d'évaluation.

Toujours dans le cadre de l'assistance aux déplacés de guerre, près de 17 000 hectares de forêts ont été déboisés dans les zones de combat et les zones d'accueil des réfugiés et leur reforestation coûtera environ 11 000 000 dollars.

La FAO et un certain nombre de bailleurs de fonds sont déjà à l'oeuvre dans la zone concernée en mettant à disposition les intrants agricoles parallèlement à la distribution des denrées alimentaires. Nous profitons de cette occasion pour leur adresser notre profonde gratitude.

Ces premières interventions s'inscrivent dans un ensemble de mesures macroéconomiques en faveur des déplacés de guerre et des réfugiés rwandais à réintégrer; mesures qui se dégageront de la table ronde de bailleurs de fonds à organiser dans un proche avenir.

Les éloges et expressions de gratitude et de remerciements, prononcés à l'égard de M. Edouard Saouma par tous les orateurs qui m'ont précédé témoignent des succès atteints par la FAO sous sa direction.

Le peuple rwandais et le gouvernement, par la voix de sa délégation, expriment leur réelle satisfaction quant à l'oeuvre gigantesque que M. Edouard Saouma a accomplie avec efficacité, professionnalisme et surtout en s'engageant aux côtés des plus démunis durant trois mandats d'efforts inlassables. Nous restons convaincus que sa riche et précieuse expérience lui permettra de continuer à servir le système des Nations Unies. Que nos vœux de bonheur l'accompagnent !

Par ailleurs, puisque M. Jacques Diouf vient d'être élu au poste si prestigieux, mais combien difficile, de Directeur général de la FAO, nous nous associons à ceux qui nous ont précédés pour lui adresser nos chaleureuses félicitations et nos meilleurs vœux de succès, ses compétences et sa grande expérience, connues de tous, constituant des facteurs certains de réussite.

Le Gouvernement rwandais assure le nouveau Directeur général de tout son soutien pour qu'il poursuive efficacement les actions constructives mises en chantier et qu'il en initie de nouvelles, au bénéfice du développement de nos pays.

A vous, Monsieur le Président, je ne voudrais pas terminer sans vous présenter mes sincères félicitations pour la confiance que vous ont témoignée les Etats et les institutions membres de la FAO en vous portant à la présidence de la vingt-septième session de la Conférence pour diriger ses travaux, mission dont vous vous acquittez à la satisfaction de tous. Soyez-en donc remercié. Vive la solidarité internationale! Vive la FAO! Je vous remercie.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, distinguished delegate of Rwanda. Ladies and gentlemen, there are two delegations whose statements have been admitted for inclusion in the verbatim reports. These are Chad and Fiji.

Mahamat SALEH AHMAT (Tchad): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de délégations, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, mes premiers mots vont tout naturellement à notre nouveau Directeur général, Dr Jacques Diouf, pour lui adresser nos félicitations, notre confiance et notre soutien, pour la lourde mission à la tête de notre organisation.

La vingt-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO se tient à un moment où la stagnation économique de notre continent, le fardeau écrasant de la dette et de la pauvreté rurale ainsi que l'épuisement très rapide des ressources naturelles exigent de nouveaux efforts afin d'assurer à notre continent un développement meilleur.

Le Tchad, mon pays, qui a traversé une longue période de crise politico-militaire avec, comme conséquence, la désorganisation de l'appareil de l'Etat, de l'économie et des infrastructures socio-économiques, ne fait pas exception.

Après la phase d'urgence et de reconstruction de 1983-1990, le Pays s'est doté avec les documents cadres de politique économique et le plan d'orientation de 1991-2000, de quelques instruments de gestion de son développement à moyen et long termes.

Cependant, les efforts déployés dans ce domaine se heurtent à des contraintes dont les principales sont :

- l'enclavement : le Tchad étant le pays du continent le plus éloigné de la mer, le port de Douala le plus utilisé est à 2 600 km de N'Djaména;
- la faiblesse de la structure de l'économie: celle-ci est dominée par un secteur primaire (le secteur agricole), largement tributaire des aléas climatiques, malgré les efforts de maîtrise de l'eau pour l'agriculture.

La troisième Conférence de la Table Ronde pour la République du Tchad, qui s'est tenue à Genève du 19 au 20 juin 1990 (Genève III), a conclu à la nécessité de préparer, puis de tenir (huit) consultations sectorielles dont une sur le Développement rural, la Sécurité alimentaire et les Ressources hydrauliques.

Suite à la réunion de Genève, le Gouvernement a créé à partir de février 1992, un Haut Comité interministériel et une Cellule technique d'appui

chargés de la préparation, du suivi et de l'exécution de la Consultation sectorielle sur le Développement rural.

La Cellule technique d'appui (CTA) a finalisé quatre documents sur la synthèse des travaux, le diagnostic et les stratégies du secteur, le programme d'action ainsi que sur le cadrage macro-économique. La tenue de la réunion sectorielle est prévue pour les 8 et 9 décembre 1993. Les partenaires du Tchad sont attendus à N'Djaména pour cette rencontre.

Au niveau de la campagne agricole en cours, qui vient d'être évaluée avec le concours des experts FAO et CILSS, mon pays rencontre quelques difficultés. En effet, après deux bonnes campagnes successives 1991-1992 et 1992-1993, où mon pays a eu à enregistrer une production suffisante pour couvrir ses besoins, la campagne agricole 1993-1994 connaîtra une crise alimentaire certaine. Plusieurs facteurs dont l'insuffisance et la mauvaise répartition des pluies et les ennemis des cultures de tous genres concourent à cette mauvaise campagne.

L'évolution préliminaire de la production faite en octobre 1993 par nos services techniques avec l'appui de la FAO et du CILSS estime le déficit céréalier à 154 000 tonnes. Toutefois, le niveau réel de ce déficit pourra être infirmé ou confirmé selon l'évolution de la situation.

Parmi les ennemis de culture, il faut signaler cette année la présence au Tchad du criquet pèlerin à partir du 26 juin 1993 avec le passage de deux essaims à Fada et à Guereda. Le Niger, le Mali, le Burkina Faso et la Mauritanie sont aussi concernés par le mouvement des criquets dans le Sahel.

Des prospections terrestres et aériennes ainsi que le traitement des larves sont en cours avec l'appui de plusieurs bailleurs de fonds dont l'USAID, la Coopération française, le FED, la Coopération suisse, la GTZ, la BID et la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, chers Délégués, la FAO appuie de concert avec le PNUD et les Pays-Bas et parfois même sur fonds propres (PCT) des projets de développement dans les domaines de la production des semences, de la lutte intégrée, de la lutte contre la désertification, de l'appui à l'Office national céréalier et dans le domaine de l'appui au Bureau d'études national. Plusieurs programmes et études dont l'étude sur le Plan national complet de la Sécurité alimentaire au Tchad sont appuyés par la FAO avec des fonds norvégiens. C'est ici le lieu de remercier très chaleureusement la FAO pour cet important appui à l'endroit de mon pays.

Je ne voudrais terminer mon discours sans évoquer les actions de la FAO durant l'exercice 1992-1993.

En effet, l'Organisation a contribué efficacement à la recherche d'un accord international sur les questions clés de l'environnement et du développement agricole et rural. Le rôle joué par la FAO lors de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN) qui a insisté, entre autres, sur l'accès des ménages à une alimentation équilibrée et sur l'importance de l'information, de l'éducation et de la formation ainsi que de la salubrité des aliments, mérite d'être souligné ici tout comme le rôle joué par la FAO lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement (CNUED).

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de délégations, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, avant de terminer mon propos, permettez-moi de souhaiter plein succès aux travaux de notre assemblée. Je vous remercie.

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

Ratu Viliame Foukimoana DREUNIMISIMISI (Fiji): Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is indeed a great pleasure and an honour to submit to this august forum, Fiji's statement on its agricultural sector and how I view its impact in the global perspective. However, before I go any further, I, like the rest of my colleagues warmly congratulate the Chairman on his appointment. I am confident that he will continue to lead this Conference with the vision and leadership he has exhibited thus far. Likewise, I and my delegation also congratulate the newly elected Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf for successfully contending this eminent post. May you lead from hereon with wisdom and strength and be an example to the Members of FAO who have now entrusted to you the future of this Organization in servicing the needs of the developing world.

I wish to place on record Fiji's thanks also to the outgoing Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma whose untiring efforts in the last 18 years have seen the Organization grow from a small and closely knit group to one in which almost all countries of the world have now become members.

Fiji is one of the nine(9) member countries of FAO from the South-West Pacific region. Fiji joined in the 1970's. We have contributed to FAO and also benefited from FAO in both technical and other forms of assistance. We see this association between Fiji and FAO become increasingly important as we approach the 21st century. The challenges facing small island nations increase with population growth and decreasing availability of good agricultural lands. The need to ensure Fiji continually provides for its populations is therefore critical, and must be continually addressed as the balance of payments becomes difficult to contend with. The growth in trade of agricultural produce becomes very restrictive with the prevalence of many distortionary practices of countries which possess in abundance both capital and manpower resources.

Fiji's population of three-quarters of a million may sound small by comparison to the more densely populated areas around the globe; it nevertheless offers some very difficult challenges to the people that inhabit these three hundred or so islands, out of the eighteen thousand square kilometres of Fiji's total area, only 16 percent is good agricultural land and this is confined to the lower coastal lands of the two main islands in which the bulk of agricultural activities are carried out.

Our major exports from which Fiji earns its foreign dollars still include by and large agricultural commodities of which sugar is still a major export earner. Tourism and textile industries over the last five years have contributed significantly to our foreign earnings. We are mineral deficient except for gold and some copper. We are not an industrialized island country but our transition to the manufacturing industries sector has been slow and will of course take some time.

In the meantime we have tried to become more proficient in what we produce and sell competitively to others in the world market.

The Fiji Islands lie in latitudes between 15 degrees and 18 degrees south and between longitudes 177 degrees and 182 degrees west. This location places Fiji in an untenable position in which we are lumbered with high transport costs. This is compounded further by the low volume of commodities produced in the country. Production therefore has been greatly disadvantaged by the high costs involved in transporting commodities to markets outside of Fiji. An added disadvantage to Fiji is that it is outside the route of regular shipping lines which carry the bulk of the goods traded between the larger Pacific rim countries. Fiji therefore like many of its Pacific neighbours has had to contend itself with paying heavy transport costs and this impinges heavily on the returns to farmers.

What can be done to assist overcome some of these problems if Fiji is to continue to operate viably in the future. The present government's orientation to more export-oriented activities have completely overhauled the approach of our small nation in not just focusing on self-sufficiency needs but trying to compete with producers of the same goods in the open world market. Fiji is a member of the Cairns Group which is pushing for the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. We feel this will give us some added advantage to trade our goods and services on a competitive basis. The larger, more resourceful countries will agree that whilst we cannot become a successful industrialized country overnight, the environment must be set to facilitate moves in this direction, and only then will Fiji be able to trade meaningfully with its comparative advantaged goods and services. The major areas in which I see FAO providing leadership would be in environmental protection, forestry and fishery production and, the move towards a more deregulated trade environment.

FAO with its resources both in technical assistance and programmes can best assist and provide island countries with special programmes which will be directed at focusing on unique problems and constraints peculiar only to island countries. The South-West Pacific island countries have special difficulties and unless overcome will continue to exist and may help inhibit the overall development of the countries and their people. The programmes for the islands can only be effective, meaningful and sustainable to the people if closer consultations take place between FAO and those countries.

The TCPS started by the outgoing Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, have helped many of our development efforts and should be increased to target special needs.

FAO should strengthen its sub-regional office in Apia to regional status to better cater for the South Pacific regional needs. Whilst I do not intend to go into detail regarding our various requirements, let me just say that the vast distance between Rome and its regional office in Bangkok for the Asia Pacific region causes FAO to visit us infrequently and thus create a poor appreciation of our needs. This should not be the case. Because FAO has not visited our islands regularly you tend to think that our difficulties are not many nor large enough to warrant assistance. Quite the contrary, our problems have the potential to develop into bigger problems if left unchecked.

We therefore request the new Director-General to review his priorities and look at the South-West Pacific region in a more accommodating light and platform.

Sir, let me conclude and reiterate to FAO that whilst we may be small, we are not so small to be ignored. The problems of the larger landlocked countries may be large and enormous and require constant monitoring and caring. However, ours may not be so obvious but need the same attention, perhaps on a reduced scale.

Again my warm congratulations to the new incumbent FAO Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, and to the staff of FAO who have managed to direct some of this Organization's resources to our part of the world. I hope the relationship that FAO has with Fiji will continue to strengthen to our mutual benefit. Thank you Mr Chairman.¹

CHAIRMAN: I am now going to invite the representative of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers to take the floor.

Hana O.A. KJELSDEN (International Federation of Agricultural Producers):

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), of which I have the privilege of being President, is the only world organization of farmers. IFAP has 82 national farmers' organizations from 57 countries as members, thus representing over 500 million family farmers.

The current period is a difficult time of change and uncertainty for agriculture and the rural areas. I would therefore like to go back to some of the fundamental issues and especially underline two points.

First of all, the fragility of agriculture and rural areas. Once it was believed that agriculture and rural areas could absorb good policies as well as harsh measures. When times were tough, rural communities endured, farming and the rural way of life continued. These days are now over.

Today, when times are hard, rural communities just perish. In this last decade of the twentieth century, agriculture and rural areas are indeed fragile. More than ever we must preserve the ecological fabric of the world, and we must preserve the social fabric of the rural areas. This rural fabric is vital for this planet for maintaining the balance of nature and of society; we cannot afford to lose it. To preserve it, we do not need handouts, but economic incentives for all those who live on and by the land.

My second point is that farmers are at the centre of many questions which our society needs to resolve today. There are evident imbalances which cannot wait for another century for solutions - the imbalance, for instance, that exists between rural and urban sectors, between north and south, fundamental choices and decisions regarding where to invest, how to live, and how to manage finite resources.

Indeed if the society does not resolve these fundamental issues, it will not only be at to the detriment of farmers but also to the detriment of us

1 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

all in the long term. As farmers and as farmers' organizations, we are in the process of drawing conclusions on these issues and I shall only outline a few.

The first one is the importance of dialogue. Sectors and institutions are made up of people who need to listen to what each other has to say. This is the basis of mutual respect and democracy. In the world, we are hundreds of millions of farmers and we need to talk to policy-makers and other sectors within the society. To engage in any sensible dialogue, we need our representative organizations, the farmers' organizations, structured from grassroots to the international level, as our legitimate voice. This is why we give a lot of importance to farmers' organizations, organizations by farmers and for farmers, as an important pillar of today's democracy.

In this context, I am therefore happy to report to this assembly that IFAP will launch a major initiative. Only a few weeks ago, developing country farm leaders proposed a Worldwide Action for the Strengthening of Farmers' Organizations, at the Manila Session of the IFAP Standing Committee on Agriculture in Developing Countries. This is a comprehensive worldwide plan for the strengthening of farmers' organizations, and it will draw on the strength and skills of IFAP members worldwide, as well as drawing in the strengths and skills of the broader international community.

In our view, this action taken by the developing country farm leaders complements FAO's Plan of Action on People's Participation, and we would very much like to see FAO supporting IFAP on this initiative.

The second conclusion is the leadership role of farmers on environmental questions. Today, agriculture and society is undergoing a fundamental transformation and an examination of its role. An important responsibility therefore falls upon farmers and IFAP to take the lead in the building of a sustainable future. For this purpose, we have carried out a series of hearings to generate proposals to relaunch agriculture as the centre of a global policy for sustainable development.

The third conclusion is the importance of identity. For many years, IFAP has made persistent calls to underline the importance of non-governmental organizations and the importance of their participation in the process of development. Now that this principle is widely accepted and applied, we need to go one step further and see who is who within the non-governmental sector. In this context, we congratulate the good work and far-sightedness of the Human Resources Division and their exemplary use of terminology. Time is indeed ripe for making the difference between farmers' organizations, which are run by farmers for farmers, from other nongovernmental organizations which have no mandate to represent farmers. I believe that the Human Resources Division uses the broader term of "Rural People's Organizations".

The fourth conclusion is that of subsidiarity. Difficult times always call for encouragement of initiatives and innovation at all levels. People need strong institutions with which they can evaluate their own circumstances, arrive at their own conclusions and take action. The strengthening of these institutions, whether they be national governments or national farmers' organizations, is perhaps the single most important contribution FAO can make to development. IFAP and FAO both have a common interest in enabling farmers and governments to do precisely this.

Today there are good working links between FAO and IFAP, both at the technical and policy levels. However, there is still much further scope for fruitful cooperation and new undertakings.

In closing, I would like to thank retiring Director-General, Edouard Saouma, and his staff for their excellent work and the good working relationship with IFAP, particularly with our Permanent Representative in Rome, Mrs Pelà. I would also like to congratulate the new Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, upon his election and wish him every success in his important-task. Undoubtedly, Mr Diouf's success will depend not only on the support of governments, but even more on the support of farmers. For our part, as farmers' organizations, we shall do our best to make FAO's work even more useful for farmers.

Ms Maria Teresa GUICCIARDI (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates: You are meeting at a time when the gap between the rich and the poor is widening within nations and among nations. Today almost one-third of the world's workers are unable to find productive employment, including a disproportionate number of women. They and their families make up the vast bulk of the more than one billion poor of the world surviving on less than a dollar a day. Continuing slow growth or recession offer little hope. Of particular concern for trade unions is that even with a slow recovery, the number of people living in absolute poverty in developing countries will increase and unemployment in the industrialized countries will continue to rise.

On behalf of the ICFTU and IFPAAW, I wish you a successful conference. The ICFTU represents nearly 113 million members organized in national trade union centres, and IFPAAW over six million agricultural and plantation workers world-wide.

FAO and its Member States have a particular responsibility to tackle the problem of poverty and hunger. Problematic questions which may even become dramatic, like population growth and increased migration, are of direct concern to this Organization. Last year's International Conference on Nutrition or next year's International Conference on Population and Development are extremely important to contribute to reverse the present situation. This will, however, only happen if the political will for coordinated action on poverty and unemployment in both the developing countries and in the industrialized countries exists, and if it is matched by substantial financial commitments. Businesses on the national and trans-national levels need to act responsibly and produce a positive impact on development, economic and social.

One of the objectives of internationally supported structural adjustment policies is to increase the price of agricultural products through the abolition of administrative controls and subsidies. However, all too often this resulted in higher profits for middlemen, money lenders and landowners but continued poverty to small farmers and landless labourers. The primary objective of structural adjustment should be the alleviation of poverty and the expansion of employment. The liberalization of the market will not achieve this unless the power of the poor to obtain their fair share of the revenues from the sale of agricultural products is raised by strengthening the collective organization of the rural workers. Higher income for the rural poor and enhanced policies for rural development must form an integral part of structural adjustment programmes and should be developed in consultation with trade unions and rural workers' organizations.

Little to no progress has been forthcoming in rural development. At the bottom of the ladder are still the rural workers, the small farmers, women, rural youth. It is ironic that these people who grow the world's food are the least able to pay for it. Wage levels in agriculture and plantations remain among the lowest. Payment in kind is still common. For the promotion of development it is essential to create employment on the one hand and on the other to ensure just and adequate remuneration. It would be in line with FAO's Plan of Action on People's Participation to support trade union organizing to facilitate collective action by representative social partners to improve the conditions of work and life of rural workers.

We appeal to governments to ratify the relevant ILO Conventions 87 and 98, and in particular Conventions 141 and 110 concerning rural and plantation workers organizations. Through closer cooperation with the representative trade unions and rural workers' organizations a better targeting of development policies and technical assistance programmes for the rural disadvantaged populations could be also achieved.

Environmental degradation and damage are continuing at great pace despite alternative solutions as expressed in Agenda 21 which was adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Since their first formation the trade unions have had as one of their major objectives the health and safety of workers at their place of work. The trade union history of achievements in this regard is certainly a creditable one. In the world of today, workers are much more aware of the relationship between their work and the broader environment.

The ICFTU, at its last Congress in 1992 chose as one of its main themes "Environment and Development: The Trade Union Agenda". Two months ago, the ICFTU held a Conference under the theme "From Rio to the Workplace", to assess the follow-up to the Earth Summit and to formulate conclusions for action. It was attended by some hundred trade unionists and environmentalists and took place in Manchester.

We live in a world where workers are still being tortured and killed in many countries because of their trade union activities - including activities to protect the environment. The trade unions' first responsibility is to protect and defend these workers. In agriculture and plantations workers bear the brunt of the overuse and abuse of pesticides. Most of the one billion agricultural workers world-wide use agro-chemicals and are exposed to the hazards this involves. 90 percent of the poisonings and 99 percent of the deaths from pesticide exposure take place in the developing world. Governments should participate in the Prior Informed Consent procedure for pesticides. Furthermore, governments should ensure that health and safety standards are raised, and that training in the use of pesticides is universal.

In the industrial sector, and more and more also in the agricultural sector, workers and their unions are increasingly demanding the inclusion of environmental protection in the collective bargaining process, the right to raise environmental issues and complaints without fear of reprisal or recrimination from landowners, employers or governments, and the right to participate in workplace environmental audits. We believe that only with the cooperation of all actors concerned, development can be sustained without further deterioration of the environment and without continued hazards for the workers, indeed for the population. Thank you.

Lino VISANI (Alliance coopérative internationale): Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, je suis très honoré, au nom de l'Alliance coopérative internationale (ACI), d'adresser toutes nos félicitations au nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, M. Jacques Diouf, ainsi que tous nos vœux de succès les plus sincères pour la réalisation de ses projets à la tête de la FAO.

Dans le même temps, nous désirons remercier très vivement M. Saouma pour l'oeuvre intelligente accomplie durant si longtemps à la direction de la FAO.

Nous sommes face à une évolution de la situation internationale, riche d'espoirs, mais aussi profondément inquiétante. Malgré le changement du cadre mondial, le chemin de l'avenir est encore incertain. La situation actuelle de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation est très difficile, de même que l'augmentation du chômage est préoccupante.

Ceci demande à toutes les institutions nationales et internationales une réflexion sur leurs actions pour aboutir à de nouvelles méthodes d'assistance allant dans le sens de la démocratie et du développement. Nous remercions la FAO d'avoir mis ce thème, très important pour l'avenir de la communauté mondiale, à l'ordre du jour de cette Conférence.

Les conférences de la FAO ont approuvé des plans d'action spéciaux pour: l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole, la participation populaire au développement rural.

Les solutions apportées par la FAO ainsi que par les gouvernements en ce domaine sont encore incertaines. Nous sommes convaincus que la participation populaire est à la base d'un développement durable. Nous pensons qu'il faut adopter de nouveaux systèmes et de nouvelles méthodes pour développer le dialogue et la collaboration avec les ONG, les OING et surtout avec les organisations populaires aux niveaux national et international, afin de promouvoir l'organisation populaire comme condition essentielle du développement durable et démocratique amenant à gommer les inégalités sociales.

Dans ce contexte, les coopératives ne peuvent pas être considérées comme des organisations d'assistance mais comme de nouvelles formes d'entreprises agricoles, démocratiques et autonomes, ayant pour but de soutenir les agriculteurs et les ruraux les plus faibles pour qu'ils produisent de nouvelles richesses et qu'ils concourent à un marché plus équitable tout en élevant leur niveau de vie.

Le Conseil économique et social des Nations Unies (ECOSOC) a récemment approuvé une résolution reconnaissant le rôle de l'ACI, fédérant 100 mouvements coopératifs adhérents qui regroupent eux-mêmes 600 millions de membres, dans la réalisation du développement durable.

Nous redisons ici, à cette Conférence, toute la disponibilité de l'Alliance coopérative internationale pour réaliser, avec la FAO, une collaboration aux fins de concourir à un développement démocratique et durable de la communauté internationale.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we have now come to the end of the general debate. You ought to know that the Secretariat has taken note of all the salient points that have been raised. We have had

121 country representatives, the observer of the Holy See,- and three observers from intergovernmental organizations taking part in these discussions.

For me it has been a very great privilege to preside over this most outstanding general debate, and what this debate has done is to provide a unique opportunity for agricultural ministers all over the world to meet here to exchange information on their respective national experiences.

I have taken particular note of the fact that almost every delegate has included in his or her statement some expression of praise and tribute to Dr Edouard Saouma. They have praised him for his many years of outstanding service to FAO and for his impressive leadership. Delegates have also, almost to a man, been very warm in their expressions of welcome to Mr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General Elect. There have been many expressions of confidence in him, of confidence in his ability to give proper guidance to the Organization.

I would like to thank all those delegates who have complimented me on my election to the Chair, and also the three Vice-chairmen who have helped to preside over the Conference.

The themes and issues that have emerged at this Conference are very clear. Many delegations have expressed concern for problems relating to drought, desertification, sustainable development, the GATT Uruguay Round, the price of inputs compared to the price of commodities, and the consequential deterioration in terms of trade. General concerns have been expressed about the destruction of tropical forests, of land degradation and the pollution of the atmosphere. Gender issues have also been raised by many delegations, and the importance and the significance of the role of women in developmental activities have been noted by the Conference participants.

Agriculture is vital to the developing world and access to the developed country markets becomes more imperative with each passing day. I believe that most delegates gathered here would wish to see the Uruguay Round of GATT concluded by the December 15 deadline. Many delegates both from developed and developing countries have expressed this wish, and the sentiment has been that the agricultural elements in the negotiations will be dealt with in a manner satisfying to the developing Member Nations.

I believe that every delegate has been more than interested to hear from the delegates representing the newly admitted Member Nations. We are indebted to them for their statements. They have given us a clear view of the situation with respect to agriculture in their countries. Those which have been stricken by war have told us about the severe damage that has been done to agriculture in such countries.

Before I close I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the delegates who have contributed to make this debate a success and to have made it possible for this debate to be concluded well within the time that was assigned for the general discussions. They have been very supportive; they have observed the rules of the debate, particularly that with respect to the limitation of time, I wish to thank them for this.

It is most noteworthy that most delegates have confined their contributions to the 15-minute limit. I wish to thank them for that.

Distinguished delegates, if there are no other comments I wish to bring this meeting to a close. I thank you for your attention and I wish you well in the Commission proceedings.

The next Plenary Session will be on Wednesday, 17 November. The first part of that session will pay tribute to Dr Edouard Saouma, Director-General, and subsequently it will adopt the Report of Commission II on Item 12, which is the Programme of Work and Budget.

If there are no further comments I take pleasure in bringing this debate and this Session to a close. The Session stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17.00 hours.

La 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

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C 93/PV/14

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENAEIA

**FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
14ª SESION PLENARIA**

(17 November 1993)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours
Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

Seventh Report of the General Committee

Septième rapport du Bureau

Séptimo informe del Comité General

Tribute to the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma

Hommage au Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma

Homenaje al Director General, Sr. Edouard Saouma

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, this, the 14th Plenary Meeting of the 27th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, is called to order.

We are gathered here today to pay tribute to the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma. The Seventh Report of the General Committee, document C 93/LIM/41, contains a resolution entitled "Vote of Thanks to Edouard Saouma", in which the Conference recognizes his many achievements and expresses its deep gratitude for his outstanding services to the Organization.

Ever since he graduated from the Ecole nationale supérieure agronomique of Montpellier in 1952, over forty years ago, Dr Saouma has been involved in the field of food and agriculture. In 1952 he began his professional career as Director of the Tal Amara Agricultural School in Lebanon; from 1954 to 1955, he served as Director of the National Lebanese Center for Farm Mechanisation; and, from 1955 to 1957, he was nominated Secretary-General of the National Federation of Lebanese Agronomists. Subsequently, he was appointed Director-General of the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute, a position he occupied until 1962, and was ultimately appointed Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry.

In 1957 he began his association with FAO when he was elected Member of the FAO Programme Committee. He served in this capacity for two biennia, and during this period, he also represented his government at the Council and Conference sessions. In 1962 he joined FAO as Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Far East. Three years later, he was appointed Director of the Land and Water Development Division, a position he held until 1975, when the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization elected him Director-General to succeed Dr A.H. Boerma. You are all familiar with his achievements since then. I shall now ask the Secretary-General to read the Resolution as approved by the General Committee.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The General Committee recommends the following Resolution: a vote of thanks for Mr Edouard Saouma. The Conference, appreciating the eminent services rendered by Mr Edouard Saouma to the Organization in various capacities for more than three decades, recognizing in particular his exceptional energy and his great competence, has witnessed, through his eighteen years as Director-General, a period during which the Organization was faced with problems of exceptional magnitude; recalling under his able leadership, FAO has taken a series of important steps towards solving these problems as exemplified by the Technical Cooperation Programme, decentralization of FAO's activities and by the Organization's initiatives to achieve world food security and enhance nutritional status, promote agrarian reform and rural development, and to ensure a better management of natural resources; convinced that the example that he has set as an outstanding international civil servant will continue

to inspire all those who endeavour to further the aims of the Organization; expresses its deep gratitude to Mr Edouard Saouma for his outstanding services to the Organization; hopes that he will be able to continue to serve the ideals of the Organization for international development for which FAO stands throughout the world. Distinguished delegates, I invite the Conference to adopt this Resolution by acclamation.

Standing Ovation

Ovation debout

Fue ovacionado por los delegados puestos de pie

The Resolution on vote of thanks to Mr Edouard Saouma is adopted by acclamation

La Résolution sur la motion de remerciements à M. Edouard Saouma est adoptée par acclamation

Se adopta la resolución del voto de agradecimiento al Señor Edouard Saouma por aclamación

CHAIRMAN: You will forgive me if I take advantage of my position as Chairman of the Conference to say a few words, before giving the floor to the Director-General and to other speakers, in recognition of Dr Saouma's outstanding services to this Organization and to the international community as a whole.

You will no doubt be relieved to hear that I have no intention of enumerating the numerous achievements of Dr Saouma. There are many here present who are better qualified to do so.

Suffice it to say that he has served this Organization over a time span of some thirty-five years, as a delegate to FAO Conferences and meetings; as a member of the Council and the Programme Committee; as a staff member; and, finally, as Director-General. Those who have known him or have worked with him over the years were never left in doubt as to the combination of dynamism, vision, intellectual rigour, personal integrity, and total commitment which he brought to bear on the many responsibilities he has undertaken or has had entrusted on him in the conduct of this Organization's affairs.

But more importantly, perhaps, he came to be known as one who, although he demanded much of his collaborators and staff, was at his most exacting in the demands he made upon himself.

So much for the character of the man. What can we say about his work? Here, I should like to highlight some achievements which I believe to be worthy of special mention and which are of particular significance to my own country, Jamaica, and to that constellation of small countries which make up the Caribbean community. And, in so doing, I can do no better than repeat the words used on a recent occasion during this Conference by the Chairman of the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture:

"Under your leadership, Mr Director-General, the notions of neutrality, universality, to say nothing of service to the developing countries, were not abstract or theoretical expressions of good intent. They were the reality. Indeed, FAO came to epitomize, among all agencies of the United Nations, an organization which was directly at the service of all member countries without

fear or favour. An organization where the importance and relevance of a member country's contribution to its affairs did not depend on land mass or size of population or the thickness of the wallet."

But there is another significant achievement which holds great promise for this Organization and for the future. During most of his long stewardship of FAO, Director-General Saouma was faced with a turning of the geopolitical tide against multilateral cooperation in general and the UN and its agencies in particular. It was a time when we witnessed the phenomenon of donor fatigue and public indifference; when the ODA target of one percent of GDP, now adjusted to 0.7 percent, receded more and more into the distance, a time when mounting arrears of assessed contributions and the threat of zero growth budgets forced some UN agencies into virtual bankruptcy or severe retrenchment, significantly compromising their ability to carry out their mandates.

In the face of this onslaught, a lesser man might have flinched; not Dr Saouma. He not only held his ground but was able with exceptional ability and the courage of his convictions to defend the Organization's mandate while enhancing its Programme of Work.

Today FAO stands pre-eminent among UN agencies with a renewed and unchallenged mandate for food security, nutrition and sustainable agricultural development. This is due in no small measure to his strength of character and leadership, as well as the soundness of his vision.

Indeed, I can do no better than to repeat the words of the United States Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Richard Rominger, in his address to the Conference: "Director-General Saouma ends his stewardship at a time when the FAO is fiscally sound and has laid the foundation to take on the challenges ahead".

Through his many initiatives, such as the launching of the Technical Cooperation Programme and the establishment of FAO Representations, we in the developing countries have come to see FAO as an indispensable ally and friend in our fight against hunger, poverty and underdevelopment.

It is, therefore, fitting that I should close with the words of another distinguished delegate from a developing country, His Excellency George Lamptey of Ghana: "Not all may have liked his style or method of administration of the FAO, but none can deny that in eighteen years, Edouard Saouma has led this Organization with courage, foresight and idealism. For those of us from the developing world in particular, he has been a tower of strength in defence of our interests and steadfast in the pursuit of our objectives".

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I have great pleasure in asking the Director-General to address the Conference.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Voici venu pour moi le moment de prendre congé d'une Organisation qui, pendant plus de 30 ans, n'a pas seulement absorbé toutes mes énergies, mais a pour ainsi dire constitué le tissu même de ma vie. En cette heure à la fois attendue et redoutée, il est difficile de ne pas se laisser submerger par l'émotion - ou plutôt par une vague d'émotions diverses et mêlées.

Le sentiment qui domine, c'est la gratitude. Le dernier discours que je vous adresse pourrait n'être qu'une longue litanie de remerciements.

Merci à mon pays d'abord, à ce pays si cher et si durement éprouvé, qui m'a donné la possibilité de travailler à son développement agricole et m'a mis pour la première fois en contact avec la FAO en m'envoyant, dès 1955, à Rome comme membre de la délégation libanaise.

Merci au Président de la République libanaise, S.E. Monsieur Elias Hraoui, pour le soutien qu'il m'a toujours accordé et pour avoir offert à la FAO une salle de réunion qui porte le nom du Liban.

Merci à l'homme qui, plus qu'aucun autre, m'a fait comprendre la mission de la FAO et m'a donné d'y participer - le docteur B.R. Sen, récemment disparu. Il fut pour moi un guide, un maître et un ami. Il m'a offert de le représenter dans son propre pays, l'Inde, où j'ai touché du doigt les réalités de la misère dans une grande nation, compris les problèmes du sous-développement, de la faim et de la pauvreté, et affermi ma résolution de me vouer à la lutte contre ces fléaux.

Merci aux Etats Membres qui, à trois reprises, m'ont confié la lourde charge de diriger cette grande Organisation et ne m'ont jamais ménagé leurs encouragements et leur soutien. Ce sont eux, c'est vous qui avez transformé la FAO pour en faire un acteur du développement, une agence opérationnelle dont le rôle et la compétence sont partout reconnus; c'est vous qui avez orienté ses travaux vers des activités plus concrètes en créant le Programme de coopération technique, vous qui avez renforcé sa présence sur le terrain par la décentralisation au niveau des pays, vous qui avez tant fait pour moraliser la vie internationale en posant des principes éthiques dans les domaines les plus divers de l'activité humaine.

Merci, entre tous nos Etats Membres, au pays qui nous héberge depuis plus de 40 ans, à cette Italie qui a tant fait pour nous accueillir, loger nos services et nous équiper, à l'inoubliable et fraternelle Italie, enrichie de toutes les civilisations et les enrichissant en retour, regorgeant des souvenirs de l'histoire et des trésors de l'art. Merci tout spécialement à Rome la ville mère, la Ville éternelle dont l'emprise se fonda sur une forte civilisation agraire et qui transformait en laboureurs ses soldats conquérants.

Merci à tous mes collègues, à mes compagnons d'armes de tous les grades et de tous les niveaux, de toutes les cultures et de toutes les disciplines, travaillant au Siège ou sur le terrain. Merci à tous, hommes et femmes, missionnaires et non mercenaires, dont le dévouement et la haute qualité professionnelle m'ont si souvent réconforté lorsque la solitude du responsable se faisait plus pesante. Ce sont eux, je l'ai dit maintes fois, qui font et qui sont la force de l'Organisation. En leur rendant hommage, je veux aussi saluer leurs associations, qui comptent parmi les plus dynamiques du système des Nations Unies. Cette équipe, qui fait ma fierté et qui a su garder son idéal et son moral malgré des conditions toujours moins favorables, je la confie à mon successeur; je suis sûr qu'il saura

aussi bien la guider que l'écouter. J'associe à ces remerciements mes collègues chefs de Secrétariat, avec lesquels il m'a été donné de mener une coopération cordiale et féconde, notamment au sein du Comité administratif de coordination.

Merci enfin à une personne dont je n'ai jamais parlé ici, mais sans laquelle je n'aurais jamais pu mener ma tâche à bien, tant elle m'a apporté de paix au milieu des combats que je menais, de repos dans ma fatigue, de sécurisante sérénité au milieu de l'agitation et des angoisses - mon épouse Inès, à qui je tiens, pour la première fois, à rendre publiquement hommage.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Monsieur le Président, c'est la dernière fois que j'assiste à ce sommet mondial qui vous réunit tous les deux ans. C'est la dernière fois que, du haut de cette tribune, je pose mon regard sur tous les visages tournés vers elle et dont le souvenir restera gravé dans ma mémoire - visages amicaux d'hommes et de femmes venus de tous les horizons pour servir leur pays, mais aussi l'ensemble de la communauté internationale; mer vivante de visages à travers lesquels je regarde le peuple immense des agriculteurs qui nourrissent l'humanité.

Ces milliards de paysans et de paysannes sont nos mandants; c'est à eux que je dois rendre compte de la tâche si exaltante et si lourde qui fut la mienne pendant 18 ans. L'exercice de telles responsabilités devient une passion dévorante qui ne laisse plus de place pour d'autres émotions ou d'autres intérêts, et qui finit par isoler celui qui en est investi.

"Gouverner, c'est choisir", a dit un homme d'Etat. Dans l'infinie variété des programmes, des stratégies et des priorités imaginables, choisir ceux qui sont les mieux adaptés aux besoins des pays que nous servons, choisir en tenant compte de tous les éléments, avec l'angoisse de viser juste. Dans quelle mesure y suis-je parvenu? Ce n'est pas à moi de le dire; toujours est-il qu'au milieu de bien des amertumes j'ai eu le réconfort de voir nos organes suprêmes entériner régulièrement les options que je leur ai présentées.

Du moins me suis-je efforcé de préserver fidèlement l'indépendance attachée à ma fonction et dont le serment que j'ai prêté me faisait une obligation sacrée. J'ai juré de n'accepter de directives d'aucun Etat. Sans cet engagement, qui d'ailleurs correspond à ma mentalité, la fonction de directeur général serait vidée de son sens; le pacte qui fonde l'Organisation serait nul. Un directeur général se trouve forcément exposé à des demandes et sollicitations de toute sorte, qui ne sont pas toujours en harmonie avec l'intérêt général. Moins que personne, il ne peut faire plaisir à tout le monde, d'autant que nos règles en la matière sont plus rigides que celles de bien des administrations nationales. Refuser de céder, résister aux pressions, c'est se rendre impopulaire. J'en ai assumé le risque, en même temps que je devais assumer l'autorité et la responsabilité en votre nom à tous, dans l'intervalle de vos sessions et sous le contrôle du Conseil.

De même, il m'a fallu imposer une solide discipline au sein du Secrétariat. Si fort que soit le sens du devoir qui anime notre personnel, les risques

de dérive et de relâchement ne disparaissent jamais, et cela exigeait de ma part une certaine fermeté, un refus de la démagogie et du souci de la popularité. Une telle ligne de conduite m'a valu auprès de certains une réputation d'autoritaire, mais, si l'on veut que le navire avance en gardant son cap, il faut bien que le capitaine soit maître à bord et que l'équipage se plie à la règle.

Au long de ces 18 années, j'ai vu le monde changer - en bien comme en mal. Pour nous en tenir à la FAO, ne pensons pas seulement aux difficultés financières et aux remises en question; pensons aussi aux innovations apparues dans les domaines les plus variés: réforme agraire, pêches, environnement, sécurité alimentaire et nutrition, forêts, codes de conduite et engagements de caractère moral, implantation dans les pays pour partager leurs luttes quotidiennes, les informer et les aider. J'ai essayé de consigner cette expérience dans un ouvrage que j'ai intitulé *La FAO face aux enjeux du développement*, faisant la synthèse de nos efforts, de montrer comment les choses se sont passées, d'analyser les solutions en corrélation avec les moyens mis en oeuvre, de chercher le pourquoi des réussites et des échecs.

De toute cette action, les journaux ne parlent pas beaucoup; les médias occidentaux nous boudent; nous restons peu connus des hommes politiques, dont l'élection ne dépend guère de leur position sur le renforcement des Nations Unies et de l'aide au tiers monde. La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation elle-même - que vous avez instituée pour fêter les agriculteurs et célébrer la noblesse de leur métier ingrat et souvent méprisé -, trouve bien peu d'écho dans la presse et la télévision des pays développés. Est-ce parce que nous n'avons pas de "lobby"? Est-ce parce que le multilatéralisme dérange et contrarie bien des intérêts nationaux et particuliers? Pourtant, nous avons grand besoin de nous faire connaître, et un gros effort d'information et de sensibilisation serait nécessaire, surtout auprès des jeunes, chez qui il est indispensable de susciter l'esprit de solidarité et le sentiment de partager un même et un seul destin.

Monsieur le Président, où va la FAO? Quelles seront demain les voies de son action? De quels moyens disposera-t-elle? Bien entendu, je n'ai pas de réponse à ces questions. Mais une chose est sûre: un monde qui va devoir en 25 ans doubler sa production agricole sans dévaster l'environnement aura plus que jamais besoin de notre Organisation. Peut-être, et ce serait en tout cas une entreprise de longue haleine, pourra-t-elle répondre plus efficacement à ces besoins en resserrant ses liens avec le PAM et le FIDA, voire en fusionnant avec eux, comme l'envisageait l'autre jour le Président indépendant du Conseil, S.E. l'ambassadeur Sainttraint, dont je tiens à saluer ici l'indépendance, le courage et le dévouement aux idéaux de l'Organisation.

Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués,

Dans l'immédiat, il est un domaine où je crois qu'un renforcement de notre action s'imposerait; c'est celui de la formation, corollaire obligé des transferts de technologie. Nous formons actuellement quelque 70 000 personnes par an; c'est beaucoup trop peu. Le savoir est la clé du développement, et seul un riche capital de ressources humaines permettra de tirer le meilleur parti des ressources naturelles sans les épuiser. Mon souci de l'avenir me pousse à faire de cette question l'objet de l'ultime appel que je vous adresse: donnons aux jeunes les moyens de prendre leur avenir en main, investissons dans les ressources humaines.

Quoi qu'il en soit, je peux partir tranquille. La FAO a résisté à bien des tempêtes, elle a des bases solides. Elle est présente et active partout dans le monde. A sa réputation de compétence technique est venue s'ajouter une dimension nouvelle d'autorité éthique et morale. Ses serviteurs continueront, j'en suis persuadé, de travailler avec passion et compétence à la réalisation de son idéal. Car, ne l'oublions pas, la FAO est née d'un idéal, d'un espoir, celui de créer un monde meilleur. Sans vouloir renier les incontestables progrès accomplis depuis 1945, n'est-il pas grand temps de cesser de diviser le monde entre Nord et Sud, entre pays développés et pays en développement, et parler enfin en termes de justice et d'injustice, en termes de solidarité agissante?

Mon souhait est que la FAO puisse contribuer toujours davantage à forger un monde meilleur, où tous - hommes, femmes et enfants - pourront finalement vivre partout dans la dignité et à l'abri du besoin.

Quant à moi, je vais retourner dans mon pays, que j'ai quitté voici 31 ans, mais avec lequel j'ai gardé tant de liens. Après 17 ans de souffrance et de guerre civile, le Liban est aujourd'hui en pleine reconstruction - oeuvre à laquelle je veux maintenant contribuer de toutes mes forces. Au Liban, au coeur du monde méditerranéen, je serai toujours près de la FAO.

A l'instant de vous quitter, je peux vous dire: voici la FAO que nous avons faite ensemble et vous continuerez, j'en suis sûr, à la garder forte, puissante, appréciée, irremplaçable. Voici la FAO que je confie à votre sagesse et que je remets à mon successeur, sûr que vous continuerez de lui donner tout votre appui. Voici la FAO, qui a été la préoccupation constante de mes jours et de mes nuits, à laquelle je reste attaché par toutes mes fibres et que j'espère bien servir encore, par la plume, par la parole ou de quelque autre manière.

Fille d'un des plus nobles projets que l'humanité ait conçus, ainsi que le rappelait ici même il y a quelques jours le Président Scalfaro, pour tous les maux dont souffre le monde, la FAO représente une réponse humaine pleine de noblesse. Oui, la FAO doit poursuivre sa marche, je la laisse en de bonnes mains.

Bonne route à elle. Bonne route à tous et à toutes.

Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, Dr Saouma has just said that this is the last Conference to which he will be looking on the faces looking up to him, from the platform, and we are going to be very very sad to have him leave FAO, but FAO moves on, thanks to very sound foundations that Dr Saouma has helped to establish.

I feel certain that there are many delegates, persons gathered here, who would wish to pay tribute to Dr Saouma, and I think it would be a good thing if we devoted the rest of the morning to permitting as many delegates as possible to say their bit. I wish first of all to call upon the Independent Chairman of the Council, Mr Saintraint.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Président indépendant du Conseil): Monsieur le Directeur général Edouard Saouma, je sais, car vous me l'avez dit parfois, que vous n'appréciez pas toujours beaucoup les discours d'hommages, parce qu'ils donnent l'impression d'être une clôture, une fin, et non le début d'une étape nouvelle.

La FAO, depuis ces deux dernières années, a connu une dimension et un élargissement incomparables de son action. De centre international, situé à Rome, l'Organisation s'est ouverte sur le monde avec l'implantation des bureaux de la FAO au niveau national, et au niveau régional.

On a déjà beaucoup parlé du Programme de coopération technique qui vous doit tout et des programmes de terrain sans lesquels l'Organisation n'aurait plus ni sens, ni vie.

Je ne crois pas être capable de tenter de résumer tout ce qui a été dit ces derniers jours. On synthétise pas en quelques mots et en quelques phrases l'action patiente, constante et volontaire d'une vie tournée vers la poursuite d'un meilleur équilibre d'un monde, hélas, si souvent divisé et déchiré.

Les mots ne peuvent pas toujours traduire des sentiments car le coeur et la passion l'emportent sur le verbe et le discours.

Je ne vous ai connu que pendant une période relativement brève d'une vie de travail et d'activité intenses où, sans faillir, vous êtes resté à la barre de ce grand navire, si difficile à conduire et diriger, qu'est la FAO. Vous avez voulu, envers et contre tout, dans des difficultés inimaginables, que l'Organisation puisse pleinement assumer ses tâches essentielles.

Connaissant mieux que personne la nature humaine, ses faiblesses, parfois ses lâchetés et ses trahisons, vous avez continué à croire, et même si vous avez connu de grands moments de découragement vous les avez surmontés grâce à une énergie sans failles.

Monsieur Edouard Saouma, vous êtes et vous resterez toujours pour la Communauté internationale un grand fonctionnaire qui a marqué de son empreinte la construction de notre planète. J'ai toujours beaucoup apprécié votre franchise, votre capacité de décider, votre vision du monde. Vous n'avez pas supporté les médiocres, et ne les supporterez jamais. L'exigence, que vous avez montrée sans cesse, vous a permis de croire et de croire sans relâche.

Je vous sais profondément attaché à votre patrie libanaise dont vous êtes un de ses meilleurs fils. Cet attachement ne vous a pas réduit à une dimension géographique limitée mais constitue le support de cette large vision du monde que vous avez aidé à construire. Votre action au sein des groupes de coordination des Nations Unies a été marquante, et vous avez contribué aussi à tenter de faire naviguer dans la même direction des organisations, qui toutes ne s'orientaient pas toujours de la sorte.

Le sort du tiers monde, de meilleurs équilibres entre les riches et les pauvres, entre les faibles et les puissants, ont toujours été le substrat qui a guidé tous vos comportements.

Nous savons que, dans le long chemin de votre vie si remplie, vous n'allez pas, demain, vous arrêter. Les routes divergent parfois mais, certainement,

c'est dans la même direction que le nouveau Directeur général, Jacques Diouf, et vous-même continuerez à vous orienter.

Je n'ai été pendant une période brève de la vie de notre Organisation qu'un très modeste serviteur de celle-ci. Je ne suis sûrement pas qualifié, ni pour faire une synthèse, ni pour traduire des sentiments que tous ceux qui ont travaillé et travaillent dans l'Organisation vous portent.

Vous avez eu des adversaires, vous avez eu des ennemis, parce que toujours, vous fûtes intransigeant. Cette intransigeance vous a donné beaucoup de courage et une énergie sans pareille.

A Inès, votre épouse, qui vous a tant secondé et à vous-même, Edouard Saouma, je voudrais au nom de tous ceux qui vous ont bien connu, au nom de tous ceux qui vous ont peu connu et, aussi, au nom de tous ceux qui vous ont méconnu, vous dire merci.

L'orientation que vous avez donnée et l'action que vous avez menée seront poursuivies sans relâche. (continua en español)

A usted, Doctor Saouma, y a su señora, Inés, de todo corazón, muchísimas gracias.

Humberto CARRION-MACDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Me honra particularmente dirigir unas palabras a esta Conferencia con ocasión del rendimiento de un merecido homenaje a Edouard Saouma, Director General de la FAO por 18 años consecutivos. El Sr. Saouma dejará esta Organización dentro de pocas semanas, pero el extraordinario trabajo que ha realizado en beneficio de los países en desarrollo permanecerá en nuestra memoria.

Conocí al Director General personalmente, entre 1982 y 1987, cuando fui Embajador de Nicaragua ante la FAO, y he tenido la oportunidad de regresar a Roma como Jefe de Mision Diplomática y de asistir a este vigésimo séptimo período de sesiones de la Conferencia, que ha tenido como uno de sus objetivos principales elegir a la nueva persona que conducirá los trabajos de nuestra Organización en los próximos seis años.

El regreso a Roma me ha permitido constatar que el Edouard Saouma que conocí en el pasado es el mismo que hoy homenajeamos. Su tenacidad en el trabajo, su visión, la solidez de sus valores y de sus ideales han merecido siempre el respeto y el reconocimiento de todos los países miembros del Grupo de los 77.

Nuestro Grupo ha colaborado y apoyado con firmeza al Director General en su defensa de los principios de la FAO, que bajo su dirección se convirtió en un instrumento esencial de desarrollo en nuestros países.

La lucha permanente contra el hambre se tradujo necesariamente en una lucha frontal contra la pobreza, origen y causa del hambre y de la malnutrición. Se tradujo en la lucha por el bienestar y por la dignidad de millones de seres humanos.

Nuestros gobernantes, y no sólo ellos, saben que en los últimos 18 años han contado con la FAO como Organización única y ejemplar por su excelencia y eficacia en el campo de la producción de alimentos y el desarrollo agrícola, forestal y pesquero. Su capacidad para adaptarse a las necesidades del momento han sido dignas de encomio, lo mismo que la

promoción de actividades y la toma de decisiones de largo plazo, que han tenido un impacto socioeconómico inconmensurable, puesto que preservar vidas humanas no tiene precio.

A través de su perfeccionamiento y de su consolidación, el Sistema Mundial de Información y Alerta sobre la Alimentación y la Agricultura ha cumplido con su papel de prevención en materia de seguridad alimentaria. La identificación anticipada de emergencias ha contribuido grandemente a la distribución más eficiente y oportuna de ayuda humanitaria.

Las oficinas de la FAO en los países han mejorado y potenciado las relaciones de asistencia técnica y de asesoramiento a nuestros gobiernos, redundando en beneficio del pequeño productor campesino, del pescador artesanal y de la sociedad en su conjunto.

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica ha respondido a las necesidades urgentes de asistencia requeridas por nuestros países y ha facilitado la rehabilitación de numerosas poblaciones rurales en situaciones de emergencia provocadas por catástrofes naturales.

El desarrollo social y económico de los países que se agrupan en el G-77 ha sido una constante del Director General y no se puede lograr sin la participación activa, ordenada y sistemática de los países industrializados miembros de la FAO.

Un proceso de desarrollo no tiene que ser integral para que sea exitoso y debe contar con la colaboración de todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización. En este contexto podemos citar la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros y la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición.

Cada una de estas Conferencias ha ampliado la gama de actividades que la FAO debe realizar en beneficio del desarrollo de nuestros países, y se celebraron en esta sede durante el mandato del Director General. Sin embargo, los recursos financieros con que se ha contado han sido insuficientes para ejecutar todas las decisiones adoptadas en los órganos rectores de la Organización.

Como bien dice el Director General en su reciente libro La FAO, ante los desafíos del Desarrollo, "cuando se trata de dotar a nuestras instituciones de medios de consonancia con lo que se espera o exige de ellas, la comunidad de países tiene que recorrer aún mucho camino para ajustar los hechos a los principios afirmados, traducir los buenos deseos en voluntad política, y la voluntad política, en capacidad de acción" (fin de cita).

Por otro lado, la conciencia, cada vez mayor, en la comunidad internacional de que la lucha contra la pobreza, la protección del medio ambiente y la diversidad biológica son requisitos indispensables para el desarrollo sostenible de todas las naciones, nos lleva a reflexionar sobre la necesidad de implementar relaciones de cooperación cualitativa y cuantitativamente superiores a la actual.

El Pacto Mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria, el Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, el Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas, y el Programa de Acción Forestal Tropical son algunas de las actividades de la FAO que el Director General impulsó con audacia, en beneficio del desarrollo sostenible, antes de que dicho término fuera puesta en boga.

Por otro lado, Edouard Saouma ha enfocado siempre los grandes temas de las relaciones internacionales y del desarrollo con realismo y valentía y supo responder al reto que significó la priorización de la asistencia a los países que más la necesitan, sin dejar por ello sin respuesta las solicitudes de asistencia de otras naciones.

En otro párrafo de su reciente libro, el Director General hace referencia a este hecho diciendo que "Africa ha podido contar con la FAO, cuyo apoyo nunca le ha faltado, y que indefectiblemente estará a su servicio. En esta región, en efecto, tiene lugar nuestra más vigorosa actuación; a ella consagramos lo más claro de nuestros recursos y de nuestra energía" (fin de cita).

Sr. Presidente, Edouard Saouma nos deja una FAO moderna, bien equipada y con instalaciones adecuadas y centralizadas después de dos décadas de dispersión del personal de la Secretaría. Nos deja una Organización eficiente y altamente capacitada para continuar su intensa e incansable labor para eliminar el hambre, la malnutrición y la pobreza, y para alcanzar el progreso económico y social. En fin, nos deja una Organización estable y financieramente sana, después de años de crisis de liquidez provocada por la falta de pago de algunas contribuciones y después del intenso proceso de revisión y de evaluación al que fue sometida.

Es realmente admirable la manera en que el Director General administró los recursos de la FAO y defendió tanto el Programa Ordinario como el Programa de Campo, después de que un grupo de países introdujo en la Organización el concepto de crecimiento cero y la revisión de los gastos de apoyo.

Es igualmente encomiable su labor en la preparación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio, el que le corresponderá administrar a su sucesor, el Dr. Jacques Diouf, de Senegal, con quien colaboraremos en su gestión como lo hemos hecho con el Dr. Edouard Saouma.

El PLP para 1994-95 merece ser aprobado por unanimidad por esta Conferencia, tanto por su contenido programático como por el nivel del financiamiento propuesto. Es lo menos que podemos hacer para recibir al nuevo Director General, particularmente si se tiene en cuenta que no se propone ningún incremento neto, en comparación con el bienio anterior, y que, debido al tipo de cambio dólar-lira, nuestros gobiernos harán incluso una contribución menor que en 1992-93.

Los cambios históricos que se han venido desarrollando en las relaciones internacionales a partir de 1989 nos hacen creer en la posibilidad de una nueva era de cooperación Norte-Sur en la FAO, lo que redundaría en beneficio de toda la humanidad. Es esto lo que nos ha propuesto el Presidente de la OCDE el primer día de esta Conferencia, y deseamos creer en sus palabras. Es esto mismo lo que el Grupo de los 77 ha venido proponiendo desde su creación, hace tres décadas.

Por último, deseamos sinceramente, sin retórica alguna, agradecerle al Director General toda la voluntad, todo el esfuerzo y todo el dinamismo desplegado para hacer de la FAO una organización modelo en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Dr. Saouma, nuestra relación con usted ha sido siempre de amistad y de respeto recíproco. Su rectitud y su honestidad dejan una huella en esta Organización. A usted y a su señora, Inés de Saouma, les deseamos lo mejor para el futuro. Se lo merecen.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus): This statement is being delivered on behalf of Ambassador Poulides, Chairman of the Near East Group of 77, who, unfortunately, cannot be present today as he very much would have wished.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, we are faced with the difficult task of saying goodbye to Dr Edouard Saouma who has been a friend to all of us during the last 18 years and who has gained our deep admiration and respect during this time. Dr Edouard Saouma has given 32 years of his life to FAO, an organization he has served with dedication, dynamism and great success.

For 18 years he has been our Director-General and has steered the Organization through troubled seas with the courage and confidence of a great statesman.

Many speakers today will be paying homage to many aspects of his career and accomplishments. It is the measure of the man that there are indeed many accomplishments to choose from, and each one of us will undoubtedly wish to lay stress on this or that achievement according to our own interests and values. I should like to stress four that alone merit Dr Saouma's place in history. The first - and I speak here not as a diplomat - is that he managed with care and prudence to keep the Organization afloat and in the forefront of agricultural development through a decade of financial troubles at a time when other agencies were faced with massive curtailing of their programmes and near bankruptcy. That the Organization is now in good financial shape and ready to face the challenges of the 21st century is no mean achievement.

The second - and here I speak as a representative of a developing country - is Dr Saouma's achievement in swinging funds from Headquarters' administration to direct and mediate technical assistance to those countries most in need through his brainchild, the Technical Cooperation Programme. There, again, Dr Saouma, you have much to be proud of, and we as developing countries have much to be thankful for.

Your third main achievement in my eyes, Mr Director-General, if I may take the liberty of addressing you directly through the Chairman, and here I speak as a member of the global community that is FAO, is the statesmanlike way in which you have managed to achieve the main objectives of the Organization focused on helping the Third World while avoiding politicization and polarization.

Again, this is no small achievement, and one that sets a course for the Organization as it enters the 21st century. I would also like to stress the many substantive milestones that mark the road of the Director-General's term of office. The Organization's achievements in the area of sustainable development, farming relief in Africa, the global system of plant genetic resources, the codes of conduct, the World Food Security compact, the Tropical Forestry Action Programme, and, most recently, our new epochmaking work on the code of conduct on responsible fishing and the new agreement on reflagging. These were no small achievements, I repeat, achievements that have won for Dr Saouma the foremost place in the history of our Organization and in the hearts and gratitude of each and every one of us.

Finally, I would like to speak of Dr Saouma the man. We, his many friends, will certainly miss him, and we will also miss Mrs Iñes Saouma, his gracious lady, and her charming smile, who stood by him and sustained him throughout all these years of high office with warmth and encouragement. But as we say au revoir to them, on behalf of the Near East Region of the Group of 77, I wish to thank Dr Saouma for a very well-done job and to tell him that we are all grateful to him for his help and assistance to our countries in the region he comes from. Although it comes quite naturally to think that he might have more time to spend with his family in his beloved Lebanon, as I know him very well I cannot see him completely separated from the work that has been his way of life during all this long period.

I wish to conclude by paying tribute to Dr Saouma for his unparalleled achievement and wish him and his family good health. I hope and wish that he will continue to lend us his wisdom and experience which is so needed in our world of today. Personally, I, too, wish my friend, Dr Saouma and his family good health and prosperity, adding that I hope he will continue to support and assist us in our continued struggle for a better life for the world's needy people. I am sure that he also thinks, as I do, that our friendship was over and above all this and that it will continue for ever. God bless you Dr Saouma.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

George LAMPTEY (Ghana) : So it has happened. At midnight on 31 December 1993,

Dr Edouard Saouma will leave these buildings to which he has been attached for so long. A chapter in the history of FAO will have come to an end. It is a measure of Dr Edouard Saouma as a man that even up to the day of the election of his successor there were those in this room who somehow expected Dr Saouma to be here with us next year as Director-General. Dr Saouma, as I said before, has been a tower of strength. No man has so dominated a specialized agency of the United Nations as Dr Edouard Saouma. I am proud to recall that my country, Ghana, was among the first to realize the potential of the then Director-General elect. Even before he had fully assumed his duties, Ghana bestowed on Dr Saouma one of its highest national honours by making him a Member of the Order of the Volta. The years have passed by. We have not realized all the dreams that we have entertained in FAO; neither have the African States in whose name I speak now achieved all that they had expected from FAO. But Dr Saouma, we have never for one moment doubted your commitment to the poor and hungry of this world, many of whom reside on our continent. In the name of Africa, I thank you.

Mr Chairman, you yourself have so eloquently espoused the virtues and achievements of Dr Saouma. I shall therefore not add a word more. Let me say that the distinguished son of Africa who will now succeed you, Dr Saouma, if he were here today, I am sure would tell you that your vision of what FAO should be and the ideas that you so eloquently expressed here, your dreams for the future of this Organization, will guide him as he himself embarks on his stewardship and initiates his own changes. Dr Saouma, you have done well for FAO. You have done well for the world. I know that you will continue to have interest in this Organization. Africa says thank you again to you, and we ask for God's blessing for you and your family.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom) : I have the honour to speak on this momentous and historic occasion on behalf of the OECD Group. It is highly appropriate for us to mark the 18 years that Dr Saouma has been at the helm of FAO. Indeed, it would be quite unthinkable for us not to do so after a period of almost two decades, during which Dr Saouma has steered a firm course on the voyage towards freedom from hunger on our planet. Tragically, we have not yet reached the harbour at the end of that voyage: the harbour where hunger among the men, the women, and the children of the world is a thing of the past.

There has been progress. But none of us can rest while hundreds of millions of our fellow human beings - men, women, babies, children, the old and the vulnerable - remain malnourished, while so many die of hunger. We have to work together. We owe it to the farmers of the world. We owe it even more to the poor and to the hungry.

FAO, under Dr Saouma's leadership, has rightly given priority to the global perspective and the long-term view where FAO has a unique role to play -indeed, quite literally a vital role to play. The responsibility placed in the hands of FAO and in the hands of the Director-General is a quite exceptionally heavy one. Dr Saouma has carried the burden and has been untiring. He has been firm and has worked with clear conviction. He is now handing on the burden, and at this historic moment in time it is right that we should acknowledge the part that he has played. In the circumstances, we, the countries of the OECD Group, lend our support to the establishment of the Edouard Saouma Award. We are happy that this award should be given to an institution showing particular efficiency in implementing a project. Projects chosen are to be funded by the TCP which, as the Resolution says, can play a vital catalytic role, using limited resources, to address critical questions, to overcome critical bottlenecks, and to generate funding for more substantial operations which are of key importance.

The award might equally have been made in respect of one of the other areas of FAO's operations. The choice cannot be easy. One can discuss the relative values of the various aspects of FAO's essential work; indeed we do. But that would not be productive, nor appropriate, in the context of this award. Let us therefore support this Resolution, and establish the award as an appropriate and on-going reminder, if one is needed, of the tireless work, of the unswerving conviction of Edouard Saouma.

Chairman, may I end by offering our very sincere very best wishes to Dr Saouma and to Mrs Saouma for the future.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

William H. MARSH (United States of America): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Ministers, distinguished delegates, friends and colleagues of the staff of the Food and Agricultural Organization, it is my honour, on behalf of the North American Region, to add our sense of

appreciation for the Director-General's lifetime of commitment to the overarching goals of world food security and agricultural development.

Edouard Saouma has been the very personification of the Food and Agriculture Organization. For eighteen years as Director-General and for years prior to that, he has identified himself totally with all of its interests and activities. He is a man who has brought to his work and to our service an extraordinary knowledge of agriculture. The problems of struggling countries are in his very blood, and he has championed the resolution of these problems without sparing himself and without reservation. Over the years we have had an evolving dialogue with him over the course the Organization should chart for the future. In these lively and serious discussions we inevitably encountered his profound dedication to the Organization's interests, his remarkable knowledge of the United Nations system, and of the technical fields in which the Food and Agriculture Organization excels.

Dr Saouma has been a strong advocate for the rural poor. He has been one who never tired in the efforts to mobilize the international community to aid those in direct need. Therefore, he has left a truly significant heritage, a food and agriculture organization that has kept abreast of the scientific and technical changes that have altered the ways we see and relate to our natural resources and our own global genetic inheritance. The Food and Agriculture Organization that he has built up is potentially the most significant of the specialized agencies for its unique contribution to ensuring that the world's fragile resource base is not shattered by the struggle to generate the food to end hunger and to provide for future generations.

We shall remember not just his achievements but his philosophical side, his humour and his eloquence. In the days that come we trust that we may draw on his knowledge and insight. We fully expect that, as ever, he will dedicate himself totally to vigorous efforts for the betterment of the lives and welfare of the human family.

Therefore, we send him and Mrs Saouma our very deep gratitude and our very best wishes for the future. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Khursid HAMID (Bangladesh): Thank you, Mr Chairman. On this historic occasion, on behalf of the members of the Asia Group, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to the outgoing Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Dr Edouard Saouma, for his outstanding contribution to the Organization which he headed with great distinction during the last eighteen years. His association with FAO spans nearly three decades and a half; and, during this long period of time, he has single-mindedly and with an intensity of high seriousness served the cause of the hungry millions of humanity scattered around the globe. His vision of a brave new world without hunger where, to quote him, "man not only has more but is more," and his indefatigable dedication and leadership for actualizing his vision has enabled FAO today to reach new heights of excellence as the largest specialized agency in the United Nations system. Dr Saouma has consistently upheld and promoted the interests of the

developing countries and ensured that FAO's assistance to these countries were truly responsive to their actual needs. The Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO will be recognized as one of the shining achievements of the Director-General. FAO's expertise and assistance under his guidance significantly contributed to the enhancement of the national capacities of the recipient countries.

Eighteen years of concern and creativity on the part of Dr Saouma has rung up in the till a host of other initiatives and achievements, bringing light where there was darkness: the opening of FAO country offices, the Global Information and Early Warning System for Food and Agriculture, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the celebration of the World Food Day, the publication of the study "Agriculture: Toward 2000", the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, the Tropical Forest Action Programme, the ethical dimensions of the World Food Security Compact, the moral overtones of the International Undertakings on Plant Genetic Resources and Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, his hard work in Africa, to mention only a few of Dr Saouma's initiatives, are all considered as important landmarks in mankind's forward march towards attaining the most basic freedom, the freedom from hunger and malnutrition.

It is indeed difficult to encapsulate the multifaceted achievements of Dr Saouma in a few words or a few minutes. History will undoubtedly regard him as one of the ablest, most dynamic, and greatest Director-Generals of FAO.

We end with the hope that this is not an end but a beginning and that FAO will still be able to benefit from his knowledge, his experience, and his wisdom for many more fruitful years. We wish Dr Saouma and Mrs Inez Saouma good health and happiness in the years to come.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Hubert DE SCHRYVER (Belgique): Lorsque j'ai accepté, il y a deux jours, de m'associer à la séance d'hommage à Monsieur Edouard Saouma au nom du Forum européen dont j'assume en ce moment la présidence, Je ne me suis pas rendu compte que je connaissais vraiment très peu le Directeur général et l'oeuvre qu'il a accomplie durant 18 ans à la tête de la FAO pour pouvoir en parler. Je me suis donc documenté et je vous donne mes sources: j'ai trouvé sa biographie dans les archives de mon poste qui datent de 1975 lorsque M. Saouma a été candidat au poste de Directeur général; et j'ai également lu votre livre, Monsieur Saouma, qui vient de sortir, intitulé "La FAO face aux enjeux du développement", livre que je conseille à tout le monde de lire.

Tout a été dit, et mieux que je ne pourrais le faire, par vous-même et par les orateurs qui m'ont précédé. Je me limiterai donc, si vous le permettez, à quelques remarques plus personnelles et moins formelles sur Monsieur Saouma et sur le groupe que je représente.

Dans la biographie de Monsieur Saouma, je note qu'à peine terminé ses études universitaires, il occupa durant 10 ans des fonctions aux postes de commande dans son pays et, à partir de 1955, il est déjà associé comme

délégué du Liban à toutes les sessions de la Conférence et du Conseil de la FAO pour entrer, à partir de 1963, au service de cette Organisation. C'est vous dire qu'au moment de sa candidature comme Directeur général en 1975, il connaissait à fond les rouages de cette maison.

Il n'est donc pas étonnant qu'à peine élu, Monsieur Saouma ait essayé de faire passer sa conception du développement et de refondre le Programme de travail et budget préparé par son prédécesseur.

En arrivant l'année passée à Rome, on m'a dit que le Directeur général de la FAO était très autoritaire, il vient lui-même de le dire, mais cela ne m'a pas surpris car cela paraît inévitable quand on occupe un poste comme celui qu'il occupe depuis 13 ans et qu'on a une forte personnalité; surtout quand on sait, Monsieur le Directeur général, que vous êtes né sous le signe du scorpion. Je laisse à d'autres le soin d'établir votre horsocope et de prédire tous les succès qui pourront vous attendre dans les années à venir. Je ne retiendrai que deux caractéristiques de votre signe: les scorpions sont des gens entiers, doués d'une grande créativité.

C'est d'ailleurs ce que vous avez démontré par vos innovations et vos initiatives durant ces 18 ans. Je ne vais en citer que quelques-unes les plus connues: le Programme de coopération technique créé en 1976 et dont on a déjà parlé ce matin, ainsi que la mise en place de représentations de la FAO dans les pays en développement. Leur nombre est en ce moment de 76. Il faut également mentionner l'instauration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation que nous fêtons maintenant depuis 1979, le 16 octobre et j'en passe.

Mais la lecture de votre notice biographique succincte me déroute un peu quand je lis que "Monsieur Saouma a rejoint la FAO depuis 1962" et, par ailleurs, "qu'il a été nommé Ministre de l'agriculture, des pêches et des forêts en 1970".

Je voudrais laisser pour le moment ce "personnage" un peu déroutant pour passer au groupe géographique européen que je représente en ce moment. Les pays du vieux continent sont de plus en plus nombreux à la FAO, ils sont très variés et très différents. Par leur nombre, ils forment le second groupe mais ils passent au premier rang quant à leur contribution à la FAO. Tous ensemble, selon le barème des contributions pour le biennium 1992-93, ils totalisent plus de 44 pour cent du budget ordinaire.

J'en profite pour dire que les 12 pays de la Communauté atteignent dans ce groupe 35 pour cent.

Monsieur Saouma, vous connaissez bien ce continent où vous avez vécu plus de 30 ans. D'abord en France comme étudiant à l'Université de Montpellier et, depuis 1965, à Rome. Je me demande quelquefois comment vous voyez les Européens? ont-ils des traits communs malgré leurs grandes différences et leurs grandes variétés? Notre civilisation a des racines judéo-chrétiennes et gréco-latines que nous avons assimilées. Mais existe-t-il un "homo européen" avec des caractéristiques propres? J'ai entendu un jour un conférencier m'expliquer que ce qui distinguait la civilisation européenne des autres était un sens critique qui pousse les esprits à toujours remettre tout en question. C'est peut-être ce trait qui a amené certaines personnes à penser que les Européens vous critiquaient souvent. Mais vous les connaissez trop bien pour savoir que, s'il en était ainsi, cela n'enlevait en rien l'estime qu'ils vous portaient.

Les pays européens ont loyalement coopéré avec vous, toutes ces années, dans le cadre de la FAO, par leurs contributions et leurs expertises. De votre côté, vous avez pu aussi quelquefois les aider. Et je ne citerai que deux exemples récents :

Tout d'abord, c'est grâce à votre intervention que les négociations entre la FAO et la Communauté européenne ont pu aboutir. Moins de deux ans après l'admission d'une organisation membre, la collaboration porte déjà ses fruits et l'avenir s'annonce prometteur.

L'autre exemple est le renforcement du Bureau régional européen qui doit permettre une assistance plus efficace de la FAO aux pays en transition de l'Europe centrale et orientale.

Mais je voudrais terminer en disant que votre livre m'a beaucoup intéressé; j'y ai beaucoup appris sur votre action et sur la FAO. Je partage votre vision humaniste sur le rôle de la FAO qui doit toujours être au service de l'homme et sur le fait que les efforts à entreprendre ne doivent pas seulement servir à ce que l'homme ait plus mais aussi qu'il "soit plus".

J'ai souligné dans votre livre une dernière phrase que nous devrions toujours avoir en mémoire et même peut-être méditer: "Les vrais progrès de l'humanité sont les progrès de la conscience humaine".

Au nom du groupe européen, je vous dis merci, Monsieur Saouma, et je vous adresse tous nos bons vœux ainsi qu'à votre épouse pour les années à venir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil): Mr Chairman, it is indeed with great satisfaction that my delegation takes the floor on behalf on the Latin America and Caribbean Region to join previous speakers in paying tribute to Dr Edouard Saouma on this historic occasion.

Edouard Saouma has dedicated 30 years of his life to FAO, of which 18 as its Director-General. Through all these years he has tackled with courage and determination the various types of difficulties that have threatened the Organization, as well as the challenges faced by FAO in view of the dramatic changes in the world scene.

While deeply committed to FAO's major tasks of fighting hunger and underdevelopment, the Director-General's actions have always been characterized by his humanistic posture and personal dynamism.

The implementation of the Director-General's ideas on decentralization has led to better understanding and increased coordination between Member States and the Headquarters of the Organization.

One of the main achievements of Edouard Saouma as Director-General of FAO is no doubt the consolidation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. His firm determination to surmount criticism and reserves with regard to the TCP have helped consolidate the programme as a major component of FAO's

action in the field, which is of course of great interest to all developing countries.

The development of the Global Information and Early Warning System undertaken by the Saouma administration is of crucial importance to the identification of monetary and emergency situations of food shortage.

I would also like to recall Dr Saouma's role in the preparation of two major meetings which constituted landmarks in the recent history of this Organization - the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 1979 and the International Conference on Nutrition held last year. The Declarations and Plans of Action adopted by these two conferences will for years to come continue to offer useful guidelines for the improvement of agriculture and for the struggle against poverty and hunger.

Dr Saouma also displayed great energy in the establishment of the World Food Day, which every year reminds the international community of the agricultural and rural problems that affect millions of peasants around the world.

Sir, the inventory of all fruitful achievements of our outgoing Director-General is long and illustrious. The countries from the Latin American and Caribbean Region were therefore happy to have lent their support to the proposal put forward by the General Committee that the Conference adopt the Resolution on the establishment of an Edouard Saouma award for presentation to the national or regional institution which has implemented with particular efficiency a project funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme.

I conclude by saying that we are extremely happy to have heard today from Dr Saouma himself that the end of his tenure as Director-General does not mean his retirement from public service. May I join others in wishing him lots of personal happiness and the same degree of success in his future endeavours. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the nine Southwest Member Nations of the Pacific. Those countries are Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, The Cook Islands, The Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Zealand and Australia.

Our regional grouping is unique in that the countries who comprise it are both developed and developing. It also includes some of the smallest members of FAO. We have therefore been able to observe the operations of FAO over the years from more than one position.

In Director-General Edouard Saouma, we have observed an outstanding leader and fighter for the means to address the needs of the developing world. We have admired your strength and tenacity and your efforts to alleviate the suffering of the poor and hungry.

Your period of leadership has spanned an incredible eighteen years, around 40 percent of the life of the Organization, because of the length of this

period there would not be a large number amongst us who would have been here when you first took up your position. We are therefore fortunate in having available to us your recent book covering FAO's operations over the past 18 years. We will read it with interest. It will join the growing list of publications which form the history of FAO. Its title is an apt one -"FAO in the front line of development". You as leader of this Organization have certainly taken that position.

You have led one of the major specialized agencies of the UN system with distinction and have earned a place not only in the history of the Organization, but in the history of mankind. Your period of office will be remembered for many years to come. You are truly a remarkable man.

We therefore take great pleasure in endorsing the resolution expressing gratitude for your service and proposing the establishment of an Edouard Saouma award.

We salute you Sir, and our best wishes for the future go with you and your wife.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Permítame Señor Presidente, unas muy breves palabras. A los miembros del Comité General en este veintisiete período de sesiones de esta cumbre de la agricultura mundial, les fue fácil la ambar a la idea de efectuar una especial y sencilla ceremonia dentro de la agenda de trabajo de esta Conferencia que exprese el reconocimiento a la ejecutoria y personalidad del Dr. Edouard Saouma al término de su función como Director General de la FAO.

En este análisis de Comité General, primó la unanimidad, y sólo existió como preocupación que la ceremonia fuera todo lo amplia que admitiera el factor tiempo y de una manera representativa se expresaran los países, tanto desarrollados como en desarrollo, agrupándose y haciéndose presente voz y expresión de todas la delegaciones aquí reunidas. Y de esta forma se hacía valedero destacar una vida y una trayectoria.

Edouard Saouma, desde temprana edad, mediante estudios y títulos, acumuló un brillante expediente académico. En la FAO, desde su base, a través de capacidad y méritos personales, se le fueron asignando responsabilidades hasta que, de forma evidente y con respaldo democrático, fue elegido Director General de la FAO por tres mandatos consecutivos, desde 1975. Dieciocho años como conductor, organizador y guía de esta importante Organización, destacándose su gestión y esfuerzo para que los países más pobres pudieran garantizar su seguridad alimentaria, sus adecuados niveles nutricionales y su desarrollo, dejando con su trabajo una estela de esperanza, en que la eliminación del hambre no sea una utopía.

Ni el tiempo ni la intención me permiten realizar un panegírico sobre la personalidad del Dr. Saouma, como tampoco me deja margen para extenderme en lo que para el Dr. Saouma constituye un complemento muy importante de su vida personal. Me refiero, sin lugar a dudas, a su estimada esposa, Inés. Pero sí, dentro de este marco, bajo la óptica de un hombre del Tercer Mundo en general, y en particular, como expresión del sentimiento que experimento

como representante de América Latina y el Caribe, no quisiéramos dejar de destacar un rasgo sobresaliente en la personalidad de Saouma. Se trata de su recia voluntad, en la que primó siempre los principios, no doblegándose a presiones, por poderosas que fueran, prefiriendo siempre para situar su conducta, no en qué lugar se vive mejor, si no en qué lugar está el deber; posición que le ganó amigos y opositores, pues la unanimidad no existe cuando se vive con pasión. Como también estamos seguros de que la etapa que termina será parte de una historia a la que aún le faltan muchas páginas por escribir.

Tal como observamos todos el pasado día 8, el relevo está garantizado. Fuimos testigos de cómo, de manera ejemplar y democrática, la Dirección de la FAO pasó de la mano de Edouard Saouma a la de Jacques Diouf. Ambas manos, fuertes y firmes; ambas, con el calor de sus pueblos en sus corazones; ambas, con el conocimiento de la urgentes necesidades que caracterizan a un mundo complejo, que hoy todos compartimos, dentro de sus conocidas desigualdades.

Se aproxima el medio siglo de existencia de la FAO y, lejos de apagarse su acción multiplicadora, sus nuevos retos se reflejarán en continuar el fortalecimiento de una FAO cada vez más fuerte y representativa, bajo el principio multilateral; en fin, catalizador y centro de su especialización dentro del Sistema de la Naciones Unidas.

Para finalizar, permítame, señor Presidente, hacerlo con una imagen, una evoción poética, en medio de tanta prosa, que recoja el sentimiento que hoy experimentamos en esta ceremonia. Tal vez, el amigo Saouma no ha conocido estos versos, que he seleccionado del extenso repertorio poético del héroe nacional de Cuba, el universal José Martí, que aunó a su valor su condición de escritor y exquisito poeta. Pero, aun quizás sin conocerlo, Saouma practicó lo dicho por Martí en estos cortos versos sencillos y que, en lo personal, nos deja su recuerdo, que reafirmaba cuando, desde nuestro puesto, lo veíamos y escuchábamos en su brillante y emotiva exposición en la mañana de hoy. Decía Martí: "Con los pobres de la tierra/quiero yo mi suerte echar, arte soy entre las artes y en el monte, monte soy".

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mrs Souad ABDALLAH (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Thank you Sir. Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies the Directors, fellow colleagues, staff members of FAO.

I did not prepare a written text. However, I wanted to speak briefly from the heart to a brother whom we loved, whom we respected and whom we have come to know very well - my big brother Saouma.

I indeed felt very proud while listening to the sincere, eloquent and just words which have been voiced by the previous speakers praising your person. This is not something new to you; it is not new for you to find that there is unanimous appreciation and praise to you from all over the world, from different political systems and geographic areas, from donor and beneficiary countries. It is your pride and ours, we the peoples of your region. This is not an exaggeration. You are the son of our region, the son of the Arab civilization, the son of time-honoured civilization,

civilizations from times immemorial. You are well aware that in Syria no praise can do you justice.

Allow me here to single out your devotion on behalf of rural women and your continuous efforts to integrate her into development. We hope that this course you have chartered will be further developed by your distinguished successor because women are the lifeline of humanity; she is the mother, she is the wife, she is the daughter. Without her, no viable life can prevail on earth.

My brother I am also proud because as an Arab person you have conducted and commanded this ship in troubled waters with sincerity and devotion. You have given the whole world a honourable image of what an Arab man can do in the service of international interest. Thank you. I thank your most esteemed wife.

Hoping that Mr Diouf will continue your mission and with all due respect.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ivan MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia) : En la presente Conferencia, llega a su punto final una época de la FAO. Terminan dieciocho años de gobierno de Edouard Saouma. El balance de esta época en una perspectiva histórica sólo se conocerá con el tiempo; en general, sólo el transcurrir de los años dirá cuál es la calificación de las generaciones contemporáneas frente a la historia, en cuanto enriquecimos la existencia humana y abrimos un mejor porvenir para la especie y en cuanto envilecimos el mundo y el panorama de los hombres. El tiempo lo dirá.

De una cosa estamos seguros: la FAO ha llenado páginas notables y nobles en estos tiempos y, con ella, Edouard Saouma. Desde cerca de los acontecimientos dentro de los cuales hemos estado comprometidos, nos atrevemos a intentar algunas interpretaciones acerca de lo que ha caracterizado esta época de la FAO que culmina. No obstante las experiencias de las guerras y de las miserias que padeció la humanidad en el Siglo XX, la inteligencia y el espíritu de los hombres no se lograron comprometer con los principios de la solidaridad, de la justicia y del bienestar. Debemos reconocer que el desenfreno por el poder, por la supremacía, por la riqueza material, continúan gobernando al mundo y generan una fuerza impresionante, pero contradictoria, que trae progreso para unos, pero también miseria para muchos y destrucción del planeta.

A Edouard Saouma no le correspondió, en tales circunstancias, un escenario favorable. Es difícil convocar y atraer la voluntad de la cooperación para el desarrollo cuando la atención del mundo está centrada en otras cosas y la visión de los hombres está obnubilada por la pasión y la competencia del poder y el afán de supremacía. En ese contexto analizamos la labor y las conductas de Saouma, una especie de Quijote peleando por llamar la atención del mundo hacia los problemas del hambre y la desnutrición, que arrasan a centenares de millones de vidas cuando la capacidad constructiva de la naciones se desperdicia en armamentismo, en tensiones hemisféricas dentro del juego del poder, en guerras y en el despilfarro del consumismo y el derroche de recursos y energías.

Se necesitaba una gran dosis de idealismo y unas convicciones profundas, enraizadas en la solidaridad y el deseo de justicia, devoción por la vida humana, por el humanismo como concepto más profundo, para tener a la FAO en un primer plano de importancia en el mundo. Saouma le dio esas virtudes y le agregó una dosis memorable de inteligencia, de profesionalismo y de disciplina férrea, para ver que se acatara la Institución, que se la tuviera en cuenta, que se avanzara y que ella pudiera jugar un papel trascendente, que hiciera más repetables estos tiempos en los que nos correspondió vivir.

En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, lo felicito, señor Saouma, por su labor en la Dirección General y le agradezco lo que hizo por nuestro país. Fue usted siempre un caballero con nosotros y además un amigo. Se lo agradecemos. Usted también debe contar con nuestra amistad, con nuestra admiración y con nuestro aprecio. Le deseamos éxitos en su porvenir, en el que hay varias cosechas aún por recoger.

En estos dieciocho años de Edouard Saouma en la FAO, los colombianos hemos sentido un particular orgullo, que no podríamos ocultar hoy. Al lado suyo, sin falta, en sus días y en sus noches, en sus triunfos y en sus derrotas y, claro está, siempre en sus esperanzas y en sus ilusiones, ha estado una importante mujer, que es colombiana, compatriota nuestra, ilustre mujer que nos da brillo y que nos enaltece. Inés Forero de Saouma, colombiana, ocupa también un lugar preeminente en esta época de la historia de la Organización. Ella sabe que ha contado siempre con la solidaridad de su pueblo y también con la gratitud de sus compatriotas, porque ha exaltado ante el mundo las virtudes de nuestra gente y en particular de nuestras mujeres. Hago expresa hoy aquí, en este día solemne, en nombre del Gobierno y de todos los colombianos, esa gratitud y ese reconocimiento a ella.

A don Edouard, a doña Inés, a sus hijos y a sus nietos, los espera siempre su patria colombiana. Queremos que estén muchas veces y por largas temporadas a nuestro lado, y sin falta los llevaremos en nuestros corazones.

Applause

APPlaudissements

Aplausos

Youssouph BARO (Sénégál): Le Sénégal, par ma voix, est heureux de se joindre à toutes les délégations qui l'ont précédé pour exalter les mérites exceptionnels de M. Edouard Saouma. Ses qualités, tant professionnelles qu'humaines, ont largement été soulignées ici, de même que sa contribution remarquable au développement de l'agriculture mondiale.

Pour ma part, je voudrais particulièrement mentionner l'attention qu'il a toujours accordée aux problèmes de l'Afrique, notamment dans le domaine si vital pour elle de la sécurité alimentaire. A cet égard, le travail accompli par l'Organisation sous sa direction a beaucoup contribué à l'élaboration du volet agricole du Plan d'action de Lagos adopté par l'OUA en 1980. L'Afrique lui doit aussi une reconnaissance éternelle pour le programme spécial en sa faveur qu'il a constamment soutenu.

Quant à mon pays, le Sénégal, il n'a cessé de bénéficier de la part de l'Organisation, durant sa gestion, de toute l'attention à laquelle il était en droit de s'attendre. Du reste, M. Saouma a toujours entretenu

d'excellentes relations avec les plus hautes autorités du Sénégal, notamment avec son Président.

Un de ses nombreux mérites, qu'il me plaît de souligner ici tout particulièrement, est la dimension humaine qu'il s'est évertué à conférer au développement de l'agriculture, notamment dans les pays en développement, à travers une collaboration soutenue avec les organisations non gouvernementales. Du reste, les documents de la Conférence illustrent ici l'action de la FAO au Sénégal, avec notamment la Fédération des ONG du Sénégal.

Je suis persuadé que ses successeurs, en particulier le tout nouveau Directeur général, le Dr Jacques Diouf, trouveront en lui un conseiller privilégié.

C'est aussi l'occasion pour moi de lui adresser un autre hommage pour la courtoisie dont il a toujours fait preuve à l'égard du candidat sénégalais avant son élection.

Je voudrais terminer en souhaitant à Monsieur Saouma ainsi qu'à sa famille beaucoup de bonheur dans sa retraite dont il y a fort à parier qu'elle sera active et toujours, d'une manière ou d'une autre, au service de la grande cause qu'il a défendue depuis une trentaine d'années au service du développement de la paix et du progrès dans le monde.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Au nom du Gouvernement français et en mon nom propre, j'ai tenu à prendre la parole à cette cérémonie malgré son caractère très organisé. En effet, les autorités françaises sont pleinement conscientes du fait, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, que vous avez pleinement honoré la confiance que mon pays a toujours placée en vous grâce aux élections que vous avez brillamment gagnées années précédentes. C'est à un triple titre, Monsieur le Directeur général, que nous tenons à vous remercier.

Tout d'abord parce que vous avez été un remarquable Directeur général de notre Organisation. En effet, pour reprendre l'image qui a été utilisée ici, vous avez été un commandant de navire particulièrement efficace avec l'autorité nécessaire dans une mer périlleuse. Vous avez su conduire le navire de la FAO sans qu'il périclète alors qu'il avait été miné par des circonstances budgétaires particulièrement difficiles. Pour reprendre une allusion faite tout à l'heure, un navire ne peut atteindre un port que s'il ne coule pas avant. Et là, vous avez parfaitement bien réussi.

Ensuite, Monsieur le Directeur général, parce que vous avez toujours eu à coeur de maintenir l'attention du monde entier réuni dans neuf conférences successives que vous avez préparées, réuni dans les journées mondiales de l'alimentation, dans les multiples conférences spécialisées comme celles sur la nutrition, sur les problèmes de la faim et des efforts à faire pour y faire face. Vous avez su donner à l'Organisation le rayonnement nécessaire. Vous avez su également monter des dispositifs d'alerte rapide, des opérations spéciales de lutte contre les ravageurs, et faire avancer le droit international technique à travers les différents codes de conduite

qu'étudie notre Organisation. Vous avez en outre donné un contenu concret à nos réflexions à travers les programmes de coopération technique, contribuant ainsi à la lutte contre la faim, la pauvreté et le sous-développement .

Enfin, et pour nous c'est particulièrement important, vos qualités personnelles, votre personnalité ont eu constamment un accueil favorable en France, tant au niveau des personnalités du monde politique qui ont eu l'occasion de vous rencontrer, que de tous les agents français qui travaillent dans cette Organisation. Monsieur le Directeur général, nous pensons que ceci est lié à vos origines qui sont celles du Liban, celles d'une zone d'où ressortent beaucoup d'éléments de notre civilisation, le Moyen-Orient, et aussi parce que vous êtes francophone; ceci nous a toujours touché.

Vous ne pouvez que rencontrer pour l'avenir aussi l'amitié de nombreux dirigeants de mon pays qui avaient été heureux de vous témoigner leur amitié à Paris, à Rome, ou ailleurs. Ils auront à coeur, je la sais déjà, de vous honorer bientôt d'une manière toute particulière à travers des cérémonies qui seront organisées en votre honneur en France.

Je tiens à vous adresser mes meilleurs vœux quant à vos activités futures et tous mes souhaits de bonheur pour votre famille et tous ceux qui vous sont proches. Une nouvelle fois, de tout coeur, merci.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Miss TING WEN LIAN (Malaysia): I realized that by the time it was my turn to speak I may be repeating what others have said because most of Dr Saouma's qualities are universally recognized.

However, I hope I still have something original to contribute to this auspicious and momentous occasion. My delegation is delighted to have this opportunity to join others in paying tribute to His Excellence, Mr Edouard Saouma. No-one can say that Edouard Saouma is indecisive, lacklustre or diffident. Indeed, the man who is the important item on our agenda this morning is a man of action. He is decisive and fearless in all his endeavours. There is certainly no doubt that he has the courage of his convictions. In his three decades with the FAO and almost two as the Director-General, Mr Saouma has weathered many a storm, and it is indeed a credit to him that he has survived unscathed and guided FAO out of troubled waters. That FAO is still able to carry out its work mandate in spite of obvious constraints is a true testimony to the true grit of Mr Saouma. I have chosen an American expression, "true grit". Political and economic realities constantly remind many of us that we belong to the south, to the group of developing countries in the Third World. If I remember correctly, it was a Frenchman who coined this term of "tiers monde". Although we have not paused often enough to wonder about the inhabitants of the second world or, for that matter, the first world, here I share the sentiment just expressed by the Director-General that there should be just one world. However, for the present reality it is clear that Mr Saouma comes from the Third World, and it has been a source of gratification to us that he was not deaf to the voice of the Third World. This was very important because the FAO holds the key to two basic items of great significance to

developing countries, namely food and agriculture. During the stewardship of Mr Saouma, the security and viability of these basic concerns were foremost on his agenda.

I also wish to note that we had the benefit of Mr Saouma's wisdom as we ushered in the era of sustainability after Rio. Mr Saouma more than anyone else would realize that sustainability is, in fact, a luxury that the poor cannot afford. Yet, if we all fail to make a joint effort to utilize our natural resources in a sustainable manner, we would have failed in our duty to future generations. With the leadership of Mr Saouma, the FAO has made a valiant start in the direction of sustainability, and we are heartened that those efforts took into account the difficulties of the developing countries in incorporating the environmental element without the benefit of international cooperation.

I am also happy to add that Mr Saouma also satisfies my personal conviction that one should not seek popularity for its own sake. It is of course easier to be popular than unpopular. Mr Saouma always had the courage to pursue unpopular causes and was guided by what he saw as right. I am convinced that Mr Saouma's long and meritorious leadership of the FAO will leave an indelible imprint on the Organization. His presence, I am sure, will be felt in the FAO long after his departure. I am of course not suggesting by this that Mr Saouma may haunt us all. Indeed, his strong persona will live on in our reflections.

If you will allow me, I wish to end on a somewhat philosophical note. The vagaries of the weather and the unrelenting fury of natural calamities inflict hardships on us. However, they pass, and our memories grow dim. But it is man's inhumanity to man which inflicts the greatest suffering, and this remains and has no end, as evidenced by events around us today. Man is indeed the most endangered species, a victim of his own environment and his own kind. In this respect, Edouard Saouma can stand up and be counted among those who have tried to uplift this endangered species from the misery of its inhumane existence. This deserves our applause. Malaysia wishes Mr Saouma continued success in the future.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I believe the delegates will agree with me that the distinguished Ambassador of Malaysia will bring a new dimension to the rounds of tribute that have been paid this morning. It is a very beautiful tribute. Thank you very much, Madame.

HUANG YONGNING (China) (Original language Chinese): At the current 27th Session of the FAO Conference, the Chinese delegation, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, with a feeling of reluctance, wishes to make a farewell statement to the outgoing Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma. The Chinese delegation has noted with appreciation that since 1962 Mr Saouma has never swerved from his tireless efforts in the development of world food and agriculture. Particularly since he took up the important post as Director-General of FAO in 1976, he has introduced effective reforms in the Organization. With his initiative, the Technical Cooperation Programme was launched to provide technical assistance for

small-scale and rapid projects in developing countries. Although the amount of resources for these projects is limited, they are of short duration and can generate fast effects, helping developing countries to timely tackle their technical problems, thus producing a sound impact. Mr Edouard Saouma accorded a high priority to decentralization by setting up FAO country representations in developing countries so as to put emphasis on FAO activities at the national level, which has played a commendable role in bringing closer the relationship of FAO and Member Nations and in providing better service to the Member Nations. Furthermore, during his term of office Mr -Edouard Saouma organized a number of global activities such as formulating the World Food Security Compact, expanding emergency food assistance and the emergency action to wipe out the desert locust, etc. He also organized and convened WACCARD, which was of historical significance.

Mr Edouard Saouma is a long-standing friend of the Chinese people. During his tenure as Director-General of FAO, he visited China four times: in 1976, 1982, 1987 and 1990. He was cordially received by Chinese State leaders each time. China is one of the founding members of FAO. Since its seat was restored in FAO in April 1973, China has maintained a close, friendly relationship of cooperation with FAO. FAO established its representation in China in 1982. From 1978 onwards, China began to receive FAO's technical assistance. So far, FAO has implemented over ninety agricultural projects in our country, mainly including forestry, aquatic production, agricultural statistics, conservation of vegetables and fruits, quality control of seeds, processing of agricultural products, farm machinery, agricultural remote sensing and extension of agricultural technology, etc. These projects have generally produced fairly good results, and some of them have even filled technical gaps in our country. For instance, it is through FAO's technical assistance that China gradually developed its remote sensing techniques in agriculture and forestry. With his wisdom, intelligence and enthusiasm for work, the Chinese delegation believes Mr Saouma has made important contributions towards thoroughly eradicating poverty and hunger in developing countries. In this connection, the Chinese delegation would like to express its gratitude to him for the efforts he exerted over the past decades, particularly for his contributions to the development of Chinese agriculture. It is our hope that after leaving FAO he will continue to be concerned with the enhancement of agriculture in developing countries, and we will welcome him to revisit China at any time convenient to him. The Chinese delegation and the Government of China will, as ever, be ready to welcome him to revisit China. We wish Mr Edouard Saouma and his wife continued success, good health and a long life.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Chadli LAROUSSI (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): Aujourd'hui, alors que nous honorons Monsieur Saouma après 18 ans d'éminents services à la tête de la FAO, j'éprouve des sentiments partagés entre l'émotion, la fierté et l'espoir. En effet, comment ne pas être ému à l'heure de prendre congé d'un grand ami qui quitte une organisation à laquelle il a consacré la moitié de sa vie, lui donnant le meilleur de lui-même et les meilleures années de sa jeunesse au service de l'humanité tout entière, faisant siennes les valeurs et les principes les plus nobles de tous les messagers du ciel qui nous appellent à faire ceci: "Aime ton prochain et souhaite-lui ce que tu

souhaitez à toi-même"? Il a voué ainsi sa vie à un combat-incessant contre la faim et la pauvreté sur toute la planète.

De même, comment ne pas être fier quand on a eu la chance de côtoyer un homme qui est rentré dans l'Histoire, et nous vivons un moment important de l'Histoire. Il est rentré dans l'Histoire pour ce qu'il a su apporter aux agriculteurs et aux plus misérables d'entre eux, par un soutien constant grâce à un travail inlassable, fait parfois avec fougue mais toujours avec cœur, ayant pour objectif constant la suprématie des valeurs d'équité et de solidarité entre les peuples - et, en fin de compte, entre les hommes -sur les instincts d'égoïsme exacerbé, d'hégémonie, pour ne pas dire de loi de la jungle.

Et comment ne pas être bercé par l'espoir en voyant aujourd'hui Edouard Saouma, qui a vu naître notre Organisation sur les décombres d'un monde détruit par la plus meurtrière des guerres, qui a vu dans cette Organisation une vraie lueur d'espoir pour une nouvelle solidarité internationale et l'avènement d'un monde meilleur, alors qu'il n'avait que 18 ans et quelques mois - âge de la fougue et de la jeunesse? Et lorsque, 18 ans plus tard, il se joint à cette organisation qui avait alors 18 ans d'existence, tiraillée qu'elle était entre les errements de l'adolescence et les ambitions de la jeunesse, on a vu cet homme embrasser - je dirais étreindre - cette Organisation pour s'y engager corps et âme, gravir tous les échelons jusqu'au sommet et la diriger 18 ans durant avec détermination, expérience et une immense foi.

Comment alors ne pas être bercé d'espérance après ces cycles successifs de 18 ans quand nous voyons Edouard Saouma nous exposer, dans sa dernière allocution, les perspectives encourageantes de l'agriculture pour l'an 2010, nous faisant ainsi entrer de plain pied dans un nouveau cycle de 18 ans dont nous souhaitons de tout cœur qu'il laisse un rayonnement dans l'histoire de l'humanité et qu'il apporte le bonheur dans la vie de notre Organisation?

Je ne m'étendrai pas davantage. Je vais simplement m'adresser à la famille d'Edouard Saouma en lui souhaitant mes vœux de bonheur et de santé, particulièrement à Madame Inès Saouma dont nous reconnaissons le rôle éminent rappelé par Monsieur Edouard Saouma lui-même. Nous leur souhaitons un retour heureux dans leur patrie, le Liban, ce pays qui est au cœur de la Méditerranée et qui a su sauvegarder l'authenticité des cultures qui s'y sont succédé, enrichissant la civilisation humaine siècle après siècle. Nous sommes convaincus qu'Edouard Saouma, sur sa terre généreuse et dans les nouvelles tâches qu'il ne manquera pas d'assumer, continuera avec la même foi, le même enthousiasme, à semer les fleurs de l'espoir dans la conscience universelle; et je fais miennes ici les propres paroles du dernier livre d'Edouard Saouma (dont je souhaite que certains d'entre nous le lisent), lorsqu'il dit "Les vrais progrès de l'humanité se mesurent au progrès de la conscience humaine".

A cette conscience humaine nous disons aujourd'hui - dans cette enceinte internationale - rendez-vous en l'an 2010. J'espère que nous nous retrouverons tous en pleine santé dans un monde plus prospère.

Je voudrais ajouter un dernier mot, Monsieur Saouma, pour vous donner rendez-vous en l'an 2010, dans ce monde meilleur auquel vous avez voué votre vie et, en parodiant un célèbre vers d'un grand classique français, que je dédierai dans sa version originale à votre éminent successeur, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, à qui vous allez transmettre non seulement le

flambeau mais la flamme. A vous, je dirai M. Saouma: "Aux âmes bien nées, la valeur ne peut être entamée par le nombre des années."

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Shri Vishnu BHAGWAN (India) : Thank you, Mr Chairman. Sir, on behalf of my delegation, I have the honour to place on record the deep appreciation to Dr Edouard Saouma for the role he has played at the head of the FAO and before. We are proud, Sir, that he started his FAO career in New Delhi and collaborated closely with his predecessor Dr B.R. Sen in making FAO an action-oriented agency in the cause of reducing poverty and hunger. He has shown great commitment to the Third World by instituting the TCP and the system of FAO Representations, which has made FAO's presence felt in the developing countries and has enabled FAO to provide catalytic assistance in a responsive manner.

We hope his lofty ideals will be maintained and that TCP will live as a fitting tribute to a man for his outstanding leadership and qualities. Mr Chairman, we recognize him as a man of courage and of strong convictions, who has kept FAO independent. He has had a glorious innings and scored many points in the face of severe difficulties.

In India and in the Third World we will remember him always for standing beside the voiceless and the poor people, seeking to maintain their dignity and help them become self-reliant against all odds.

Before I conclude, Mr Chairman, I wish to convey our best wishes to him for even greater successes and happiness in his future life. Thank you, Sir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Marínela R. CASTILLO (Philippines) : It is a privilege and a pleasure for the Philippine delegation to join the membership of this Organization in paying tribute to Director-General Edouard Saouma as he passes on the mantle of leadership to his successor, Ambassador Diouf. Under Mr Saouma's dynamic, imaginative, and determined leadership, FAO has indeed assumed a prominent and unique role in the forefront of international agricultural and rural development. His enlightened and intimate understanding of the plight of developing countries was, in our view, a distinct mark of his leadership, and it was this understanding which guided and informed FAO's programme of action throughout the past two decades.

We commend him and will remember him for the integrity, relentless determination, courage of conviction, and independence of mind with which he steered this Organization through difficult times and daunting challenges. On a personal note, his sense of humour, lively imagination and forthrightness was also a source of joy to us in our personal contacts with him. We thank him deeply for having given the best years of his life to this Organization and to our shared vision of a world without hunger and strife.

Much has been said here about the many contributions of Dr Saouma, to the collective effort to achieve world food security and sustainable development and a more dignified life for the disadvantaged people of the world. I will not repeat these accolades here but only wish to say that these outstanding contributions indeed attest to Dr Saouma's distinguished record as an international public servant, a record which we have long admired and respected. We are sorry to see him go. We wish him well. We wish Mrs Saouma and their family well, and we wish him the best as he turns to new and equally challenging tasks in his homeland.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Jagan Nath THAPLIYA (Nepal) : My delegation would like to thank Mr Edouard Saouma for his outstanding contribution in setting up FAO in its present level of excellence. Mr Saouma, your reason, wisdom and hard work have contributed to make FAO an effective international specialized body to the cause of serving mankind at large and the farming communities in particular across the continents. Nations, especially the developing ones, have been most benefited from FAO through various project interventions and technical assistance.

Both the Headquarters and local offices of FAO are looked upon with very high esteem in my country. The FAO is seen as an effective intervention in our agricultural and development process.

Nepal wishes you and your wife good health, happiness and every success in these coming years. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Aldo PUGLIESE (Italie): En qualité de représentant du pays hôte de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, c'est pour moi un grand plaisir en cette occasion solennelle de rendre le plus chaleureux hommage au Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, qui s'apprête à quitter la direction de l'Organisation que, pendant tant d'années, il a dirigée avec enthousiasme, dévouement et d'extraordinaires capacités personnelles et professionnelles.

Il est difficile, en peu de mots, d'exprimer ce que M. Saouma a signifié pour la vie de la FAO. Mais je pense que le meilleur tribut que l'on puisse rendre à son oeuvre est la constatation que, guidée par lui, l'Organisation a connu un développement et une extension de ses activités sans précédent, en se plaçant sans doute non seulement comme la plus importante agence du système des Nations Unies mais comme le principal point de référence et de guide pour toute l'action internationale pour faire face aux problèmes urgents des pays en voie de développement et promouvoir la lutte globale contre la plaie de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde. Il est certain que le nom de Saouma reste indissolublement lié au nom de la FAO, dont pendant tant d'années il a été le symbole, et je pense que même dans

les années à venir on ne pourra pas parler de cette Organisation sans évoquer son nom.

Au nom du pays qui accueille la FAO, j'ai le devoir d'exprimer à M. Saouma un remerciement particulier pour la sympathie qu'il a manifestée pour l'Italie et qu'il vient de confirmer dans son discours et pour les excellents rapports qu'il a toujours voulu entretenir avec nous et qui ont sans doute constitué la base la plus solide pour une fructueuse et constructive collaboration.

C'est donc pour moi la raison d'un immense plaisir et honneur aujourd'hui, en cette occasion solennelle et devant cette auguste Assemblée, d'annoncer que, en reconnaissance de ses hauts mérites et de l'esprit de total dévouement avec lequel il a dirigé pendant dix-huit ans cette Organisation, le Président de la République, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, a voulu donner à M. Edouard Saouma la plus haute et prestigieuse décoration au mérite de la République italienne, celle de "Cavaliere di Gran Croce" - (Chevalier de Grand-croix)...

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

... qui lui sera remise par un membre du Gouvernement au cours d'une cérémonie officielle dans les prochains jours.

Je voudrais conclure en exprimant mon regret personnel en voyant M. Saouma quitter sa charge. Bien qu'il se soit passé un temps très court depuis ma nomination à la FAO, j'ai eu le privilège d'entretenir avec lui les plus cordiaux rapports et d'en apprécier les qualités professionnelles et humaines, et je désire lui souhaiter un heureux et prospère futur.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ambassador Pugliese. Of course we take special note of your announcement of the national award that your country will be giving to Dr Saouma.

Before I call upon the Minister for Agriculture of Lebanon, I would just like to give the floor to the delegate of Niger.

Soumaila ISSAKA (Niger): Monsieur le Directeur général, j'associe ma voix aux propos tenus par M. l'Ambassadeur du Nicaragua en sa qualité de Président du Groupe des 77, et par M. l'Ambassadeur du Ghana en sa qualité de représentant du Groupe africain. Mais je n'ai pas résisté à la tentation de prendre la parole et d'apporter une note personnelle à cet hommage en raison notamment des félicitations que mon gouvernement souhaite adresser à M. le Dr Saouma.

Une de mes premières fonctions de diplomate au Ministère des affaires étrangères de mon pays fut de m'occuper des dossiers des Institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies.

Au fur et à mesure que je me suis familiarisé avec ces dossiers, je me suis rendu compte assez rapidement de plusieurs choses.

La première est la grande importance de la mission et des objectifs de la FAO en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture, importance considérable à mes yeux compte tenu du contexte de l'agriculture dans mon pays où cette activité constitue la base de l'économie et où elle est également un défi constant du fait de l'écologie sahélienne de mon pays. Donc, l'équilibre de cette activité est assez fragile.

Très vite, dans nos discussions de cadres, j'étais arrivé à l'idée que la FAO devait être singularisée par rapport aux autres institutions spécialisées, du fait justement de cette caractéristique de l'agriculture, de sa place dans l'économie de mon pays. Je me disais que la FAO devait être suivie de façon autonome pour une meilleure collaboration et pour tirer un meilleur parti de cette Organisation importante.

La dernière découverte que j'avais faite en m'occupant de ces dossiers, c'était le sentiment que nous avions au Niger du dynamisme du personnel et de la direction de la FAO, et en tout premier lieu de la compétence, du courage, de l'engagement de son Directeur général, le Dr Saouma.

Plus tard, le hasard de ma carrière m'a amené à Rome où j'ai eu à m'associer de façon plus directe aux activités de l'Organisation. Très vite, je me suis fait à l'idée que l'engagement de M. Saouma pour l'agriculture, notamment des pays du Sahel, n'était pas du tout une réputation ou une compétence usurpée, mais que c'était amplement mérité.

C'est pourquoi, je voudrais assez brièvement adresser nos félicitations au Dr Saouma pour l'engagement et l'intérêt qu'il a toujours accordés au concept de sécurité alimentaire qui est un problème essentiel pour les pays du Sahel dont fait partie le Niger, et auquel il a donné un contenu dynamique, actif, concret. Nous lui en sommes particulièrement reconnaissants.

Nous voudrions citer à titre d'exemple l'avancée qu'il a su apporter au système de prévision et d'alerte rapide qui, pour mon pays, encore une fois est considéré comme un acquis important en matière de planification et de mesures à prendre pour donner un contenu concret au concept de sécurité alimentaire.

Voilà, ce que nous avons souhaité dire en plus de tout ce qui vient d'être évoqué par les orateurs qui m'ont précédé. Nous vous souhaitons nos meilleurs vœux de succès et de bonheur, à vous et à votre épouse, dans vos activités futures et dans votre vie de tous les jours.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Adel N. CORTAS (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Peut-être serez-vous étonné, M. le Directeur général, si aujourd'hui je m'adresse à vous en vous

appelant par votre nom après vous avoir appelé pendant longtemps dans des contextes informels mon ami ou mon frère. Souvent, même dans des enceintes informelles et loin de tout protocole, je me suis adressé à vous en me référant à vos fonctions, car votre charisme imposait ce respect et cette considération que vous doit votre interlocuteur. C'est ainsi que l'on se doit de vous exprimer cette considération qui, d'ailleurs, vous est due par l'ensemble de l'Organisation. Et je crois que cette cérémonie, et ce que vous y avez dit, est tout à fait dans la ligne de ce que je souhaitais dire pour exprimer les sentiments de respect et de considération pour votre personne, -pour votre action et pour les nombreuses amitiés que vous avez suscitées. Vous avez su, aujourd'hui encore et comme d'habitude, faire cette superbe allocution avec les idées novatrices habituelles dans toutes vos interventions. Permettez-moi de m'arrêter aux expressions d'adieu pour dire que l'image de la FAO se confond à tel point avec la vôtre qu'il est bien difficile aujourd'hui de les dissocier.

Excusez-moi si aujourd'hui je parle le langage du coeur alors que je sais pertinemment que l'esprit et les méthodes de cette Organisation ne se prêtent guère au lyrisme ni aux grandes émotions. Mais nous autres orientaux, surtout du monde arabe, sommes nés ainsi et c'est là notre tempérament. Certains y verront une faiblesse, d'autres une qualité; mais quoi qu'il en soit, nous autres, nous préférons la passion et l'émotion et sa tendresse à la froideur et à la dureté.

J'ai laissé aux porte-paroles des Etats et des groupes régionaux le soin d'évoquer les réalisations que vous avez effectuées dans la conduite des affaires de cette Organisation pour évaluer les acquis réalisés au cours de vos trois mandats, les grands pas franchis par la FAO de 1976 à ce jour.

Quant à moi, je vais m'arrêter sur quelques têtes de chapitre parmi ces activités.

Parmi les qualités d'Edouard Saouma, la première qui s'impose à l'esprit est celle de l'harmonie et de la persévérance: l'harmonie entre sa conduite et ses principes, et sa persévérance qui a été au point que certains y ont vu le seul violon d'Ingres de M. Edouard Saouma. Le meilleur témoignage de ce que je dis est cette action inlassable au sein du Comité administratif de coordination de l'ensemble des Nations Unies. Dix-sept années durant, le Dr Edouard Saouma n'a jamais manqué une réunion de cet organe dont il est d'ailleurs le doyen. Il n'a jamais manqué d'apporter sa contribution à toutes les institutions internationales parce qu'il est convaincu de l'intérêt de la fonction internationale et parce qu'il est clairvoyant s'agissant du rôle de la FAO et de sa mission.

De plus, Edouard Saouma a de grandes qualités de leadership qui ont mené le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, M. Boutros Ghali, lors d'une cérémonie rendant hommage à M. Edouard Saouma au sein de la réunion du Comité administratif de coordination le 11 octobre dernier, à dire de lui qu'il avait marqué d'une empreinte indélébile l'action de la FAO qu'il a menée vers le développement, répondant ainsi aux aspirations et aux besoins des Etats Membres. Et tous les acquis de la FAO, notamment son efficacité, sont dûs au talent du Dr Saouma. J'avoue que je suis également parfaitement convaincu qu'il y a une autre qualité tout aussi importante de la personnalité de M. Edouard Saouma qui n'a pas été suffisamment mise en exergue, à savoir sa capacité à trouver des solutions aux problèmes les plus aigus. Car, grâce à sa clairvoyance, grâce à sa persévérance et tant que les solutions des problèmes n'enfreignent pas ses convictions et la

mission de 1 organisation dans son essence, il déploie ses talents d'habile négociateur pour trouver les solutions.

Quant à ses talents, ils se sont suffisamment exprimés dans ses capacités à trouver les solutions de compromis, les solutions de consensus qui ont pu être trouvées au sein de la FAO. Le Secrétaire général dit que les qualités de leadership de M. Saouma ont mené la FAO à réaliser rapidement sa mission en trouvant des solutions à des problèmes essentiels auxquels est confrontée l'Organisation des Nations Unies dans son ensemble. C'est cet engagement- qui a fait de M. Edouard Saouma un brillant avocat de la cause de la coopération internationale.

Evidemment, je ne vais pas citer tout ce qui a été dit par le Secrétaire général, tous les éloges et toutes les qualités de M. Edouard Saouma. Je dirai simplement que la FAO a su prémunir l'humanité contre les famines en Afrique. Elle a su être un apport précieux grâce à l'instauration du système d'information et d'alerte rapide.

Mon cher ami, je ne veux pas ici citer toute l'intervention du Secrétaire général. Je ne trouve pas de meilleure conclusion que celle trouvée par le Secrétaire général de l'ONU lorsqu'il a dit: "La sagesse de vos amis et votre expérience si riche et si unique nous manqueront, de même que nous manquera votre forte personnalité; et le Comité administratif de coordination ne sera plus jamais le même après votre départ".

Je vous souhaite le plus large succès dans vos tâches futures, tâches que vous allez certainement assumer dès le lendemain de votre départ. Je souhaite que la FAO continue, après votre départ, à être ce qu'elle a été sous votre conduite. Merci du plus profond du coeur, merci pour tout ce que tu as réalisé, merci pour les fondations que tu as su mettre en place et que nous espérons que votre successeur, le Directeur général Jacques Diouf, saura préserver.

C'est au Liban que revient l'honneur d'avoir engendré cet enfant prodige, Edouard Saouma. A tous ceux qui vous ont adressé leurs félicitations et qui vous ont rendu hommage, j'adresse mes remerciements, souhaitant à leur peuple la plus grande prospérité.

Mon cher frère, je te remercie pour ton retour à la mère patrie, qui t'attend avec impatience. Quant à ta disponibilité pour participer à l'oeuvre de construction, je n'en ai guère douté car il est de la vocation des bâtisseurs de construire et la force de caractère et la détermination qui te caractérisent font de toi le partenaire naturel dans la marche vers la reconstruction du Liban; je dirais même plus, le maître d'oeuvre sans lequel nul ouvrage ne peut être érigé.

Vive la FAO, et soyez le bienvenu au Liban.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, it is probably well fitting that the final tribute from delegations of Member Nations should come from the delegate of Lebanon, the country that gave birth to this most outstanding international public servant, Dr Saouma. We thank you Minister of Lebanon.

Despite the fact that many tributes have been paid, I do not believe that the morning would be complete if we did not provide an opportunity for those who have worked very very closely with Dr Saouma within the institution to pay their tributes to him.

I would like, before calling upon the President of the Association of Professional staff, to say that we have had a message from the delegation of Armenia expressing congratulations to Dr Saouma, and this message will be inserted in the verbatim records of this meeting.

Ashot VOSKANIAN (Armenia) : As a new Member of this honourable Organization the Republic of Armenia has the honour to congratulate Mr Edouard Saouma for his excellent and laudable contribution and achievements during the past thirty years in managing effectively and efficiently FAO's activities in the field of food and agriculture. His efforts and accomplishments are exemplary to those who strive for the alleviation of hunger, poverty and malnutrition.

Armenians have appreciated greatly the hospitality of Lebanon and its neighbouring countries given to displaced Armenians in the last seventy years. The Republic of Armenia takes pleasure in paying tribute to a man who is not only regarded as a model Lebanese citizen, but also to a leader who shall always be viewed as a pillar of the international community dedicated to global welfare and harmony.

The Government of Armenia commits itself towards achieving the same aims. We wish Mr Saouma, as well as his family, the best in his new endeavours.

M.A. ESPINAR (Presidente, Asociación de Personal): Permítanme estas breves palabras; en nombre de la Asociación de Personal Profesional (APS), tengo el honor y la satisfacción de dirigirle las palabras de despedida que todos y cada uno de los miembros de la Asociación desearía expresarles personalmente.

Durante los dieciocho años en que ha guiado la Organización, hemos podido apreciar su labor y su dedicación. Hemos apreciado su valentía en defensa del mandato e independencia de la organización y de los derechos de su personal, que Ud. mismo ha definido como su recurso más valioso. No mencionaré, porque lo han hecho los anteriores oradores, las nuevas oportunidades que nos ha dado a nosotros y a la FAO de cumplir nuestro mandato, pero mencionaré que, gracias en gran parte a su intervención, hemos conseguido mejoras en las condiciones de trabajo, que sin duda han mejorado la productividad; reducciones y mejoras de horarios, nuevas instalaciones, telefonía y computerización en los edificios, en los servicios auxiliares, etcétera.

Insistiré también en decir que hemos tenido en Ud., señor Director General, un decidido defensor de nuestros derechos en todos los foros internacionales, en asuntos que van desde la defensa de nuestras retribuciones, al derecho, al respeto de la imagen pública del personal internacional, pasando por su última intervención en Viena sobre los derechos humanos. Y también hemos contrastado puntos de vista y hemos trabajado juntos durante tanto tiempo, que es difícil enumerar todos los

1 Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

logros y esperanzas que así hemos acumulado. Por todo ello, señor Director General, quiero expresarle el tributo de reconocimiento del personal profesional de la Organización.

Por nuestro lado, los miembros de la Asociación de Personal (APS), no podemos olvidar que también despedimos al hombre que desde hace treinta años ha sido parte del personal de la Organización y, como tal, ha compartido trabajo, esperanzas e ilusiones con nosotros. A este título, permítame despedir también al compañero Edouard Saouma, que se jubila y que sin duda recordaremos, al que deseamos en esta nueva etapa de su vida mucha felicidad: a él, a su esposa, doña Inés de Saouma, y a toda su familia.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Margaret ELDON (Secrétaire générale, Union des Services généraux du personnel) : Au nom du personnel des Services généraux de la FAO, je suis ici pour me joindre à l'hommage rendu au Directeur général sortant qui nous quitte après plus de 30 ans consacrés à l'Organisation, dont 18 au poste de la plus haute responsabilité. Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour souligner l'héritage que Monsieur Saouma nous a transmis.

Et il nous a obligés à être clairs et précis dans nos arguments. Il nous a demandé d'agir avec dignité. Il nous a montré comment garder espoir et détermination quelles que soient les difficultés: et il a surtout insisté sur l'importance de l'esprit de corps pour atteindre nos objectifs.

Nous nous souviendrons de Monsieur Saouma comme défenseur énergique des conditions d'emploi du personnel. C'est grâce à ses efforts que le Comité administratif de coordination a fait une déclaration à l'Assemblée générale pour appeler son attention sur la nécessité de rétablir le pouvoir d'achat des administrateurs et fonctionnaires de rang supérieur sans réduire la rémunération des agents des services généraux. Il a souligné à maintes reprises qu'il fallait veiller à la qualité des services fournis par les institutions spécialisées et à leur capacité de recruter et de maintenir à leur service le personnel hautement qualifié et motivé dont elles ont besoin pour répondre de manière adéquate aux demandes des Etats Membres.

Il a clairement montré le paradoxe entre la réduction des coûts et les demandes croissantes d'aide au développement.

Monsieur Saouma a imposé un style de direction à la fois ferme, énergique et déterminé. Nous n'avons pas toujours été d'accord avec les décisions prises mais nous n'avons jamais souffert de l'indécision et nous avons toujours su à quoi nous en tenir.

Il a souvent rappelé au personnel qu'il croyait en l'effort de tous et à la nécessité de travailler en équipe. Il déclarait en janvier 1990: "Je ne me lasserai jamais de vous dire que notre Secrétariat international n'est pas une machine mais un organisme vivant où chacun de vos visages, chacune de vos intelligences, chacun de vos coeurs joue un rôle essentiel."

En janvier 1993, dans sa dernière allocution de nouvel an, à l'ensemble du personnel il déclarait: "Il est indispensable que la communication entre

nous tous se poursuive sans interruption et sans relâche. -Concertation, dialogue, participation, telles doivent être nos valeurs dans cette phase critique de l'histoire."

En tant que représentants du personnel nous ne pouvons qu'être d'accord avec ces mots et nous espérons que le nouveau directeur général s'en inspirera.

En vous remerciant, Monsieur le Directeur général, nous vous souhaitons tout le succès possible dans vos futures activités. Bonne route, Monsieur Saouma, à vous-même ainsi qu'à votre famille.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Clive ELLIOT (Acting Chairman, Field Staff Association): On behalf of the Field Staff Association of FAO and WFP representing about 1 000 members scattered throughout the developing world, I would like to join you all in this celebration of the Director-General's remarkable contribution to FAO over the last 18 years. Our members have often been referred to by Mr Saouma as the soldiers serving in the front line and he has urged in numerous Headquarters speeches that staff in the field striving so extremely hard to turn FAO's words into action should not be forgotten. We have appreciated this special support and sympathy and in FSA we have cheered the way in which Mr Saouma has overseen an unprecedented expansion of the field programme during his terms of office though, sadly, the last two years have shown some contraction setting in.

We have also applauded his development of both the Technical Cooperation Programme and the network of FAO Representatives who have done much to make the field programme more efficient and quicker to react.

Put all this together and it is indeed a remarkable record in the field. On behalf of the scattered Field Staff Association's membership I pass on to you, your wife and your family our deep gratitude and best wishes for the future.

It probably would be superfluous of me to wish to comment on the many tributes that have flowed from the lips of all those who have spoken with obvious sincerity and with much warmth. At this stage I merely wish to say that it is a very great pleasure for me to convey all of these tributes to the Director-General, Dr Saouma.

You may wish to respond, Sir, to the many tributes that have been paid to you this morning.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, je serai très bref. En un pareil moment, il est difficile de ne pas céder à l'émotion. Je ne pense pas seulement à l'embarras où me plongent les éloges excessifs que je viens d'entendre, je pense surtout que la rencontre d'aujourd'hui fait "craquer" l'attitude que nous avons prise pour règle d'observer. Par pudeur, affectons de considérer que notre travail est purement affaire d'intelligence, aussi froide et lucide que possible, et de volonté ferme et constante; or voici qu'une circonstance, qui n'a rien d'imprévu, fait

éclater au grand jour la place que le coeur tient dans notre action et nous fait comprendre que nous ne pourrions rien réaliser sans passion.

De fait, la FAO a été ma passion dans les deux sens du terme: attachement affectif puissant et même exclusif, mais aussi sacrifice et souffrance endurée pour l'accomplissement d'une oeuvre dépassant le destin individuel. Un engagement aussi fort rendait inévitables des divergences d'opinion parfois assez vives pour engendrer de véritables affrontements.

Comme vous- le savez et certains d'entre vous l'ont rappelé -, notre vie commune n'a pas toujours été exempte de frictions. Mais une chose est sûre: à travers les oppositions ou les orages, nous poursuivions tous loyalement la même recherche passionnée du bien de l'Organisation, c'est-à-dire du bien de tous les hommes.

Si je suis profondément sensible à la résolution que vous venez d'adopter, ce n'est pas parce qu'elle fait l'éloge de mon action personnelle: en fait, c'est à notre oeuvre commune qu'elle rend hommage. Notre oeuvre commune c'est-à-dire la vôtre, celle qu'a voulue votre assemblée d'Etats souverains unis pour lutter contre la faim et la misère; mais aussi - et cela me touche peut-être davantage encore - celle qu'a réalisée votre Secrétariat dans le long et difficile travail quotidien qu'il poursuit année après année.

Parmi les joies qui ont éclairé ma longue mission à la tête de la FAO, l'une des plus lumineuses a certainement été la fierté de diriger un personnel d'une telle qualité, riche à la fois des compétences les plus hautes et d'une stimulante diversité culturelle, et partageant surtout ma passion de servir la communauté internationale.

Monsieur le Président, laissant une telle équipe entre les mains de mon successeur pour le service de la communauté internationale que vous représentez, je répète que je peux partir tranquille. Mais ce ne sera pas sans vous avoir redit du fond du coeur la gratitude que j'éprouve envers vous comme envers les hommes et les femmes qui ont travaillé à mes côtés pendant toutes ces années.

Standing Ovation

Ovation debout

Fue ovacionado por los delegados puestos de pie

CHAIRMAN: As this historic 14th Plenary Session draws to a close I wonder if we could rise and give a final expression of our sincere love, respect and gratitude to Dr Edouard Saouma.

Standing Ovation

Ovation debout

Fue ovacionado por los delegados puestos de pie

The meeting rose at 13.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/PV/15

Twenty-seventh Session

Vingt-septième session

27º período de sesiones

PLENARY

PLENIERE

PLENARIA

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 15ª SESION PLENARIA

(17 November 1993)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas
baio la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

Sixth Report of the General Committee
Sixième rapport du Bureau
Sexto informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, this meeting is now called to order.

Before we start the adoption of the Commission II Report on Item 12, as indicated in the Order of the Day, I am proposing that the Conference approve the Sixth Report of the General Committee. This Report has been divided into two documents. The first is Document C 93/LIM/40, which refers to election of Council members, and it was distributed yesterday. The second is Document C 93/LIM/40 Sup.1, which refers to the payments to be made by EEC to cover administrative and other expenses arising out of its membership in the Organization and the "Right to Vote".

I wish first to ask the Conference if there are any comments on Document C 93/LIM/40, which deals with the election of Council Members.

D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom): I should be most grateful if the second page of C 93/LIM/40 could be amended. I fear there has been a misunderstanding. Under the heading "Europe" the United Kingdom is shown as standing for the one seat for Europe for the period November 1993 to November 1995. I should be grateful if the paper could be amended and if all delegates could note that the United Kingdom is not standing for this period. However, United Kingdom is - I repeat, "is" - standing for one of the four seats for the period November 1993 to the thirty-first of December, 1996. Thank you, Chairman.

Paolo Vincenzo MASSA (Italy) : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I want to say practically the same thing as my British colleague said. We are standing for the same period as Britain; so I would like that this be amended. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, the proposal from the delegates from the United Kingdom and Italy is that there is to be an amendment on Page 2 on the Europe -- (a), November 1993 to November 1995, remove Italy and the United Kingdom from the list of candidates and move them to line b, which relates to the elections for the period November 1993 to 31 December 1996; so there will be, therefore, four candidates for that period: namely, France, Norway, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Any comments on this matter? If there are none, this part of the Report with the amendments is approved.

We now come to the second part of Document C 93/LIM/40-Sup.1. It deals with the item "Payment by the European Economic Community" to cover administrative and other expenses arising out of its membership in the Organization.

Are there any comments on this matter, which are covered under paragraphs one to nine, on pages one and two? If there are none, these paragraphs, paragraphs one to nine, are approved.

Pages three and four deal with the "Right to Vote", covering paragraphs ten to eighteen. Any comments? If there are no comments, these paragraphs are approved.

Sixth Report of the General Committee adopted.

Le sixième rapport du Bureau est adopté.

El sexto informe del Comité General es aprobado.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART I (FROM COMMISSION II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PREMIERE PARTIE (DE LA COMMISSION II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE I (PROCEDENTE DE LA COMISION II)

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, we come to Item 16, Adoption of Commission II Report on Item 12, the Programme of Work and Budget for the Period 1994-95. This document is in C 93/REP/1. I give the floor to the Deputy Director-General, Mr Shah.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) : Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, as the Conference will have noted from C 93/REP/1, the draft report which comes to you from Commission II -- at the end of that draft report, in paragraph twenty four, there is a reference to the Resolution which is submitted to you and which you will shortly act on. Mr Chairman, the draft Resolution submitted to you by the Director-General, is in document C 93/REP/1 Sup.I which was distributed to distinguished members during the morning session.

Mr Chairman, I would like to offer three comments which may facilitate consideration of this Draft Resolution. Firstly, it is to draw your attention to the fact that the form, the form of this Draft Resolution "Budgetary Appropriations 1994-95", is according to the text of that same Draft Resolution which is included in the Programme of Work and Budget document, the document which has been considered by you. But the Draft Resolution in the document considered by you was given at the current budget rate of this biennium of 1 210 lire to the dollar. We had indicated in all discussions that the figures in this Draft Resolution would be revised to the budget rate which the Director-General proposes and on which the Conference will have to take a decision.

Secondly, with regard to the budget rate proposed by the Director-General in the Draft Resolution now before you in Supplement 1, Mr Chairman, we have followed the past practice of the Conference to consider as the budget rate the rate which is prevalent on the day when this Draft Resolution is adopted by Conference. I would provide clarifications on the suggested rate of 1 665 lire to the dollar. We have continued to follow currency movements over the last few days, weeks, and even today from early in the morning. The rate on 15 November was 1 664 to 1 665. Yesterday, on the 16 November, it was 1 661 to 1 663. Today, very early in the morning at 06.30 hours, it even shot up to 1 700; but in the following hours it has stabilized between 1 664 and 1 667.

Accordingly, the Director-General submits the rate of 1 66.5 lire to the dollar as the budget rate for you to consider and adopt with this Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations.

The third aspect which I would like to draw to the attention of Conference is the implication of this budget rate on the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium and on the assessment of Member Nations. As regards the implication on the Programme of Work and Budget, for the current biennium, as we all recall, the programme of work was at a level of US\$676 911- 000. At the budget rate proposed to you, with no programme increase, the total effective working budget as indicated in the Draft Resolution would be US\$673 114 000. That represents a decrease in dollar terms of US\$3 797 000. So while the programme of work has no programme growth, the effects of the budget rate is to reduce the amount to US\$673 114 000.

As regards the implications on assessed contributions, in the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations which was adopted by the Conference two years ago, Mr Chairman, the contributions from Member Nations were indicated at a level of US\$634 660 000. As you will see from paragraph 2d. of the Draft Resolution before you, the amounts payable for the next biennium now come down to US\$622 865 000, which represent a decrease of US\$11 795 000, a decrease compared to the assessed contributions for the current biennium. This is a decrease in assessed contributions of 1.88 percent.

I hope that these few clarifications will assist the Conference in considering the matter before you in the most positive way, as it itself wishes to do. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mustapha Menouar SINACEUR (Président de la Commission II): Je vois que nous avons commencé par le paragraphe 24 de notre rapport. Il traite d'une chose importante puisqu'il contient la résolution qui doit être soumise au vote dans quelques instants. Nous avons par ailleurs écouté les informations très pertinentes qui nous ont été communiquées par M. Shah.

S'agissant du reste du Rapport de la Commission II qui est maintenant soumis à la plénière et qui fait l'objet du document C 93/REP/1, j'aimerais simplement dire quelques mots d'introduction.

Aussi bien au sein de la Commission qu'au Comité de rédaction, nos travaux sur ce point de l'ordre du jour se sont déroulés dans une atmosphère à la fois sereine et cordiale. Les débats ont été très animés puisque 57 délégations se sont exprimées sur cette question. C'est un peu moins qu'à la dernière Conférence, en 1991, lorsque 64 pays s'étaient exprimés. Par contre nous avons devant nous un projet de rapport qui est plus concis avec 24 paragraphes alors que le projet de rapport pour la même Conférence de 1991 en comprenait 34. Ceci est dû à mon sens à la nouvelle procédure de mise en place par la même Conférence de 1991 s'agissant de l'approbation budgétaire. Et je crois que le Programme de travail et budget est un élément clé de ce qu'on a appelé nous-mêmes, en deuxième Commission, le quartet; c'est un élément clé de ce quartet qui comprend le Programme de travail et budget, le plan à moyen terme, le plan d'exécution du Programme, le rapport d'exécution du Programme et le rapport d'évaluation du Programme.

Avant de conclure, permettez-moi de porter à la connaissance de la plénière quelques modifications qui n'ont pas été prises en compte dans le rapport

final à la suite des quelques amendements qui ont pris place hier en Commission II.

D'abord à l'avant-dernière phrase du paragraphe 12 qui commence par: "A cet égard, la Conférence a instamment demandé que le Secrétariat de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques soit renforcé" on dit ensuite: "Elle a aussi exhorté le Directeur général à réunir des ressources budgétaires et extrabudgétaires suffisantes pour procéder à un examen exhaustif de l'engagement international".

Je crois que l'amendement qui avait été soumis à la Commission II et adopté par elle-même hier, parlait d'une révision - que je formule en espagnol - "revisión comprensiva". Donc, au lieu de "examen exhaustif" il faudrait plutôt parler de "révision compréhensive".

Au paragraphe 13 je crois là aussi que les amendements qui ont été apportés hier n'ont pas été repris dans leur forme exacte. A la fin du paragraphe 13, lorsqu'on dit "financés tant au titre du Programme ordinaire qu'au moyen de ressources extrabudgétaires", la correction qu'il faudrait apporter à la fin de ce paragraphe se lirait ainsi dans la version arabe: "Dans toute la gamme de ses programmes techniques, financés au titre du Programme ordinaire, comme moyen de ressources extraordinaires, y compris les projets sur le terrain".

Ensuite, paragraphe 15, une petite erreur n'a pas été rectifiée dans la version arabe. A la première phrase, il fallait bien comprendre: "La Conférence a demandé qu'on réponde rapidement aux appels répétés des Etats Membres". Et dans la version arabe au lieu de dire: "des appels lancés aux pays membres", il faut dire "... par les pays membres".

Dans la version française, toujours à la fin de ce paragraphe 15, tout le monde aura corrigé le dernier mot "prêts" par "forêts". Il faut donc lire: "décision de la CNUD concernant les forêts".

Voilà les quelques modifications que j'avais à faire.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai le plaisir de soumettre ce rapport de la Commission II relatif au Programme de travail et budget à l'approbation de la plénière de la Conférence. Je suis sûr quant à moi que sont réunies les conditions de l'adoption de ce rapport à l'unanimité et peut-être même dans quelques instants de la résolution introduite par M. Shah.

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): Mr Chairman, before the debate starts on the Report of Commission II and the adoption of the Draft Resolution included in the Report, I wish to make a brief statement on behalf of the Director-General elect who unfortunately is not here with us now; he will be coming back to Rome next Monday.

The Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 adopted by Commission II and now before us is a good one. It encompasses several compromises and the Director-General elect is appreciative of this. Nevertheless, he would want the Conference to give him the opportunity, as he takes over the post of Director-General, to look at this more deeply and to make his own proposals as to structures and policies within the year, without of course exceeding the budget level that will be adopted by Conference.

Mr Chairman, this should have come up in Commission II but, as I told you, the Director-General elect is not here and we would not want to hold up a decision on this Resolution, so the Resolution can be adopted.

In 1975 when Dr Saouma was elected, the Resolution has in it a similar decision, which allowed Dr Saouma in the course of 1976 to study the proposals and the budget and submit his own proposals by the middle of the year to a session of the Council. This is what Dr Diouf would want to be done. Since it is now late as far as Commission II is concerned and the draft Resolution is adopted with the proviso that the General Committee will submit a proposal to Conference for adoption giving the Director-General the opportunity and flexibility to study the proposals in the Programme of Work and Budget and by the middle of next year submit any proposals that he may have to the Council without exceeding the budget level to be approved by Conference now. Mr Chairman, this is the request we make.

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): Having listened to the proposal submitted by His Excellency the Ambassador of Ghana, and bearing in mind that there is a precedent in this respect, and in order to provide the necessary flexibility for the Director-General Elect, we do support the proposal made by Ghana, and we could probably make certain additions therein as we did in 1975 to the Draft Resolution which is under discussion.

Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I would like to support the proposal by His Excellency the Ambassador of Ghana, seconded by his Excellency, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Jacques LAUREAU (Prance): Monsieur le Président, je crois que nous aurons l'opportunité de discuter en Bureau de cette affaire. Il est vrai qu'il y a un précédent et qu'il faut donner la possibilité au nouveau Directeur général d'avoir un dialogue avec le Conseil plus rapidement que ne l'exige le calendrier normal de nos réunions.

M'exprimant à titre personnel je voudrais demander à l'Ambassadeur du Ghana s'il a bien à l'esprit une réunion exceptionnelle du Conseil au printemps pour accélérer, en quelque sorte, le débat après que le Directeur général ait pris connaissance des affaires d'une manière approfondie. Pourrait-il nous donner des éclaircissements car la résolution qui avait été prise, et à laquelle font référence les délégués d'Arabie Saoudite, du Ghana et d'Egypte, indiquait bien aussi la nécessité d'avoir une réunion extraordinaire du Conseil?

George LAMPTEY (Ghana) : Mr Chairman, it is true that in the early stages of the debate on this matter in 1975 the possibility of a special session of the Council was touched upon, but in the end the Resolution adopted provided for consideration by the Council - which was not a special one - in July 1976.

Now Mr Chairman, we will have no objection if, in consultation with the independent Chairman of the Council, it is decided that there should be a special session of the Council in March/April/May or in the middle of the year, in July. We would have no problem with that. It is the independent

Chairman who, with the Director-General, decides whether there should be a special session or the regular session, so we can leave that to them.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): Mr Chairman, speaking on behalf of the 13 Member States of the CARICOM Sub-Region of Latin America and the Caribbean, we fully endorse the proposal put forward by Ghana supported by Saudi Arabia, and indeed agree that in the special circumstances that Conference now finds itself, it would be a most suitable and pragmatic and prudent arrangement if this proposal could be accepted and endorsed by Conference.

Algirdas ZEMAITIS (Lithuania): We fully support the proposal of the Distinguished Ambassador of Ghana to postpone the item for a special decision of the Director-General elect, and to leave it to the Chairman of the Council and the Director-General whether there should be a special session or a normal session of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, the matter before us is the approval of the Resolution that has come to us from Commission II. However, we have had a proposal from the Distinguished Delegate of Ghana, which has been given support from all the delegates who have taken the floor, that the General Committee examines the proposal made by him that the new Director-General should have the authority to examine the proposals contained in the Programme of Work and Budget so that he may be able to propose some changes, but that expenditure should not go beyond the appropriations contained in the Resolution before us this evening.

Mrs Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): I would like some clarification here as to whether or not, if we act on the current Resolution before us, it has any implications for what the Permanent Representative of Ghana is requesting, and if indeed we have to postpone action on this to ensure that we provide the flexibility for the new Director-General that is so essential.

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, we are having some consultations with respect to the question raised by the distinguished delegate of the United States. The fact is it is going to be important that Conference approves the Resolution before us, which is to approve the Programme of Work and the appropriations contained within the financial period 1994-95. There has been a precedent for a new Director-General to have a look at the proposal contained therein and to make recommendations to a meeting of the Council for some changes of the Programme of Work and maybe the budgetary allocation for certain items, but that the overall budget should not be increased. I gather that to be the sentiment expressed by the distinguished delegate of Ghana, but it is going to be necessary for Conference to approve the Resolution with respect to the Programme of Work and the budget.

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): Mr Chairman, it would have been neater, much neater and clearer, if the proposal made were included in this draft Resolution, but I recognize that it is late now for that. We cannot do it in Conference immediately now, and there is a desire to take a decision. Therefore what I am proposing is exactly what you have said, that the new

Director-General must have the possibility; for instance the appropriations provided for say four P-5 officials in the Fisheries Department. The new Director-General may want two P-5 officers. On the other hand, there might be two in Forestry and he would want four. He must have the possibility of argument and of changing the programmes to fit his own vision of what should be done in the year, but overall the amount, the total amount - not the sectorial amount - the total amount must not be exceeded, and he will submit this to Council. In consultation with an independent Chairman the Council date would be set. This was what happened with Dr Saouma in 1975 and this is what I think should be done.

Now I think that it is easy. Conference could adopt this Resolution now and when we have a General Committee meeting tomorrow or the day after, we can make a specific resolution giving the new Director-General this authority and Conference will adopt it. That is all Mr Chairman. Thank you.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): While being very aware of the importance of the matter that has been raised and the sensitive aspects which are purely the prerogative of Member Nations, in view of some of the questions that have been raised, it may be useful if I recall what happened in 1975, - because there is some uncertainty expressed as to what happened then and what is happening now.

Mr Chairman, firstly considering the past and what happened in 1975. The Programme of Work and Budget for 1976-77, was approved by the Conference, in order to have the possibility for the new Director-General to review, to make suggestions within the approved budget level, the matter was discussed during the substantive discussions of the Conference. That is one purely factual aspect, which I draw to your attention. Secondly, the question of the budgetary appropriation resolution for 1976-77. This was developed in the light of those discussions and contained certain requests to the Director-General on the lines that have been mentioned.

The third aspect again regarding the past was that the same resolution requested the Director-General, in consultation with the independent Chairman and the members of the Council, to convene a session of the Council to be held at a suitable date by July 1976.

With regard to the procedural aspects of what has been suggested, I take very careful note of what had been said by the distinguished Ambassador of Ghana and if I am not mistaken, he has suggested that the Draft Resolution presently before you be adopted but that the General Committee take up the question that he has raised so that the General Committee may put a proposal to the Conference which could be the subject of a Conference decision and which could clearly appear in the Report before you conclude your session. In brief, if my understanding and interpretation of the debate is correct, - and I have taken careful note of what everyone has said - the draft Resolution before you is submitted for approval by the Conference now. The other action can clearly be done in the way suggested by the distinguished Ambassador of Ghana, that is to say, the General Committee consider the matter and agree on the precise form of words and then put them to the Conference to appear in for your decisions. I hope this helps. That is my intention.

CHAIRMAN: I personally believe that you have captured the sentiments of the distinguished delegate of Ghana.

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I appreciate the explanation provided by Mr Shah. In principle there is support to the proposal made by the Ambassador of Ghana and now it is a question of procedure. It may be convenient that we approve the Resolution as it stands now and that we study the issue in the General Committee where we can propose a second resolution following the Resolution that we are going to adopt in a short while. We think this is the right and appropriate procedure.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): I have a comment and a question. The comment simply is to endorse the proposal made by the Ambassador of Ghana as, I think, a most sensible way of proceeding for the new Director-General. I believe that he does need to be provided with the necessary amount of flexibility to imprint his own stamp on this Organization.

As regards whether or not the debate around this subject took place. I do believe that there were a significant number of interventions in Commission II, which focused precisely on the point of the need to provide appropriate flexibility to the new Director-General. Consequently, I think there is a basis for decision to that effect.

I think we also have the sense of this meeting here whereby there seems to me to be general agreement on the procedure that has been suggested by the Ambassador of Ghana. Therefore, when we come to the procedural issue, I would have a question to ask in respect of what was suggested by Mr Shah, which sounds eminently reasonable.

That question is: Would a decision that is generated by and emerges from the General Committee that is written into the record of this Conference have the same force as an addition to the Resolution on the budget as currently drafted? In other words, would the Director-General have precisely the same degree of flexibility in acting to amend and/or otherwise the programmes within the budgetary appropriations being voted upon this afternoon?

Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México): Nosotros también convalidamos la propuesta de Ghana, por supuesto, en atención a la mayor flexibilidad que necesitaría el Director General de la FAO. Podríamos aceptar lo ya propuesto, pero querríamos, a nuestra vez, encontrar quizás una salida que podría ser adecuada. Nos parece que el Pleno de la Conferencia podría, en un momento determinado, adicionar la Resolución que se nos presenta, agregando un tercer punto, que dijese más o menos lo siguiente: que la Conferencia faculta al Consejo de la FAO a revisar las asignaciones parciales del Presupuesto, tomando en consideración las propuestas que formule el Director General antes de julio de 1994. De esta manera, daría la Conferencia una facultad al Consejo, y el Consejo tendría la facultad de analizar, junto con el Director General, las propuestas que en aras de la flexibilidad permitan un ejercicio mejor.

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): Mr Chairman, I foresaw the question raised by the delegate of Canada. That is why I kept raising my hand because, when the Deputy Director-General spoke and said that it could be in the Report, that is a different thing altogether. What I suggested was that in order to avoid delay we precede with this Resolution but there must be another resolution of Conference. I could have drafted the resolution now and

proposed it as an amendment to this Resolution. But, again, in order not to waste time I suggest that the General Committee can propose a solution on this aspect to Conference and Conference can adopt it so that the two resolutions have equal weight.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Monsieur le Président, merci de me donner la parole. Je pense qu'en se ralliant à cette proposition nous estimons, puisque M. Shah l'a très bien rappelé, et c'était l'objet de la question que j'avais posée tout à l'heure, qu'il faut qu'un conseil dialogue avec le Directeur général, entérinant en quelque sorte les variations qui auraient pu intervenir du fait de la marque qu'il voudra mettre dans les détails du programme. Je crois qu'il faut coupler ces deux éléments de manière qu'il y ait un véritable dialogue et que le Conseil joue son rôle. Puisqu'il n'y a qu'une réunion en novembre 1994, je crois qu'il est absolument indispensable de prévoir un Conseil au moment où le Directeur général l'estimera utile (et je me tourne vers la délégation du Ghana) pour que ces deux éléments soient couplés et que le Conseil joue son rôle qui est un rôle de contrôle et d'orientation.

Chadli LAROUCI (Tunisie): Je ne vois pas où se trouve le problème puisqu'il suffit de revenir au précédent qui s'est produit en 1975 et 1976 et qui a d'ailleurs été très clairement explicité dans le livre mis à la disposition des délégués. Indiquant page 15 que lors de son élection en 1975 à la même session, comme cette fois-ci, M. Saouma connaît très bien la maison il ajoute, et je cite "qu'il était sûr que seule la Conférence détenait, en même temps que le pouvoir d'approuver le Programme de travail et budget, celui de le modifier après son approbation".

Il indique en outre: "C'est pourquoi j'ai pris l'initiative (c'est la même demande qui est présentée maintenant par l'Ambassadeur du Ghana) de demander l'autorisation d'élaborer mes propres propositions dans la limite de l'enveloppe budgétaire convenue et de les soumettre avant juillet 1976 à une session extraordinaire du Conseil auquel la Conférence déléguerait l'autorité nécessaire pour les approuver, avec ou sans modification".

Ainsi fut fait et il fit référence aux actes de la Conférence, à savoir le document C 75/REP, paragraphe 267, et la Résolution 7/75, paragraphe 269. Je suppose que cette procédure a respecté la parfaite légalité. Alors, il n'y a pas de raison d'imaginer d'autre procédure si l'on veut avancer et je crois que c'est le souhait du nouveau Directeur général tel qu'exprimé par Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Ghana. Je vous remercie.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Firstly to reply to a specific question that was raised about the input and the impact of Conference decisions as reflected in the Conference Report, the Conference Report has all the weight of the Member Nations of this Organization whether it reflects a decision in the form of words and sentences in a paragraph or in the form of a resolution. The resolution, of course, gives a certain formality to the decision but the directives of the Conference - I have checked this with the Legal Counsel - have the same weight whether they are reflected in a resolution or in the text of a Report.

Turning to the procedural aspect that we are pursuing, on which I suggest, if I may, there is very little disagreement, I understand that it may be the common wish to proceed with the consideration and adoption of the Draft Resolution on the budgetary appropriations 1994-95, which is before you.

As it has been suggested by the distinguished Ambassador of Ghana, the procedure could be followed that the General Committee make a recommendation to the Plenary of Conference on the substance of the matter with a text, whether that text is in the form of one or more paragraphs or whether the text is in the form of a draft resolution, that would follow the one that you are about to consider.

Mr Chairman, I think these are all the aspects that called for clarification, at least on my part.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) : I would like to support the proposal of the distinguished delegate of Ghana. We agree; the Budget of 1994-95 provided that the Conference give authority to the Director-General to change the budget between the chapters. I think it is possible that the general committee could come to some kind of decision to bring it to the Plenary.

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, I think that there is overwhelming support for the proposal of the delegate of Ghana, that the new Director-General be given the necessary flexibility to have a look at the Programme of Work and Budget and to recommend changes to be put before an extraordinary meeting of the Council. We have spent some time trying to find the best procedure to effect this, and I think the way to go is to have the General Committee examine the matter, to forward a resolution to Plenary so that Conference can take a decision, giving the new Director-General the necessary authority sought as a result of the intervention of the delegate of Ghana.

I think we are at a stage where we should move first to adopt the Report, and then we can move at that time to vote on the resolution. That will be after.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 24

PARAGRAPHEs 1 À 24

PÁRRAFOS 1 A 24

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I apologize for taking the floor for a second time. I have a proposal. The Chairman of the Second Commission and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee have made efforts - valuable efforts indeed. My proposal is that we accept this report en bloc because we have discussed these paragraphs last night, paragraph by paragraph, and we spent a lot of time. So I am proposing to adopt the report en bloc, and I hope that will be accepted by the members.

D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom): If I may say so, I think the delegate of Saudi Arabia's proposal is an excellent one, and I strongly support it.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Deseo expresar nuestro pleno apoyo a lo propuesto por la delegación de Arabia Saudita. Teniendo en consideración que ya ha terminado este sabio procedimiento, creo que el presente proyecto de Resolución ha tenido una historia muy larga, profunda; se ha analizado, ha habido debates y creo que es muy sabio lo que acaban de plantear, de que se debería aprobar por unanimidad.

CHAIRMAN: There is obviously overwhelming support for the Report, and I ask the Conference to adopt the report since there seems to be no further comment. There being no further comment, the report of Commission II is adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 20 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 20 son aprobados

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION

RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: Now we move to the Resolution. The Resolution requires a roll-call vote, and may I ask the Secretary-General to take charge at this stage.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, comme vous l'avez dit, nous arrivons au vote de la résolution portant ouverture de crédit pour l'exercice 1994-95.

L'Article XVIII, paragraphe 5 de l'Acte constitutif, stipule que les décisions relatives au montant du budget sont prises à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés. Selon l'Article XII, paragraphe 7, alinéa a) du Règlement général, un vote par appel nominal a lieu si une majorité des deux tiers est requise en vue de l'Acte constitutif. L'Article XII, paragraphe 3, alinéa c) du Règlement général stipule que, lorsqu'en vertu de l'Acte constitutif une décision doit être prise par la Conférence à la majorité des deux-tiers, le nombre total de suffrages exprimés pour ou contre doit être supérieur à la moitié du nombre des Etats Membres de l'Organisation. Il faut donc, en l'occurrence, que le nombre de voix pour ou contre qui vont être émises soit d'au moins 85.

Le Secrétariat doit maintenant informer le Président du nombre de délégués présents dans la salle. Il y en a au moins 108. Selon l'Article XII, paragraphe 7, alinéa a) du Règlement général, le vote par appel nominal se fait de la manière suivante: le vote par appel nominal se fait en appelant, dans l'ordre alphabétique anglais, les noms de tous les Etats Membres ayant le droit de prendre part au vote, en commençant par un Etat dont le nom est tiré au sort par le Président.

Le vote va donc commencer par le Royaume-Uni. Je précise que le représentant de chaque Etat Membre, à l'appel de son nom, devra répondre par "oui" ou "abstention". A l'issue du vote, il sera procédé à un nouvel

appel de tous les Etats Membres dont les délégués ou représentants n'auraient pas répondu au premier appel. Le vote de chaque Etat Membre prenant part à un vote par appel nominal est consigné au procès-verbal. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

VOTE

VOTE

VOTACION

27 Session of the Conference
Session de la Conférence
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on
Vote sur
Votación para
Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 1994-95

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Afghanistan				X	Chad	X				France	X			
Albania				X	Chile	X				Gabon	X			
Algeria	X				China	X				Gambia				X
Angola	X				Colombia	X				Germany	X			
Antigua and Barbuda				X	Comoros				X	Ghana	X			
Argentina	X				Congo				X	Greece				X
Armenia				X	Cook Islands				X	Grenada				X
Australia	X				Costa Rica	X				Guatemala				X
Austria	X				Côte d'Ivoire	X				Guinea	X			
Bahamas				X	Croatia	X				Guinea-Bissau	X			
Bahrain	X				Cuba	X				Guyana				X
Bangladesh	X				Cyprus	X				Haiti	X			
Barbados	X				Czech Republic				X	Honduras	X			
Belgium	X				D.P. Republic of Korea	X				Hungary	X			
Belize				X	Denmark	X				Iceland				X
Benin	X				Djibouti				X	India	X			
Bhutan	X				Dominica	X				Indonesia	X			
Bolivia				X	Dominican Republic				X	Iran, Islamic Rep. of	X			
Botswana	X				Ecuador	X				Iraq				X
Brazil	X				Egypt	X				Ireland	X			
Bulgaria	X				El Salvador	X				Israel				X
Burkina Faso	X				Equatorial Guinea				X	Italy	X			
Burundi				X	Eritrea	X				Jamaica	X			
Cambodia				X	Estonia				X	Japan	X			
Cameroon	X				Ethiopia	X				Jordan				X
Canada	X				Fiji	X								
Cape Verde	X				Finland	X								

27 Session of the Conference
Session de la Conférence
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ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETTIN
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on
Vote sur
Votación para
Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 1994-95

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Kenya	X				Norway	X				Switzerland	X			
Korea, Rep. of	X				Oman	X				Syria	X			
Kuwait	X				Pakistan	X				Tanzania	X			
Laos				X	Panama				X	Thailand	X			
Latvia				X	Papua New Guinea				X	The F. Y. Rep. of Macedonia	X			
Lebanon	X				Paraguay				X	Togo				X
Lesotho	X				Peru				X	Tonga	X			
Liberia	X				Philippines	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Libya	X				Poland	X				Tunisia	X			
Lithuania	X				Portugal	X				Turkey	X			
Luxembourg				X	Qatar	X				Uganda				X
Madagascar	X				Romania	X				United Arab Emirates	X			
Malawi	X				Rwanda	X				United Kingdom				X
Malaysia	X				St. Kitts & Nevis				X	United States of America	X			
Maldives	X				Saint Lucia				X	Uruguay	X			
Mali				X	St. Vincent & Grenadines				X	Vanuatu				X
Malta	X				Samoa				X	Venezuela	X			
Mauritania				X	Sao Tome and Principe				X	Viet Nam	X			
Mauritius	X				Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	X				Yemen				X
Mexico	X				Senegal	X				Zaire	X			
Mongolia				X	Seychelles				X	Zambia	X			
Morocco	X				Sierra Leone				X	Zimbabwe	X			
Mozambique				X	Slovakia	X								
Myanmar	X				Slovenia				X					
Namibia				X	Solomon Islands				X					
Nepal	X				Spain	X								
Netherlands	X				Sri Lanka	X								
New Zealand	X				Sudan	X								
Nicaragua	X				Suriname				X					
Niger	X				Swaziland	X								
Nigeria				X	Sweden	X								



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on
Vote sur
Votación para

Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 1994-95

Vote for Voix pour Votos favorables	109
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	53

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	109
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	73
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ADOPTED
ADOPTÉE
ACEPTADA

Date: 17/11/93
Fecha

Elections Officer G. Tedesco
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote en cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal de voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Assistant Secretary-General. We have now completed Adoption by the Conference of the Report on Item 12.

Resolution adopted

La résolution est adoptée

Se adopta la resolución

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I. was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, Première Partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte I, es aprobado

D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my delegation has set out the British Government's views on the budget on many occasions and in considerable detail. We reiterated these views at some length last week during the Conference debate. What I want to say now can, therefore, be confined to the following basic points.

We appreciate both the severe budgetary constraints facing FAO and the difficult decisions required to overcome them.

Nor, Mr. Chairman, do we underestimate the problems these have created for the Director-General. The result, as he rightly says, is a dilemma. In recent years, the Director-General has taken painful and bold decisions to reduce the budget level and to implement a policy of zero real growth, but factors beyond his and FAO's control require, in our view, even more drastic efforts if the gap between programme size and income level is to be bridged. We recognize the attempts in the budget process to close this gap and which the Director-General has recommended for the approval of Conference.

Mr. Chairman, we recognize also that the proposed course of action that has just been agreed, may, if all goes according to plan, remedy the immediate problem in this biennium. We hope so. But we believe that such a short-term solution is no substitute for budgetary practice, which minimizes risk.

Mr. Chairman, it is our view that if income does not match expenditure, expenditure should be reduced. We can see no prospect of supplementary funds from any other source. We regret this state of affairs as much as anybody, but reality has to be faced. Use of windfalls from currency movements, use of FAO's reserves, or the expectation of arrears payments is not, in our judgment, an acceptable approach to budget planning.

It risks failure if expectations are not met and if arrears do not materialize. Moreover, it would give rise to pressure for a significant increase in assessed contributions in the future. We should find this difficult to justify and would be reluctant to seek approval for additional resources. In these circumstances, Mr. Chairman, I have to say that the United Kingdom is unable to support the Director-General's budget. However, given the effort that he has made consistently to cope with external factors beyond FAO's control, my delegation was content on this occasion to register an abstention. We did so with considerable regret but in the strong belief that the avoidance of a change in budgetary policy is only compounding problems for the future. This should clearly be of the utmost concern to the Director-General elect as well as to member countries. Indeed, in this connection it is only too clear from the statement made by the Ambassador of Ghana that Mr. Diouf has this issue very much at the top

of his agenda. As part of his planned review of the budget about which we have just heard, my delegation strongly urges him fully to take into account the concerns that I have just set out. Mr. Chairman, we believe that this long-standing problem now requires a long-term solution, not short-term remedies nor, above all, continuing uncertainty. Thank you very much.

Kjell HALVORSEN (Norway): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Nordic countries, I would like to make the following remarks. The Nordic countries have just voted in favour of the Programme of Work and Budget. It is with great reluctance that we have joined the near consensus approval of this budget. As pointed out in the Nordic intervention in Commission II, we find the appropriations for cost increases to be set at an unrealistically high level. A great part of those cost increases could have been absorbed in the budget in other ways. We also continue to have concerns about the important aspects of the Programme of Work. We also wish to place on record that we are against establishing a deliberate difference between the Programme of Work and the assessed contributions of member countries. The gap created will have to be closed at a later stage, and we regret that the new Director-General will be faced with the difficulty of bridging this gap when in two years' time he will be presenting his first Programme of Work and Budget to the 1995 Conference. Nevertheless, we have decided to contribute to a strong support for the new Director-General as he assumes his important task. Hence the Nordic countries have found it to be in the interests of the Organization to join others in voting for the proposed Programme of Work and Budget at this particular time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): The United States of America welcomes the exceptional spirit of cooperation and constructive dialogue that has contributed to the work of this Conference, including our efforts to reach broad agreement on the 1994-95 Programme of Work and Budget.

Our primary purpose in supporting this budget was to build on the process of consensus and esprit de corps so visibly displayed at the 1991 Conference and again this year. The agreement achieved today and at the previous Conference was the outgrowth of Member States' efforts to improve the FAO budget process. The greater transparency and better priority-setting visible in these last two Programmes of Work and Budget must continue to improve.

We recall that two years ago the United States for the first time in many years supported the Director-General's budget. This action will enable the United States to contribute US\$200 000 000 to FAO by the end of 1993, much of which was appropriated prior to January 1992. It also set the stage for a strengthened and financially viable Organization.

Turning to the prospects for the future level of funding from the United States, we would want to be clear and forthright about our appropriations process and how it might have impact on the Programme of Work and Budget, which we have just approved. For the fiscal year 1994, the Clinton administration sought full funding to pay our calendar year 1993 contribution to FAO and an additional US\$22.7 million for arrears. The United States Congress made available full funding of our current contribution to international organizations but eliminated the amount requested for arrears payments.

While we will complete payment of our 1993 assessment before 31 December 1993, unless Congress takes further action, we will not be able to make further arrears payments or pay our regular 1994 assessment before October 1994. Make no mistake - the United States is unequivocally committed to the United Nations system and to FAO. We will redouble our efforts to seek appropriations both for our assessed contributions and arrears payments. We cannot, however, offer assurances that the resource outlook in 1994-95 will be as favourable as it was in the 1992-93 biennium. It is inevitable in this era of budget stringency that any cost increases in international organizations will be rigorously examined and further efficiencies sought. The entire UN System and FAO must find ways to do more with less.

In light of these facts and our earlier statement in Commission II, we find the recommendation of the Permanent Representative from Ghana, which just received strong support before we adopted the Budget Resolution, an eminently sensible one given the flexibility that the new Director-General will need.

Despite these caveats, the progress made at this Conference is genuine and confirms our belief that the broad Member State support expressed for the 1994-95 budget will enhance FAO's ability to play a critically important role in the post-UNCED process. In Commission II we expressed reservations about the structure and foundation of this budget. While we remain unconvinced that the financing mechanism adopted is the best way to ensure full implementation of the 1994-95 Programme of Work and Budget, at the same time we want to assure the new Director-General of our strong support for the programme that he must implement over the course of the next two years. If resources prove inadequate, FAO will have to demonstrate increased flexibility and imagination in redeploying resources to ensure that critical programmes are maintained.

What we in FAO have learned in the past few years is that cooperation and collaboration are the keys to strengthening FAO. For FAO to address the challenge ahead, we as Member States must work closely with the Secretariat to review the priorities, mobilize FAO's comparative advantages and monitor results carefully. FAO must achieve early visible progress in its genetic resources and sustainable agricultural programmes in the coming biennium to maintain effective leadership in these key UNCED-related areas.

FAO must also reinvigorate its links to other UN system agencies in the Breton Woods Institutions. To be fully successful, we must as Member States strengthen our participation in charting FAO's course for the rest of the decade. The new Director-General faces many unprecedented challenges. We are confident that he will bring a new perspective and many innovative ideas to this task. The United States looks forward to working closely and cooperatively with the new Director-General, the Secretariat and all Member States as we lay the foundation for the 21st-century FAO.

CHAIRMAN: We thank the distinguished delegate of the United States of America for her very important statement. The Conference notes the pledge of the delegate to fully support the FAO as it moves forward to fulfil its mandate under a new Director-General as of next year.

The delegate has pointed to the many unprecedented challenges that Dr Diouf will face, and I think Conference is disappointed that the United States Congress has found it impossible to vote the funds required to settle the

arrears. We do hope that very soon in the future the United States may find the necessary resources to permit them to make this payment, as the distinguished delegate obviously would wish her country to make. We thank you for that statement, distinguished delegate of the United States.

That statement seems to take us to the end of this evening's sitting. Before we rise, I would like to say how pleased we are with the work of Commission II. I would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Commission and all those delegates who sat in that Commission, who obviously did very good work. We gather that the Sessions were calm, serene and very lively.

It is certainly to the credit of the Commission's Chairman and those who sat in that Commission that they have been able to present such a clear report to Conference that we have seen fit to adopt.

The meeting rose at 16.30 hours.

La séance est. levée à 16 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 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 93/PV/16

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENARY

27° período de sesiones
PLENARY

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 16ª SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1993)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
Mr. Seymour Mulling, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 16ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas
baio la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

Eighth Report of the General Committee
Huitième rapport du Bureau
Octavo informe del Comité general

CHAIRMAN: The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting is now called to order. The first item of business this morning is the adoption of the Eighth Report of the General Committee. It has been circulated in document C 93/LIM/43. It includes a resolution with respect to the Programme of Work and Budget's appropriations for 1994-95.

Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany): I have a question. At the top of the document it says "Request to Convene a Council Session by July 1994". It is to be held at a suitable date by May 1994. Which date is correct?

CHAIRMAN: The correct date is May 1994. I would request delegates to make a correction at the top of the page amending "July 1994" to "May 1994".

Michael KIMA TABONG (Cameroon): I think we agreed that it should be July 1994, not May.

CHAIRMAN: I must point out that we are dealing with a report coming from the General Committee, which has recommended May 1994

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): J'aimerais partager l'avis qui vient d'être exprimé par le représentant du Cameroun, l'Ambassadeur Kima Tabong, parce que je crois qu'il y a une différence à faire. Lorsque nous avons discuté de cette question en séance plénière, nous avons parlé d'une réunion extraordinaire qui se tiendrait d'ici le mois de juillet. Ce qui se trouve dans le texte, c'est la proposition du Bureau. Je crois que les deux choses sont parfaitement valables. Le titre est correct parce qu'il reprend la discussion en séance plénière; et le Bureau recommande que la session se tienne en mai.

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): As you rightly pointed out, Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with a report of the General Committee. This matter was discussed in the General Committee for a very long time. The decision we came to was May 1994. So that is what we are putting to the Conference.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): En fait, je me suis posé la question de savoir si les propositions éventuelles du nouveau Directeur général devraient être examinées par le Comité du programme avant d'être présentées ou si elles devraient être examinées directement par le Conseil. Si tel est le cas, il faudrait que l'on examine les dates et que l'on établisse un calendrier. Nous savons à quelle période se tiendra la réunion du Comité du Programme. Si ces propositions doivent être examinées par le Comité du Programme, il serait donc utile que ce soit au mois de mai et que le Conseil se réunisse après, c'est-à-dire en juin ou juillet.

William H. MARSH (United States of America) : I should like to confirm what has been said by the distinguished delegates of Germany and Ghana, that within the Committee the decision for recommendation was for the month of May. The reason for that was because of conflicting engagements, including regional conferences, in the month of July, plus the fact that there is a vacation season involved for members of the Secretariat, to which I am sure they have looked forward for a long time. Therefore, it was May.

With regard to the point raised by the distinguished delegate of Madagascar-, it was understood during the debates that subsequent arrangements might well be made for a review of proposals such as the new Director-General might prepare, that the Committees could meet in advance of that meeting, but that subsequent arrangements could be worked out, and the question was left open. Let me confirm that it was the month of May that the Committee wished to recommend to this body.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Comme membre du Bureau, je confirme ce qui vient d'être dit. Il y aura la réunion de l'ECOSOC au mois de juin. Donc, si le Bureau a décidé que ce serait jusqu'à la fin mai, il s'agit en fait d'une question d'un mois. Nous avons donc préféré indiquer, comme l'a rappelé le représentant des Etats-Unis, "jusqu'à la fin du mois de mai", ce qui donne largement le temps au Comité de se réunir. Evidemment, le Secrétariat sera un peu plus mobilisé que d'habitude mais nous pensons qu'aller au-delà de cette date serait inefficace.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I also wish to confirm that the General Committee came firmly to the conclusion that it should be May, and to provide information for the Conference on the tentative calendar of main sessions. The 69th meeting of the Programme Committee is set for 26 April to 5 May and the 78th session of the Finance Committee from 3 to 12 May. It is also true that the rest of May is very heavily booked with meetings at the present time. The Latin American Caribbean Regional Conference is scheduled for 16 to 20 May; that is the week following the Programme Committee. The SCP of the World Food Programme's CFA and the CFA itself are both scheduled to meet in May or possibly reaching slightly over into June.

I simply wanted to put that information before you but again to reconfirm that, irrespective of that relatively heavy schedule for May as far as meetings are concerned, it was the conclusion of the General Committee that the date should be by May 1994.

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): I want to make an appeal to my African colleagues who are questioning this to let the General Committee's Report go. This matter was dealt with in General Committee. It was in the longer session of the General Committee. This was the main reason for it. All the questions that have been raised here were raised in the General Committee. I appeal to them to let it go. If the Director-General and the Independent Chairman decide that there will be a special session, all we have done is to give the opportunity and the flexibility to do it. We do now know what the Director-General will do. Let us leave it. There will be time to hold the session in May. We can give reasons why June and July are not suitable. ECOSOC has been mentioned. There were many matters. We discussed it thoroughly. In the Conference we can discuss these matters. I think the wisdom of the General Committee must be accepted by my colleagues.

Michael RIMA TABONG (Cameroon) : In view of the explanations offered by the distinguished delegate of the USA and the appeal that has been made so strongly by the Chairman of the African Group, my delegation falls in line with the Report of the General Committee.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, je crois qu'il y a eu un quiproquo sur cette affaire. Lorsque je me suis exprimé, je ne parlais pas du texte de la résolution, mais du titre, de l'objet du huitième rapport du Bureau. Lorsqu'il est dit: "Demande de convocation d'une session du Conseil d'ici juillet 1994", vous aviez proposé, Monsieur le Président, de remplacer juillet par mai, or c'était bien la demande de la plénière.

Il y a, d'une part, la demande de la plénière et, d'autre part, la proposition du Bureau à laquelle nous nous rallions. Nous sommes d'accord pour qu'il y ait une réunion d'ici mai, mais la demande initiale, conformément aux discussions qui ont eu lieu à la plénière, portait sur une convocation avant juillet. L'ambassadeur du Cameroun vient de s'exprimer sur la question et je n'ai pas trop de difficulté à me rallier à votre proposition de remplacer "juillet" par "mai" dans le titre du rapport.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Ma délégation suit également l'appel lancé par le Président du Groupe africain et n'insiste pas sur la question, mais en fait, je me demande quelle est l'utilité du titre "Demande de convocation d'ici juillet", cela sème seulement la confusion. Je pense qu'on pourrait fort bien se passer de ce titre.

Je tiens également à me rallier à la proposition qui vient d'être faite par le Maroc, et qui a été appuyée par le Mexique et l'Arabie Saoudite.

CHAIRMAN: I thank all the distinguished delegates who have spoken. I think the matter has now been cleared up. The headline on the request to convene a Council session is really an academic situation. That will not be included in the Report of this Plenary. What is of importance to us is the actual Resolution before us which speaks to the date May 1994. Are there any other comments? If not, I should like to declare the Eighth Report of the General Committee adopted.

Eighth Report of General Committee, including Resolution, was adopted
Le huitième rapport du Bureau, y compris la résolution, est adopté
El octavo informe del Comité general, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

- IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS
- IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS
- IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES
- 26. Election of Council Members
- 26. Election des membres du Conseil
- 26. Elección de miembros del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: The reference document is C 93/LIM/40. It has the name of all Council candidates received. This document relates to the General Committee

Report that we approved on 17 November. The Secretary-General will explain the procedure for these elections.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le journal de la Conférence d'aujourd'hui contient en première page un modèle de bulletin de vote pour l'élection des membres du Conseil. En utilisant des noms fictifs de pays, nous avons indiqué la façon correcte de remplir les bulletins qui vont vous être distribués.

Nous allons procéder en deux étapes. La Conférence votera pour la région Europe pour la période novembre 1993-31 décembre 1996; il s'agit là de remplacer le siège laissé vacant par l'ex-Tchécoslovaquie, et nous avons un candidat pour un siège à pourvoir. En même temps, nous procéderons au vote pour la période novembre 1993-31 décembre 1996. La Conférence est appelée à élire: pour l'Afrique, quatre candidats pour quatre sièges à pourvoir; pour l'Asie, cinq candidats pour trois sièges à pourvoir, les deux candidats non élus figureront parmi les candidats pour la période suivante (1er janvier 1995-novembre 1997) à moins qu'ils ne se désistent; pour l'Europe, quatre candidats pour quatre sièges à pourvoir; pour l'Amérique et les Caraïbes, un candidat pour un siège à pourvoir; pour le Proche-Orient, trois candidats pour trois sièges à pourvoir; pour l'Afrique du Sud-Ouest, un candidat pour un siège à pourvoir.

Si nécessaire, nous procéderons ensuite à autant de tours de scrutin qu'il sera nécessaire pour pourvoir les sièges vacants que je viens de citer.

Une fois cette première phase achevée, nous passerons à la deuxième, c'est-à-dire à l'élection des membres du Conseil pour la période allant du 1er janvier 1995 à novembre 1997.

Evidemment, il s'agit là d'une première organisation de vote qui pourrait changer en fonction des résultats du premier tour de scrutin et du nombre de bulletins qui doivent être distribués. Conformément au paragraphe 9 alinéa a) de l'Article XII du Règlement général, ces élections se feront au scrutin secret, même lorsqu'il n'y a pas plus de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir.

Il sera remis à chaque électeur un bulletin de vote distinct pour chacune des régions intéressées. Chaque bulletin doit être rempli conformément aux instructions qui s'y trouvent portées. La majorité requise est spécifiée au paragraphe 3 alinéa a) et d) de l'Article XII du Règlement général.

J'attire votre attention sur le fait que le nombre de sièges à pourvoir varie d'une région à l'autre. Lorsque le nombre de candidats dépasse celui des sièges à pourvoir, il y a lieu de marquer d'une croix la case correspondant à chacun des pays que l'on souhaite voir élire, ainsi qu'il est indiqué sur le bulletin témoin. Conformément au paragraphe 11 alinéa a) de l'Article XII du Règlement général, chaque électeur, à moins qu'il ne s'abstienne, doit voter pour chacun des sièges à pourvoir en désignant un candidat différent pour chaque siège. Tout bulletin qui ne se conformerait pas à ces indications serait déclaré nul. Le paragraphe 4 alinéa c) de l'Article XII du Règlement général prévoit que tout bulletin blanc sera considéré comme une abstention. Le paragraphe 4 alinéa d) du même article précise que les bulletins ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autre que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage. Un bulletin désignant plus de pays qu'il n'y a de sièges à pourvoir sera considéré comme nul; de même, un bulletin désignant moins de pays qu'il n'y a de sièges à pourvoir sera considéré nul. Cela signifie que pour être valable,

un bulletin doit porter exactement autant de croix qu'il y a de sièges à pourvoir.

Je me permets de rappeler qu'en vertu du paragraphe 9 alinéa f) de l'Article XII du Règlement général, tout délégué qui aurait accidentellement rempli un bulletin de manière erronée peut demander un autre bulletin vierge qui lui sera délivré par un fonctionnaire électoral en échange du bulletin défectueux. Le premier tour de scrutin sera suivi d'autant de tours qu'il sera nécessaire pour conclure les élections portant sur la première période. Ensuite, nous procéderons de la même façon pour la seconde période.

CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed to the vote, I would like to say to the Conference that it is proposed that during the counting of the ballots we invite you to accept Draft Report Part II contained in document C 93/REP/2, also C 93/REP/3, which is a Draft Report from Commission I, also C 93/REP/4 and possibly C 93/REP/5. If, in between the counting of the votes, it is possible to deal with these Reports, I will invite Conference to do so.

We will now proceed to vote to fill the seat in the Europe Region vacated by the former Czechoslovakia. This seat will be filled for the period November 1993 to November 1995, that is to say the remainder of the term of office, 1 January 1993 to November 1995.

We will also vote to fill the Council seats for the period November 1993 to 31 December 1996.

I should like to draw the attention of the delegates to paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, which states that once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting.

I would like to remind you that Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization lays down that the quorum for these elections is a majority of the Member Nations, that is to say 85, and I am told that at least 120 delegates are present in the room at this time.

I should also like to appoint two tellers and two alternate tellers to assist the Secretariat in the election process. I will ask the delegates of Mauritius and the Czech Republic to serve as tellers, and the delegates of Barbados and Belgium to serve as alternate tellers.

If there are no comments we shall proceed with the vote.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: A l'appel du nom de son pays par le Secrétaire général adjoint, chaque délégué voudra bien se rendre dans la partie de cette salle réservée aux opérations de vote où on lui remettra le bulletin de vote. Il passera ensuite à l'isoloir pour remplir ce bulletin qu'il déposera ensuite dans l'urne avant de regagner sa place.

CHAIRMAN: I will now ask the tellers to proceed to the voting areas.

Vote

Vote

Votación

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 2

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DEUXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 2

Paragraphs 1 to 22 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 22 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 22 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 23

PARAGRAPHE 23

PARRAFO 23

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): J'aimerais faire une proposition. Je ne suis certain que cela puisse s'insérer au paragraphe 23, mais je suis sûr qu'avec l'aide du Secrétariat, on trouvera la réponse adéquate. Il s'avère que dans les rapports de la Conférence, on ne trouve pas d'informations relatives à la composition et aux Présidents des Comités de rédaction. Cela ne figure que dans le rapport C 93/13 qui émane du Secrétariat, qui expose toute la vie institutionnelle de l'Organisation avec la participation de tous les pays, mais de la même façon qu'on trouve à la fin du rapport de la Conférence, par exemple, la liste des délégués et observateurs qui ont participé à la réunion, on pourrait trouver le moyen de joindre l'information relative à la composition des Comités de rédaction des Commissions. En effet, ils ont participé aux travaux des Commissions, nous permettant d'arriver aux résultats auxquels nous arrivons, aussi je pense qu'il serait utile d'insérer cette information dans le rapport de la Conférence.

Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México) : De la manera más breve posible para apoyar la propuesta de Marruecos. Nos parece muy acertado e indispensable que los integrantes o los Comités de Redacción se incluyan en los informes de la Conferencia.

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I believe I raised my nameplate before the delegate of Mexico. In any case, I should only like to second the proposal submitted by the delegate of Morocco and seconded by the delegate of Mexico.

Pedro A. KANGA (Angola): Je voudrais me rallier à la proposition qui vient d'être faite par le Maroc, également appuyée par le Mexique et l'Arabie Saoudite.

CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat will include the components of that Committee in the Report as recommended by the delegate of Morocco and supported by a number of other delegations.

Paragraph 23, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 23, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 23, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 24 to 44 approved
Les paragraphes 24 à 44 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 24 a 44 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part II, as amended, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la plénière, deuxième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART III (from Commission I)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - TROISIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission I)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE III (de la Comisión I)

Hermann REDL (Chairman of Commission I) (Original language German) : First of all, may I report to you that between 10 and 19 November Commission I had thirteen meetings. In the course of those meetings, the following issues were discussed: Item 6, World Food and Agriculture Situation and Outlook; Item 6.1, State of Food and Agriculture; Item 6.2, World Food Security and Nutritional Status; Item 6.3, World Agriculture Toward 2010; Item 7, Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development; Item 7.1, Revision of International Undertaking for Plant Genetic Resources; Item 7.2, International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer; and Item 8, Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development. This was a Progress Report.

The results of our very constructive discussion are to be found in the Reports, which have been provided - C 93/REP/3, C 93/REP/4 and C 93/REP/5. May I take this opportunity to thank those who took part in the discussions in Commission I for their very constructive work. May I now request the Conference to approve the Report of Commission I found in C 93/REP/3

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of Commission I has asked that we adopt this Report, paragraphs 1 to 42. They're being no comments, I declare this Report as having been adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 42 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 42 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 42 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part III (from Commission I), was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, troisième partie (émanant de la Commission I), est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte III (de la Comisión I) es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IV (from Commission I)
PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission I)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE IV (de la Comisión I)

Paragraphs 1 to 7 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 7 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 7 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 8
PARAGRAPHE 8
PARRAFO 8

Hermann REDL (Chairman of Commission I): I have a small comment concerning paragraph 8 of document C 93/REP/4. I have been requested by the delegates of Australia and New Zealand that both delegations should be included in the footnote. The proposal is that Australia and New Zealand be included in the footnote to paragraph 8 on page 4.

Hiroaki KISHI (Japan): With regard to paragraph 8 of C 93/REP/4 Japan would also like to express its reservation about the adoption of this paragraph. Therefore, please put the name of Japan in the footnote.

Paragraph 8, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 8, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 8, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 9 to 12 approved
Les paragraphes 9 à 12 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 9 a 12 son aprobados

Paragraphs 13 to 16, including resolution, approved
Les paragraphes 13 à 16, y compris la résolution, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 13 a 16, incluida la Resolución, son aprobados

CHAIRMAN: I put the Report contained in document C 93/REP/4 to the Conference, taking note of the amendment as proposed by the Chairman of Commission I to include Australia and New Zealand among the delegations of countries expressing their reservations in adopting paragraph 8. I declare this Report adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV (from Commission I) as amended, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, quatrième partie (émanant de la Commission I), ainsi amendé, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IV (de la Comisión I), así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART V (from Commission I)
PROJECT DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - cinquieme partie (émanant de la
Commission I)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE V (de la Comisión I)

Hermann REDL (Chairman of Commission I) : I recommend the adoption of this Report, which contains two resolutions.

Paragraphs 1 to 14 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 14 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 14 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 15 TO 24, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS
PARAGRAPHES 15 A 24, Y COMPRIS LES RESOLUTIONS
PARRAFOS 15 A 24, INCLUIDAS LAS RESOLUCIONES

Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil): Document C 93/REP/5 contains a very important item, the draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer. In connection with this item, I hope you will allow me to make a brief statement on behalf of the Brazilian delegation. Brazil actively participated in the long negotiations leading to the final draft of the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer. My delegation was generally supportive of the terms of the draft and recognized the importance of the Code in fostering the development of legal instruments on access to, and sharing of, benefits, particularly in the short interim period pending the entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This being the case, the Brazilian delegation does not wish to create any obstacle to the adoption of the draft by the Conference. However, the text before us contains certain concepts and provision which is not in line with the more recent evolution of internationally agreed documents on the subject. Therefore, as the Conference is about to adopt the voluntary Code of Conduct, Brazil feels bound to register its reservations to the text as follows

First, in disagreement with Article 15, paragraph 7, of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which stipulates that the sharing and development, as well as the benefits of its commercial utilization, should be carried out on a fair and equitable basis, the text of the Code of Conduct in Article 1.7 restricts the concept of fair and equitable sharing of benefits when it says, " by suggesting ways in which the users may pass on a share of the benefits to the donors...".

Second, in Article 3.2 the Code states "continued availability of plant genetic resources is a common concern of humankind". This goes beyond what was recognized by the Convention in Article 15. At the same time the Code adds that: "In executing these rights, access to plant genetic resources should not be unduly restricted". This constitutes a limitation of Article 15 of the Convention recognizing the competence of governments in permitting access to genetic resources in accordance with their national law and subject to their previous agreement.

Third, in Article 4 the scope of the Code is defined as, "to ensure that the collection and transfer and use of plant germless is carried out with the maximum benefit to the international community". I stress that it says

"benefit to the international community" rather than "to the benefit of the providers" as would be expected in a post-UNCED document.

Fourth, in Articles 6 to 8 the process indicated for issuing, requesting and granting collection permits does not foresee agreement over the sharing of benefits. According to these Articles, it is incumbent upon the country authority solely to expeditiously accept or deny authorization for the mission, when in fact conditions should be defined for the sharing of benefits derived from the mission.

Fifth, Articles 12 and 13 on responsibilities of sponsors and curators deal specifically with ex situ conservation without referring to the proviso that ex suit conservation should be undertaken preferably in the country of origin, as stated in Article 9 of the Convention.

Sixth, of particular concern to Brazil is the drafting of Article 14 on responsibilities of users, which reads: "Without prejudice to the concept of Farmers' Rights ... users of the germless, should ... consider providing some form of compensation for the benefits derived from the use of germless...". We believe that it is not a question of considering compensation but of mandatory benefit sharing under agreed terms with the country, which provides the resources.

Seventh, as regards Articles 15 and 16, we find the prerogatives granted to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources somewhat excessive. This applies in particular to the dispute-settlement functions attributed to the Commission as well as to the monitoring procedures envisaged.

Under these circumstances, my delegation requests that the Report of the Conference reflect the Brazilian reservations as well as Brazil's position regarding the adoption of this text. Had there been a vote, Brazil would have at least abstained.

Iávn MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia): Queremos manifestar acá en la Conferencia, lo mismo que hemos dicho en los distintos escenarios preliminares en los cuales fue discutido este Proyecto de Código Internacional de Conducta para la recolección y transferencia de germoplasma vegetal, en el sentido de que Colombia acepta las normas contenidas en el Proyecto en cuanto estén en armonía con la Constitución Nacional y las Leyes de la República de Colombia que se ocupan de la materia.

CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat has taken note of the comprehensive statement made by the delegate of Brazil, expressing his reservations - his general support, but his reservations - concerning certain Articles. We also note the comments of the delegate of Colombia.

Conference therefore accepts the draft Report as adopted, with a notation to be made of the comments and reservations of the delegations of Brazil and Colombia. The draft Report of Commission I, document C 93/REP/5 is adopted.

Paragraphs 15-24, including Resolutions as amended, adopted

Les paragraphes 15-24, y compris les résolutions ainsi amendées, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 15-24, incluidas las Resoluciones así enmendadas, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part V (from Commission I). as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - cinquième partie (émanant de la Commission I), ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria- Parte V (de la Comisión I), es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: I should like to thank the Chairman of Commission I, Mr. Hermann Redl, for the excellent work, which has been done under his leadership.

We will now await the results of the voting.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

26. Election of Council Members (continued)

26. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)

26. Elección de miembros del Consejo (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: we now have the results of the voting.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.93 - 11.95 REGION EUROPE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	5	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	130

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	66
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos			
SLOVAKIA	130				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature
Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature
Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: AFRICA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.93 - 31.12.96 REGION AFRIQUE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AFRICA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	8
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	125
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	500

7. Majority	500
Majorité	— + 1 = 101
Mayoría	5

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos			
BURKINA FASO	125				
CAPE VERDE	125				
SWAZILAND	125				
UGANDA	125				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature
Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: ASIA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.93 - 31.12.96 REGION ASIE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION ASIA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	124
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	8	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	372

7. Majority	372	
Majorité	—	+ 1 = 94
Mayoría	4	

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos			
INDIA	96	SRI LANKA	79		
		PHILIPPINES	71		
		MALAYSIA	70		
		PAKISTAN	56		

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature
Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature
Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.93 - 31.12.96 REGION EUROPE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	13
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	120
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	480

7. Majority	480	
Majorité	—	+ 1 = 97
Mayoría	5	

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos			
FRANCE	120				
ITALY	120				
NORWAY	120				
UNITED KINGDOM	120				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature
Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature
Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.93 - 31.12.96 REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	129
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	6	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	129

7. Majority	129	
Majorité	—	+ 1 = 65
Mayoría	2	

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos			
HONDURAS	129				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature

Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature

Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GICO

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: NEAR EAST REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.93 - 31.12.96 REGION PROCHE-ORIENT ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION CERCANO ORIENTE
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	10
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	4

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	121
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	363

7. Majority	363
Majorité	— + 1 = 91
Mayoría	4

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos			
EGYPT	121				
SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF	121				
SYRIA	121				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature

Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature

Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GICO

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.93 - 31.12.965 REGION PACIFIQUE SUD-OUEST ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION PACIFICO SUDOCCIDENTAL
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	126
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	9	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	126

7. Majority	126	
Majorité	—	+ 1 = 64
Mayoría	2	

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos			
AUSTRALIA	126				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escrutadores

Signature

Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature

Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GICO

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Nous devons faire un autre scrutin pour pourvoir les deux sièges qui sont restés vacants dans la région Asie avec les quatre pays qui sont candidats: Sri Lanka, Philippines, Malaisie, Pakistan.

CHAIRMAN: While we mull over the results, it may be that there are some delegations who are not absolutely certain as to what has transpired. May I congratulate all those who have been elected.

We shall have to proceed to a second ballot with respect to the period November 1993 to 31 December 1996 to get two of the following countries elected: Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

We will also proceed to voting on Council Members for the period 1 January 1995 to November 1997.

Vote

Vote

Votación

The meeting rose at 13.15 hours.

La séance est. levée à 13 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/PV/17

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

28° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
17^a SESION PLENARIA
(22 November 1993)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Mr. Majid-Ul-Hag, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures
sous la présidence de M. Majid-Ul-Hag, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 17^a sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas
baio la presidencia del Sr. Majid-Ul-Hag, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

- IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
 IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)
 IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)
26. Election of Council Members (continued)
 26. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)
 26. Elección de miembros del Consejo (continuación)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: The results of the Ballot for the Asian Region for the period November 1993 to 31 December 1996 are as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: ASIA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.93 - 31.12.96 REGION ASIE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION ASIA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	136	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	128
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	8	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	256

7. Majority	256	
Majorité	—	+ 1 = 86
Mayoría	3	

Elected - Elus - Elegidos	Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos	Eliminated - Éliminé - Eliminado
	SRI LANKA	80
	PAKISTAN	41
	MALAYSIA	69
	PHILIPPINES	66

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature
Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature
Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: The results of the Ballot for the African Region for the period from 1 January 1995 to 2 November 1997 are as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: AFRICA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.95 - 11.97 REGION AFRIQUE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AFRICA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	136
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	3
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	131
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	393

7. Majority	393
Majorité	— + 1 = 99
Mayoría	3+1

Elected - Elus - Elegidos	Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos	
CAMEROON	131	
TANZANIA	131	
ZIMBABWE	131	

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature

Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

Signature

Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

22.11.93

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GICO

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: The results of the Ballot for the European Region for the period 1 January 1995 to 2 November 1997 are as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.95 - 11.97 REGION EUROPE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	136
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	3
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	131
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	393

7. Majority	393		
Majorité	—	+	1 = 99
Mayoría	4		

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - non élus - No Elegidos			
GERMANY	122	ROMANIA	91		
TURKEY	103	ESTONIA	77		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature

Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature

Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GICO

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: The results of ballot for the Latin American Region for the period January 1995 to November 1997 are as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.95 - 11.97 REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	136
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	4
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	131
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	393

7. Majority	393
Majorité	— + 1 = 99
Mayoría	4

Elected - Elus - Elegidos	Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos	Eliminated - Éliminés - Eliminados
	ARGENTINA 94	URUGUAY 56
	CHILE 86	
	VENEZUELA 80	
	DOMINICA 77	

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

Signature
Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

22.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: The results of the Ballot for the Near East Region are as follows :

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: NEAR EAST REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.95 - 11.97 REGION PROCHE-ORIENT ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION CERCANO ORIENTE
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	136
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	7

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	128
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	128

7. Majority	128
Majorité	+ 1 = 65
Mayoría	2

Elected - Elus - Elegidos	Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF	128	

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature

Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature

Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GICO

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

The meeting was suspended from 15.30 to 16.15 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 30 à 16 h 15.

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.30 a las 16.15 horas.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: Report of the Ballot for the European Region for the period from 1 January 1995 to November 1997.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.95 - 11.97 REGION EUROPE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	128
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	128

7. Majority	128
Majorité	— + 1 = 65
Mayoría	2

Elected - Elus - Elegidos	Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos	
ESTONIA	65	ROMANIA 63

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature
Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: The results of the Ballot for the Latin American and Caribbean Region for the period 1 January 1995 to November 1997 are as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.95 - 11.97 REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	7
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	123
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	369

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	369 <hr/> + 1 = 93 4
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos			
ARGENTINA	96	DOMINICA	86		
CHILE	94				
VENEZUELA	93				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature
Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature
Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: The results of the Ballot for the Asian Region, for the period November 1993 to 31 December 1996 are as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 3	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: ASIA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.93 - 31.12.96 REGION ASIE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION ASIA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	130	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	124
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	6	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	248

7. Majority	248	
Majorité	—	+ 1 = 83
Mayoría	3	

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos			
SRI LANKA	100	MALAYSIA	79		
		PHILIPPINES	69		

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature
Firma Ms C. Taquet (Belgium)

Signature
Firma Mr D. Cangy (Mauritius)

22.11.93
Date
Fecha

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

The meeting was suspended from 16.40 to 17.00 hours.

La séance est. suspendue de 16 h 40 à 17 heures.

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.40 a las 17.00 horas.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: The results of the Ballot for the Asian Region for the period November 1993 to 31 December 1996 are as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 4	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: ASIA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 11.93 - 31.12.96 REGION ASIE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION ASIA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	130
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	129
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	129

7. Majority	129
Majorité	— + 1 = 65
Mayoría	2

Elected - Elus - Elegidos	Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos	
MALAYSIA	69	PHILIPPINES 60

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature

Firma Mr J. Novak (Czech Republic)

Signature

Firma Mr C. Gooding (Barbados)

22.11.93

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GICO

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

Sergio A. BARRERA (Philippines): We would like to congratulate Malaysia on having been elected to the Council in place of the Philippines, whose term will be ending. In accordance with Rule XXII-10(g) GRO, which states that the candidates who are unsuccessful in filling vacancies occurring in the first calendar year shall be included among the candidates for election to the vacancies occurring at the end of the second calendar year, except where they voluntarily withdraw, the Philippines would like to announce that it is voluntarily withdrawing and does not desire to be included in the next balloting.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Abdul Basit HAQQANI (Pakistan): I would like to say on behalf of my delegation that we will also not be contesting the next round of balloting.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: With this situation, there are now six countries left for the next ballot, voting for six seats. Since they have to obtain a required number of votes to qualify, although through their graciousness the distinguished delegates of the Philippines and Pakistan have withdrawn, we still have to vote again.

The meeting was suspended from 17.30 to 18.00 hours.

La séance est. suspendue de 17 h 30 à 18 heures.

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.30 a las 18.00 horas.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: This is the report of the Ballot for the election of Council Members for the Asian Region for the period of 1 January 1995 to November 1997.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: ASIA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.95 - 11.97 REGION ASIE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION ASIA
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	127	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	116
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	10	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	6
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	696

7. Majority	696
Majorité	— + 1 = 100
Mayoría	7

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos			
BANGLADESH	116				
CHINA	116				
INDONESIA	116				
JAPAN	116				
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	116				
THAILAND	116				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escrutadores

Signature

Firma Mr J. Novak (Czech Republic)

Signature

Firma Mr C. Gooding (Barbados)

22.11.93

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GICO

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: We have now come to the end of the proceedings on this item, the election of Council Members. I congratulate all those Members who have been elected to the Council, and I also appreciate the graciousness of the Members who voluntarily withdrew from the contest in order to make it easier and quicker.

With this I conclude this 17th Plenary Meeting.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La séance est. levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas.

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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 93/PV/18

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

18ª SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1993)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours
Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 18 sesión plenaria a las 9.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS
QUATRIEME PARTIE- NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS
PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES

- 27. Appointments
- 27. Nominations
- 27. Nombramientos
- 27.2 Election of Independent Chairman of the Council
- 27.2 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil
- 27.2 Elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: The 18th Plenary Meeting is now called to order. Our first item this morning is Item 27.2 Election of Independent Chairman of the Council. Under Article V, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, the Conference appoints the Independent Chairman of the Council.

There are two candidates for the post, as indicated in document C 93/15. The appointment will be by secret ballot, as specified in paragraph 9 (a) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization. Under this Rule, the quorum for election is a majority of Member Nations - that is, 85. At present there are at least 89 delegations present.

Vote

Vote

Votación

- 27.3 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee
- 27.3 Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel
- 27.3 Nombramiento de Representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

CHAIRMAN: We now move to the next item on the Agenda, Item 27.3, the Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee. For this you have document C 93/16. The Conference appoints three Members and three Alternates as representatives to this Committee. I now call on Mr Mehboob, Assistant Director-General of Administration and Finance Department, to introduce this item.

K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Under this item, Conference is to elect members representing the Conference on the FAO Staff Pension Committee. There are discussions still in process between the various delegations, to arrive at those names who could be members of this Committee. As agreement has not yet been reached, may I suggest that this item be postponed until tomorrow morning to give these delegations more time to see if some agreement can be reached. If there is no agreement by then, the matter will have to be put to the vote.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the remarks of Mr Mehboob. He is suggesting that this matter be deferred to provide time for further discussions to take

place so that some agreement can be arrived at between the contending parties for suitable candidates to be submitted to Conference. If Conference approves, we will postpone this until tomorrow. It appears that there is agreement to postpone this item until tomorrow.

PART V - OTHER MATTERS

CINQUIEME PARTIE - QUESTIONS DIVERSES

PARTE V - OTROS ASUNTOS

- 28. Date and Place of the Twenty-eighth Conference Session
- 28. Date et lieu de la vingt-huitième session de la Conférence
- 28. Fecha y lugar del 28º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: The next item on the Agenda is Item 28, which deals with the Date and Place of the Twenty-eighth Conference Session. May I ask the Secretary-General to introduce this item?

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il est proposé que la prochaine session de la Conférence, qui sera la vingt-huitième, se tienne à Rome du samedi 11 novembre au jeudi 30 novembre 1995.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposed date for the Twenty-eighth Conference, which is 11 to 30 November 1995. Are there any comments? Since there are no comments, it is decided that the Twenty-eighth Conference will be held here in Rome between 11 and 30 November 1995.

It was so decided

Il est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

- 29. Any Other Matters
- 29. Autres questions
- 29. Otros asuntos

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

CHAIRMAN: It is normal and customary on the occasion of each Conference Session that we pay tribute to those staff members of the Organization who have passed away during the preceding two years, that is, since the last session of the Conference, which was held in November 1991. May I ask you kindly to stand and observe one minute's silence in their memory.

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

UNE MINUTE DE SILENCE

UN MINUTO DE SILENCIO

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
QUATRIEME PARTIE- NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)
PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

- 27. Appointments
- 27. Nominations
- 27. Nombramientos

- 27.2 Election of Independent Chairman of the Council
- 27.2 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil
- 27.2 Elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: The results of the voting for the Independent Chairman of the Council are as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ELECTION DU PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL ELECCION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	127
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	127
5. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	127
6. Majority Majorité Mayoría	64

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Non élus - No Elegidos		Eliminated - Éliminé - Eliminado	
J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico)	82	I.I. ADAM (Ghana)	45		

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature

Firma Ms E. Askerstam (Estonia)

Signature

Firma Mr Tri Wibowo (Indonesia)

23.11.93

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GICO

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: This means that we have elected Mr López Portillo to be the next Independent Chairman of the Council.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I should certainly like to be the first to express my very hearty congratulations to Mr José Ramón López Portillo on his election to this very important office. His curriculum vitae appears in document C 93/15 and I invite all those who have not yet read it to do so. I note that he has been involved with the work of FAO since he was very much younger, beginning in 1983. He has participated at many levels. One is led to the conclusion, therefore, that the Council will be in safe, good, solid hands in the hands of young Mr Portillo, and on your behalf I wish to extend my very hearty congratulations to him on his accession to this high office.

I should like to say a word of thanks to Mr Adam for his participation in this contest. I know that Mr Adam will continue to hold high the flag of FAO, and I know that he will be anxious to say a few words before we rise this morning.

Before I invite delegates to make comments on this election, I should like first to give the floor to the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais féliciter M. López Portillo pour sa brillante élection. Je voudrais aussi féliciter les pays membres de l'avoir choisi. J'ai eu le plaisir et la joie de le connaître, de travailler avec lui pendant ces 11 années. Je salue sa brillante intelligence, sa culture incomparable, sa détermination, sa totale indépendance, son goût du dialogue, sa passion pour la FAO. Ses 11 années d'intense et brillante participation aux réunions de la Conférence, du Conseil, du Comité du Programme, où il a toujours été actif, où il a toujours joué un rôle de leadership, font sans doute de lui l'idéal Président du Conseil. Je lui souhaite le meilleur succès. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Dante DELGADO RANNAURO (México): En nombre del Gobierno de México deseo felicitar al Licenciado José Ramón López Portillo por su elección como Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Deseamos agradecer al mismo tiempo a todos los países miembros el apoyo que le dieron para alcanzar esta posición de particular relevancia hacia el interior de nuestra Organización, y a la que legítimamente ha servido durante los últimos once años con entrega y liderazgo.

Nuestro reconocimiento al Sr. Ibrahim Issaka Adam y al país que representa, nuestro reconocimiento a Ghana. Al mismo tiempo deseamos agradecer a cada uno de los países su participación y su apoyo a la candidatura del Licenciado López Portillo y dejar un testimonio de reconocimiento al señor Embajador Saintraint por su labor durante los últimos cuatro años como Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Agradecemos al Dr. Saouma las palabras que estimulan y comprometen al nuevo Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

A todos, muchas gracias.

Ibrahim ADAM (Ghana) : Mr Chairman, Director-General of FAO, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the delegation of Ghana, and on my own behalf, I should like first of all to congratulate Mr López Portillo on giving me such a sound hiding. I must confess that until this morning I did not know what my rival candidate looked like. In other words, I was fighting like a blind man. I got to know him just this morning. This is just to let you know that I was fighting a cause and not a Region or an individual. I personally am happy that a young man has won this election, because I think that the older generation has had more than its due share of the international limelight. I have no doubt as to Mr López Portillo's ability to chair the FAO Council during Dr Diouf's stewardship as Director-General. I think that perhaps distinguished delegates have just reminded us that a piano has black and white keys and to strike a good tune you need both the black and the white keys.

I should like to remind the new Director-General and Mr López Portillo that, having been elected to lead this very important Organization, they should remember that they have been de-tribalized and de-regionalized and have become servants of the people, especially the peasants of the world. We would therefore not want to see any instance of public misunderstanding between them. They may not know each other now but I believe that with time they will come to appreciate each other's values and virtues.

I would not want to make the statement that only the winner is supposed to make. Suffice it to say that we in Ghana, and Africa, are proud that a Third World citizen has won this election. We believe that the centrepiece of development within the FAO system, or the UN system, will continue to be the developing world, from which both Mr Portillo and I hail.

I should like once again to thank everybody for participating in the election. Even though I would have wished that I had won, I do not have any regrets whatsoever at losing. Perhaps I have lost to a more promising candidate, because, looking at his CV, I think that he will be more available to FAO than I would have been. Thank you very much to those who voted for me. I should like to say that they have not wasted their votes because from now on my votes and yours will go to Mr López Portillo and the new Director-General. I wish them a very happy stewardship at the helm of affairs of FAO and hope that the maturity that has been demonstrated throughout our elections, both now and two weeks ago will be sustained over the years.

Thank very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Adam, for that most gracious and mature statement.

Humberto CARRION McDONOUGH (Nicaragua) : Actualmente, como se sabe, en esta Conferencia ocupo la responsabilidad de Presidente de los 77 y ambos candidatos

para el cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo surgen de nuestro Grupo. He escuchado las palabras del Representante de Ghana y en realidad debo agradecer la oportunidad que nos ha dado para conocerlo en esta Conferencia y la oportunidad también de habernos presentado dignamente a un candidato de ese país y de esa región, como es el Africa.

Quisiera aprovechar para felicitar igualmente al candidato que ha sido electo nuevo Presidente Independiente del Consejo, al doctor José Ramón López Portillo, de México. Lo conocemos personalmente, conocemos su experiencia, su capacidad de trabajo, su actitud altamente profesional, igualmente como se ha mencionado su carácter y su personalidad independiente y consideramos que bajo su liderazgo y su guía, el Consejo de la FAO, como uno de los principales órganos de decisión y de liberalización de esta Organización, cumplirá un papel relevante en los trabajos futuros de la Organización, teniendo en cuenta que también tenemos a un nuevo Director General en la persona del señor Jacques Diouf, y por último deseo también mencionar el reconocimiento de nuestro Grupo por el trabajo que realizó el Presidente saliente del Consejo, el señor Antoine Saintraint, de Bélgica, quien claramente definió sus posiciones en el Consejo en favor del desarrollo de los países más necesitados, de los países precisamente que luchamos para lograr un desarrollo gradual y a la vez sostenible. Es esto lo que quería mencionar y agradezco a la Conferencia por la oportunidad que me ha dado para expresarme de esta manera.

J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom) : On behalf of the member countries of the OECD group, allow me to offer our heartiest congratulations to Señor López Portillo. I also send to Minister Adam our sincere commiserations for what we thought was an excellent, fair and a most cordial contest. I particularly want to thank him for the generosity of his remarks and for his graciousness.

It has been said many times that the Independent Chairman of Council occupies an extremely important post in FAO affairs. Apart from presiding wisely over our debates, we look to him, in the words of Señor López Portillo himself, to be a catalyst, a bridge, one of whose principal tasks is to secure consensus in our Council deliberations. As we know, this is by no means an easy task. It brings with it great responsibilities. We know that José Ramón López Portillo will rise to meet those challenges. On behalf of all the OECD countries, we wish him the very best and every success in his new and important role.

HUANG YONGNING (China) (Original language Chinese): At today's meeting we have just elected our new Independent Chairman of Council. The delegation of China would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr José Ramón López Portillo formally on his election to this important position.

The Chinese delegation will, as usual, take a very active part in the work of the Council during the term of office of Mr López Portillo and we shall spare no effort in contributing to the development of food and agriculture in the world. My delegation is convinced of the fact that Mr López Portillo, with his competence, intelligence and experience, will be able to make a very substantive contribution to the work of the Organization in this important position of Independent Chairman of the Council. We wish him the best in his work, and every success.

However, at this time we must not forget our old friend, Mr Saintraint, who is now leaving. He has worked with such devotion and such enthusiasm for four years to ensure the success of the work of the Council and of FAO. Mr Saintraint has a great wealth of experience, both at national level and in the international

Field, over a career that has spanned more than 60 years. He has taken an active part in the work of many international organizations such as UNDP, WHO, FAO, IFAD and others. He has led delegations and visitors to many countries on various continents such as America, Africa, Asia and so on. His sense of professional responsibility and great intelligence have made it possible for him to perform most effectively throughout his term of office as Independent Chairman of the Council of FAO. Mr Saintraint is an old friend of China and at this time when he is stepping down from the position as Chairman of the Council of FAO, on behalf of the delegation of China and on my own behalf, I would like to say to him how grateful we are for everything he has done for the Organization and for China, and to say to him that on his retirement he will go on placing his intelligence and skills at the service of the well-being of all countries of the world.

Mr Saintraint, we wish you all the best in the future and many years of happy and active life for you and your family.

Chadli LAROUCSI (Tunisie): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, je voudrais, en cet instant où nous venons d'élire le nouveau Président indépendant du Conseil en la personne de M. López Portillo, lui présenter, au nom de ma délégation, mes sincères félicitations et mes vœux de pleins succès dans les hautes fonctions que vient de lui confier notre Conférence. Et je fais miennes les sages paroles que vient de prononcer le distingué délégué du Ghana, M. Adam; paroles où il a su marier la sagesse africaine à l'esprit universel de notre Organisation. Mais je ne voudrais pas laisser passer cette occasion sans m'adresser au président sortant, M. Antoine Saintraint, pour lui rendre un hommage particulier pour les éminents services qu'il a rendus à notre Organisation, pour l'engagement qu'il a su montrer tout au long de sa présidence de notre Conseil, engagement que j'ai pu apprécier personnellement à sa juste valeur en tant que membre du Conseil; un engagement militant et ferme au service des nobles objectifs que les fondateurs de notre Organisation lui ont donnés.

Il n'est un secret pour personne que M. Saintraint, Président indépendant du Conseil, avait tout au long de sa présidence un parti pris. Oui, il avait un parti pris pour les nobles objectifs de notre Organisation: parti pris pour ces centaines de millions de personnes qui, à travers le monde, souffrent de la faim et de la misère. Il a été accusé parfois d'impartialité. Certes, il avait une impartialité; il l'a avoué lui-même; il l'avait pour fustiger l'inégalité dont est victime le monde rural. Il avait une impartialité pour fustiger la dégradation des termes de l'échange au détriment de l'agriculture. Il l'avait certes pour dire tout haut des vérités dures à entendre, comme dans son dernier discours à l'ouverture de notre Conférence où il a rappelé à la conscience de tout un chacun d'entre nous que le commerce de l'alimentation de quelques espèces d'animaux domestiques représente un montant immensément plus important que les moyens budgétaires et extrabudgétaires de la FAO (et Dieu sait si on a discuté de ces moyens longuement pour parfois une bagatelle); ou lorsqu'il nous rappelle l'évanouissement de cet engagement international de porter à 0,7 pour cent du PNB la contribution à la coopération internationale, l'évanouissement de cet élan de solidarité devant ce qu'il appelle les égoïsmes frileux, frisant l'indifférence la plus complète - parce que je crois qu'il a toujours refusé cette indifférence.

Je garderai sans doute longtemps dans ma mémoire le souvenir vivant des interventions du Président indépendant de notre Conseil, qui nous quitte aujourd'hui, lorsqu'il s'adressait quasiment à chacun dans sa langue parce que -et ce n'est pas la dernière de ses qualités - M. Saintraint est polyglotte, lorsqu'il demandait à chacun d'entre nous de nous unir davantage encore autour

des objectifs de l'Organisation, dans notre cohérence commune, car le sort de l'humanité dans son ensemble est tributaire de chacun d'entre nous.

M. Saintraint nous a rappelé que la faim d'un seul homme est la faim de tous les hommes, et que la force de l'humanité ne peut être que la résultante de la solidarité de tous les hommes, que seuls les principes d'équité, de justice et d'égalité entre nous tous peuvent constituer les bases solides de cette solidarité.

Je voudrais terminer en espérant que l'exemple de M. Saintraint inspire ses successeurs et son successeur aujourd'hui comme ses éminents prédécesseurs l'ont inspiré. Mais je voudrais rendre un hommage particulier à cet homme du Nord imprégné des problèmes du Sud, qui a été l'exemple vivant de la solidarité agissante qui doit régir les relations entre nous tous, dans cette organisation universelle, quelle que soit notre origine, quel que soit notre degré de développement, quel que soit notre niveau de richesse: oeuvre combien exaltante à laquelle la FAO s'est attelée avec courage et conviction, grâce justement au courage et à la conviction d'hommes de la trempe des hommes qui nous guident aujourd'hui et qui cèdent la flamme à un nouveau Directeur général et à un nouveau Président indépendant du Conseil pour continuer à faire de la FAO le lieu privilégié du dialogue, de la concertation et aussi de l'action, le lieu où se forgeront les bases de la prospérité agricole et alimentaire, c'est-à-dire les bases de la prospérité réelle de l'humanité, condition indispensable d'une paix et d'une sécurité durables dans le monde de demain.

J'espère que, grâce à la sagesse et à l'engagement de tout un chacun dans son action quotidienne et grâce à nous tous, unis autour des objectifs de notre Organisation, dans le monde de demain, réduit par la magie des moyens de communication modernes aux dimensions d'un grand village - mais un grand village où, plus que jamais, les inégalités sont fortement ressenties et fortement rejetées - dans ce monde nouveau, nous serons plus solidaires, nous serons plus justes, en un mot, nous serons plus humains.

Toutes mes félicitations au nouveau Président élu et, à M. et Mme Saintraint, mes vœux de bonheur.

William H. MARSH (United States of America): At this time of change and evolution in the affairs of FAO, firstly allow me to express to Ambassador Saintraint our appreciation for the dynamism and the zeal that he has always devoted to the service of us all.

I should also like to thank Minister Adam, and express our renewed respect and admiration for him, which first began when he served as Chairman of the Preparatory Conference for the International Conference on Nutrition - a respect and admiration reaffirmed during his brilliant campaign, and his great eloquence this morning.

What I particularly wish to convey now is the real excitement of the United States because a friend and brother has won this most important post in FAO. In the past there was a well-known rivalry between the United States and Mexico. A Mexican leader once said, "Poor Mexico so far from God, so close to the United States of America." At the present time, the United States says, "Lucky United States, so close to Mexico as well as to Canada", for within recent days the all-important votes in both the United States and Mexico to establish the North American Free Trade Association are the outward and visible signs of great evolution and great growth in our relationships.

In that sense this special delight that the United States feels today is because we feel that in effect one of us, one of our brothers from the region, has won an election, a most important one, and moreover, Dr López Portillo represents the Mexico of today and tomorrow which is a most valued partner of my country.

He is youthful but wise; he is experienced; he is open to the world; he understands the processes of change which are probably the most important elements of the Food and Agriculture Organization. This Organization stands for peaceful and sustainable change and he is the very representation of that as an individual and as a citizen of his country. So we are delighted - and I use that word for the third time - that Mr López Portillo has won this election. We look forward to the utmost cooperation with him and welcome his leadership.

Adel N. CORTAS (Liban) (Langue originale arabe) : Au nom de mon pays, je souhaite féliciter M. López Portillo pour son élection à la Présidence indépendante du Conseil. Je connais M. López Portillo depuis 1983. Il était, à cette époque, représentant de son pays et venait d'être nommé à la FAO. Je connais sa compétence, ses qualités, son expérience et sa connaissance profonde de l'Organisation. Je sais que c'est un homme extrêmement cultivé, quelqu'un certainement doué d'un esprit très indépendant. Je suis certain qu'il collaborera pleinement avec le nouveau Directeur général, surtout à la lumière du fait qu'il représente un pays avec lequel nous avons eu des relations amicales. Il représente également le tiers monde.

Je voudrais également saisir cette occasion pour remercier M. Ibrahim Issaka Adam pour son sens de l'humour et son esprit fair play ainsi que la façon dont il a accepté l'élection de M. López Portillo. Nous connaissons bien les deux candidats. Nous avons connu M. Adam au moment où il présidait le Comité préparatoire de la CIN.

En conclusion, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, puisque vous m'avez aimablement donné la parole, de présenter mes remerciements à M. Saintraint, le Président sortant du Conseil, parce que, en tant que Président indépendant, il a assumé cette charge pendant quatre années consécutives. J'espère qu'il profitera bien de sa retraite; j'espère aussi qu'il vivra longtemps. Je le connais depuis sa visite au Liban; nous avons visité ensemble toutes les zones agricoles au Liban. M. Saintraint, lui aussi, a bien représenté le tiers monde et l'a surtout servi de façon très efficace, de même qu'il a servi l'Organisation. Nous n'oublierons pas son enthousiasme et son dévouement au service des pauvres du monde. Nous aimerions le remercier une fois encore pour les services qu'il a rendus à l'Organisation et au tiers monde en général.

Carlos A. DA ROCHA PARANHOS (Brasil): Hablo aquí, señor Presidente, no solamente como Delegado del Brasil, sino también en calidad de Presidente del Grupo de América Latina y del Caribe. En esta calidad yo quería, en primer lugar, saludar a nuestro amigo y a nuestro compañero José Ramón López Portillo, por la brillante elección que ha tenido esta mañana. A nosotros todos, miembros del Grupo de América Latina y del Caribe, nos causa un inmenso orgullo, una gran alegría, que un representante de nuestra Región haya sido elegido Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Soy plenamente consciente de que la función de Presidente Independiente del Consejo, como bien lo dice el calificativo "Independiente" significa que no es un representante de una región; pero debo decir que América Latina y el Caribe hoy se sienten orgullosos de tener a un joven dinámico y preparado, y sobre todo un buen conocedor de los trabajos de la FAO donde ha servido ya anteriormente, y una persona que ha demostrado amor, lealtad e interés por la Organización, como bien ha subrayado el señor

Director General, que pueda tener hoy el cargo de Presidente- Independiente del Consejo, de cuya importancia no es necesario avanzar más.

Tengo absoluta seguridad, tenemos todos, los latinoamericanos y caribeños, que José Ramón López Portillo va a desempeñar un papel muy importante en el sentido de dar independencia y firmeza en la conducción de los trabajos del Consejo y también a los órganos a él ligados.

Estoy seguro también de que el Dr. López Portillo va a tener la mejor de las relaciones con el nuevo Director General, el Dr. Jacques Diouf, y que van a trabajar en conjunto por el engrandecimiento y por la permanente lucha de la Organización contra el hambre y contra la injusticia.

Me gustaría también, señor Presidente, en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, saludar al Ministro Issaka Adam, de Ghana, por sus palabras y por la manera, absolutamente elegante, con que se ha conducido en esta elección y por sus palabras después de conocer los resultados.

Desearía también, a nivel del grupo latinoamericano y del Caribe, decir una vez más una palabra de agradecimiento a esta magnífica y extraordinaria persona que es el Embajador Saintraint, que con inmensa firmeza, con tenacidad, y sobre todo con el calificativo que más se le aplica, independencia, ha conducido los trabajos de Presidente del Consejo de la FAO. Por todas estas razones América Latina y el Caribe le quedan muy agradecidos. A José Ramón reafirmo aquí, no solamente en nombre del Brasil, sino también de todos los demás miembros del Grupo, que puedes contar con nosotros, que estaremos a tu lado en todas las labores, y muchas felicidades.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): Quisiera, señor Presidente, felicitar en nombre de mi Gobierno al señor López Portillo por su elección a Presidente Independiente del Consejo. España se siente enormemente satisfecha porque un candidato de México haya sido elegido. De todos son conocidos los lazos de hermandad entre México y España. En distintos niveles de esta Organización hemos venido recordando la importancia de este cargo que acabamos de elegir, y estamos convencidos de que el señor López Portillo desarrollará una gran labor durante su mandato.

Es de justicia, también, agradecer la labor llevada a cabo por el Presidente saliente, señor Saintraint, a lo largo de sus cuatro años en este cargo.

Fotis G. POULIDES (Chypre): Monsieur le Président, il n'est pas très facile pour moi de dire au revoir à mon très cher ami, Antoine Saintraint, auquel me lie une profonde amitié. Pendant quatre ans, sa figure toujours souriante nous a habitués à le voir présider nos séances du Conseil avec une maîtrise exceptionnelle et une connaissance sans précédent des sujets en discussion, toujours prêt à affronter n'importe quelles objections ou critiques avec courage et ténacité mais en essayant toujours, en même temps, d'expliquer la matière avec impartialité, ayant toujours un seul but: l'intérêt global de l'Organisation.

Je souhaite à mon très cher ami Antoine une très bonne santé car je sais bien que, dans notre monde où le courage et l'idéalisme sont deux éléments principaux de notre vie, il y aura toujours des organisations humanitaires qui non seulement le maintiendront très actif mais lui offriront aussi les satisfactions ultérieures qu'il mérite. Il sait très bien - je n'ai pas besoin de le lui dire -que notre amitié durera toujours.

Et maintenant, je dois saluer un autre cher ami: le nouveau Président indépendant du Conseil, José Ramón López Portillo. Je connais José Ramón depuis plusieurs années; j'ai toujours apprécié son caractère et ses profondes connaissances. Je suis plus que certain qu'il sera un excellent Président indépendant du Conseil, digne de son prédécesseur, car il en a le courage, l'efficacité et, si nécessaire, la ténacité. Nous pouvons donc être sûrs que les intérêts et l'avenir de notre Organisation sont en de très bonnes mains. Cher Ramón, au nom du Groupe du Moyen-Orient et du Groupe des 77 ainsi qu'en mon nom personnel, je te souhaite bonne chance et t'adresse nos vœux les plus cordiaux de grand succès.

John Bruce SKARPE (Australia) : I have the honour to speak on behalf of the nine member countries of the Southwest Pacific Region who Australia represents on the Council. Those countries are Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Cook Islands, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Zealand and Australia.

The Southwest Pacific Region would also like to congratulate Mr López Portillo and put on record its appreciation of the work done during his term of office by the outgoing Independent Chairman of the Council, Mr Antoine Saintraint. We feel that the Organization and its Council has benefited greatly from Mr Saintraint's leadership and guiding influence.

Mr López Portillo is well known to me personally as we have both worked as members of the Programme Committee together. In that time I have come to admire his abilities and the contributions he has made to the work of that Committee.

Our region is certain that Mr Portillo will bring his considerable expertise and experience to the position of Independent Chairman of the Council. We will also benefit from his experience and his abilities. We in the Southwest Pacific Region look forward to working with you, Sir.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): I should like to add our warmest congratulations to the new Independent Chairman of the Council, Mr José Ramón López Portillo, on his election to a position in which he will represent not his country but all of the members of the Council. We know Mr López Portillo well from his work on the Programme Committee, and we know that he brings to his task a deep commitment to the founding ideals of the FAO.

In congratulating Mr López Portillo, we would be remiss if we did not pay tribute to the admirable candidacy of Minister Adam, and to his graceful acceptance of the decision that we have taken this morning.

I would also like to recognize the vigorous and lively stewardship of Mr Saintraint and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Mr Chairman, we are at a watershed in the history of FAO. In today's fast-changing world, FAO must run just to keep pace in maintaining its relevance and effectiveness in the field of international cooperation and development, which is marked as never before in recent memory by severe resource limitations and by an unrelenting competition for resources. In this context, success for any institution demands a greater quality of effort on the part of all its members. Importantly for FAO, this will require improved contributions from its governing bodies. These bodies must increase the efficiency, quality and scope of their deliberations and outputs, and they will need to be increasingly imaginative, innovative and perceptive in defining the policy and operational orientations and choices that they will wish this Organization to have.

The position to which Mr López Portillo has just been elected represents both an honour and a trust. In selecting you, the members of this Conference have entrusted to you the heavy responsibility of guiding the vitally important work of the executive organ of our Organization. We are confident that you will discharge your duties with patience, efficiency, impartiality, objectivity, even-handedness and, at times, with the leavening effects of humour, and that in so doing you will act as an imaginative and resourceful catalyst to reasoned dialogue, compromise and consensus among the disparate community over which you will preside, thus preserving the integrity and independence of your office. You will have our fullest support and collaboration in this important enterprise.

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudia Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I am here speaking on behalf of the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. We extend our congratulations to our friend, Mr López Portillo. We are fully confident that he is capable of steering the work of the Council with impartiality. We know that he is capable of reaching consensus amongst the members of the Council.

I would be remiss here if I did not pay tribute to Mr Adam, the Minister of Agriculture from Ghana, who did not succeed this time. We wish him success in the future.

We would like to thank Mr Saintaint, the outgoing Independent Chairman of the Council, who conducted his work with independence, with impartiality and with competence.

Before concluding my statement, may I say that it could be a coincidence that the seats of my country have on their right the seats of the country whose candidate became the Director-General, and in front of us are the seats of the country whose candidate became the new Independent Chairman. Thus my corner could be considered as the winner's corner.

Ato Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): We also would like to congratulate Mr López Portillo on his election as the new Independent Chairman of the Council and wish him success in this important responsibility. We have known Mr López Portillo for the last nine years and have worked with him on a number of committees, including the Programme Committee. His views have always been in the interests of all of us and have been very valuable. As in the past, we will continue to cooperate with Mr López Portillo and assist in whatever way we can towards a satisfying success in this important responsibility and we have complete confidence in this matter.

We would also like to thank His Excellency Mr Adam for the interest he has shown in serving the international community, and also for the quality of leadership he demonstrated during the International Conference on Nutrition as its Chairman. In this connection, let me also add that the democratic process through which we have just passed has made us believe even more in its fruitful outcome.

I therefore join all others who have spoken before me in expressing our satisfaction on the election of Mr López Portillo whose capability, skills and understanding are a match for the important responsibility of the Independent Chairmanship of the Council.

We would also like to thank and express due regard for the outgoing Independent Chairman, Ambassador Saintaint, for the outstanding service that he has

rendered in the last four years, and wish him success in his endeavours in the future.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago takes the opportunity on its own behalf and on behalf of the 13 member CARICOM states of the Latin America and Caribbean Region, first of all to express our enduring gratitude to the outgoing Independent Chairman, Mr Saintraint, for his decisiveness, for his challenging approach to the conduct of the office of Independent Chairman and for his undeniable support for the developing world, for his humanness and his humanity. We are very grateful; Sir, and we wish you long life and good health.

We take this opportunity also to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Ghana for his graciousness on the way the campaign was conducted, and in particular for his words of wisdom in acknowledging defeat at the end of the contest. It was done in the true spirit of brotherhood, an aspect to which we have become accustomed in this House.

We take the opportunity also to congratulate Señor José Ramón López Portillo of Mexico for having succeeded to the office of the Independent Chairmanship of the Council. You will know, Sir, that Trinidad and Tobago has the privilege, the honour and the responsibility of representing 13 small states in the Caribbean Region on the Council. We look forward in those circumstances to working as effectively with you as we did with the past Independent Chairman. We know that you are young; you are dynamic and you have tremendous experience in the affairs of this House. We trust that you will bring all of this to bear on the responsibilities of office.

Like all who spoke before us, we have no doubt that you are particularly well equipped to endure the challenges ahead. Like all who spoke before us, we also look forward to a very collegial, cooperative, collaborative relationship between yourself as Independent Chairman and the incoming Director-General. The countries that constitute this Organization expect no less and indeed we are assured that you will do no less.

Alioune SENE (Sénégal): Le hasard a voulu que la délégation mexicaine soit située juste devant la pancarte du Sénégal. Ceci est peut-être d'un bonheur venu du ciel. En tout cas, ma délégation voudrait féliciter M. López Portillo pour son élection au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO.

Encore une fois cette élection s'est déroulée de manière courtoise, sereine et démocratique. Le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, en commentant les résultats, a particulièrement rendu hommage à M. López Portillo, en mettant l'accent sur sa grande compétence, sa vaste expérience des affaires de la FAO depuis près de onze ans, sa passion, son dynamisme et sa détermination pour l'accomplissement des objectifs de cette Organisation. Nous nous en félicitons tous.

Mais dans le même ordre d'idée, nous voudrions dire que le candidat africain, Ibrahim Issaka Adam a, comme plusieurs orateurs l'ont souligné, beaucoup de mérite. Il s'est distingué de manière brillante et remarquée au sein de toutes les instances où il a eu à assumer des responsabilités. En tout cas, à Genève, il nous a laissé le souvenir mémorable de la présidence de la Conférence préparatoire sur la nutrition et la santé. Les paroles que vient de prononcer Ibrahim Adam nous donnent toute la mesure de sa sagesse, de son dévouement pour le rôle que joue la FAO dans le monde. M. Ibrahim Adam, si l'on veut faire une

comparaison musicale, a donné des notes prouvant son sens de l'harmonie, et aussi ses convictions généreuses, humanistes, son humilité dans la lutte pour le triomphe des idéaux de la FAO et de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.

Nous avons la certitude que les efforts conjugués du Dr Jacques Diouf, nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, et de M. López Portillo, nouveau Président indépendant élu du Conseil de la FAO, vont oeuvrer ensemble pour mener les destinées de notre Organisation avec la foi ardente de répondre aux défis d'un monde en pleine mutation qui leur sont posés, car ce dont il s'agit, c'est de promouvoir la dignité humaine à travers le droit fondamental à la nourriture, à la justice, à la paix, à l'harmonie sociale et au développement pour le plus grand bien de l'humanité.

Je voudrais, pour terminer, saluer ici l'action exemplaire du Président sortant, M. Antoine Saintraint qui, hier soir, m'a fait part de ses réflexions en sa qualité de Président du Conseil. Je dois dire que j'ai été impressionné par sa vision claire du rôle global de la FAO dans la marche du progrès universel et les tragédies et les déséquilibres économiques, les crises et les pénuries qui secouent le monde. Il m'a fait entrevoir qu'il est optimiste, comme moi-même, et que nous devons garder à l'esprit que la FAO est avant tout porteuse de valeurs, valeurs de solidarité, de fraternité et d'aspiration fondamentale au mieux-être, à la paix, au service de la coopération internationale et du développement pour toute la famille humaine.

Jan BIKLAWSKI (Poland): I speak not only on behalf of my own Government but also on behalf of several Central and Eastern European countries with whom we conduct regular negotiations. The group is in the making with its membership growing, and now we have elected an Independent Chairman of Council I feel it is our common and pleasant duty to convey to Mr López Portillo our warmest congratulations on his election.

We should also like to commend Minister Adam on his outstanding performance during this campaign and on the excellent results he has scored to his credit on many occasions, particularly but not only during the International Conference on Nutrition. I would not like to have missed his remark about qualifications and personality. All in all, during this Conference we have found ourselves in a rather fortunate situation. In FAO we usually speak about the economics of shortage but now we can speak about the economics of plenty. We have an embarras de choix, which augurs well for the future.

I am profoundly convinced that Mr López Portillo as the new Independent Chairman of Council will acquit himself with flying colours in his complex and important obligations. FAO is faced with new challenges; its membership is growing and new problems are cropping up. The Organization is in need of leadership and change. At this important stage, at this threshold, we are convinced that Mr López Portillo will be an invaluable asset both for FAO members and to the newly elected Director-General.

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe will try to establish as soon as possible a direct working relationship with the Independent Chairman of Council. Before doing so, however, we wish him all success in his responsible duties.

I take the opportunity to thank the outgoing Independent Chairman of Council, Mr Saintraint, for his appreciable efforts while in office.

Hiroaki KISHI (Japan): We, too, have also observed with great pleasure the result of the election of the new Independent Chairman of Council, and express our hearty congratulations to Mr López Portillo. We believe he will be able to address the challenges facing this Organization and we are sure he will discharge his responsibilities on behalf of FAO with his able leadership and wisdom.

Finally, we would like to express our extreme appreciation to Mr Saintraint for his activities during the past four years.

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): Minister Adam of Ghana himself never sought to be the Independent Chairman of Council of FAO. He became a candidate because of the request from a number of countries from various regions channelled to Ghana to provide him as a choice for this Conference to consider.

This has been an interesting and fair election. We are happy that the results have brought in Mr López Portillo of Mexico. In the name of Africa I express warm congratulations to him. The Member States of the African group have a very keen stake in the success of the stewardship of the new Director-General, Mr Diouf. We trust that in Mr López Portillo we will have an understanding and cooperative personality to work for FAO and for all the member countries. I can assure Mr López Portillo of the full cooperation of the African States during his tenure as Independent Chairman.

May I just say a word to Minister Adam. When last year you chaired the International Conference on Nutrition, your outstanding performance here in this very hall made Africa proud. Today your remarkable statement conceding defeat once again demonstrated the quality of the sort of person you are. Africa is proud of you.

Now to our friend Mr Saintraint. Four years ago we were proud to have participated in the election that brought Mr Saintraint to the office of the Independent Chairman of Council. In these four years, we of the African group have not been disappointed for even a moment. We shall miss you as you leave this place, but we know you yourself recognize the feeling Africa has for you. Thank you and good rest.

Soumalia ISSAKA (Niger): Monsieur le Président, mon pays avait accueilli avec grand intérêt les candidatures de M. López Portillo et de M. Ibrahim Adam. Et j'ai été personnellement très frappé par les immenses qualités des deux candidats. C'est pourquoi, en abordant tout à l'heure le vote qui a eu lieu, nous l'avons fait avec sérénité, parce que nous étions persuadés, quel que soit le choix qui en serait issu, que notre Organisation bénéficierait d'un Président exemplaire. Donc, nous rendons hommage au Ministre Ibrahim Adam. Et nous voulons également féliciter chaleureusement M. López Portillo d'être élu, donc, pour le prochain biennium, en qualité de Président indépendant de notre Conseil. Nous n'avons pas eu, comme beaucoup ici, la chance de connaître de longue date M. López Portillo. Mais nous l'avons côtoyé pendant quatre ans dans le cadre des travaux conjoints du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier auxquels nous appartenons respectivement. Nous avons donc eu l'occasion de le côtoyer, puis franchement de collaborer, de conjuguer nos efforts, nos intelligences, dans le cadre de ces travaux du Comité conjoint. Et nous sommes arrivés à reconnaître les immenses qualités, l'ouverture d'esprit et l'engagement de M. López Portillo pour le bienfait de l'Organisation. Nous voudrions donc ajouter, à tous les éléments de sa personnalité qui ressortent à travers son curriculum vitae, qu'il faut tenir compte de cette connaissance directe que nous avons eue de

M. Portillo, pour témoigner de toute notre confiance pour la-*façon* dont il aura à accomplir son mandat et son rôle de Président indépendant. Nous voulons également saisir cette occasion, Monsieur le Président, pour renouveler toutes nos appréciations à M. Saintraint, Président indépendant sortant. Nous avons eu l'occasion en privé de lui faire part de toute notre considération et de la façon dont nous avons reçu, nous, en tant que pays en développement, son engagement pour la coopération internationale et le développement du tiers monde, et également son engagement pour les objectifs de l'Organisation.

Nous profitons donc de l'occasion qui nous est donnée ici pour solennellement lui renouveler toutes nos félicitations et notre reconnaissance pour l'action qu'il a accomplie au cours de ses deux mandats. Nous savons que, justement à cause de cette grande vision qu'il a pour l'Organisation, il a souvent ébranlé des convictions au sein des Etats Membres et été à contrecourant disons de certaines modes de l'Organisation. Et nous savons qu'il faut justement des hommes de cette trempe pour faire avancer les idées justes, les causes qui rentrent dans le cadre des objectifs de notre Organisation.

Encore une fois, nous lui sommes grés de tout cela et nous le remercions chaleureusement.

Hubert DE SCHRYVER (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, au nom de la délégation de la Belgique ainsi que de la Présidence de la Communauté européenne et de ses pays membres, tout comme des pays membres du groupe géographique européen, je me dois de féliciter le nouveau Président du Conseil, M. López Portillo, pour son élection. Nous aurons l'occasion de le faire plus amplement lors de la réunion du Conseil et surtout de travailler tous ensemble.

Je voudrais en même temps remercier le Ministre Adam d'avoir bien voulu être candidat et d'avoir avec humour accepté le résultat du scrutin.

En terminant, je voudrais remercier mon compatriote, M. Saintraint, qui a été également mon prédécesseur comme représentant permanent. Nous connaissons tous son engagement comme Président du Conseil durant ces quatre années. Je suis certain qu'il restera très actif. Et je lui souhaite encore de longues années au service des idéaux qu'il a toujours incarnés. Il pourra ainsi atteindre la carrière de 60 années dont a parlé tout à l'heure notre collègue de Chine. Mes meilleurs vœux vous accompagnent, Monsieur Saintraint, ainsi que Madame Saintraint et toute votre famille. Nous pourrons continuer à travailler au Conseil sous votre regard attentif, immortalisé dans la salle du Conseil par Miss Yoshida, ici présente également dans la salle.

Sergio A. BARRERA (Philippines): The Philippine Delegation is at one with the FAO membership in congratulating and welcoming the new Independent Chairman of the Council, Mr José Ramón López Portillo of Mexico. We also congratulate Mr Ibrahim Issaka Adam of Ghana, an equally highly qualified candidate for Independent Chairman, on his message exhorting all of us to unity and mutual cooperation. We believe that under the able leadership and wise guidance of the new Chairman the Council will continue to attain its goals and objectives. The Council will be facing a new and exciting period as the future challenges become more complicated. On a wider horizon, we are still suffering from a malaise of seemingly insurmountable economic problems, ranging from debt issues and trade access to the ever-increasing problems of poverty, hunger and environmental degradation.

Concerning FAO itself, we are faced with decreasing contributions, on the one hand, and increasing requests for FAO assistance, on the other. It is in this context that we place our trust in the new Chairman and pledge to him our cooperation and support as he presides over the Council deliberations in the coming years. We wish Mr José Ramón López Portillo every success.

The Philippine Delegation joins the other delegations in expressing heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to the outgoing Independent Chairman of the Council, Mr Antoine Saintraint, for a job that was indeed very well done. We shall remember his excellent leadership as well as the wit and humour which he shared with us as he strove to lighten the tensions, which sometimes arose during our discussions. His able stewardship of the Council deliberations has led the meetings to fruitful and successful conclusions.

Behind Mr Saintraint's wit and humour, however, is an intense and caring person who has indefatigably and selflessly worked for the interests of the farmers, the poor, the underprivileged and the hungry. While being independent, Mr Saintraint, whenever possible, took the side of the weak and the needy, even as he carefully balanced and steered the many conflicting interests, which are inherent in a complex organization such as FAO. We feel it has been an honour to have Mr Saintraint chair the Council for the past four years. The Philippine delegation wishes Mr Saintraint all the best and much success in his future endeavours for the less privileged of humanity.

The mantle of leadership of the FAO Council is now being passed from one excellent Independent Chairman to another, from Mr Antoine Saintraint to Mr José Ramón López Portillo. We feel confident and assured that FAO will continue to fulfil its noble objectives and mandate to ameliorate hunger and poverty in the world.

Michael KIMA TABONG (Cameroon): I bring very warm greetings and congratulations to the newly elected Independent Chairman.

The elections that we have had on 8 November and today have been very remarkable. These elections have gone "ATP", according to plan. They have gone according to plan in the sense that the Group of 77, comprising Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Near East, had determined that this time these two leading positions in FAO should come to our Group. We want to thank all the other Regions, which have joined us in making this possible.

Before I go on, as the saying goes "A tout seigneur, tout honneur", and so I shall start by offering very warm congratulations to Ambassador Saintraint. We shall miss his warm embrace, even if there is no one around him; we shall miss his wonderful smiles. But the old order changes and yields place to the new. We now have a new leadership, and I should like to remind the new Independent Chairman and the new Director-General of the logo of FAO, Fiat Panis, and Bread for All. They should bear this in mind. No one Region could have elected a Director-General; no one Region could have elected an Independent Chairman. That means that all of us here present, our countries and ourselves, have chipped in to make this democratic process possible. That is why the newly elected Independent Chairman and the newly elected Director-General owe us a lot. They have not been elected to work for a particular Region; they have not been elected to work for a particular Group. There must be no witch-hunt as to who voted for them and who did not vote for them. Their distribution of portfolios and privileges should spread to the whole world, for the sake of Fiat Panis, Bread for All.

The Chairman of the African Group has already said that that Group is ready to give all cooperation to the newly elected Independent Chairman. I would only add that the Cameroon Delegation, in particular, will not spare any effort to make our little contribution in support of the new Independent Chairman.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO (Presidente Independiente del Consejo elegido): Señor Presidente, señor Director General, distinguidos delegados, señoras y señores: debo advertir que me embargan emociones encontradas, pero si las tuviera que sintetizar de alguna manera, serían las de un profundo agradecimiento, las de una profunda humildad, las de una gran responsabilidad. Profundo agradecimiento a los países que han depositado su confianza en mí para dirigir los trabajos del órgano ejecutivo de nuestra Organización. No les fallaré. Igualmente, agradecimiento por la gran elegancia y simpatía con que el Ministro Adam ha expresado su posición como candidato alternativo a la Presidencia Independiente. Yo, como él lo había dicho, tampoco tenía el placer de conocerle personalmente; y les digo desde ahora que fue inmediata la amistad y el encuentro que tuvimos y que con esto queda impreso en mi memoria y en mi corazón, y le digo a usted, Adam, que merece todo mi respeto.

A los delegados que han tenido a bien expresar su agradecimiento y felicitaciones, les respondo que he tomado nota de lo que han dicho y que espero estar a la altura de lo que me imponen.

Señor Presidente, ya tendré la oportunidad en el próximo Consejo de la FAO de honrar a mi amigo, el señor Antoine Saintraint, por la extraordinaria labor que ha desarrollado al frente del Consejo, por su firmeza, por su condición, por su pasión y por su independencia. El ha mantenido muy en alto la bandera de la Presidencia Independiente, del concepto de independencia de nuestra Organización.

Respecto a mi sentimiento de humildad, señor Presidente, esto se deriva de que el esfuerzo que tenemos por delante jamás será satisfecho para atender las necesidades de los pueblos que todavía sufren el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria. Siento un profundo sentimiento de humildad porque, en verdad, todos estos esfuerzos, nuestros debates, nuestras elecciones, finalmente están orientados hacia la consecución de sistemas operativos que le permita a nuestra Organización, y a través de ella a todos los Estados Miembros, el combatir justamente eso: el hambre, la malnutrición, la pobreza.

Mi sentimiento de humildad, por tanto, estriba en que reconozco que esta posición del Presidente Independiente del Consejo tiene frente a sí un extraordinario reto, el reto de mantener muy en alto el mandato de nuestra Organización y de buscar en el equilibrio multilateral la convergencia de las voluntades políticas de todos los Estados Miembros.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, también me embarga un enorme sentimiento de responsabilidad, ya que estoy convencido de que la tarea del Presidente Independiente del Consejo debe ser, quizá hoy más que nunca, la de permitir el puentear, catalizar las voluntades de los Estados Miembros, con el propósito de que se mantenga, que se fortalezca el consenso de nuestra Organización a la luz de los nuevos retos.

El Presidente Independiente debe, como la Conferencia lo está mandando, estar en condiciones de asesorar efectivamente al nuevo Director General para que cumpla con el gran reto de continuar con la tarea que ha desarrollado el Dr. Saouma; en hacer de nuestra Organización una más eficiente, más efectiva y más transparente.

Asimismo, deberá buscar el Consejo de la FAO promover el que. Lleguemos a políticas consistentes, efectivas, que rescaten de la ignominia a millones de seres humanos.

Por todo lo expuesto, señor Presidente, reconozco mis altas responsabilidades; subrayo que estoy consciente de que al aceptar la Presidencia Independiente no respondo a ningún país ni a ninguna región, sino que debo, con la mayor eficacia de la que sea yo capaz, buscar que esta Organización logre catalizar dentro de la imparcialidad, la credibilidad, la equidad, las posiciones de todos ustedes.

Tenemos una gran tarea por delante, y ya tendré oportunidad en la primera reunión del Consejo de la FAO de despedir a mi querido amigo, a mi - yo diría hasta maestro - que ha sido el Dr. Saouma, quien ha logrado en estos años adaptar las políticas de la Organización para que converjan a la gran transformación de un nuevo mundo. En este nuevo ímpetu, deseo subrayar que apoyaré plenamente al nuevo Director General, el señor Jacques Diouf, para que continúe, para que fortalezca, para que ratifique esta tendencia de transformación de nuestra Organización.

También tendré la oportunidad en la próxima reunión del Consejo de despedir a Antoine Saintraint y felicitarle por su gran labor.

Le agradezco, señor Presidente, a usted y a los distinguidos delegados, por su confianza y la oportunidad de darme ahora el uso de la palabra.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Conference is grateful to Mr López Portillo for his initial statement of policy. He has said very clearly the lines he intends to follow as he takes up this very important role to which we have elected him this morning at Conference. We thank you, Mr López Portillo, and wish you every success in carrying out the very important responsibilities, which now rest in your capable hands.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Independent Chairman of Council): I should like to thank you all for your kind words. This a moment of great emotion for me, and I should like to thank all members of FAO. (Continues in Spanish)

José Ramón te conozco desde hace mucho y estoy seguro de que el Consejo está ahora con un Presidente Independiente que va a seguir el ideal de nuestra Organización. Desde hace más de ocho años he tenido la oportunidad de discutir contigo, de conocerte como Representante, como Embajador de México, país con el cual tengo muchos lazos de afecto. Hace cerca de más de 25 años que estuve durante tres años en México con la familia y con todos los chicos. Tengo recuerdos inolvidables, a la vez de la apertura de los mexicanos y también de la voluntad de ese pueblo tan valioso. Conozco bastante bien su país, por el cual yo tengo una gran admiración.

Estoy seguro de que los cuatro años que vienen tú vas a seguir adelante con toda tu experiencia del tercer mundo, como ex Embajador de México, como ex Presidente del Grupo de los 77, con tu experiencia de los diferentes comités, del Comité del Programa y también con todos los lazos que te unen con todos los países miembros de esta Organización.

Es para mí un momento muy importante porque estoy seguro de que contigo el Consejo podrá seguir en la buena dirección, (continúa en francés)

Je voudrais dire à Edouard Saouma, puisque c'est la dernière fois que j'ai l'occasion de prendre la parole, qu'il ne va jamais nous quitter. L'empreinte qu'il a laissée à cette Organisation, son style, sa fermeté, son courage resteront gravés non seulement dans nos mémoires, mais dans la mémoire de ceux qui viendront après nous pour assurer la relève.

Edouard Saouma, vous êtes et vous avez été un très grand Directeur général. Vous savez que je n'ai pas l'habitude d'être flatteur ni de chercher à dire des choses que je ne pense pas profondément. Mais toutes les grandes innovations, toutes les grandes orientations, toutes les optiques fondamentales qui se trouvaient gravées dans l'Acte constitutif de la FAO, vous êtes parvenu à les rendre vivantes, concrètes. Et je sais que beaucoup d'entre nous, sinon la majorité, retiendront toujours les messages que vous avez transmis. Je suis convaincu que ceux qui ont reçu votre message, parfois dans des affrontements, le transmettront à d'autres, à leurs successeurs, pour que demain la FAO reste ce que vous, Edouard Saouma, avez voulu qu'elle soit : un instrument de progrès, un instrument d'amélioration du sort des pauvres et des démunis de ce monde, dans une optique d'efficacité, dans une optique de rayonnement à travers le monde, non pas centré sur une maison fermée mais ouvert très largement sur tout notre univers. Je crois pouvoir vous dire merci.

Je voudrais également dire merci à tous les membres de la Conférence, à tous ceux qui m'ont rendu hommage. Cet hommage, je ne crois pas le mériter. J'ai simplement tenté de faire mon devoir. J'ai tenté de transmettre ce que je pensais profondément, ce que j'ai cru, ce que je crois et ce que je croirai encore dans l'avenir être la vérité : cette vérité parfois si dure à accepter par certains, cette vérité où un "oui" doit être oui et où un "non" doit pouvoir être non. Cela demande parfois beaucoup d'énergie, beaucoup de courage.

Je vous ai connu pendant quelques années, Monsieur le Directeur général, et je vous ai beaucoup admiré pour ce courage. Je suis convaincu que l'exemple que vous avez donné sera suivi. A tous ceux qui m'ont remercié, je voudrais dire que le plus grand remerciement qu'ils pourraient continuer à me faire, c'est de poursuivre dans la voie d'ouverture, dans la voie de l'idéal de notre Organisation parce que cet idéal est entre leurs mains.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Saintraint. Obviously, FAO will not be the same once you come to the end of your term of office. You will appreciate the fact that the delegates who have spoken this morning have spoken in high praise of the work you did in your term of office, of the manner in which you conducted meetings, of your personality, your very frank self, saying "Yes" when you meant yes and "No" when you meant no.

Mr Saintraint, we convey to you all the very kind tributes, which have been expressed by delegations here this morning. From the Chair, may I wish you many, many years in retirement and hope that you will continue to serve the world in some capacity after the very important post, which you have held as Independent Chairman of the Council.

We now have reached the end of this morning's session. I adjourn the 18th Session of Conference.

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 93/PV/19

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

27° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
19ª SESION PLENARIA

(24 November 1993)

The Nineteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours
Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15
sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 19ª sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

- 27. Appointments (continued)
- 27. Nominations (suite)
- 27. Nombramientos (continuación)

- 27.3 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee (continued)
- 27.3 Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel (suite)
- 27.3 Nombramiento de Representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (continuación)

A.T. SLATER (Director, Personnel Division): You have before you document C 93/16, Appointment of Representatives of the Conference to the FAO Staff Pension Committee. The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related benefits for the staff of the United Nations and other related organizations such as FAO. It is administered by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and Staff Pension Committees in each of the member organizations. The Board's membership is drawn from those committees whose membership and alternate members are chosen by the governing body, the executive head of the Organization and the participating staff of each organization.

In the case of FAO, Conference appoints three of the nine members and three of the alternate members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee. At the last session of the Conference the proposal to extend the term of office of the representatives of the Conference from two to three years and to stagger these terms with a transitory measure in order to permit a change from a two-year to a three-year term was endorsed.

Delegations were advised yesterday that the matter was postponed to allow further consultations among delegations. The Secretariat has now been informed that these consultations have concluded. The following candidates have been proposed to serve as members or alternate members representing the FAO Conference on the FAO Staff Fund Committee: Mr Frank D. Buchholz, currently Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States of America to FAO. His term would be for the period 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1995. He is currently a member of the Committee, so he would continue.

The second member proposed is Mrs Graziella Dubra, Alternate Permanent Representative of Uruguay to FAO. She is proposed for the period 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1996 to succeed Mr Bonaparte.

The third member proposed is Mr Pinit Korsieporn, Alternate Permanent Representative of Thailand to FAO. He is proposed for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1997, and he is also currently a member of the Committee.

The three alternate members proposed are as follows: Mrs Souad Abdallah, Permanent Representative of Syria to FAO. She is proposed for the period 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1995. She is currently an alternate member of the Committee.

Mr Olivier Margueritte, Alternate Permanent Representative of France to FAO. He is proposed for the period 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1996 and would succeed Mr Prillewitz, and finally Mr Ato Assefa Yilala, Alternate Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to FAO. He is proposed for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1997 and will succeed Mr Bature.

You may wish to ask Conference if it wishes to proceed with the appointments of the persons just named to become members and alternate members of the FAO Staff Pension Fund Committee.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the names of the proposed membership of the FAO Staff Pension Fund and the Alternates. If there are no comments, I am going to recommend that we accept these nominations by acclamation.

APPLAUSE

APPLAUDISSEMENTS

APLAUSOS

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Commission II): J'ai déjà eu le plaisir de soumettre pour approbation de l'Assemblée plénière le rapport relatif à la question du Programme de travail et budget, point 12.

Vous avez maintenant devant vous les trois documents relatifs au Rapport d'exécution du Programme: Rapport d'évaluation, point 10; Plan à moyen terme, point 11; les mesures phytosanitaires pour la quarantaine végétale, point 13; Objectif de contributions au Programme alimentaire mondial pour le biennium 1995-96, point 14; et enfin le point 15, Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et relations de l'Organisation avec les organisations gouvernementales et non gouvernementales.

Je serai bref, pour vous dire que nous avons travaillé dans de très bonnes conditions au sein de la Commission II. Nous avons eu 15 séances, dont deux ont été réservées à l'adoption du rapport de la Commission. Le Comité de rédaction, sous la présidence de M. Marsh, Représentant des Etats Unis, a travaillé dans d'excellentes conditions et le rapport transmis à la Commission reflétait bien les débats, ce qui nous a permis de l'adopter très rapidement et dans les meilleurs délais.

J'ai donc l'honneur de soumettre à l'approbation de l'Assemblée plénière, à travers vous, Monsieur le Président, ces trois rapports de la Commission II.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 6 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SIXIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 6 (de la Comisión II)

CHAIRMAN: First of all we will take C 93/REP/6. Page 1 describes what is in the paragraphs covering this Report.

Paragraphs 1 to 17 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 17 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 17 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 6, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière. Sixième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 6, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 7 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SEPTIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 7 (de la Comisión II)

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland) : As the Chairman of Commission II has already recalled, we had a very swift adoption of the Report of Commission II. My delegation has no problem with the reports we have here and I would propose the adoption en bloc of the Report of Commission II.

Shri Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): I support this suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: Do I sense that all delegations would wish to accept the paragraphs in this document en bloc? That being the case, all the paragraphs in document C 93/REP/7 are adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 42 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 42 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 42 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 7, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière. Septième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 7, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 8 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 8 (de la Comisión II)

Paragraphs 1 to 4 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4 son aprobados

Paragraphs 5 to 11, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 11, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 11, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 12 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 12 à 27 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 27 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 8, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière. Huitième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 8, es aprobado

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Commission II): Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais simplement, à travers vous, remercier la plénière pour la confiance qui a été placée en les membres de la Commission II et remercier également mes deux collègues Vice-Présidents, M. Parannos du Brésil et M. Janus des Pays-Bas, qui m'ont constamment secondé dans cette tâche; et je voudrais leur rendre hommage ici, en plénière.

Ninth Report of the General Committee

Neuvième rapport du Bureau

Noveno informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Tanzania and a number of other delegates had advised earlier that they had not seen a copy of document C 93/LIM/44 carrying the Ninth Report of the General Committee. I would ask if there is any delegation still without a copy of the Report. All delegations now have this Report and we will take this item now, the Ninth Report of the General Committee, dealing with the appointment of the Director-General and the appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council, with the two Resolutions in respect thereof.

Ninth Report of the General Committee, including two Resolutions, adopted

Le neuvième rapport du Bureau, comprenant deux résolutions, est adopté

Il noveno informe del Comité General, incluyendo dos resoluciones, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 9

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - NEUVIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 9

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraphs 2 to 3 approved

Les paragraphes 2 et 3 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 2 y 3 son aprobados

Paragraphs 4 to 6, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 4 à 6, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 4 a 6, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 7 to 8 including draft resolution, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 7 et 8 y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 y 8 incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 9

PARAGRAPHE 9

PARRAFO 9

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de me donner la parole. Je voudrais évoquer le point 28 et le paragraphe 9 du rapport C 93/REP/9, puisque nous avons fixé les dates de la prochaine

Conférence. Or, au Bureau, hier et aujourd'hui, je voudrais souligner la nécessité de raccourcir si possible les conférences, comme je l'ai dit. Il nous faut absolument rénover l'organisation de la Conférence avec l'objectif d'accroître la participation des délégués dans les moments les plus utiles. C'est une préoccupation qui avait été soulevée à plusieurs reprises dans le passé.

Cette préoccupation est également partagée par d'autres institutions des Nations Unies comme l'ONUDI, par exemple, où la Conférence biannuelle ne dure qu'une semaine. S'agissant de notre Conférence générale, il faudrait tenter de concentrer ses travaux sur deux semaines : en rénovant intégralement l'organisation du débat général délaissé par un nombre important de délégations en fin de Conférence; en répartissant aussi notre ordre du jour - c'est une réflexion que j'offre à la Conférence - sur deux commissions: la première consacrerait ses travaux aux grandes orientations du Programme de travail et budget ainsi qu'aux questions techniques et la seconde examinerait les questions administratives, financières, institutionnelles et juridiques. Je sais qu'il existe des textes mais rien n'empêche de réfléchir à la modification de ces textes; en adaptant certaines de nos méthodes de travail, par exemple, les principes de rédaction des rapports et de leur adoption. Ne faudrait-il pas, dans les rapports, ne retenir que les décisions et conclusions, étant entendu que tout le monde peut aller lire les procès-verbaux pour savoir ce qui a été exprimé par les uns ou par les autres?

Voilà un certain nombre de sujets de réflexion qu'il faudrait avoir à l'esprit et qui permettrait, pour la prochaine Conférence, d'avoir un système beaucoup plus léger et beaucoup plus efficace de prise de décision. Je tiens à souligner cet aspect des choses car le caractère démocratique de notre Organisation veut que les petites délégations puissent également s'exprimer. Or, elles quittent très rapidement la Conférence, faute de moyens. J'en appelle donc à tous sur ce point. Si nous décidons que la réunion se fera du 11 au 20 novembre 1995, nous recommençons ce que nous avons fait cette fois-ci. Ne vaudrait-il pas mieux écrire "du 11 au 25" ou "au 26 novembre 1995" étant entendu que, s'il n'y a pas assez de temps, nous pourrions la prolonger? Entre-temps, on indiquerait dans ce paragraphe la recommandation faite hier par le Bureau.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): Muy brevemente quisiera adherirme totalmente a la propuesta que acaba de hacer el Representante de Francia. Este es un tema que los delegados frecuentemente comentamos y se puede decir que estamos siempre de acuerdo en que las sesiones de la Conferencia, incluso algunas sesiones del Consejo, tema que también hemos debatido en el último Consejo, estamos de acuerdo en que se puede hacer lo mismo con una organización distinta y conseguir los mismos fines, por tanto, mi Delegación se adhiere a la propuesta francesa en el sentido de acortar la duración de la Conferencia.

Iván MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia): Nuestra Delegación está de acuerdo con la sugerencia o la solicitud que ha hecho el señor Delegado de Francia y que ha sido respaldada por la Delegación de España.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German): On behalf of my delegation, I would like to give my support to the matters which have been tabled by the French delegation, particulcirly when it comes to our

considering the Conference and the Council. We believe we should try to shorten them and concentrate our efforts better. I believe that this reflects the general atmosphere in the Conference.

At the 103rd Council Meeting in June, my delegation made a proposal regarding the length of the Council in non-Conference years. We thought that, rather than its lasting two weeks, it should last just one week. We feel that the savings which the Organization could make would be considerable.

Julio César LUPINACCI (Uruguay): Mi Delegación también comparte los argumentos que se han expresado para acortar el período de la Conferencia. Quizá pueda hacerse una previsión para que eventualmente pueda haber una prolongación de un día o dos si fuese necesario, pero me parece muy pertinente la propuesta que ha hecho el distinguido Representante de Francia, apoyado por otros países.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): I should like to add my delegation's support to what previous speakers have said.

Rolf AKESSON (Sweden): I wish very briefly to say that the Swedish delegation would very much like to support the proposal made by France. For some time we have been entertaining ideas along the same lines.

William H. MARSH (United States of America): My delegation is quite sympathetic to the ideas expressed, but we have a concrete question before us: namely, what shall we accept in terms of scheduling. Therefore, our suggestion would be that we accept the dates indicated on a provisional basis and indicate that we would like consideration and study be given to a shortening of the Conference, with a definite date to be issued at a later time.

Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland): I just wish to add my voice to the suggestion made by France. Realizing that we are discussing and deciding upon a specific issue, I should also like to support the motion made by the distinguished delegate of the United States.

Francis Montanaro MIFSUD (Malta): I should also like to add my support to the suggestion that the length of the Conference be shortened. I should also like to propose, since there seems to be fairly general support for this idea, that we decide here and now, and not refer to a future occasion, as we are so often in the habit of doing, the decision to shorten the dates of the Conference, and that we should fix a duration shorter than the one fixed a day or two ago.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): It is clear that the sentiment of the house is for a shortened version of the Conference and the other supporting meetings such as Council. It appears to the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago that the General Committee did in FAOt reflect very seriously on this particular matter and, in FAOt, the Ninth Report does indicate that on the second page. In the light of that, and given the feeling in the house,

it does appear to the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago that the matter should be addressed in the way suggested by the distinguished delegate of the United States of America: that is to say, we opt for allowing the date as we have here to stand provisionally and, on the basis of further analysis and in the light of the General Committee's recommendation, the Director-General and the Secretariat may then wish to reduce the number of days for the Conference, depending on that kind of analysis. I would support the recommendations and the proposal made by the United States of America in regard to this particular matter.

Ato Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia) : I would also like to support the proposal made by France to shorten the length of time required for Conference. However, we feel that further consideration of the matter would be needed in order to finalize this matter. We would like to support the views expressed by the delegate of the United States in that regard, to have a presentation made upon which we make our decision.

Gheorghe APOSTOIU (Roumanie): J'ai simplement demandé la parole pour m'associer pleinement à la proposition et à la déclaration de la délégation française.

Michael KIMA TABONG (Cameroon): In supporting the proposal by the distinguished delegate of France, I wish to recall that this issue was placed before the Conference in 1985 by the Head of the Cameroon delegation who, as a matter of FAO, chaired the Conference. It was not only a question of reducing the period at that time; it was also a question of reviewing the whole Organization.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): J'aimerais remercier le Représentant de la France d'avoir évoqué cette question. Effectivement, comme vient de le dire l'Ambassadeur du Cameroun, cette question remonte déjà à 1985; et mes collègues se rappelleront qu'au cours de l'année 1991 j'avais moi-même repris cette idée déjà exprimée en 1985 pour faire une proposition concrète qui n'avait pas reçu, à l'époque, l'assentiment de mes collègues: il s'agissait de revenir à une ancienne formule d'organisation de la Conférence selon laquelle des comités préparatoires de la Conférence se réunissaient pendant une semaine ou dix jours pour avoir ensuite une session plénière de cinq jours pendant lesquels nous étions assurés de la présence des ministres pour prendre les décisions et voter, par exemple.

Mais je crois qu'il ne faut pas débattre de cette question maintenant. Le Conseil est peut-être l'instance idéale pour examiner les modalités pratiques de cette proposition et entendre les avis exprimés à ce sujet. Aussi la proposition faite par Monsieur Marsh nous semble-t-elle tout à fait intéressante.

Cela dit, nous pouvons quand même adopter provisoirement ce calendrier et le Conseil aura toute latitude pour examiner cette question en profondeur.

Soumaila ISSAKA (Niger): Sur le principe de réduire la durée de la session de la Conférence, ma délégation se rallie à tous les avis exprimés en ce sens. En fait, nous venons d'adopter une recommandation du Bureau qui va dans ce sens. Mais il faut également se pencher sur l'aspect pratique. En

se penchant sur cet aspect pratique, il faudrait se rappeler qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une question tout à fait nouvelle, comme viennent de le dire un certain nombre de représentants. Déjà, en 1985 mais également plus tard, en 1987, au moment de la Revue de la FAO, cette question avait été discutée par les membres de l'Organisation. Il faut quand même réunir un certain nombre de conditions pour pouvoir arriver à cette réduction de la durée de la session de la Conférence, notamment en termes d'organisation, de prise de décisions, comme cela a été évoqué par la France. On pourrait peut-être laisser tomber tout l'aspect rédactionnel de nos rapports, étant entendu, comme l'a-dit le délégué de la France, que l'on peut en trouver le détail dans les procès-verbaux. Je pense qu'il faut réfléchir à tout cela afin de pouvoir faire cadrer le souci de la réduction de la Conférence avec les aspects pratiques. Il me semble difficile de prendre actuellement une décision très précise. La proposition faite par le Représentant des Etats-Unis nous permettrait justement de pouvoir faire cet exercice étant entendu que nous sommes tous d'accord sur la réduction de la session. On pourrait peut-être dire que la Conférence décide que ses sessions seront réduites, mais la réduction précise devrait être fonction de notre réflexion. C'est pour cela que nous sommes tout à fait favorables à la proposition des Etats-Unis, qui va dans le bon sens et qui nous permettrait d'éviter de revenir là-dessus.

Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México): De igual manera, señor Presidente, sólo para dar nuestro apoyo a las propuestas de Francia y Estados Unidos. Pensamos al igual que otros países que se han expresado ya, que el asunto requiere de un análisis muy a fondo y que debemos aceptar de manera provisional las fechas propuestas para que se incorporen a él las posibles sugerencias sobre cómo acortar la Conferencia. Nuestra Delegación puede pensar en muchas razones, pero principalmente aquellas de tiempo y de gastos que afectan al presupuesto, nos impulsan a apoyar firmemente ambas propuestas.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Je comprends bien tout ce qui a été dit et je cherche moi-même un compromis. Si nous ne décidons pas actuellement d'une date avec une durée raccourcie, nous n'aurons pas d'éléments de réflexion pour rendre le système plus efficace. Donc je maintiens la proposition de changer les dates pour réduire la durée de la Conférence. Ensuite, évidemment, nous adapterons le système pour que les 15 jours soient utilisés de la manière la plus efficace, soit, comme l'a dit le Représentant du Maroc, par des réunions préparatoires qui ne rentraient pas dans ces limites de temps, soit, comme l'ont dit d'autres délégués, par une réorganisation des travaux. Si nous ne prenons pas de décision sur les dates, nous retrouverons la même situation qu'en 1985. On va traîner le problème de conférence en conférence sans qu'il y ait de décision ou d'obligation. Je proposerais qu'on limite à 15 jours, avec d'éventuels correctifs, la durée de la Conférence et que l'on renvoie au Conseil la discussion des modalités pratiques pour améliorer les travaux, ce qui serait en quelque sorte un compromis dans le compromis.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): I fully support the sentiments that everyone is expressing here this morning about the shortening of the Conference. However, I think the delegate of the United States made a very pragmatic suggestion that we make the dates provisional and make it clear that the dates we are setting out are provisional, giving everyone time really to

consider the implications and the work that will need to go into the setting up of the next Conference.

On France's suggestions about the working methods and the adoption of reports, etc., perhaps we could put this on the agenda of the Special Session of the Council in May and also give the Council in May the authority to set the dates for the next Council.

Gürsu OKURER (Turkey): We would also like to associate ourselves with the proposal to shorten the duration of the Conference. I would like to support the views on the modalities of this by France, the United States and Morocco.

Jacques LAUREAU, Vice-chairman of the Conference, took the chair

Jacques LAUREAU, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Jacques LAUREAU, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Cephas GOODING (Barbados): Barbados too would like to lend support to the proposal to reduce the length of time of the Conference, especially in the light of the financial implications associated with the long duration, which has been taking place previously. Of course, we recognize that it may be difficult to decide precisely the length of time for the next Conference; so we would lend support also to the idea that perhaps we could accept the proposal for a provisional acceptance at this Conference.

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica): My delegation would like to support what has been suggested by the United Kingdom in respect of shortening the Conference. My delegation agrees with France but also with the United States that we must think about what we are going to do. Therefore, I think the solution the United Kingdom proposed is very acceptable. Perhaps Conference could, therefore, authorize the Council in May to make the decision on how long the next Conference will run.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'il se dégage une sorte de consensus dans la plénière pour dire que ce serait au prochain Conseil de décider des dates. Donc nous ferions un paragraphe qui renverrait au Conseil spécial, prévu en mai, la décision concernant les dates de la Conférence, étant entendu qu'entre-temps on aurait étudié les modalités pratiques pour faciliter les travaux et leur efficacité.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous dire, Monsieur le Président, que cela me fait vraiment plaisir de vous voir présider nos travaux.

Sans vouloir aller contre la proposition de notre collègue de la Dominique, je pense qu'il ne serait pas raisonnable de soumettre la question au Conseil extraordinaire du mois de mai. Ce Conseil a un ordre du jour assez chargé, les questions sont très importantes, et c'est une courte session. Il serait peut-être plus raisonnable de porter cette question à la session de novembre de 1994.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres avis?

Iávn MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia): Yo estoy de acuerdo con usted, señor Presidente, en que hemos encontrado un consenso en la sala; sin embargo, me parece que habría que agregarle al enunciado que usted ha hecho de ese consenso lo siguiente: "que la Conferencia recomienda al Consejo la disminución del tiempo de sesiones de la próxima Conferencia".

P.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I would prefer the Council meeting in May. I am a little against the proposal of Morocco but is it possible that in your conclusion you will also recommend that working methods of meetings will be improved and at least studied. We had an initiative a couple of years ago here but we did not work it out. If you conclude that now, I think again it would be very helpful. It is more in the sphere of the United Kingdom's proposal to discuss more than just the date of the next Conference.

As you will remember, we have a lot of repetition in our meetings. The Council meetings talk about a subject; then we have the technical committees; then later on we have the Conference. Perhaps we can shorten that process. We also have your idea about a study of working methods.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): It is unusual for me to intervene twice on the same agenda item, but it appears that we are approaching a consensus on what we would wish to have done. We are all concerned about shortening the Conference, and the intervention by the Colombian delegation could add direction and focus to our intentions.

However, we will be making a serious mistake if we seek to overload the agenda for the May Council meeting, having regard to the specific purpose for which the May Council will be convened. If we begin to overload that agenda we will be doing ourselves no justice since, in the event, the reason for putting it to the Council was to allow the Director-General and the Secretariat, having regard to the injunction that the Conference is now giving it, to study the matter thoroughly and come up with a practical, workable set of solutions.

I would urge Conference to opt for the proposal as modified by the delegate of Morocco. It makes eminent sense in the current circumstances.

Mrs. Razane MAHFOUZ (Syria) (Original language Arabic): There is an amendment to be made to the report in the Arabic language because we read there that the next Conference will be in 1955 rather than in 1995. We need a correction to be made to the Arabic version.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a toujours des problèmes avec la langue arabe depuis le début de la Conférence. De toute façon, un autre paragraphe va remplacer ce paragraphe. Je pense que la correction se fera d'elle-même.

Je retiens les remarques faites par le Représentant de Trinité-et-Tobago et par le Maroc. La remarque du Représentant du Maroc me paraît fondée. Il ne faut pas surcharger le Conseil spécial qui va traiter des questions de réorientation que le Directeur général voudra donner à l'Organisation. Peut-être pourrions-nous mettre cette question à la session du Conseil de

novembre. Mais, au mois de novembre, nous devrions décider afin que la Conférence soit préparée dans des conditions plus efficaces.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: As members here have been reminded, this is certainly not a new topic. Reference has been made to the 1985 Review of the procedures and arrangements for the Conference. I understand, incidentally, that one of the prime instigators of that rather detailed Review was an Ambassador of France. This, therefore, is not a new matter; this is not the first time that consideration of the matter has been requested.

Secondly, I wish to remind Conference of what you have already said on this matter. In approving C 93/LIM/28 earlier, you agreed with the General Committee's views saying that, whilst it would not be advisable to alter the timetable for the present Session, it recommends that in future consideration be given to having key votes by the Conference taken during the first week in order to accommodate those Member Nations who can be present at that time only. That is one piece of guidance that you have given.

This morning, when you adopted C 93/LIM/44 - as you have also been reminded by the distinguished delegate from Trinidad and Tobago - you approved a statement that said "...recommends that the Conference encourage the Secretariat to consider ways and means of shortening the duration of future Conference sessions". Of course, these bits and pieces at different places and at different times during the Conference will all be put together with this paragraph which you have already adopted and which says that the Conference decided that its Twenty-eighth Session should be held in Rome from 11 to 30 November 1995. This has been adopted, so you have adopted all of that, but in the final report your guidance here, there and there will all be put together into one section.

Next, I wish to remind you that the Council at its meeting immediately following the Session of the Conference will consider the timetable for meetings and so this will again appear - most likely tomorrow - at the Council. It has that delegated authority but, more important for this debate, the arrangements for a Conference are matters that are delegated to Council. Normally, the Council would consider this matter based on the advice and guidance of this Conference in June 1995. That is when it would review the arrangements of the 1995 Conference. There have been several suggestions to modify that normal scenario. I am not sure I understand why it would be necessary to try and bring this matter to the additional Session of the Council or even the November 1994 Session of the Council. The time when the arrangements would need to be modified in accordance with the desires of this Conference would be at that June 1995 Session of the Council.

In view of all the guidance that you have already approved - in C 93/LIM/44, which recommends that the Conference encourage the Secretariat to consider ways and means of shortening the duration of future Conference Sessions, and the guidance with respect to arrangements or schedules for voting so that the key votes can take place closer together if possible, and that you had already decided that it should be held in Rome from 11 to 30 November - you will have these qualifiers in the Report. You are asking that ways and means be considered for shortening the duration of the time. If that is still not sufficiently explicit, you may wish to consider going back to the document that has already been adopted and put a comma and then

"subject to reconsideration by the Council at its June 1995 Session". That is the normal time when matters would come to the Council.

Again, I remind you that these dates would stand here with that reference and there would be explicit instruction from this Conference that ways and means of shortening the duration be considered; and additionally there would be this matter about the key votes of the Conference being taken during the first week in order to accommodate certain Member Nations, and so forth.

If I could appeal to the Conference, if that were an acceptable solution it would seem to me to take care of the problem.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur Hjort pour son exposition mais il faut que le paragraphe 9 du document C 93/REP/9 soit cohérent avec ce que nous venons de dire.

Je donne la parole au Royaume-Uni et je demande à ceux qui se sont exprimés tout à l'heure de dire ce qu'ils pensent de la proposition de M. Hjort. Encore une fois, il m'a semblé que le sentiment était très fort pour que les choses marchent dans le sens de la réduction du temps de la Conférence et que les choses ne soient pas comme d'habitude renvoyées ou enterrées, car c'est un risque.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom) : I entirely agree with the sentiments you have just expressed that we should not bury this issue. Mr. Hjort has mentioned that it is normal practice to review the timetable in June but, with all due respect, I do feel that if we leave it until June 1995 we are leaving it much too late. The June Council in 1995 will probably already be faced with a set agenda. What we need to do is set the duration and then fill in the agenda, rather than the other way round.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Représentant du Royaume-Uni. C'est un peu ce que j'avais dit lorsque j'étais à mon banc de délégué.

Iván MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia) : Señor Presidente, para respaldar totalmente lo que acaba de decir el señor Delegado del Reino Unido.

Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland): If I take the floor it is for two reasons: firstly, you appealed for that; and, secondly, indeed I would be very worried if the Conference sent two converging but not clear enough signals to the Secretariat. We cannot have a fixed date for the Conference and a general recommendation that we do something about this. Accordingly, the solution would be to modify paragraph 9 of C 93/REP/9, if this has been adopted as apparently it has.

Secondly, it seems to me that the *modus operandi* of the FAO - the working methods that were referred to a couple of minutes ago - will also be the subject of intensive debate in order to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the Organization which is definitely an issue very close to the heart of the new Director-General. That is why we are thinking that we do this cause a good service if we take up the issue earlier than 1995.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci Monsieur le Représentant de la Pologne pour votre intervention. Est-ce que je pourrais suggérer, comme Président (je ne sais pas si c'est la pratique), que ceux qui se sont exprimés et qui ont donc des idées, comme le Représentant du Maroc, le Représentant des Etats-Unis, le Représentant du Royaume-Uni, mes collègues français, le Représentant de la Colombie et le Représentant de la Pologne, proposent peut-être un texte qui pourrait venir sur le paragraphe 9, de manière à ce que nous ayons une expression claire de la volonté de la Conférence; et puis soumettre ce texte à la Conférence à une prochaine séance. Je crois que c'est la bonne manière de procéder, enfin la manière la plus démocratique.

Mme Yvonne ALVES DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon) : Je voudrais appuyer la proposition initiale de la France, parce qu'il me semble que les propositions du Secrétariat risquent de renvoyer le problème, comme cela a été le cas tant d'autres fois. Et je propose également que l'on retienne les propositions de la Colombie et des Pays-Bas, et que la méthodologie soit réexaminée lors du Conseil de novembre 1994.

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): I think it is the sense of the Conference that the duration of the next Conference should be reduced. There is a general feeling among delegations, and this has been expressed in the General Committee and throughout the corridors.

Since we have decided that the in-coming Director-General must have the opportunity to review various things and submit proposals if he so wishes to the additional Council meeting in May, he can also consult his staff on this matter and submit a proposal for shortening the duration during the May session of Council.

It is easier for the Secretariat to be able to tell the Director-General which factors led us to want to shorten our Conference. They can then discuss with them questions such as "why don't we shorten, for instance, the general statements of delegations? Why don't we do this and reduce the meeting from three weeks to two weeks or ten days, or whatever?" I think this can be done. You can take an immediate decision now, which means we can go ahead and deal with the matter, and it should be possible in May for the Director-General to make a proposal.

If the Conference accepts this I would suggest we say "The Conference decided that its 28th Session should be held in Rome from 11 to 30 November 1995", and then we can say "subject to a review by the Director-General", with the aim of reducing the duration of that Conference and presentation to the Council at such-and-such a time. That would have done it.

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur le Représentant du Ghana, je vous remercie pour votre intervention. Je crois que si nous constituons un groupe qui rédigerait ce paragraphe, il faut que vous y figuriez pour justement faire éventuellement rentrer votre idée en ligne de compte. Mais je rappelle qu'il faut que la Conférence prenne une décision à ce sujet, sur la durée. Vous, vous avez réduit la durée d'emblée. C'est très bien. Mais je pense qu'il faut que tout le monde soit d'accord.

Ivan MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia) : Me referiré a lo dicho por el Sr. Delegado de Ghana. Me parece que el Director General tiene ya demasiado trabajo con sus funciones constitucionales para que le agreguemos las de la Conferencia. Esta es una decisión de la Conferencia y tenemos que demostrar que somos capaces de tomar las decisiones que nos corresponden. Insisto en que hay un consenso sobre la materia. Se trata simplemente de redactar, como Ud. bien lo ha dicho, lo que ya todos hemos expresado con claridad.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands) : What the delegate of Colombia has just said about the proposal of the delegate of Ghana was my comment also. It is not only the Director-General who has to review this - it is the membership. So we have to take the decision here. But what we can advise is that there will be an informal process during the first part of next year organized by the two Chairmen of G77 and OECD about not only the duration of the Conference - that is just the Pandora's Box - but also about working methods, as I have said before.

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): Let me clarify once again. This Conference can take a decision that we shorten the period. We can take the decision now. You can set up a group to consider that, but what would they do? You cannot do it unless the Secretariat has been able to provide the factors that go in to arranging the Conference; in other words, they will be able to tell you that for these agenda items you have two days, for those you need that and for the others you need something else, and that is work which only the Secretariat can do. It cannot be done by the Conference. The Secretariat put together the contents of the Conference and present it to the Conference. The Director-General is the person through whom they send it. When you talk about the Director-General you are talking about the Secretariat.

I know my colleague from the Netherlands does not know any difference between the Director-General and the membership, but I think that is a wrong conception. The Director-General represents the Conference, the membership. He brings everything to the membership. When he goes to Council he is taking everything to the membership. Every member of the Organization goes to the Council. I think you are delaying matters by talking about setting up a Group. What are they going to do without those factors? The factors can only be provided by the Secretariat and they have experience in what is needed.

We know we want a shortening of the duration period. That is all we are talking about. We are not talking about what matters go into the Conference; we are talking just about shortening the duration. As everyone is complaining it is too long and too expensive, therefore let them prepare something for the Director-General, he will look at it and on the basis of that he will put it before the Council. The Council can then say, "We accept the shortening to ten days", or instead of ten days they could make it twelve or fourteen days. I do not think we need to set up any group of this kind.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Représentant du Ghana n'a peut-être pas compris ce que je proposais. C'était de faire un groupe de rédaction pour le paragraphe 9 et non pas de discuter du fond. Il ne s'agissait pas du tout de discuter du fond. Et je voudrais rappeler également que ce sont les Etats Membres: les Etats Membres sont souverains. Donc, les Etats Membres décident d'étudier

une question. Et il faut qu'un certain nombre de gens permettent de rédiger ce paragraphe en liaison avec le Secrétariat. C'est uniquement de la rédaction du paragraphe 9 dont il s'agissait et pas d'un groupe de travail sur le fond. Cela, c'est pour plus tard, éventuellement, si c'est une formule. Mais c'est bien sûr le Secrétariat qui va préparer, sous l'autorité du Directeur général, des propositions sur la base des directives données par la Conférence, bien sûr. Il s'agissait juste de la rédaction du paragraphe 9.

William H. MARSH (United States of America): The United States of America would like to propose a reformulation of paragraph 9 as follows - and incidentally, I believe this reflects a number of views. We would submit it to the delegations for their consideration.

"Date and Place of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference Item 28. The Conference decided that its Twenty-eighth Session should be held in Rome during a period in November 1995 preferably not to exceed two weeks in duration. The Conference requested that the Director-General review the working methods of the Conference and report to the Special Session of the FAO Council in May 1994, when a final decision on the exact dates for the Twenty-eighth Session should be taken".

LB PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Représentant des Etats-Unis. Je trouve que c'est là un travail de compromis tout à fait intéressant. Et je demande les réactions des délégués.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España) : Muy brevemente, para adherirme a la propuesta que acaba de hacer Estados Unidos, porque creo que recoge los dos aspectos que llevamos discutiendo toda la mañana.

El primero es el de que propia Conferencia, que por supuesto es la soberana y es la que debe decidir la duración y no remitirlo a otros órganos de gobierno de la FAO, ya limita el tiempo de duración de la Conferencia a dos semanas. Por tanto, queda perfectamente claro el deseo y la decisión de esta Conferencia, que es la soberana para decidir estos aspectos; por otra parte también recomienda la revisión de los métodos de trabajo, que es otro de los aspectos en que todos los intervinientes hemos estado totalmente de acuerdo.

Por tanto, creo que esta propuesta de los Estados Unidos refleja, al entender de nuestra delegación, perfectamente, el sentir de la Conferencia.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I also think the proposal of the delegate of the United States of America is a good one. I have only one point in the second sentence - "The Conference requested that the Director-General review the working methods..." - I would like to add after "Director-General" "in consultation with the membership". We have that in other Resolutions and other Reports "... the Director-General in consultation with the membership..."

George LAMPTEY (Ghana): I do not think the proposal of the Netherlands is at all wise. We had a problem accepting it when we approved the Resolution

on the Review of the Programme. I can tell you that when the Director-General came in we wanted that changed, because both the present Director-General and the incoming Director-General did not feel it was right. When we talk about "membership" what do we mean? The Council is the membership of the Organization. According to the Basic Texts, when the Council acts, it acts for the Conference. When the Conference is not sitting, the Council is the body, which acts. That is what the Text provides. There is no question of "in consultation with the membership". Are they going to come to ask Ghana, ask Gabon or ask Germany on this? When a proposal is put to the Council, you are there to speak, as Ghana has done in saying, "No, we do not agree with this". When the collectivity takes a decision, the membership will have taken a decision. It is not the Director-General who is taking the decision. Therefore please let us leave this. It is the same with the Secretariat and the Director-General. The Secretariat only acts for the Director-General. In the UN system, we do not talk about the Secretariat, we talk about the Secretary General of the UN or the Director-General of the Organization. That is what we are talking about.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Représentant du Ghana. Je laisserai de côté le débat entre les Pays-Bas et le Ghana. Et je reviendrai au texte qui nous a été proposé par les Etats-Unis, en demandant donc au Cameroun, qui a demandé la parole, de s'exprimer.

Michael KIMA TABONG (Cameroon) : The Cameroon delegation supports the very well-refined wording proposed by the delegate of the United States, which takes account of all aspects of our discussion this morning.

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): We, too, support the proposal of the United States of America, but we should like to have some flexibility and not have a binding commitment which ties the hands of the Director-General with respect to the May 1994 Session. We should like to have some flexibility by saying, "until the November session", for example. The new Director-General will have many tasks to carry out and a lot of work to do. There will be many aspects he will have to look at before he can turn fully to this matter.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite. C'est en effet l'un des points qui a été soulevé par plusieurs délégations: Trinité-et-Tobago et d'autres.

Il faudra recueillir le sentiment général sur ce sujet. On pourrait dire "dans la mesure du possible" ou, sinon, "au plus tard, lors de la session de novembre 1994".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On this particular point I fail to understand what the sense of urgency is and why it is felt necessary to overload the additional session. You have the regular session of the Council in November. It would seem to me that the matter could be placed on the agenda for that session and the debate could take place on the basis of a document submitted by the Director-General, which in turn would be based upon the guidance which this Conference is giving, i.e. what it has said very clearly today, that it wishes to have shorter sessions. It seems to me that an orderly process would be for the Director-General to be requested to

prepare a document for consideration and discussion at the November 1994 session of the Council. The final arrangements for the next Conference will be decided by the Council meeting in June 1995. Even if it could not come to a final conclusion, the Council next year could discuss the agenda for the Conference and how to arrange the work and so on. The decision would have to be taken at the June 1995 Council. It seems to me that that would be an orderly process. I suspect that the Director-General will be very busy getting ready for the additional session. It is certainly true, that, as part of his consideration of ways of saving money, and so forth, this matter may be on that agenda.

The other point with which I have a problem in what is being proposed is that a decision be taken on the duration of the Conference before the matter has been considered. That makes me a little nervous, recalling that this matter has been studied before and recalling very clearly that one of the findings was that FAO devotes fewer days to its Conference, or its meetings of its supreme governing body, than most other organizations in the UN system.

Thinking forward to what is likely to be on the agenda, there are certain matters, which will have to be dealt with by the Conference. We shall be completing the first two years of the term of a new Director-General, and there may be some additional and special matters, which need to be on the agenda. I do not see how this Conference can decide how many days the next Conference should last. It would seem to me that there should be an orderly process to this matter.

I would appeal to, and encourage, the Conference to amend this to make it clear that this Conference wishes future conferences to be of shorter duration and, secondly, that it asks the Director-General to prepare a document for consideration and discussion at the November 1994 session of the Council. You do not need to have anything else in there but there could be just a reminder that the June 1995 session of the Council will be the Council session which will decide on the final arrangements. The final decisions will be taken then. A preliminary decision will be taken in 1994 and will be an input into that ongoing process.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur Hjort de ses explications. Je pense que les délégués en prendront note tout en exprimant, bien entendu, leurs vues, puisqu'ils sont souverains.

Julio César LUPINACCI (Uruguay): Mi Delegación comparte la propuesta muy atinada y muy equilibrada que hizo la delegación de Estados Unidos, y creo que la observación que hizo el Delegado de Arabia Saudita es muy pertinente porque flexibiliza esa Resolución y pienso incluso en base a lo que ha expresado el señor Secretario, se podría no mencionar la reunión del Consejo y tendría que ser presentada la modificación del estudio del método de trabajo, o poner como máximo quizá en el mes de noviembre de 1994. Yo me inclino por cualquiera de las dos situaciones de que lo importante sería flexibilizar para permitir al Secretario General, como se ha dicho, va a verse abocado a mucho trabajo e intenso trabajo, a darle el tiempo suficiente para que prepare bien las cosas, y al mismo tiempo, con la antelación suficiente, fijar la fecha para el período de trabajo de la Conferencia y los métodos de trabajo adecuados para que ese período se puede cumplir preferiblemente, como dice el Delegado de Estados Unidos, en quince días. Creo, señor Presidente, que la flexibilidad es un buen

principio y sobre la base de lo que dice Estados Unidos y -la observación de Arabia Saudita, podemos llegar a una solución razonable.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est tout à fait mon sentiment, mais nous verrons avec la suite de la discussion.

Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland): I should like to say, first, that my delegation can support the United States' proposal. Secondly, since we have turned into a drafting group as a body, I suggest to all delegates and colleagues that they should focus solely on the issue under debate, which is the duration of the Conference, and not introduce other elements. I will try to do the same.

My delegation can accept the suggestions made about the November 1994 Council but would stress that there should be an element of flexibility in a wording which would reflect that the Director-General should report to one of the 1994 Council sessions, and at the latest to the November 1994 session.

As for the indications given by the Conference, I agree with Mr. Hjort, if I have interpreted his comments correctly, that we should not put the cart before the horse and we are consistent with the requirement for flexibility. However, it seems to me that this flexibility is already contained in the language of the US delegation's proposal, which is "preferably not exceeding two weeks", which accurately reflects certain preferences or even specific motions made during this Conference.

Francis Montanaro MIFSUD (Malta): I support the amendment proposed by the distinguished delegate of the United States. This amendment takes account of the whole range of views expressed, which are all, as I understand it, strongly in favor of a shorter duration of the Conference. We would have preferred to have seen the word "preferably" dropped, as we originally indicated, and I think this point was also made by the distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom, but we would go along with the present phrasing.

As to whether the study and report should go to the May session of the Council or to the November Session, we do not have strong feelings on that matter, but we think it should not be later than November.

There are always pros and cons about having a longer or a shorter Conference, but unless you fix the duration, you will never deal with this problem. The technical committees do a lot of the more technical work of the Conference. I think more reliance could be placed on the Reports and proceedings of these committees. The ceremonial in the Conference could be shortened. There are ways and means of shortening the Conference, but unless we fix a shorter duration I do not think we will ever succeed. We shall continue with academic studies but we shall never succeed in actual shortening the duration of the Conference.

Franco F.G. GINOCCHIO (Italie): La délégation italienne attribue une grande importance à la question soulevée par la France concernant la durée de la Conférence, étant donné que trois semaines consécutives de travaux représentent une période assez longue. Toutefois, nous pensons qu'il

faudrait réfléchir non seulement sur la durée de la Conférence mais aussi sur l'organisation des travaux. A cet égard, nous suggérons que la Conférence se tienne en deux sessions de deux jours chacune, l'une pour les commissions et l'autre pour les décisions définitives en plénière. De cette façon, les délégués de la plénière auraient le temps suffisant pour examiner les rapports des Commissions I, II et III. Nous suggérons que cette question soit examinée par le Conseil, en novembre 1994.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German): My delegation would like fully to support the proposal of the delegate of the United States of America. We feel that it does reflect the general feeling of Plenary and is a specific contribution to moving forward on this matter.

After consideration of the matter in the Special Session in May 1994, it would be possible to take a decision at the November 1994 Council meeting on the exact dates of the next Conference. We feel that it would be too late, it would not be a good idea to wait until the June 1995 session for this, because the June Council meetings visually have a very heavy agenda and it would be a little late in the day to take a decision there. Mr. Hjort has said that if we have a two-week duration for the Conference, there would be some contradiction between the duration of the Conference on the one hand and the duration of Council on the other.

I should like to return to a previous proposal by my delegation: in the interest of savings, we should see if Council meetings in non-Conference years, the November session, could perhaps be reduced, maybe not to a week but at least to ten days.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): It is true that very often works, and sometimes talk, expand to occupy the space provided. Maybe that is a concern we have in Conference. However, it may also well be true that conflicting and crowded social agendas might cause problems if we shorten the Conference. Nevertheless, I think we have before us a proposal by the distinguished delegate from the United States with which we can live. The word "preferably" allows the flexibility, which we would wish to have. I would offer but one small modification or amendment, that we do not restrict the Director-General to the May session but perhaps the November 1994 session. Apart from that, I think we have a suggestion that Conference could well adopt.

William H. MARSH (United States of America): I should like to propose an amendment to the earlier text I submitted for your consideration. That amendment is reflective of the very wise advice received from the distinguished delegates of Saudi Arabia, Uruguay, and Malta and, most recently, Trinidad and Tobago. However, in the second sentence we indicate that it would be reported to the 106th Session of the FAO Council in November 1994. This is also reflective of points made by Mr. Hjort, the Deputy Director-General, concerning the amount of time that would be useful.

We wish to express our appreciation to those delegations who recognize in "preferably" the intention that was there to give flexibility, but to allow the Conference to express its preference.

Finally, may I suggest that you determine whether there be any objection to this and, if not, that perhaps we could move that as an amendment to paragraph 9 of the Report.

LE PRESIDENT: Votre proposition, Monsieur le Représentant des Etats-Unis, rencontrera certainement l'agrément de la Conférence. On ne peut pourtant pas mettre un chiffre concernant la cent sixième session. Il faudrait peut-être mettre: à la session de novembre 1994. Ce serait plus exact, parce que, si on met un chiffre, il peut être changé si on décide tout à coup d'avoir un Conseil spécial supplémentaire.

Un certain nombre de délégués ont demandé la parole: Finlande, Norvège, Ethiopie, France, Pakistan, Maroc. Je voudrais leur demander s'ils tiennent à intervenir ou s'ils pourraient se rallier tous à la proposition corrigée présentée par les Etats-Unis.

Ms Birgitta STENIUS-MLADENOV (Finland): I can certainly support what has just been proposed, but I should also like to support the amendment suggested by the Netherlands earlier, that the review should be made in consultation with the membership. I agree with what the Ambassador of Ghana said, that the Council and Conference are sovereign, but I think this is a reflection of good administration and could very well be stated in the Report.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie la Finlande de son intervention, mais je voudrais rappeler que si le Directeur général, pour faciliter son travail, estime qu'il est nécessaire de consulter des Etats Membres, il le fera certainement, mais il faut lui donner, dans le cadre du texte, la possibilité d'agir comme il le veut. Je crois que c'est sur ce point que portait le débat. Je vois très bien ce à quoi vous songez, lorsque je pense par exemple aux réunions qui ont lieu en marge du CPA. Mais si c'est un point important, je le sou mets à la décision de la Conférence.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Pour la question de novembre, nous sommes d'accord. Vous avez vu le temps que nous avons passé pour une simple question de procédure. Si l'on devait parler de la question de fond de la session de mai, on n'en finirait plus. Donc pour la session de novembre 1994, nous sommes d'accord.

Je n'ai pas de grande difficulté avec la proposition américaine, mais je ne sais pas si on peut parler expressément de deux semaines alors que plusieurs projets ont été lancés aujourd'hui. On n'a pas discuté d'un projet disant qu'il s'agissait effectivement de deux semaines, de dix jours ou de dix-sept jours. Bien sûr, on introduit un peu de souplesse en introduisant les mots "de préférence". Je préférerais toutefois que l'on s'arrête à la recommandation sur laquelle tout le monde était d'accord qu'il fallait écourter la session de la Conférence. On pourra en décider lorsqu'on discutera les propositions concrètes, lorsqu'on aura un ordre du jour et que l'on travaillera sur des hypothèses.

LE PRESIDENT: Les mots "de préférence", quand on lit la phrase en français, donnent une flexibilité évidente.

Somalia ISSAKA (Niger): Après avoir écouté la proposition américaine, l'intervention de Monsieur Hjort, ensuite l'intervention de Monsieur Marsh, de la Pologne et de l'Arabie Saoudite, j'ai vraiment résisté à la tentation de demander une motion d'ordre, par respect pour vous, Monsieur le Président, et pour l'assemblée, parce qu'après ces trois interventions, on avait matière pour arriver à une entente sur la façon dont il faut libeller cet article. L'amendement apporté par les Etats-Unis, indiquant l'échéance de novembre, me semble la seule retouche qu'il faille faire à ce texte, qu'il faudrait adopter pour avancer.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I only wish to let you know that I fully disagree with my colleague of Ghana but I do not want to continue this debate as otherwise we will have a lengthy debate and show that we need at least three weeks for a conference, and we could keep the old text. So I will take the opportunity elsewhere to debate what we have started here.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): I want to thank our colleagues from the Netherlands because if this point were to be opened we could be here all day. I would also like to point out that the discussion here this morning on shortening the Conference session seems to have added a considerable amount of time to our session! I would also like to suggest that we go along with the American proposal and adopt it unless there are any objections. We should just adopt it.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas d'objection, je déclare la proposition d'amendement de l'article 9 du document C 93/REP/9 adopté.

Paragraph 9, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 9, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 9. así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraph 10 approved

Le paragraphe 10 est approuvé

El párrafo 10 es aprobado

Ms Birgitta STENIUS-MLADENOV (Finland): Last Monday the Plenary adopted the Report of the General Committee containing the Resolution on the Budgetary Appropriations. Should this Resolution not be included in the Report of the Plenary? Where will it be inserted?

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La résolution a été effectivement adoptée et elle serait incluse dans le rapport de la Conférence, si c'est la question qui a été posée.

Ms Birgitta STENIUS-MLADENOV (Finland): My question was as to which part of the Report it will appear in. Is it not supposed to be in this general Report of the Plenary? There will be no more reports for us to adopt.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask Mr. Shah to clarify the matter.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Programmed, Budget and Evaluation Department): I will try to provide the clarification which I hope will satisfy the distinguished delegate of Finland and any others who may have this query. All the reports which are adopted in Plenary then appear in the bound version of the Conference Report. In that bound version of the Conference Report, under the section on Programmes and Activities of the Organization, will appear the entire Report as you adopted it, together with the Resolution on the Budgetary Appropriations 1994-95, which you adopted by the roll call vote here on Wednesday 17 November, and also the subsequent Resolution on the Programmed of Work and Budgetary Appropriations 1994-95 which you submitted from the General Committee to the Plenary. All that will appear in the printed Report.

Ato Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): I suggest that some lighting arrangement will have to be made in this corner of the hall because it is very difficult for the Chairman to see this side when we raise a flag. Today is not the first time; we have noticed it throughout the sessions.

I have a question. I am not intending to take you back, but I intend to make further clarification to the document. On page 5 of the document that you have just approved, it talks about the appointment of the Director-General, and paragraphs 7 and 8 refer to the appointment of the Independent Chairman. I am not sure if this is a correction or something which I did not understand. I just want clarification on that point.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: If I understand the question correctly, the answer is that the resolutions which appear in C 93/LIM/44, firstly with respect to the appointment of the Director-General and, secondly, with respect to the appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council, which you approved immediately preceding taking up the Report of Plenary, will be in the final Report. When you come to this particular section on appointment of the Director-General, there will appear the Resolution precisely as it has been approved and appears in C 93/LIM/44. When you come to read about the appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council, here again you will find the Resolution as that Resolution appears in C 93/LIM/44. I hope that answers the question.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 9, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière. Neuvième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 9, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: With that, I think we can move on to the Report of Commission III. There are reports in five documents. May I invite the Chairman of Commission III, Mr. Zemaitis, to the platform to take the Conference through these Reports?

Algirdas ZEMAITIS (Chairman, Commission III): Commission III had a total of six very good meetings. Consensus was reached on all the items, which are presented in the Reports before the Conference. I shall be very brief. I want to thank my two Vice-chairmen, Mr Kima Tabong of Cameroon and Mr. Laureau of France for the assistance they gave me; also the Secretary,

Mr Stein, Assistant-Secretary, Mr Flood, and the Reporter who was very patient with all the delegations, Mr Magederagamage of Sri Lanka.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 10 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DIXIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 10 (de la Comisión III)

Paragraphs 1 to 4 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 5 to 8 INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHS 5 A 8 Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 5 A 8 INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): J'aimerais proposer que le reste des paragraphes 5 à 12, y compris la révision de la Résolution, soient adoptés en bloc.

LE PRESIDENT: Le texte de la Résolution doit être adopté par un vote aux deux tiers. Je suis donc obligé de passer au vote nominal. Le Secrétariat va nous dire comment nous allons procéder.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT: Il s'agit d'une Résolution qui demande la majorité des deux tiers et d'après le règlement il faut un vote par appel nominal. On doit donc procéder au tirage au sort du premier votant et on demandera aux délégués de répondre par oui, non ou abstention.

Vote

Vote

Votación



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on

Vote sur Amendment to Rule XXXIV of the General Rules of the Organization CCLM

Votación para

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	98
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	65

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	98
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	66
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ADOPTED
ADOPTÉE
ACEPTADA

Date: 24/11/93
Fecha

Elections Officer: B. Linley
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote en cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal de voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

Session of the Conference
27th Session de la Conférence
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN
VOTACIÓN NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCIÓN DE PAPELETAS

Vote on
1st Vote sur Amendment to Rule XXXIV GRO Re CCLM Terms of Reference
Votación para

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Afghanistan	X				Chad	X				France	X			
Albania				X	Chile	X				Gabon	X			
Algeria	X				China	X				Gambia				X
Angola	X				Colombia	X				Germany	X			
Antigua and Barbuda				X	Comoros				X	Ghana	X			
Argentina				X	Congo				X	Greece				X
Armenia				X	Cook Islands				X	Grenada				X
Australia	X				Costa Rica	X				Guatemala				X
Austria	X				Côte d'Ivoire				X	Guinea	X			
Bahamas				X	Croatia	X				Guinea-Bissau				X
Bahrain	X				Cuba	X				Guyana				X
Bangladesh	X				Cyprus	X				Haiti	X			
Barbados	X				Czech Republic	X				Honduras	X			
Belgium	X				D.P. Republic of Korea				X	Hungary	X			
Belize				X	Denmark	X				Iceland				X
Benin				X	Djibouti				X	India	X			
Bhutan				X	Dominica	X				Indonesia	X			
Bolivia	X				Dominican Republic				X	Iran, Islamic Rep. of	X			
Botswana	X				Ecuador				X	Iraq	X			
Brazil	X				Egypt	X				Ireland	X			
Bulgaria	X				El Salvador	X				Israel				X
Burkina Faso	X				Equatorial Guinea				X	Italy	X			
Burundi				X	Eritrea				X	Jamaica	X			
Cambodia				X	Estonia	X				Japan	X			
Cameroon	X				Ethiopia	X				Jordan				X
Canada	X				Fiji				X					
Cape Verde	X				Finland	X								

Session of the Conference
27^a Session de la Conférence
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on
Vote sur
Votación para
Amendment to Rule XXXIV GRO Re CCLM Terms of Reference

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Kenya	X				Norway	X				Switzerland	X			
Korea, Rep. of	X				Oman	X				Syria	X			
Kuwait	X				Pakistan	X				Tanzania	X			
Laos				X	Panama				X	Thailand	X			
Latvia				X	Papua New Guinea				X	The F. Y. Rep. of Macedonia				X
Lebanon				X	Paraguay				X	Togo				X
Lesotho	X				Peru	X				Tonga				X
Liberia	X				Philippines	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Libya	X				Poland	X				Tunisia	X			
Lithuania	X				Portugal	X				Turkey	X			
Luxembourg	X				Qatar				X	Uganda	X			
Madagascar				X	Romania	X				United Arab Emirates	X			
Malawi				X	Rwanda	X				United Kingdom	X			
Malaysia	X				St. Kitts & Nevis				X	United States of America	X			
Maldives				X	Saint Lucia				X	Uruguay	X			
Mali				X	St. Vincent & Grenadines				X	Vanuatu				X
Malta	X				Samoa				X	Venezuela	X			
Mauritania				X	Sao Tome and Principe				X	Viet Nam	X			
Mauritius	X				Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	X				Yemen				X
Mexico	X				Senegal	X				Zaire				X
Mongolia				X	Seychelles				X	Zambia	X			
Morocco	X				Sierra Leone				X	Zimbabwe				X
Mozambique				X	Slovakia	X								
Myanmar				X	Slovenia				X					
Namibia				X	Solomon Islands				X					
Nepal				X	Spain	X								
Netherlands	X				Sri Lanka	X								
New Zealand				X	Sudan	X								
Nicaragua	X				Suriname				X					
Niger	X				Swaziland	X								
Nigeria	X				Sweden	X								

Paragraphs 5 to 8, including Resolution, adopted
Les paragraphes 5 à 8, y compris la résolution, sont adoptés
Los párrafos 5 a 8, incluida la Resolución, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 9 TO 12 INCLUDING RESOLUTION
PARAGRAPHES 9 A 12 Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION
LOS PARRAFOS 9 A 17 INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

LE PRESIDENT: Ecoutez, nous allons continuer, je crois, l'examen du texte. Et je vous propose que le point 18, que nous avons eu le temps de lire et qui constitue un chapitre cohérent, soit adopté en bloc, sauf s'il y a une objection sur tel ou tel paragraphe. Il n'y a pas d'objection? Le point 18 est donc adopté.

Paragraphs 9 to 12, including Resolution, adopted
Les paragraphes 9 à 12, y compris la résolution, sont adoptés
Los párrafos 9 a 12 incluida la Resolución, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 10, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Dixième partie, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 10, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 11 (from Commission III)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - ONZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la
Commission III)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 11 (de la Comisión III)

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 2
PARAGRAPHES 1 A 2
PARRAFOS 1 A 2

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons maintenant au document C 93/REP/11 révision de C 93/III/REP/2. Le point de l'ordre du jour, c'est le point 19, dont les points 19.2 et 19.4 sont particulièrement importants, parce qu'ils vont donner lieu à un vote. Je voudrais donc passer au point 19.1 "Suppression du groupe d'experts chargé des mesures d'urgence contre le criquet". Y a-t-il une objection à l'adoption de ce point, pris globalement, de l'ordre du jour, le point 19.1? Ce point 19.1 est donc adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 2 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 2 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 2 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 3 TO 29 INCLUDING RESOLUTION
PARAGRAPHES 3 A 29 Y COMPRIS LES RESOLUTIONS
LOS PARRAFOS 3 A 29 INCLUIDAS LAS RESOLUCIONES

LEGAL COUNSEL: If I may just raise a point on the Agreement on the Flagging of Vessels Fishing in the High Seas and also on the Cooperation Agreement and the Agreement on the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the word "Draft" in the title and in the texts of the Agreements should now be dropped. They now become Agreements and not Draft Agreements.

Julio César LUPINACCI (Uruguay): Sobre el párrafo 3 del documento que estamos considerando quisiera hacer dos pequeñas observaciones. En los últimos renglones se dice: "se acordó confiar a la Organización la tarea de elaborar un acuerdo internacional oficial". No veo la necesidad de poner "acuerdo internacional oficial", que es un término técnicamente impreciso y no corresponde. Simplemente es un acuerdo internacional, no existen acuerdos internacionales oficiales y oficiosos. En consecuencia propongo quitar la palabra "oficial".

En el renglón siguiente la traducción española tampoco es correcta porque dice: "con miras a su aprobación oficial" y es "a su aprobación formal", como bien dice el texto inglés. Por tanto, propongo estas dos cosas: Eliminar la palabra "oficial" que califica al acuerdo internacional y sustituir en el texto español las palabras "aprobación oficial" por "aprobación formal", en el penúltimo renglón del párrafo 3.

LE PRESIDENT: En français, c'est "comme on l'avait noté au Conseil". La même erreur. C'est "formellement" qu'il faut mettre et pas "officiellement".

Gian Paolo PAPA (CEE). Monsieur le Président, il s'agit du point 5, page 7 du texte français. Il y a une différence entre le texte anglais et le texte français, et je pense aussi le texte espagnol. Il est évident que le texte anglais fait foi. Mais alors, à la ligne 11 de la page 7, il faut biffer "nationales" qui n'existe pas dans le texte anglais.

A la page 9, deuxième ligne: éliminer "Etats" qui n'existe pas dans le texte anglais.

Et au point 11, avant-dernière ligne: enlever un mot superfétatoire qui est "pour". On se demande pourquoi ce mot se trouve là. Merci Monsieur le Président.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que vous pourriez répéter?

Gian Paolo PAPA (CEE): Je répète, Monsieur le Président: page 7 du texte français, onzième ligne du point 5 (a), vous lisez "compétence des autorités nationales". C'est "compétence des autorités chargées de la pêche".

Page 9, deuxième ligne, "par des membres de la FAO" et pas "par des Etats Membres de la FAO".

Et encore à la même page 9, point 11, avant-dernière ligne "pour présenter": enlever ce "pour".

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): I would like to crave your indulgence to allow me to make a short statement, which, for reasons I explained at the Commission meeting, I was unable to make. Then I would like to propose two modifications to the text, which were not caught in the version that we have.

On the first point, I would simply like, as others have, to mark the successful conclusion of this particular Agreement. Canada participated actively in the formulation and negotiation of this Agreement. It represents a finely balanced compromise but, on the whole, it stands as an effective legally binding instrument under which flag states undertake to ensure that their vessels do not engage in fishing activities that undermine international conservation and management measures.

To ensure that this agreement is effective it is essential it command the widest possible acceptance in FAO member countries and all other members of the United Nations family. The urgency of the problem requires it to be brought into force as soon as possible. This agreement represents an important building block in the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing, which we have strongly supported at its inception at Cancún. We welcome the effort made to give high priority to the formulation of the Code of Conduct, in which we intend to participate actively. Indeed, we have offered to host the Expert Consultation on Technical Standards in early 1994.

We would be remiss if we neglected to pay warm tribute to the high standards and professional excellence shown by the FAO Secretariat, in particular Legal Counsel Mr Moore and Mr John Fitzpatrick. We also wish to express a special word of thanks to Dr Krone who vigorously and effectively spearheaded this operation within FAO. I also pay tribute to the superb skills and chairmanship demonstrated from the outside at the initial meeting of experts by Dr Joseph of ITTC and subsequently of Under-Secretary Camacho De Gaus of Mexico, but most particularly to Mr Illanes of Chile who saw us so diplomatically, effectively and masterfully to the successful conclusion of the Agreement.

I would like to turn to two small changes in the text itself, in paragraph 10 on page 9, the fourth line from the bottom where we say that the Code "should be complementary to and supportive of . . .", and I would propose that the word "should" be replaced with the word "must" to conform to the text of the agreed conclusions we reached in Commission II on this very point. I believe that is contained in document C 93/REP/4 of the record, and I think there ought to be correspondence between what we said. In fact, we did say the same thing in both.

In paragraph 12 on page 10 there is one change, which was agreed in Commission III but is not taken up in this text. This is in the second line, to remove the phrase "completed by September 1994 and the text..."; we did agree that that would be removed. This should be simply corrected in this version.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué du Canada pour ses observations. Et je pense que le Secrétariat va donc corriger les différents textes en fonction de ce qui a été dit à la fois par la Commission et par le Représentant du Canada, si cela correspond bien aux travaux de la Commission III.

Edouard MOLITOR (Luxembourg): Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais avoir un éclaircissement. A quoi nous engageons-nous adoptant cette résolution? Je pense que dans les deux cas, il s'agit d'un traité, d'un accord international en bonne et due forme. Normalement, ces textes sont d'abord soumis aux gouvernements, à l'administration. Sinon, ils sont soumis à une conférence. Mais au moins ils sont paraphés, sinon signés. Il y a une

procédure de ratification normale qui est prévue. Il y a une adhésion pour ceux qui n'ont pas signé. Alors, que se passe-t-il avec ce texte? Est-ce qu'il sera encore une fois soumis aux gouvernements, ou comment procède-t-on? Peut-être ma question est-elle superflue, parce que je ne suis pas encore habitué aux procédures ici. Mais cela me semble quand même un peu étrange comme façon de procéder.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseiller juridique va répondre pleinement à la question de l'Amassadeur du Luxembourg. Vous verrez que vos gouvernements, bien entendu, auront à examiner ce texte.

LEGAL COUNSEL: If I can explain - these two agreements, the flagging agreement and IOTC agreement are being submitted to the Conference under Article XIV. Under Article XIV the Conference is empowered to approve conventions and agreements concerning questions relating to food and agriculture by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. This means, then, that the first stage, if you like, of the adoption of the agreement is done by Conference here. It approves the agreement, and then the agreement is circulated to the Member States, to the Member Nations and member organizations of this Organization and to eligible non-member states. Then there is a process of ratification - or we call it acceptance - under Article XIV which means that every country goes through its own internal ratification procedures and then sends in a formal instrument of acceptance.

On the occasion when we have had the necessary number of acceptances - 25 in the case of the flagging agreement or ten in the case of the IOTC agreement - that agreement enters into force. The formal approval by the Conference is akin to the signature phase, and acceptance is the formal ratification phase. Does that clarify the situation for you?

LE PRESIDENT: C'est très clair. D'ailleurs, je voudrais souligner que c'est une des beautés de notre Organisation que d'être justement capable, sur des sujets comme le développement durable, d'imaginer des conventions ou des codes de conduite qui, en quelque sorte, permettent de faire avancer le droit international technique. Je crois que c'est vraiment là une des fonctions essentielles de l'Organisation.

Julio César LUPINACCI (Uruguay): Le pido disculpas porque yo pensé que íbamos a ir analizando párrafo por párrafo y estamos analizando ahora el conjunto. En ese sentido, yo quisiera formular dos o tres observaciones a algunos otros párrafos. En el párrafo 7, en el antepenúltimo renglón dice: "en el futuro la oportunidad para restringir sus disposiciones"; es decir, siempre quedaría abierto en el futuro la oportunidad para restringir sus disposiciones. Yo creo, señor Presidente, que la palabra adecuada no debería ser "restringir", debería ser "hacer más eficaces sus disposiciones" porque a veces lo mejor no será restringir, sino ampliar. Si estamos hablando en materia de cooperación, señor Presidente, no sería lo mejor restringir, sino ampliar. Por tanto, creo que la manera de calificar sería "hacer más eficaces sus disposiciones". Esa es la primera propuesta, señor Presidente, que formulo.

En segundo lugar, habría que hacer algunas correcciones al texto español, no sé si es ésta la oportunidad de hacerlo, pero en ese caso lo dejo

sentado para que los traductores hagan su parte. En el párrafo 5, apartado a), dice en el texto español, en el cuarto renglón: "evitar el cumplimiento con las normas aplicables", debía decirse "evitar el cumplimiento de las normas aplicables" esto rige únicamente para el texto español.

También en el párrafo 10 al final, en el último renglón dice: "celebrar consultas informadas", en español debe decir: "celebrar consultas informales basándose en el proyecto", es una corrección evidente, señor Presidente. Y en el párrafo siguiente está mal utilizado el verbo examinar y presentar, en el tercer renglón, debía decir en español: "para que lo examinen y presenten", no examinasen y presentasen porque estamos en presente y no en pasado, son dos observaciones que se aplican lógicamente al texto español pero que creo que deben de ser corregidas.

Quisiera, señor Presidente, hacer una pregunta más y es respecto al párrafo 8, que dice: "La Conferencia aprobó por unanimidad el Proyecto de Acuerdo", pregunto si es por unanimidad que lo aprobamos o por consenso, no estoy muy seguro, es una pregunta que formulo, porque no sé si se pone a votación y entonces es unanimidad, o es que se vota por consenso.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I think we are probably slightly jumping the gun here because we are about to have a vote on this and then we can see whether it will be adopted unanimously. I suggest we leave this word "unanimously" in suspension and await the results of the vote. If the results of the vote are unanimous we can put it down, but we do require the vote because we require a two-thirds majority and that means under our Basic Texts we must have a roll-call vote.

I would urge delegations to remain in the hall so that we have a quorum, because it would be terrible if we lost the agreement because we did not have a quorum.

Le PRESIDENT: D'ailleurs, je voudrais insister sur la nécessité de nettoyer les textes, car ceux-ci peuvent poser des problèmes lorsqu'ils devront être examinés ensuite, pour ratification, par les autorités nationales.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): I just want to raise a couple of minor points with regard to paragraph ten. This may be just a correction needed in the English text.

In the sixth line from the bottom of paragraph ten, the line beginning "were prepared to accept", only the following word "to" should be deleted so that the sentence reads "... were prepared to accept the majority views on this matter."

In the last line of that paragraph beginning "opportunity for possible", the text says "informed", but I think perhaps it should be "informal consultations".

While on the point of mentioning these consultations, I apologise for bringing up this matter so late but I did not have previous advice from my capital. I wish to register Australia's concern about practical difficulties in holding these informal discussions in the margins of the United Nations Conference. Difficulties were experienced during the UN

Conference earlier when the reflecting consultation took place, where people wanted to be in two places at once. People were drawn out of working sessions of the Conference to attend the informal consultations. This was particularly a problem for smaller delegations. Such problems are likely to be even more severe with the general principle issue of reflecting, as many more delegations will wish to be involved in the general principles Code and to maintain a close watch on its development, but they will also have heavy commitments to the UN Conference itself.

I am not seeking to have this statement reflected in the Report, but I wanted the opportunity to register the views.

Edouard MOLITOR (Luxembourg): Encore une fois, je m'excuse d'intervenir mais la procédure me semble un peu particulière et j'aimerais savoir de quoi il s'agit. Si nous adoptons maintenant la résolution, est-ce que nous lions tous les membres ou seulement ceux qui votent? Quelle est vraiment la valeur juridique de ce vote?

LEGAL COUNSEL: This is the first stage in which the Conference is being asked to approve the Resolution and the draft Agreement. This then becomes the approval of the entire Conference. No Member State is bound at that stage. The Agreement is then sent to the various members, who are asked to go through their formal procedure of acceptance. Once they have accepted and deposited an instrument of acceptance with the Director-General, and once the Agreement comes into force, then the Agreement is in force for those who have accepted it. It is not in force for anybody at the moment of approval. This is merely, if you like, the signatory stage. It will not come into force until it is ratified, which is the acceptance stage under Article XIV of our Constitution. Once the Agreement has entered into force it then comes into force for those who accept it as of the date they accept it.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): Únicamente y muy brevemente, es una matización con relación al párrafo 10, al final de la página 9 del texto en español. Creo que el texto tal y como lo presenta la Secretaría es correcto en cuanto al texto castellano en el sentido de que "la Conferencia subrayó que la labor de la Organización respecto del Código debería ser complementaria y en apoyo del trabajo de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas". El "debería", término condicional en español, refleja mucho mejor que el imperativo "deberá" que, en definitiva, según nuestra opinión no refleja ni la discusión en la Comisión II y III, porque muchos países intervinientes recomendaron que esto tuviera estas características de ser complementario y de apoyo al trabajo de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas, pero no un imperativo, no una supeditación a lo que se decida en Nueva York. Creo, por tanto, que mi propuesta, la propuesta de España, es que el texto se mantenga tal y como está escrito por la Secretaría.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): In respect of that last statement, I would simply refer the delegate to document C 93/REP/1, paragraph 14, where, on the eighth line, there is a phrase which says: "While endorsing this proposal, the Conference stressed that this work must be complementary with and supportive of other related initiatives within the UN system...". I think it is very clear that that was the formal decision, which has been accepted by Conference following on from discussions in Commission I, and I think

the same comments were reflected when we had this discussion in Commission III.

LE PRESIDENT: Je propose à mes collègues canadien et espagnol de se voir pendant l'heure du déjeuner. Je dois vous dire que nous n'avons plus le quorum et que nous ne sommes donc pas en mesure de voter maintenant sur les documents. Nous devons le faire à 14 h 30, et je demande à tout le monde d'être à l'heure afin que nous puissions procéder au vote. Vous voyez quel est le problème des conférences un peu prolongées: il finit par y avoir un tiers des membres absents.

Paragraphs 3 to 29, including Resolutions, not concluded

Les paragraphes 3 à 29, y compris les résolutions, sont en suspens

Párrafos 3 a 29, incluidas las Resoluciones, quedan pendientes

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 11 (not concluded)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 11 (est. en suspens)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 11 (queda pendiente)

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/PV/20

Twenty-seventh Session
PLENARY

Vingt-septième session
PLENIERE

28° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

TWENTIETH PLENARY MEETING VINGTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 20ª SESION PLENARIA

(24 November 1993)

The Twentieth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours
Mr Seymour Mullings, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingtième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15
sous la présidence de M. Seymour Mullings, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 20ª sesión plenaria a las 15.15 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Seymour Mullings, Presidente de la Conferencia

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

ABROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We will continue taking the Draft Reports from Commission III. The Chairman of the Commission continues to sit on the platform and we will start with Draft Report C 93/REP/12. We will deal with C93/REP/11 during this session, but we will begin with C 93/REP/12.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 12 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DOUZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 12 (de la Commisiôn III)

Paragraphs 1 to 4, including Resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4, y compris la résolution, sont approuvés

Párrafos 1 a 4, incluida la Resolución, ciprobados

Paragraphs 5 to 6, including Resolution and Appendix, approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 6, y compris la résolution et l'annexe, sont approuvés

Párrafos 5 a 6, incluida la Resolución v el Apéndice, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 7 TO 11, INCLUDING APPENDIX

PARAGRAPHERS 7 TO 11, Y COMPRIS L'ANNEXE

PÁRRAFOS 7 A 11, INCLUIDO EL APENDICE

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Pour rendre le paragraphe 8 un peu plus compréhensible, du moins dans la version française, il serait peut-être plus indiqué, à la première phrase, de biffer le membre de phrase "que la question doit faire l'objet d'une analyse technique plus approfondie" et de dire simplement: "Etant donné la nature de cette proposition, la Conférence a décidé qu'une étude approfondie de la proposition et de ses incidences...", le reste sans changement.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): I have a change proposed for paragraph 9. It is that we remove the phrase at the end of the paragraph "until the next Conference" and replace it with "any decision taken by Council to be implemented on a trial basis until the next Conference", which I believe is the decision we arrived at. The way the text is drafted now, it simply grants the decision to Council to take a decision until the next Conference, and I do not think that is what we decided.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I am not English mother tongue, so maybe I am having difficulty in understanding. For me, what is important is that the delegation of authority which we wish to give to the Council is a delegation which is only given until the next Conference and is not a permanent delegation. My reading of the text as it stands now is clear. The delegation is given until the next Conference and then it is up to the Conference to decide. I do not have a clear understanding of the Canadian proposal with respect to this concern.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): In the discussion we had, we had -agreed that the Council would be delegated the right to take a decision on this matter, with the decision to be implemented as a result of that decision by Council to remain in effect only until the next conference on a trial basis. Consequently, whatever decision it takes, the decision itself will only be in effect until the next Conference, at which time we would review the matter and come to a more permanent solution. The way that it is phrased in paragraph 9, it simply provides the Council with the right until the next Conference to take a decision but nothing is said as to the duration of that decision. If the Council takes a decision, that decision is final. I think that is the difference in the emphasis that I have tried to introduce in the sentence.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I see a difference between delegation of authority and taking a decision. If I delegate authority, I can decide several times. I can decide next year and I can decide again after the next Conference. I think that we have to be precise on this matter, and I prefer the text as it stands.

Ashraf Mohsen Mohamed MOHSEN (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I should like to second the amendment proposed by the delegate of Canada, which indeed reflects what happened when the proposal was discussed. I think it is a much better phraseology and would not give power to the Council beyond the next Conference.

Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland): This is an important point. I take the floor to support both the thinking and the language submitted by the delegate of Canada. Of course, the question remains of whether it is clear to everyone or whether it could be improved and made even more lucid than it is. For that reason I submit to you two simple suggestions. Perhaps it would be acceptable to the delegate of Switzerland to continue after the word "agreed" by saying "to delegate until the next Conference to the Council the authority", which probably shifts the emphasis. My second proposal is to delete the words "until the next Conference" and replace them by the words "subject to the approval of the next Conference". This is a tentative suggestion since what is very good in the Canadian proposal is the element that any decision is introduced on a trial basis, and I shall be supporting this proposal.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Un petit élément de clarification: si la décision du Conseil est prise sous réserve de l'approbation de la Conférence, comment va-t-on permettre, d'une manière pratique, aux Etats Membres, de profiter de cette facilité le plus tôt possible?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): Since the Canadian proposal has found support, I suggest that we do as proposed by the delegate of Poland and move the part of the sentence "until the next Conference" to the third line so that it would read "to delegate until the next Conference to the Council the authority".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think everybody is in agreement on what is to be said here. The problem is in finding the terminology. Let me try a slight

modification to see if it catches the full essence of it I suggest that the paragraph reads as it is through "this was made", and that we then insert "such delegation to remain with the Council only until the next Conference and with any decision taken by Council to be implemented on a trial basis". It seems to me that that would clarify the matter.

CHAIRMAN: Would that satisfy the delegates of Canada and Switzerland?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I think it should read "with any decision taken by the Council to be implemented on a trial basis until the next Conference". I think we need to keep that in.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It is redundant, but you may have it in if you wish.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): I agree with the suggestion made by my Swiss colleague.

CHAIRMAN: It seems that the words proposed by Mr Hjort, but maintaining the four words "until the next Conference", meet with the approval of delegates.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): I am not sure what we have now agreed. I think Mr Hjort was quite right that we do not need the second "until the next Conference" because it is said in the first part of the sentence he proposed, which was "such delegation to remain with the Council only until the next Conference". We do not need the second "until the next Conference". I do not understand where we are now.

CHAIRMAN: I would ask Mr Hjort to read paragraph 9 in full as he proposes it so that we can have a full understanding of how it reads.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The full paragraph would read as follows: "Furthermore, in order to allow Member Nations to avail themselves eventually of this facility at the earliest possible date, the Conference agreed to delegate to the Council the authority to decide on the issue of derogation from Financial Regulation 5.6 and on the criteria under which this was to be made, such delegation to remain with the Council only until the next Conference and with any decision taken by Council to be implemented on a trial basis". The suggestion from Switzerland is to add to the end of that "until the next Conference".

CHAIRMAN: That addition would not be necessary, in my view. I am sure the delegate of Switzerland would agree that the final four words would not be necessary in that phrasing. I see that the delegate of Switzerland agrees. Does each member of Conference agree that we can now adopt paragraph 9 as amended?

CHAIRMAN: We will go back to paragraph 8, on which there was a proposal from the delegate of Morocco to remove all the words after the word "proposal".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: As I understand the proposed amendment from the delegate of Morocco on paragraph 8, it is simply to delete a set of words. As I understand it, it would read, "In view of the nature of the proposal, the Conference decided that an in-depth review of the proposal..." and so forth. In other words, one could delete "the matter required further technical analysis and requested, therefore, that". All that could be deleted, so that it simply reads, "the Conference decided that an in-depth review of the proposal and its implications in the light of the questions raised in the debate be performed by the spring 1994 session of the Finance Committee", and so forth.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): In the opinion of my delegation, the second line justifies why an in-depth review is necessary, so we think this is an explanatory part, which should be kept in this paragraph.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): I should just like to agree with what the Swiss delegation has said. I think it is important that this is made clear in the Report.

Franco F.G. GINOCCHIO (Italy): I wish to agree with what has been said by the Swiss delegate.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Je peux rejoindre les avis exprimés, mais je m'attendrais à avoir des éclaircissements pour comprendre parfaitement quel est le cheminement logique de la première partie de ce paragraphe 8. Je ne sais pas si cela est dû à la version française, mais je ne pense pas que ce soit dans le mandat du Comité financier de réaliser quelque étude que ce soit. Le Comité financier analyse, recommande, formule des avis. J'attends quelques éclaircissements là-dessus.

Jacques LAUREAU (France) : Il me semble que le délégué du Maroc a raison. Ce n'est pas le Comité financier qui réalise des études. Le Comité financier peut demander des études à quelqu'un, par exemple le Vérificateur externe des comptes. C'est ce qui avait été dit, si on relit les verbatims.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I wish to support the delegate of France. In fact, the suggestion was made that the External Auditor would carry out the study, and the delegate of Morocco is quite right that it is not the Finance Committee which carries out the study; it is the Finance Committee which will consider a study.

DEPUTY-DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would recall that during the debate there was a request from at least one, if not more Member Nations for some information to be provided to the Finance Committee on the practices of other bodies in the UN system, a further review of the matter and so forth. Maybe what one could consider here is, "In view of the nature of the proposal, the

Conference recommended that additional information be provided by the Director-General and requested that an in-depth review of the proposal", and so forth, "be provided by the Finance Committee". The point has been made by two or three delegations here, that the Finance Committee is not a body to do technical analysis. If the Conference wishes further analysis of the matter or additional information, I think that request should go to the Director-General. I have not given you an exact formulation there, but I gather that is the sense of what is being proposed here.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, si mon collègue et ami M. Marincek, délégué de la Suisse, ne voyait pas d'inconvénient à l'amendement original que j'avais proposé, je serais en mesure de proposer maintenant de remplacer dans la version française "soit réalisée" par "soit analysée".

Mohammed Rashid AL ABSI (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic): I think that in the Arabic text we mean that the Conference has decided; given that the matter calls for more technical analysis, the Conference decided that the Committee - in other words, it is a question of pursuing a technical analysis of the whole matter. So, "the Conference decided"; it is the Conference that took the decision. I do not think there is anything wrong there.

Raphaël RASE (Madagascar): Je voudrais contribuer à la recherche d'une solution. Je voudrais proposer que l'on mette seulement un point après "réalisée". Et ensuite, on commencerait par "Le Comité financier examinera cette étude dans sa session". Donc, un point seulement après "soit réalisée" et ensuite on fait une autre phrase: "Le Comité financier examinera cette étude à sa session".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Let us see if we can have a simple solution to this: leave the whole paragraph as it is and insert two words between "performed" and "by the spring": "be submitted to the spring 1994 Session of the Finance Committee". It says them that the Conference decided that it required further technical analysis and requested that an in-depth review... and its implications, and so forth, "be submitted to the Spring 1994 Session". In other words, this puts the onus on the back of the Director-General to do all of these things and to submit a document to the Finance Committee so that they can consider the matter and make their recommendations to the Council in May of 1994.

So the whole paragraph would now read, "In view of the nature of the proposal, the Conference decided that the matter required further technical analysis and requested, therefore, that an in-depth review of the proposal and its implications in the light of the questions raised in the debate be submitted to the Spring 1994 Session of the Finance Committee". We take out "performed by" and add "submitted to", "the Finance Committee and its conclusions be submitted to the additional session of the Council to be held by May 1994".

CHAIRMAN: Is there any further comment on this matter? I take it therefore, that Conference accepts the wording as read by the Deputy Director-General, Mr Hjort.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Excusez-moi de revenir-encore à la charge. J'espère que la toute petite proposition que je vais faire ne va pas poser trop de difficultés. J'aimerais que l'on sépare les deux phrases, que l'on dise (je reviens sur mon amendement original): "Etant donné la nature de cette proposition, la Conférence a décidé que la question devait faire l'objet d'une analyse technique plus approfondie." Ensuite "Elle a donc demandé".

CHAIRMAN: I do not think we will have any difficulty in accepting that. Mr Hjort says that it means exactly the same thing. Do we accept paragraph 8 as the delegate of Morocco has insisted it be corrected to read? Paragraph 8 is now adopted.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Au paragraphe 10, à la deuxième phrase, après "(Annexe...)", ne pourrait-on pas ajouter "Elle a été informée qu'à la date du 19 novembre 1993, 79 Etats Membres n'avaient effectué aucun versement". Cela pour ne pas anticiper sur les 20 versements qui pourraient intervenir au cours du mois de décembre. "Elle a été informée qu'à la date du 19 novembre" (C'est la date qui figure sur le tableau à la page 12) "79 Etats Membres n'avaient effectué aucun versement".

CHAIRMAN: Have members heard the recommendation of the delegate of Morocco? Are there any comments? That recommendation, I think, is acceptable.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): I am really sorry to take you back to paragraph 9. I was otherwise engaged whilst Mr Hjort read out the last part of paragraph 9 again. May I clarify what the last sentence in paragraph 9 will say?

CHAIRMAN: You can confer with the delegate of the United States who sits beside you. Conference has already adopted paragraph 9. We spent a considerable time on it. The Deputy Director-General read the amended version in a slow manner, as requested by the distinguished delegate of Malta.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): Again, I simply revert to what the United Kingdom representative has just said. I think there may be a misunderstanding as to what the final phrase in paragraph 9 is. I suggested a formulation. Mr Hjort suggested an alternative formulation to which was added a phrase by Switzerland which I seconded. Could I please have the formulation so that I understand exactly how it reads?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The phrase after the word "made" is "such delegation to remain with the Council only until the next Conference and with any decision taken by Council to be implemented on a trial basis".

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): I apologize but that was not the proposal to which we agreed. After "a trial basis" is the phrase "until the next Conference", as suggested by Switzerland and seconded by Canada should appear in the text. I think I explained on at least two occasions why this phrase is

important and in fact it reflected the actual debate that -we had. I would request respectfully that this phrase be included in the final text.

CHAIRMAN: Did Conference understand what phrase the delegate of Canada wishes to have included?

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): At the very end, it is the repetition of the phrase "until the next Conference"; so the end would read from the word "made", "such delegation to remain with the Council only until the next Conference, and with any decision taken by Council to be implemented on a trial basis until next Conference".

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Nous ne voyons aucun problème à accepter une répétition. Mais j'aimerais bien comprendre une chose, Monsieur le Président, avoir un éclaircissement: si la Conférence de 1995 revenait sur cette décision que prendrait probablement le Conseil, est-ce que la mise en oeuvre continuerait quand même?

Igor MARINCBK (Switzerland) : As you know, I defended the proposal which is now repeated by the delegate of Canada. You from the Chair, and there were other suggestions also from Mr Hjort, said that this would be redundant. It was with the impression that this was an opinion shared by the whole Conference; I admitted one could perhaps have the shorter version. My preference also goes for the repetition because, as I explained earlier, we have on the one side the delegation of authority and on the other side a decision. It makes things clear. It does not make a very nice sentence, I fully agree, and to some extent it makes it redundant but it is certainly very clear if you repeat it.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Permettez-moi d'insister. J'avais demandé un éclaircissement. Et là, il y a peut-être un aspect juridique de la question. Pour notre part, la délégation et la décision ne font qu'un. Par contre, le deuxième aspect, c'est le champ d'application de la décision, la mise en oeuvre. Et c'est pour cela que nous pensions que si la Conférence revenait sur la décision, automatiquement la mise en oeuvre serait arrêtée.

Chadli LAROUSSI (Tunisie): Je ne vois pas où est le problème. Et le Conseiller juridique peut peut-être mieux nous éclairer. Mais en tout état de cause, la Conférence étant l'organe souverain de l'Organisation, elle peut tout arrêter. Alors, c'est une réelle redondance. Et sur le plan juridique, je ne crois pas que notre texte tiendra avec cette redondance. Mais de toute manière, je me rallierai à l'avis du Conseiller juridique.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): The addition at the end of the sentence has substantive impact in that it places a time limit on the extent to which the decision to be taken by Council will be in effect. Now, this is not made up. I would simply recall what the debate was all about and the decision that we took in the debate that we would implement a decision of this type respecting this measure on a trial basis and we would take a subsequent decision, if it was so deemed necessary for it, at the next

Conference. What this is attempting to reflect is, in fact, a decision that we reached in the debate. I do not understand the problem that we have with it. If we take out the fact of a qualifying "when the decision is to end by the next Conference", it means the decision stays in effect until such a time as it is repealed. I submit that it is not quite the same thing and it certainly does not accord with the decision that was taken, hence the argument that I make for the inclusion of "until the next Conference", we can say "pending final resolution at the next Conference". We can say that but I think we need the qualifier at the end; otherwise it is not the temporary-decision which was agreed in this room.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): Out of an abundance of caution and not wanting to repeat what happened this morning, I merely want to say I understand the decision of Conference exactly as Canada has put it, even without those last four words. If it would advance the work of Conference, then let us put the last four words in and let us proceed. I would urge we do that.

CHAIRMAN: I think we should try and get this matter brought to a conclusion after this very lengthy debate. Can Legal Counsel help us?

LEGAL COUNSEL: It does seem, if I approach this legally, that there is a slight difference between the period during which the Council is authorized to take a decision - in other words it can be delegated the authority for a certain period of time - and the length of time for which the decision that the Council takes is valid. I think this is the point that is being made. May I suggest that at the end of the sentence instead of saying "until the Conference", one just uses the words "until then". Basically the power to take a decision is delegated to the Council until the next Conference and the decision is to be implemented on a trial basis until then. I think it makes it perfectly clear that there are two distinct legal aspects, the length of time for which the decision is delegated and the length of time for which a decision taken is valid.

CHAIRMAN: I hope this clarifies the situation and satisfies all delegates.

Soumaila ISSAKA (Niger): Je voulais justement vous prier de donner la parole au Conseiller juridique pour qu'il donne les éclaircissements que le délégué du Maroc a demandés. En effet, il faudrait être précis sur la durée de la délégation à donner au Conseil, d'une part - et sur cela, nous sommes tous d'accord - et, d'autre part, sur le terme de l'effet de la décision que prendrait le Conseil. Il me semble que tout le monde est d'accord sur ce que le Conseiller juridique a dit.

Francis Montanaro MIFSUD (Malta): I hesitate to prolong this debate. It is getting very scholastic. I thought the original wording by Mr Hjort was clear enough because it would require the next Conference to decide one way or the other but, if we had these last words in, do we mean that at the beginning of the next Conference any decisions made on a trial basis would cease to have effect or at some other stage of the next Conference? Some of the payments tend to come in during the Conference. Do we have to say "by"?

the end of the next Conference"? This is the trouble. If one tries to be too precise, one ends up by not being all that precise.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I would suggest then, instead of saying "until then" or "until the next Conference", we say "until the matter has been further addressed by the next Conference". Then at that time the new decision of the Conference takes over, and supersedes the delegated decision taken by the Council.

Moomi TE AVELELA SAMBA (Zaire): Je voudrais juste proposer un petit mot. Je crois que cela pourrait nous aider. Au lieu de dire "jusqu'alors", nous pourrions dire "jusqu'à nouvel ordre".

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Je voudrais seulement appuyer ce qu'a dit le délégué de la Tunisie. En fait, à sa vingt-huitième session, la Conférence sera souveraine et prendra les décisions opportunes. Nous ne pouvons pas, à la vingt-septième session, décider ce que fera la Conférence à sa vingt-huitième session. Je crois donc inutile de préciser que la vingt-huitième session de la Conférence marquera la fin de la délégation donnée au Conseil. En effet, à sa vingt-huitième session, la Conférence prendra les décisions qui s'imposent.

Julio César LUPINACCI (Uruguay) : Creo que la última sugerencia que hizo el Doctor Moore soluciona a mi juicio el problema de mi delegación. Quizás la redacción podría hacerse más estricta, hasta que la próxima Conferencia tome una decisión definitiva, que es casi lo mismo que dijo el Doctor Moore, pero a lo mejor, mejor explicado que la palabra definitiva pudiera calmar algunas inquietudes, propongo concretamente así señor Presidente, "hasta que la próxima Conferencia tome una decisión definitiva".

Michael KIMA TABONG (Cameroon): I thought we had almost reached a solution with the little phrase that the Legal Counsel added, "until then". Now we seem to be falling apart again. I suggest we keep to this. When a proposal is made and is supported, I think you should seek for more supporters rather than opening it up again.

Now let me speak on something else quite different. It would appear to me that this House now has a quorum, so if we can move on to the roll call before the House begins to thin down again, that would be a good idea.

CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate wish to propose another phrasing of this paragraph?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): My delegation would like to support the suggestion that we take one of the two phrases proposed by the Legal Counsel. Both are sufficiently good for us. We cannot bind into our Report all eventualities for the future. We have to give directions here.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal before the House is that at the end we insert the words "until then" - "until the next Conference" - and this will satisfy all the delegations assembled here at this time.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Notre collègue de la Suisse vient de dire qu'il était prêt à accepter l'une ou l'autre des propositions du conseiller juridique. Pour ma part, je préfère nettement la deuxième, qui a fait suite à la proposition de l'Ambassadeur de Malte.

CHAIRMAN: Do we take a vote on this matter? I am proposing that we use the phrase given to us by the distinguished Legal Counsel, "until then". Mr Hjort, will you kindly read the phrase that Conference is being asked to adopt.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am not exactly sure of the precise terminology used. I think it was "until the Conference addresses the matter".

LEGAL COUNSEL: My second wording was along those lines. I do not have it written down. I think it was, "until the matter is taken up by the next Conference". "Until a final decision is taken by the Conference on the matter".

CHAIRMAN: We have to move on. We cannot spend the entire day discussing how to include one phrase. It is possible for every single delegate to rephrase the sentence in a particular manner.

Ms Teresa D. HOBGOOD (United States of America): I wanted to clarify the second formulation of the Legal Counsel. I believe he said, "until the matter has been addressed by the next Conference."

CHAIRMAN: I am grateful to the distinguished delegate of the United States of America. Do we accept those words as representative of the words that were put to Conference? I am getting a positive response all round. Conference therefore adopts paragraph 9.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Sur le tableau des contributions ordinaires des Etats Membres au budget, à la page 12 du document, il y a la note 4 de bas de page au sujet de laquelle j'aimerais avoir un tout petit éclaircissement. Peut-être devrions-nous effacer cette note du tableau car la Conférence a pris la décision de passer par pertes et profits le montant de cette contribution - je ne me rappelle pas exactement à quelle date.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I understand that the suggestion is to include the date of the Resolution in the footnotes. Is that right? If that is it, we certainly can do so.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Il s'agit de la note de bas de page 4 de la page 12, qui parle du recouvrement de la contribution.

S'agissant de la Tchécoslovaquie, vous vous rappelerez que la Conférence, suivant la recommandation du Bureau, avait décidé de faire passer ce montant par pertes et profits. Je crois que cette décision a été prise le 17 novembre. Or cette situation est datée du 19 novembre 1993. J'aimerais que l'on égalise les choses.

CHAIRMAN: That matter will be taken care of when the Secretariat finalizes this matter.

Paragraphs 7 to 11, including Appendix, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 11, y compris l'annexe ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 11, incluido el Apéndice así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 12, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, douzième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 12, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 11 (from Commission III) (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - ONZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III) (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 11 (de la Comisión III) (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 3-14 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 3-14 (suite)

PARRAFOS 3-14 (continuación)

LEGAL COUNSEL: We have a technical problem, a formal problem, at the moment, and that is first of all getting a quorum to take this decision. The quorum is a majority of the Member Nations. I should point out that in the work of the Commission and the discussions on the Flagging Agreement, everybody spoke in favour of the Flagging Agreement. There did not seem to be any difficulty with it. Everyone seemed to be very enthusiastic about it.

The formal problem I have now is that we are hovering round about a quorum the whole time. However, our rules require that we have not only a two-thirds majority of the votes cast - I think there is no difficulty on that - but also that the votes for or against should be more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization.

Francis Montanaro MIFSUD (Malta): Before we have the Roll-call Vote might I request that a rallying cry is sent round the house to bring the stragglers into this hall.

CHAIRMAN: We will ask that the bell be rung. Before us is the Resolution appearing on page 10 under paragraph 14.

Vote

Vote

Votación



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on Agreement to Promote Compliance with International
Vote sur Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing
Votación para Vessels on the High Seas

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	89
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	73

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	89
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	85
--	----

ADOPTED
ADOPTÉE
ACEPTADA

Date: 24/11/93
Fecha

Elections Officer: B. Linley
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote en cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal de voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo

Session of the Conference
27^a Session de la Conférence
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETTIN
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on
Vote sur
Votación para
1st Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Afghanistan				X	Chad	X				France	X			
Albania				X	Chile	X				Gabon	X			
Algeria	X				China	X				Gambia				X
Angola				X	Colombia	X				Germany	X			
Antigua and Barbuda				X	Comoros				X	Ghana	X			
Argentina	X				Congo				X	Greece	X			
Armenia				X	Cook Islands				X	Grenada				X
Australia	X				Costa Rica	X				Guatemala				X
Austria			X		Côte d'Ivoire				X	Guinea	X			
Bahamas				X	Croatia	X				Guinea-Bissau				X
Bahrain	X				Cuba	X				Guyana				X
Bangladesh	X				Cyprus	X				Haiti	X			
Barbados	X				Czech Republic	X				Honduras	X			
Belgium	X				D.P. Republic of Korea				X	Hungary	X			
Belize				X	Denmark	X				Iceland				X
Benin				X	Djibouti				X	India				X
Bhutan				X	Dominica	X				Indonesia	X			
Bolivia				X	Dominican Republic				X	Iran, Islamic Rep. of	X			
Botswana	X				Ecuador				X	Iraq				X
Brazil	X				Egypt	X				Ireland				X
Bulgaria	X				El Salvador	X				Israel	X			
Burkina Faso	X				Equatorial Guinea				X	Italy	X			
Burundi				X	Eritrea				X	Jamaica	X			
Cambodia				X	Estonia	X				Japan	X			
Cameroon	X				Ethiopia				X	Jordan				X
Canada	X				Fiji	X								
Cape Verde	X				Finland	X								

27^a Session of the Conference
Session de la Conférence
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on
Vote sur
Votación para
Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Kenya	X				Norway	X				Switzerland				X
Korea, Rep. of	X				Oman				X	Syria	X			
Kuwait	X				Pakistan	X				Tanzania	X			
Laos				X	Panama				X	Thailand	X			
Latvia				X	Papua New Guinea				X	The F. Y. Rep. of Macedonia				X
Lebanon				X	Paraguay				X	Togo				X
Lesotho	X				Peru				X	Tonga				X
Liberia	X				Philippines	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Libya				X	Poland	X				Tunisia	X			
Lithuania	X				Portugal	X				Turkey				X
Luxembourg	X				Qatar				X	Uganda				X
Madagascar	X				Romania	X				United Arab Emirates	X			
Malawi				X	Rwanda	X				United Kingdom	X			
Malaysia				X	St. Kitts & Nevis				X	United States of America	X			
Maldives				X	Saint Lucia				X	Uruguay	X			
Mali				X	St. Vincent & Grenadines				X	Vanuatu				X
Malta	X				Samoa				X	Venezuela	X			
Mauritania				X	Sao Tome and Principe				X	Viet Nam				X
Mauritius	X				Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	X				Yemen				X
Mexico	X				Senegal	X				Zaire	X			
Mongolia				X	Seychelles				X	Zambia	X			
Morocco	X				Sierra Leone				X	Zimbabwe				X
Mozambique				X	Slovakia				X					
Myanmar	X				Slovenia	X								
Namibia				X	Solomon Islands				X					
Nepal				X	Spain	X								
Netherlands	X				Sri Lanka				X					
New Zealand	X				Sudan	X								
Nicaragua	X				Suriname				X					
Niger	X				Swaziland	X								
Nigeria	X				Sweden	X								

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): Quisiera aclarar, señor Presidente, que esta mañana algunos de los puntos que se han discutido, y que son previos al Acuerdo, no han quedado definitivamente aprobados puesto que había algunas cuestiones importantes que estaban en discusión.

Quisiera, igualmente, y por una cuestión que entendemos de justicia, con relación al párrafo 6, desearíamos mostrar la satisfacción de nuestra delegación con este párrafo, en el sentido de que todos estamos de acuerdo en reconocer al Director General y al personal a su cargo los extraordinarios esfuerzos para lograr un consenso en tan breve plazo. Ahora bien, creemos que este párrafo en su actual redacción queda incompleto por el hecho de que no se reconoce en el mismo la labor desarrollada por los integrantes del Grupo Técnico que trabajó intensamente en esta actividad. Muy especialmente de los Presidentes de este Grupo, que como muy bien saben, fueron el Representante de México en el Comité creado por el COFI, y el de Chile, en los dos Comités Técnicos de los dos últimos Consejos.

Nuestra propuesta, por tanto, es que se reconozca expresamente esta labor. En segundo lugar, y en relación con el párrafo 10, quisiera insistir y aclarar el planteamiento que ya hicimos en la sesión Plenaria de la mañana. Nuestra opinión es que el texto en español del párrafo, al final de la página 9, después del último punto y seguido, que dice textualmente: "En cualquier caso, la Conferencia subrayó que la labor de la Organización respecto del Código, debería ser complementaria y en apoyo del trabajo de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas". Es correcto en su actual formulación; es decir, con el verbo en forma adicional: "debería", y no en forma imperativa: "deberá", como propone el Representante de Canadá. Quisiera recordar que el texto en inglés también está redactado en este sentido.

Abundando en esto, quisiera dejar de manifiesto que en el documento C 93/REP/1, es decir el correspondiente al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1994-95, y que ya fue aprobado por la Plenaria, dice en su versión en español en su párrafo 14 a la mitad del mismo: "A la vez que refrendaba esta propuesta, la Conferencia insistió en que tales actividades deberían complementar y apoyar otras iniciativas conexas realizadas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas y realizarse en estrecha colaboración con ellas".

Asimismo, el informe aprobado por la Comisión III, que, en definitiva es el que tratamos de refrendar en esta Sesión Plenaria, se aprobó igualmente tanto en la versión en español como en la versión inglesa, en los mismos términos que ahora se nos presentan para su aprobación.

En consecuencia, señor Presidente, no sería lógico que ahora el Plenario de esta Conferencia adoptara un acuerdo que se contradice manifiestamente con lo que se acaba de aprobar la pasada semana.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): Having taken part in the Drafting Committee of Commission II, and having participated in the adoption of the Report of Commission II on the very point just cited, I think there is no question of what the agreed conclusion of Commission I was on the particular phraseology. The phraseology was not "should", the phraseology was "must": "there must be complementarity and this work must be supportive of..." That was accepted on two occasions by Commission I, first when the Report was accepted by the Drafting Committee and was put before the Conference and subsequently when we amended that paragraph to take account of some

additional considerations introduced by the Spanish delegation. I think there is no question as to what was agreed in Commission II, and our proposal earlier this morning was to bring this particular phraseology into conformity with that. I am not sure that the conditional form is acceptable to most of the people who accepted the idea of fast tracking. I think the objective was to avoid any conflict with work being conducted in the United Nations. Either we intend to avoid conflict or we do not intend to avoid conflict. I think we should be unequivocal in saying that we have every intention of doing so and therefore that we must avoid such conflict. I believe that that is the formulation that should hold.

Julio César LUPINACCI (Uruguay): Más allá de lo que se haya dicho en el Grupo de Redacción o surja de otros documentos, yo me pregunto ¿qué es lo que debe decir la Conferencia en esta materia? Si debe señalar que la labor de preparación del Código de Conducta debe ser coordinada con el trabajo de las Naciones Unidas, debe ser complementario y en apoyo del trabajo de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas, o simplemente la Conferencia hace una indicación de la posibilidad de trabajar en esa forma.

Yo creo que la Conferencia tiene plenos poderes para disponer, para decir que debe hacerse una cosa así. Como dice el delegado de Canadá, y que yo comparto, debemos estar coordinados y ser coherentes con el trabajo que realiza la Comisión de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas. Por eso yo creo que la Conferencia tiene suficiente capacidad, y debe ejercerla en esa forma, de señalar el deber de coordinar la labor de preparación del trabajo del Código de Conducta con los trabajos que realiza la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre especies transzonales y altamente migratorias. Yo creo que en ejercicio de las funciones, de la competencia que tiene la Conferencia, debería decir "deberán". Eso es lo que cree mi delegación, pero no quisiera crear una gran polémica sobre esto y podría aceptar la otra solución, pero creo que es más débil y que podríamos asumir directamente la competencia de disponer que deba existir esa coherencia, ese apoyo y esa complementariedad de un trabajo con el otro.

Francis Montanaro MIFSUD (Malta): My delegation would much prefer to maintain the present text in the English version. We think that in its present form it is sufficiently persuasive to ensure that the work of FAO is complementary to, and supportive of, the work of the UN Conference. I do not think we should adopt a form of words, which could imply or suggest that there is any subordination of FAO to any other forum.

Ms Turid KONGSVIK (Norway): Without going into the substance of this question, I feel we have decided upon this, since in C 93/REP/1 we have stated that the work in this Conference must be complementary. Should the Conference now modify this? Even if we talk about the activities of different Commissions, it is still the Conference in Plenary which decides. It has decided once. This work must be complementary in C 93/REP/1. We should be consistent, whatever we think of the substance. When it has once been decided, it has been decided for all and we should stick with "must".

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): Aclarar que el documento C 93/REP/1 en el texto español está aprobado en los términos condicionales, en los términos de "debería" y no "deberá". Igualmente vuelvo a recordar y vuelvo a insistir en que en los documentos y tanto en la versión en inglés como en

español de la Comisión III, que en definitiva, y tengo que recordarlo, es lo que tratamos de refrendar en estos momentos, están también en esos términos, en condicional.

Por otra parte, creo que es muy importante lo que acaba de decir el representante de Malta, en el sentido de que en la actual formulación del acuerdo podría parecer en ese tono imperativo que la FAO no es una Organización soberana, que es una Organización que está supeditada a otras organizaciones del sistema de Naciones Unidas y creo que esto no sería lógico. Sería crear un gravísimo antecedente. No creo que ningún acuerdo se apruebe en estos términos de supeditación, de jerarquización, lo ha explicado perfectamente el representante de Malta.

No obstante, y en aras a no tener una discusión interminable como ha ocurrido en el documento anterior, propondría una redacción alternativa que creo que podría dar satisfacción a las partes en el sentido de que esa jerarquización, esa subordinación de la que ha hablado el representante de Malta, no estuviera explícita tal y como está si cambiamos el texto. Porque para nosotros lo mejor sería mantener el texto tal y como está. No obstante, en aras a un acuerdo y de no alargar indefinidamente estos debates, la propuesta que haría mi delegación estaría en los siguientes términos. Más o menos podría ser, y la dicto despacio. Hablamos siempre del párrafo 10. Al final del último punto y seguido decir más o menos que: "La Conferencia reconoció que los trabajos de la Organización y de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas deben complementarse y apoyarse", porque en definitiva estamos totalmente de acuerdo con el principio de complementariedad y de apoyo, pero sin que exista una subordinación. Quedaría clarísimo si admitimos la modificación que propone Canadá al texto.

Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Chile): Respecto al tema que está en discusión, mi delegación llama la atención sobre la primera parte del propio párrafo 10 en que habla de los principios generales del Código que se habían propuesto diciendo "La Conferencia reiteró que esta labor debería llevarse a cabo en plena coordinación con la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas etc. etc.". Más abajo se refiere a la misma Conferencia y la idea es mantener o debería ser mantener este espíritu de coordinación y de complementariedad. Al mismo tiempo, creo que de ninguna manera las propias delegaciones representadas en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas de Nueva York, que son las mismas que están ante la FAO, estarán entre sí descoordinadas, no complementarias y teniendo una actitud en una parte y otra en otra. Somos los mismos estados los representados en ambas.

También pienso que la Conferencia de la FAO tiene la jurisdicción, por decirlo así, y la capacidad para decidir sobre sus labores de manera absolutamente independiente, más allá de la responsabilidad de la que podría muy eventualmente suceder entre posiciones diversas en la FAO y en otros organismos, cosa que no me parece justa, de tal suerte que en aras simplemente de no dramatizar el estado de una palabra en "debería" o "deberá", creo que hay que salvar por encima de ello la competencia e independencia de esta Conferencia. Al mismo tiempo preservar lo que es soberanía de los Estados en cuanto a que no vamos por unas simples palabras a hacer algo en un foro y algo distinto en otro y dejar la redacción como está o simplemente en los términos en que ha sido propuesta por la distinguida delegación de España que, entre paréntesis, en relación con el párrafo 6, agradezco muy sinceramente su mención.

Ms C. BOGLE (New Zealand): We would like to support the suggestion made by the delegate of Canada to use the word "must" in this paragraph.

José ELIAS LEAL (Mexico): Solamente para expresar nuestra satisfacción por los comentarios hechos por el distinguido delegado de Chile y a la vez también comentar que estamos de acuerdo, como alternativa, con el párrafo que ha expresado el distinguido delegado de España.

Julio César LUPINACCI (Uruguay) : La propuesta última que ha hecho el distinguido delegado de España, creo que es una buena solución al problema que se ha planteado y, en lo que se refiere a mi delegación, es plenamente satisfactoria. Queremos decir que en ese caso debería sustituirse, no agregarse, lo propuesto por España como una frase adicional al párrafo 10, sino sustituir la frase que dice: "En cualquier caso la Conferencia subrayó que la labor de la Organización respecto al Código debería ser complementaria y en apoyo del trabajo de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas" por esta otra que diga: "La Conferencia reconoció que los trabajos de organización y de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas deben complementarse y apoyarse". Si se trata del temor de una subordinación, evidentemente es mejor esta solución. Nosotros no tenemos inconveniente ninguno. En ese caso, a mi juicio debería de sustituirse esa frase anterior por la propuesta por España y a continuación decir al respecto para ligarlo: "Los resultados de la reunión del Grupo de Expertos deberían comunicarse oficiosamente a las delegaciones presentes en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas". Yo propongo concretamente esta pequeña reforma y pido a la delegación de España, si es posible, que estuviera de acuerdo con esta solución.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España) : Unicamente para manifestar que la delegación española está totalmente de acuerdo con la matización que ha hecho el representante de Uruguay. En definitiva era eso lo que proponíamos. No era un añadido, que no tendría sentido. Es la sustitución de ese párrafo que él ha leído por la propuesta que acabamos de hacer. Creo que esto saldaría totalmente el problema.

Ms Turid KONGSVIK (Norway): I should like to make a remark of principle. I think many of us may have second thoughts and would like perhaps to have been stronger in our statement and in what we advocated when we discussed these issues in the Commission. In respect to that Spanish phrase which has been suggested to replace "must", I do not recall that anyone made an intervention in the Commission which would be reflected by this phrase, pointing to instructions, as it were, to the UN Conference which I believe has a different membership. So I do not think that we could give such instructions. In addition, nobody ever suggested that when it was discussed in Commission II or III. I do not think it is appropriate to discuss such amendments which do not reflect the interventions which were made.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Je voulais faire une observation dans le même sens que celle de la déléguée de la Norvège. A la Conférence, nous ne devons pas trop modifier ce qui a été longuement discuté en Commission.

Je voulais également faire une remarque concernant le style en français. Si l'on devait reprendre le terme "appuyer", il ne faudrait pas le laisser seul mais il faudrait dire "s'appuyer mutuellement".

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada) : I wish to support what was said by the delegate of Norway. Reflecting for a moment on what seems to be suggested in this particular debate, that there is somehow a subordination of this entity to other entities, I believe the governments represented in this room have made a significant effort to coordinate our activities within the UN system. Coordination of activities almost invariably means that certain organizations must take the lead in respect of any particular issues. In addressing this particular question, the governing bodies of these individual entities have a responsibility to give clear instructions as to what they intend the secretariats in their particular bodies to do in respect of giving substance to the objective of better coordination within the UN system. All that we are doing here, in fact, is saying that the Conference wishes this body to act in a manner, which is fully supportive and fully complementary with work being conducted elsewhere in the UN system. That is described as a "must". Frankly, I don't see that that is taking in any way from the jurisdiction, which this particular body has. I think the formulation proposed by Spain weakens very significantly the degree of commitment that this Organization does have to the expectation that we will act in a complementary and coordinated fashion with what is happening in the UN system. Consequently I do not think I can accept that particular formulation.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): En relación con la última parte de la intervención del Representante de Canadá, quisiera aclarar que la propuesta de España, según nuestra opinión, debilita en absoluto la formulación que él pretende, puesto que se añade en los términos incluso propuestos por el Representante de Canadá, que deben complementarse y apoyarse, pero insisto, no en una situación de subordinación ni de jerarquización que éste es un aspecto importante, es decir, que nosotros en aras a ese acuerdo, incluso estábamos dispuestos a admitir su propuesta en el sentido más imperativo. Con relación a la intervención de la Representante de Noruega, empiezo a estar preocupado de que la interpretación no sea correcta, puesto que he dicho hasta la saciedad, que tanto en la Comisión II se aprobó en esos términos condicionales de "se debería", y en la Comisión III, que insisto, es lo que ahora tratamos de refrendar, *se apoyó* exactamente en esos términos, tanto en el texto español como el inglés, por consiguiente, no teníamos por qué hacer ninguna observación, puesto que estaba de acuerdo con nuestra satisfacción, de acuerdo con nuestros principios y así lo ha presentado la Secretaría en este informe que tratamos de aprobar aquí : insisto una vez más, que tanto en la Comisión II como en la Comisión III, estaba aprobado correctamente los términos que hemos dicho hasta la saciedad.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I will try to assist. It does seem to me that in the discussion there is some distinction between "complementarity" and "supportive". Perhaps that could be captured and as a compromise solution to the matter the sentence could say the following: "In any case the Conference underlined that the work of the Organization on the Code must be complementary to and should be supportive of the work of the UN Conference". I say it that way because "must" obviously is implying in the minds of some members of the Conference a subordinate or an

inferior/superior position and I do not think this Conference would want to send that kind of signal. The neutral phrase "should be supportive" is suggested. With respect to complementarity I do not expect anybody believes other than the fact that these matters should be other than complementary. That would be my suggestions. Could you accept "must be complementary to and should be supportive of"?

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Hjort for that suggestion. I think what everyone should be -trying to do at this stage is find a solution to this embattlement rather than seeking to hold onto their point of view. I thank you very much for that suggestion.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): In the spirit of compromise I can accept that formulation.

Robert S. THWALA (Swaziland): Swaziland would like to thank the Legal Counsel for coming to our rescue. We think this is a better compromise.

CHAIRMAN: Actually, it was the distinguished Deputy Director-General who spoke.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): Efectivamente en aras a un acuerdo rápido, aceptamos la propuesta del señor Hjort.

CHAIRMAN: I wish to assure you that with respect to the point raised about including other persons who have been very supportive of the Director-General and his staff, that the Secretariat will include words to reflect the opinion that you have expressed so well.

Paragraphs 3 to 14, including Resolution and Appendix, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 14, y compris la résolution et l'annexe, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 14, incluida la Resolución y el Apéndice, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 15 to 19, including Appendix, approved

Les paragraphes 15 à 19, y compris l'annexe, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 a 19, incluido el Apéndice, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 20 TO 29 INCLUDING RESOLUTION AND APPENDIX

PARAGRAPHES 20 A 29 Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION ET L'ANNEXE

LOS PARRAFOS 20 A 29 INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION Y EL APENDICE

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Je voudrais faire remarquer qu'au paragraphe 24, dans la version français, les termes "double représentation" ne sont pas exacts. Il s'agit de la double voix. Je souhaiterais qu'une bonne fois pour toutes - parce que nous avons eu ce problème au CQCJ et au Conseil - le vocabulaire soit ajusté.

Gian Paolo PAPA (CEE): Il s'agit du même point. C'est un problème d'interprétation qui se poursuit; l'erreur continue.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Cette proposition ne présente pas de problème pour moi. Pour être absolument exact, je voudrais proposer qu'à la sixième ligne du texte français, on mette: La Conférence a aussi pris note de l'opinion de la CEE et de certains de ses Etats Membres" car il ne s'agit pas de tous ses membres.

Gian Paolo PAPA (CEE): Nous avons pris la parole au nom de la Communauté et de ses Etats Membres. Il s'agit donc de la totalité des Etats Membres.

D. CANGY (Mauritius): My remark is on paragraph 23. My delegation is in full agreement with paragraph 23 as it is. However, it was agreed in Commission that with reference to this paragraph 23 a footnote would be added at the bottom of page 32 referring the reader to the statement delivered by the Mauritius delegation in the Commission on Monday 22nd instant and which appears in the verbatim report. Therefore, my delegation insists that this footnote should appear at the bottom of page 32 of the document referring to the statement delivered and noted in the verbatim report. I am sure the Chairman of the Commission would agree with this.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, we have approved paragraphs 20, 21, 22, 23 with a footnote to be added, 24 with an amendment to the French version, 25, 26, 27 and 28. This has taken us to paragraph 29, which requires a vote on the resolution. I am going to ask the Deputy Director-General, Mr Hjort, to come in here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: In view of the situation, it may be well to amend paragraph 29, to let it read basically the way it is: "The Conference expressed its deep satisfaction that, thanks to the extensive efforts which had been deployed by the FAO Secretariat, consensus had now been reached on all aspects of the draft Agreement and, accordingly, referred the following Resolution to the 105th Session of the Council for action." That is the 105th Session of the Council, which will be held tomorrow. We would refer the resolution to the 105th Session of the Council for action. We will leave the text as it is, "... referred the following Resolution approving the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to the 105th Session of the Council for action."

Conference will recall that the matter was before the Council; the Council referred it to Conference; the Conference can now refer it back to the Council.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the Deputy Director-General. Are there any comments? There being no comments, Conference has approved paragraph 29 in the terms set out by Mr Hjort.

Paragraphs 20 to 29 including resolution and appendix approved
Les paragraphes 20 à 29, y compris la résolution et l'annexe, sont
approuvés
Los párrafos 20 a 29 incluida la resolución y el apéndice son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 11, as amended, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, onzième partie, ainsi amendé, est
adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, parte 11, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 13 (from Commission III)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TREIZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la
Commission III)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 13 (de la Comisión III)

Mrs Maria GALVOLGYI (Hungary): On this part of the Report, C 93/REP/13, my delegation would like very much to put forward the idea of accepting it en bloc if it is possible.

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica): My delegation would like to support what has been said by the Hungarian delegate

CHAIRMAN: The proposal before us is that we accept Draft Report 13 contained in document C 93/REP/13 en bloc. Any comments? All appear to be in agreement.

Paragraphs 1 to 23 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 23 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 23 son aprobados
Draft Report of Plenary, Part 13, as amended, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, treizième partie, ainsi amendé, est
adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 13, así emendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 14 (from Commission III)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - QUATORZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la
Commission III)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 14 (de la Comisión III)

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10
PARAGRAPHES 1 A 10
PARRAFOS 1 A 10

Sra. María E. JIMENEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador): Quiero referirme muy brevemente a todo este documento C 93/REP/14.

El día de ayer por la tarde, cuando se estaba aprobando el informe en la Comisión III, mi Delegación había solicitado el uso de la palabra. Lamentablemente tenía un compromiso con mi grupo Regional y tuve que ausentarme de la sala. De ninguna manera es mi intención reabrir aquí un debate, deseo únicamente, señor Presidente, por una cuestión de principio, y comprendiendo las razones del consenso expresadas por el Presidente de la Comisión III y, repito, comprendiendo las razones del consenso, manifestar la preocupación de mi Delegación por la eliminación de una buena parte de

nuestro informe, la relativa al debate llevado a cabo en la Comisión III con relación al tema 23.

Creemos que de esta forma no se ha cumplido a cabalidad con el objetivo fundamental de nuestro informe, que es el de reflejar con justicia y equidad los resultados de nuestros debates.

Ivan MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia): Sólo para decirle, señor Presidente, que la Delegación de Colombia respalda a la distinguida Representación de El Salvador en la declaración que acaba de hacer.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras) : Solamente, señor Presidente, para respaldar lo expresado por la Delegación de El Salvador.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): Paragraph 8 yesterday was the occasion for much to-ing and fro-ing in debate. We have since had an opportunity to consider it further with those who took a different point of view. I should like to propose a formulation for the last sentence, which I think, captures something all of us can agree.

In the last sentence of paragraph 8 I would put a full stop after the words "interested parties". I would then remove the two words "which also" and replace them with the following phrase: "Many members who spoke also stressed the need to . . . ", and then we continue with the phrase as it is. So the last sentence would read, "Many members who spoke also stressed the need to take into account the potential benefits of a unified approach in the UN system."

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): We had quite a long discussion in Commission III on this paragraph and on this very particular question, so I support what the delegate of Canada has said. This perfectly reflects the discussion we had in the Commission itself and also the different drafting we had yesterday in the Commission.

Herald HILDEBRAND (Germany): May I request that the text be read once again in English?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The way I had the formulation is as follows. The last sentence of paragraph 8 would read as it is through the phrase "... that more time be given to work out solutions acceptable to all interested parties", and then we would stop that sentence there and a new one would be added as follows : "Many members who spoke also stressed the need to take into account the potential benefits of a unified approach in the UN system." The new words are, "Many members who spoke also stressed the need to..."

Paragraphs 1 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 14, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, quatorzième partie, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 14, así enmendado, es aprobado

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba) : Antes de finalizar este 27° Período de Sesiones de esta Conferencia, la Delegación de Cuba entiende necesario dejar constancia de algunas breves consideraciones en relación al desarrollo de este evento.

Sólo el tiempo podrá dictaminar sobre si esta Conferencia puede calificarse de histórica o no. Con el tiempo los historiadores, investigadores o analistas que evaluarán este acontecer hará necesario disponer de los elementos precisos para realizar el balance. Creo, señor Presidente, que con los que disponemos son de tal envergadura que su repercusión se escapa de lo que puede considerarse una reunión normal.

Son muchas las emociones en que todos hemos participado en estos intensos días: la despedida de un respetado Director General como el doctor Edouard Saouma, luego de un período ininterrumpido de 18 años al frente de la Organización; luego un brillante proceso de elección de un digno representante africano, el Dr. Jacques Diouf como nuevo Director en la proyección de la FAO; despedir también a un dirigente de las cualidades del Embajador Antoine Saintraint al frente del Consejo Independiente, sustituyéndolo también tras una clara elección un joven prometedor y conocido representante mexicano al frente de este importante cargo, el licenciado José Ramón López-Portillo.

Sólo hacemos señalamientos destacados tratando de sintetizar, pues han sido más amplios. Están en las referencias escuchadas al respecto en los que se incorporan la ampliación de nuevos ingresos en la Organización, como además que se han sentado bases importantes para fortalecer la estructura y la dirección de la FAO y, de este modo, desde el pasado día 6, dentro de una programación en la que naturalmente han existido criterios encontrados y posiciones distintas, ha primado un ambiente amplio y armonioso, en definitiva constructivo, bajo el propósito y reto de que la FAO constituya un instrumento de progreso que conduzca a hacer realidad el principio fundamental de que el hombre tiene derecho a su alimentación en medio de un mundo desigual e injusto, dentro de una controvertida esfera internacional.

Toda esta introducción, en síntesis, sin entrar en pormenores, es para arribar a una realidad y resaltar que todo esto fue posible por la manera armoniosa y destacada actuación en su conducción en estas sesiones bajo su presidencia, señor Seymour Mullings. Su presencia en la conducción de estos debates ha sido eficaz, elegante, con una gran paciencia, a pesar de la exquisitez y precisión que le ha querido alguno dar a los matices, con un gran equilibrio y flexibilidad. Ha sido usted un verdadero presidente a tiempo completo. No se ha dejado llevar por los encantos de esta maravillosa ciudad eterna y su valioso tiempo lo ha consumido en la responsabilidad encomendada. Qué decir del Comité General, al que tuvimos el privilegio de pertenecer también, bajo su sabia presidencia, sino destacar y enaltecer su presidencia que fue de un trabajo serio, constante y lo apreciamos más cerca y en un entorno más limitado.

Tal vez esos historiadores que estudiarán todo este proceso tengan como referencia que destacar, como un elemento significativo de esta Conferencia, su hábil y destacada conducción. Para nosotros, como representantes de un país latinoamericano y del Caribe que le propusimos

como candidato, destacamos y respaldamos, vemos hoy como el líder del hermano y cercano Jamaica nos ha hecho quedar bien. Satisfecho, primero por su elección y como consecuencia de sus notables resultados después tal como hemos expresado ante esta muestra de eficaz conducción e imparcialidad, bajo el principio de una política multilateral de la FAO, de la igualdad de derechos de cada Estado soberano de manifestarse con plena garantía y oportunidad, razón por la cual nuestra delegación entiende que estas referencias sean recogidas en las consideraciones finales de la Conferencia y mejor aún, en el sentimiento y agradecimiento de todos los participantes de esta magna reunión que llega hoy a su destino final. Gracias por su conducción, señor Presidente.

Finalmente, no podríamos terminar sin hacer referencia al eficiente trabajo de la Secretaría de la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: We are ending this Conference one day ahead of the scheduled time. It may be that when the historians come to examine this Conference and take a look at all that has taken place, all that has been said - particularly today when a great deal of time was spent on discussing whether we should have Conference limited to a shorter period than usual, the historians certainly will have a lot to say about this particular Conference and will take note of the fact that we have ended one day ahead of the scheduled time.

I thank the delegate of Cuba very much for his most kind remarks concerning my stewardship as Chairman of this Conference.

As we bring the curtain down, I express my deep appreciation to all delegates who placed such confidence in me even before the start of the Conference, when they made possible my nomination for election as Chairman of the Conference.

I feel that you have honoured me greatly. I have tried to learn from day one. It has been a tremendous experience for me to sit in the Chair and try to lead the Conference in a manner befitting this great Organization. I believe that as of the opening day, Saturday 6 November, the tone and tempo of what has turned out to be a very good Conference was set.

Delegates will recall that we were graced with the -presence of the Presidents of host country Italy and of Lebanon, the country that gave birth to our distinguished Director-General, Dr Saouma. We shall, of course, remember the speeches delivered by those two eminent personalities.

The Cuban delegate asked whether this Conference would be regarded as historic. Many opinions will be offered on this particular matter. They will probably vary from person to person. For my part I should like, even as of now, to regard this Conference as being historic. I do so because many events took place at this Conference, which are hardly likely ever to be repeated.

It is hardly likely that there will be a Conference in which we shall be saying farewell to one who has served FAO for such an extended period as

Director-General Saouma has. The elections to fill the post to be vacated by Dr Saouma were held in a spirit of conviviality, which I think was remarkable. It was an election, which had ten candidates of immense worth and capabilities; it was an election in which the campaign had been fought very strenuously; it was an election, which was conducted in this room in a most amicable manner. For my part, I shall always remember the acceptance speech of Director-General Elect Dr Diouf. I shall remember his taking the oath of office. I shall never forget that most gracious speech made by Mr Geoff Miller of Australia, who contested the final ballot. I think that when we recall those speeches of Dr Diouf and Mr Miller we in FAO can feel a great sense of pride at the dignity, which was displayed that day.

The election of the Independent Chairman of the Council, Mr López-Portillo, was also significant. Mr López-Portillo, at very short notice, gave a clear account of what his policy will be, of what policy will guide his actions as he takes over this office. I think every one of us who heard Minister Ibrahim Adam of Ghana conceding victory will remember him for that very mature and gracious speech accepting defeat and conceding victory to Mr López-Portillo.

I do not know whether in our time we shall have a repetition of Wednesday last week, 17 November, when delegates spoke from their hearts, giving an outpouring of tributes to Dr Saouma on the eve of his retirement from office. We heard many excellent interventions that morning. Every delegate who spoke did so from the heart. For my part I shall forever remember many of those expressions of thanks, appreciation and respect for Dr Saouma.

It may be that there will not be another Conference in which we admit as many as ten new Member Nations to this Organization.

I believe that those events - the speeches from the Presidents, the manner in which the election of the new Director-General was conducted, the manner in which the election of the Independent Chairman of the Council was conducted, the moving speeches of acceptance and concession which were made, the admission of so many new Member Nations and the many excellent speeches from the Heads of Delegation who ascended the platform and spoke of their countries - add up to make the Conference a historic one.

In expressing my thanks to delegates for having elected me Chairman of the Conference, may I say that I believe that the three Vice-Chairmen who were elected to assist me also appreciated the confidence that was placed in them. I should like to thank all three of them - Majid-Ul-Haq of Bangladesh, Ambassador Jacques Laureau of France and Waleed A. Elkhreiji of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - for the supporting role they have played as Vice-Chairmen of this Conference. It is very clear that, while we sat in the many plenary sessions, the three Commissions were busy at work. They had the good fortune, obviously, of having three distinguished persons chairing those Commissions. I think it is to the credit of the Commissions that the Reports, which they sent to Plenary, were for the most part accepted without too much debate. I should like to take this opportunity to express my own personal commendation and congratulations to the Chairmen of the three Commissions and to all the delegates who apparently took their tasks seriously and dealt with the issues before them with due diligence, care and thoroughness.

As Chairman, I made every possible effort to ensure that all delegates who wished to speak and to take an active part in the deliberations were able to do so. Obviously I was not one hundred percent successful. It was always

possible for me to be looking into the eyes of the delegates from the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Cuba, Croatia, Cote d'Ivoire or indeed Costa Rica. I have been reminded by the delegate of Ethiopia that I did not at all times cast my eyes in that direction, at the far side of the Conference. However, we tried, and I believe that most delegates had ample opportunity to say their piece.

If I have made a success of chairing this Conference, it is due in no small measure to the fact that I received the support and cooperation of all delegations in this room. All delegates sought to observe the rules. I believe it is because they did so, and because they were for the most part non-controversial, that, even if they did at times display a penchant for details, they kept the spirit of the Conference alive. I should like from the bottom of my heart to thank every delegation, which has been in this room from 6 November for the most invaluable support they have given me whilst I sat in the Chair.

May I close by thanking all the members of the Secretariat, who were my right hand and my left hand. I want to say a special word of thanks to the Director-General himself, Dr Saouma, and to the Deputy Director-Generals, Mr Hjort and Mr Shah, and to Mr Mehboob, to Mr Alessi, to Mr Tedesco, to Legal Counsel, Mr Moore, and to all those from the Secretariat who gave me the fullest possible support. I should like to include in my thanks to the Secretariat all those persons who have worked behind the scenes, the secretaries who must have worked late hours to prepare all the journals which have come before me in the morning. I should also like to thank that group of beautiful young ladies who served as messengers. They were part of my right hand and part of my left hand. I thank you all very much.

We will meet in another two years. It is my hope that many delegations, which had to leave before today, will be able to remain until the end of Conference. I hope that in the next two years countries which are members of this Organization will make an all-out effort to make it possible for their countries to be represented at the very important biennial Conference. I feel confident that once they make an effort they can succeed.

I do not wish to close without expressing once again my best wishes for a very successful term of office to the new Director-General Elect, Dr Diouf, and to the newly elected Independent Chairman of the Council. I hope all who have been elected to serve on the different committees and on the Council will have a very fruitful period of time until we meet again in Rome in November 1995.

Thank you very much, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): Mr Chairman, far be it for me, at this hour on this day, to take advantage of the time we have won, the extra day, to prolong the session extensively; neither it is my custom as a good civil servant to speak after an honourable minister and, indeed, a chairman, but I had hoped to catch your eye before you summed up, Sir. However, you beat me to the draw.

May I say that we fully support and endorse the comments by the honourable delegation of Cuba, and I end by saying that your masterly summation of the past three weeks' work, the way you have handled our affairs, is a true vindication of the competence that all member delegations bestowed on you when we elected you to office. We thank you very much for the way you have handled our affairs, Sir.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc): Je vous assure, Monsieur le Président, que ce sera ma dernière intervention dans cette salle. Vous n'avez peut-être pas eu le privilège de connaître un de nos collègues qui nous a quittés et qui m'a laissé un lourd héritage en partant, celui d'être le dernier à s'exprimer au cours d'une réunion: Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos. Tous ceux qui l'ont connu se rappelleront qu'il a toujours clôturé, après le Président et avec sa permission, les réunions de la FAO.

Je voulais simplement vous dire, Monsieur le Président, combien nous avons été fiers de travailler sous votre conduite. Cependant, je ne suis pas d'accord avec vous lorsque vous dites que vous n'avez pas réussi à cent pour cent. Je m'inscris en faux: vous avez réussi votre tâche à cent pour cent.

Je voulais également vous remercier pour les mots sincères et aimables que vous avez eus à mon adresse, en tant que Président de la Commission II, et à l'adresse de mes autres collègues présidents de Commissions. Je voulais vous dire, encore une fois, merci pour tout.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I have the privilege and honour, on behalf of the Director-General, to say to you, Mr Chairman, how pleased he was to be able to work with you. He appreciated very much your style, your humour, your democratic manner and, of course, your efficiency in conducting the affairs of this Conference. As you have noted, this Conference was especially full of emotional moments. You handled those in a very dignified manner. The Director-General wishes you to know that, in his view, you have been one of the very best Chairmen with whom he has had the privilege to work throughout his long career.

I wish briefly to go on to express appreciation to the full team of leadership of this Conference: your Vice-Chairpersons, the Chairpersons for the Commissions, their Vice-Chairpersons, and also to the Chairpersons of the drafting committees who sometimes worked extra hours but worked very well, as was obvious in their products coming back to the Commissions and being received by the Plenary. Of course, none of that could happen, those leaders could not be successful, were it not for the rest of you. So I express appreciation to all of the members of this Conference. Best wishes for a safe journey home and may you enjoy the holiday period, which is upon us.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ato Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): Thank you, Mr Chairman. While you were making your very eloquently-presented statement, you made me feel guilty for having made a remark which carried a message which I did not wish to convey. Since the democratic leadership which you demonstrated in leading the deliberations of the Conference was superb and outstanding, I should like to thank you for that outstanding performance, and also to express my reactions to the achievements that you made during the whole of the Conference. When I talked about not being seen, I was not referring to you; I was referring to the difficulty of the lighting system rather than to yourself, Mr Chairman. I do not wish you to carry home such a message as I conveyed, when you have achieved such a success here.

Allow me to add my voice to that of the Ambassador of Cuba and wish you a safe return home. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, this Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations comes to an end. This meeting stands adjourned.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.