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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Nineteenth Session • Cent dix-neuvième session • 119º período de sesiones

Rome, 20-25 November 2000
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Rome, 20-25 novembre 2000
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 20-25 de noviembre de 2000
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO

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(23 November 2000)

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(25 November 2000)

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Nineteenth Session Cent dix-neuvième session 119º período de sesiones
Rome, 20-25 November 2000 Rome, 20-25 novembre 2000 Roma, 20-25 de noviembre de 2000
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
20 November 2000

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.10 hours

Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10h10
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.10 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN

I call the first meeting of the Hundred and Nineteenth FAO Council Session to order.

Before proceeding, I would like to make a short announcement. The European Community is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. I have been asked to inform you that the Declaration made by the European Community and its Member States is contained in document CL/119/INF/6 which has already been distributed to participants at this meeting. I should draw your attention to this Declaration.

Before we move to the Agenda, allow me to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General, to all the delegates and observers. I am particularly pleased to note the participation of a number of Ministers. I would now like to give the floor to the Director-General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to welcome you to FAO, your Organization, and to this meeting of the Council. This Council Session is a very important one.

The Council meeting is being held at a time when agricultural production has registered an increase of only 1.2 percent this year, below the level 2 percent achieved in 1999.

We note at the same time that the number of hungry people is being reduced by only 8 million per annum, instead of the 20 million necessary to achieve the goals of the World Food Summit. We also find that the commitment in terms of ODA to agriculture is 6 percent below the figures of 1990. All of these have created an environment that is making it difficult to achieve the goals of the World Food Summit. We are also seeing a number of problems, manmade and natural disasters, leading to a situation where the number of people affected have increased from 52 million in 1999 to 62 million in 2000.

This situation requires action beyond business as usual. We need to react and we need to involve the highest political level of our countries to face this situation. Hence, our proposal to invite the Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Conference next year to review the different steps taken to achieve the goals of the World Food Summit and to ensure that new, enhanced and additional measures are taken with a view to put us back on track.

We provided the additional information in this regard that was required by the Committee on World Food Security, and this question is put to you now for your consideration. You will also be discussing the problem of the International Undertaking, and this is an opportunity for me to thank all those who have worked on this important activity in Plant Genetic Resources, particularly the Contact Group. The meeting in Teheran was very successful. We are making progress and I am convinced that during the planned meeting next year, we will make enough progress to achieve our objective of getting the legally-binding instrument approved by the next Conference of FAO.

I would therefore, again, like to welcome you to Rome, to your Organization, and wish you a very successful meeting.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION
I. INTRODUCTION – QUESTIONS DE PROCÉDURE
I. INTRODUCCIÓN – CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE (CL 119/1; CL 119/INF/1;
CL 119/INF/6)**

**1. ADOPTION DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR ET DU CALENDRIER (CL 119/1;
CL 119/INF/1; CL 119/INF/6)**

**1. APROBACIÓN DEL PROGRAMA Y EL CALENDARIO (CL 119/1;
CL 119/INF/1; CL 119/INF/6)**

CHAIRMAN

Our first Item is the Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable as set out in documents CL 119/1 and CL 119/INF/1-Rev. 1.

CL 119/1 contains the Provisional Agenda as circulated to Council Members with the invitation to this Session of the Council.

I should like to draw your attention to two typographical errors: the first concerns Item 8 on the French and Spanish language versions of the Agenda only. The correct title of this item is "Medium Term Plan 2002-2007". Again, this correction concerns the French and Spanish versions only.

The second amendment concerns the announcement regarding the WFP Executive Board election on the Order of the Day. Please note that the election of the six members of the WFP Executive Board will be held on Thursday morning, and not on Wednesday, as printed on the Order of the Day.

With reference to Sub-Item 13.2 *Applications for Membership in the Organization*, the Director-General has so far received no such applications. Therefore, I suggest this Sub-Item be considered at the end of the Session, on Saturday, if needed.

I would like to request Council approval of a new Sub-Item *Appointment of the Chairperson and the First Alternate Chairperson of the Appeals Committee*, which has been added to our Agenda under *Any Other Matters* as sub-Item 15.1. This will be discussed on Thursday, 23 November.

Does the Council wish to endorse this additional Sub-Item?

The Agenda was adopted.

L'Ordre du jour est adopté.

El Programa queda aprobado.

CHAIRMAN

With respect to the Timetable, you have in document CL 119/INF/1- Rev.1 a Provisional Draft. Does this timetable meet with the approval of Council?

The Timetable was adopted.

Le calendrier est adopté.

El Calendario queda aprobado.

CHAIRMAN

May I also take this opportunity to call upon your cooperation in keeping to the Timetable and enabling us to start our meetings on time. We have a demanding Timetable and limited time at our disposal to get through it.

**2. ELECTION OF THREE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS, AND DESIGNATION OF
THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE
(CL 119/INF/9)**

**2. ÉLECTION DE TROIS VICE-PRÉSIDENTS ET NOMINATION DU
PRÉSIDENT ET DES MEMBRES DU COMITÉ DE RÉDACTION (CL 119/INF/9)**

**2. ELECCIÓN DE TRES VICEPRESIDENTES Y NOMBRAMIENTO DEL
PRESIDENTE Y LOS MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ DE REDACCIÓN
(CL 119/INF/9)**

CHAIRMAN

We now move on to Item 2. *Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairpersons and Members of the Drafting Committee.*

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, we have the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Pape Diouf of Senegal, Mr Bhaskar Barua of India, and Mr Blair Hankey of Canada.

If there are no objections, I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons on their election.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

For the Drafting Committee, the Regional Groups propose Don Acisclo Valladares Molina, from Guatemala, as Chairperson and the following delegations as Members: Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, France, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Morocco, Pakistan, Syria, Thailand, United States of America.

Are there any objections?

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

**V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONS ET JURIDIQUES
V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS**

**13.1 INVITATIONS TO NON-MEMBER NATIONS TO ATTEND FAO
SESSIONS (CL 119/LIM/2)**

**13.1 INVITATION D'ÉTATS NON MEMBRES À ASSISTER À DES RÉUNIONS
DE LA FAO (CL 119/LIM/2)**

**13.1 INVITACIONES A ESTADOS NO MIEMBROS PARA ASISTIR A
REUNIONES DE LA FAO (CL 119/LIM/2)**

CHAIRMAN

We now come to Sub-Item 13.1 – *Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions.* The document is CL 119/LIM/2. I give the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

A request was received from the Russian Federation to attend this Council Session in an Observer capacity, and an invitation was issued on 29 September 2000 subject to approval by the Council. Formal Council approval is now sought to admit the Russian Federation as an Observer at the Hundred and Nineteenth Session of the Council.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Madam Secretary-General. Can I take it that the Council agrees that the Russian Federation attend this Session as an Observer?

Paragraph 5 of the document lists, for information, details of the Russian Federation's participation in FAO meetings since the last session of the Council.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION
II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE
L'AGRICULTURE
II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACIÓN

3. STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2000 (CL 119/2)
3. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE
2000 (CL 119/2)
3. EL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN
2000 (CL 119/2)

CHAIRMAN

We now come to Item 3 on our Agenda, *State of Food and Agriculture 2000*. Various aspects of the current world food and agricultural production are described in document CL 119/2.

I should like to ask Mr de Haen, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Department, to introduce the item.

Hartwig DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Secretariat has prepared the document CL 119/2, the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000*, for consideration of this agenda Item. I should say that the document is based on information available to FAO as of September this year.

While the document summarizes well the main features of the current food and agricultural situation, some changes have taken place since the document was completed. I should like to highlight these recent changes here in my introduction.

First of all, as the Director-General has already alluded, to world crop and livestock production in 1999 is now estimated to have expanded by 2 percent, which is slightly more than the 1.6 percent reported in the document. This is the result of a minor upward revision to 2.8 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively, of output growth in the Far East and in Latin America and the Caribbean. While, I should add that estimates for Sub-Saharan African and the Near East and North Africa have been revised slightly downward; in the case of Sub-Saharan Africa to 1.7 percent, output growth and in the case of Near East and North Africa, to minus 4 percent for 1999.

Now speaking of the year 2000, very preliminary estimates for this year now point to a further slowdown in growth of agricultural production in the world to a rate of only 1.2 percent. Output growth in the developing countries would decline for the fourth consecutive year--which is also illustrated in the diagrammes that you will find in the document-- is now estimated at only 1.5 percent, while output growth in the developed countries would remain at around 1.5 percent. All developing country regions would participate in the slowdown with the exception of the Near East and North Africa where the growth has been already very low, in fact negative. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the provisional estimates point to stagnant agricultural production in the year 2000.

For cereals, the latest forecasts suggest a somewhat tighter situation than was anticipated earlier. Due to persistent drought in several important producing countries, the latest forecast puts world cereal production in 2000 at 1 848 million tonnes which is down 1.7 percent from last year and well below anticipated utilization in this year 2000-01. As a result, world cereal stocks by the close of the season ending in 2001 are now forecast at 288 million tonnes. This is 52 million tonnes, or 15 percent, below their opening level and is the lowest in five years. The biggest declines in cereal stocks are expected in countries where production is forecast to fall most, namely China and the United States of America. International cereal prices, as you maybe aware, have started making small gains in light of stronger import demand and indications of lower production and prospects for a large draw down of stocks. Overall, because of reduced stocks, the size of planting for next season will play an even more important role in determining which direction prices will take between now and the year 2001.

The latest, though still preliminary, indications suggest that cereal food aid shipments in the year 2000-01 could reach 10 million tonnes, close to last year's estimated volume. Shipments to the Russian Federation are forecast to decrease sharply, following this year's improved harvests in that country. However, food aid needs are expected to be larger: mostly in Africa, but also in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and in some CIS countries.

Aggregate cereal imports by the developing countries in 2000-01 are forecast at record level of 171 million tonnes, up 1 million tonnes from last season's already high level. Based on this forecast, and taking into account the current prospects for slightly higher cereal prices during the course of 2000-01 season, the cereal import bill of the developing countries is expected to rise to US\$ 24 billion, slightly over 10 percent, above the previous year. If we just take for the Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs), as a group, their overall cereal import expenses in 2001-01 are estimated at US\$ 10 billion, up 15 percent from the previous year.

As of late October—and this has been mentioned by the Director-General as well—the number of developing countries facing serious food shortages and emergency situations stands at 32. Between October 1999 and October 2000, the number of people facing serious food shortages increased by 10 million, from the 52 million which we reported last year, to now 62 million. This is the largest increase in general, but in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa, mainly in the Horn of Africa, which has witnessed increases in the number of people affected by food shortages of 45 percent.

We have no new data available regarding commitments of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to agriculture which we used to report at this Session. We have no new data that is compared to the document that you have before you. I may only recall that these commitments rose for three consecutive years from 1996 to 1998, but remained 6 percent lower than in 1990 and well below the levels of the mid-1980s.

So far this is my additional information on the document before you. I look forward to your discussion and any questions you may have with regard to the document.

CHAIRMAN

I now would like to invite debate on this. I already have a request from Argentina to take the floor but, before I give the floor to Argentina, I would like to remind you again that we should observe the time. We do have limited time, and we would like to be able to complete our Council on time.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

La intervención que voy a hacer la hago en nombre de los países de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe. Con relación al *Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación*, correspondiente al Tema 3 de la Agenda, y particularmente sobre el contenido del documento CL 119/2, el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe considera que el párrafo 29 del documento en el marco del apartado 3 no refleja en absoluto la problemática agrícola y alimentaria de nuestra Región ni las situaciones de urgencia que en el período reportado se presentan en ella. El GRULAC desea

trasladar su preocupación sobre las tendencias poco alentadoras del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, especialmente aquellas relativas a la reducción de las tasas de crecimiento de la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo durante el año 1999 y muy particularmente por la disminución de éstas en varios países de nuestra Región.

El GRULAC tiene también mucha inquietud por la situación alimentaria global. Tal como la propia FAO lo ha informado recientemente, la tendencia a la disminución de la subnutrición a nivel mundial se frenó en 1998 debido principalmente a la crisis económica internacional y a los desastres causados por fenómenos naturales adversos, los cuales han afectado directamente la capacidad productiva agrícola. Sin duda, las perturbaciones del suministro alimentario vinculadas con estos problemas han determinado que se originen o persistan, según sea el caso, situaciones de emergencia humanitaria en diversos países en desarrollo. América Latina y el Caribe no es ajena a esta realidad. A ello hay que añadirle los problemas ocasionados por las crisis financieras recientes unidas a las altas tasas de interés y plazos que incrementan los costos de producción agrícola y por ende su competitividad. La falta de apertura de los mercados internacionales a los productos de exportación, se agrega al deterioro de las relaciones de intercambio, la reducción de las exportaciones mundiales y de los flujos de capital, la nuevamente crítica situación de la deuda externa, la caída de los precios de los productos básicos; lo mismo por lo que respecta a los subsidios, a la producción agrícola y las políticas de protección al comercio que se aplican a estos bienes, sean cuales fueran las nomenclaturas y justificaciones que se utilicen.

Todas estas circunstancias han ocasionado en los últimos años una difícil recesión en la mayoría de los países de nuestra Región, generando graves trastornos económicos y sociales con efectos directos en la producción agraria y en la seguridad alimentaria. A la ya difícil situación, se agregan los efectos devastadores de las catástrofes naturales como los Huracanes George y Mitch en el Caribe y América Central así como las lluvias torrenciales que afectaron México, los aluviones en Venezuela y el terremoto en Colombia, los cuales han tenido consecuencias duraderas que afectarán el crecimiento y la productividad de muchos países de la Región, especialmente de aquellos en los que la escasez de alimentos y las situaciones de urgencia son permanentes debido a las dificultades económicas o a la presencia de enfermedades endémicas.

A modo ilustrativo permítame señalarle que en el caso del Huracán Mitch se considera que los daños económicos alcanzaron hasta un 60 por ciento del producto interno bruto anual en Honduras y en Nicaragua. En total, las cifras de los daños causados por el Mitch en Centro América se calculan en casi diez mil millones de dólares, lo cual indica que se han perdido al menos 20 años de desarrollo en los países afectados. Al mismo tiempo los países de América Latina y el Caribe ubicados en una zona especialmente sensible a los efectos de alteraciones meteorológicas cíclicas tales como los fenómenos de “El Niño” y de “La Niña” que traen consigo lluvias, inundaciones, sequías e incendios forestales, han visto también afectada su infraestructura productiva y sus niveles de crecimiento.

Nos preocupan también las posibles exclusiones de países receptores de recursos basados en criterios de graduación parciales que ignoran la pobreza de la Región en circunstancias en que es mandato de esta Organización para el próximo quinquenio la eliminación de la pobreza rural.

Por todo lo anterior, el GRULAC pide a la Organización que siga teniendo en consideración los problemas que afectan a nuestra Región para efectos de la cooperación y la ayuda que otorga la FAO, y al mismo tiempo solicita a la Secretaría que refleje adecuadamente esta situación en los futuros documentos que se elaboren sobre la escasez de alimentos y urgencias en las diversas regiones del mundo.

Antes de terminar, deseo también mencionar con relación al apartado 4 sobre la asistencia externa a la agricultura, que al GRULAC le preocupa la disminución del 30 por ciento de los montos de la Asistencia Oficial al Desarrollo y fomento de la agricultura, en especial si se compara con los recursos que se destinaban en la década de los 1980. Si bien nuestra Región reconoce la importancia de llevar a cabo acciones que coadyuven a la protección del medio ambiente y el desarrollo de las infraestructuras rurales, consideramos necesario dar igual impulso a aquellas que favorecen la producción, la capacitación y la investigación. En nuestra opinión, se requiere una

equilibrada combinación de todas estas acciones para poder alcanzar plenamente el objetivo supremo de la FAO de combatir el hambre, con el cual el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe se encuentra firmemente comprometido.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

En primer lugar respaldamos la intervención de la delegada de Argentina que habló en nombre de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe. Participamos el pasado 16 de octubre en la Ceremonia del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, aquí en la sede de la FAO, en esta bella y acogedora Ciudad Eterna. Fue sin duda una buena ceremonia. Aunque es oportuno señalar esta impresión, nuestra intención es hacer referencia a algunas intervenciones escuchadas, pues de su relación resultaría más comprensible la idea que pretendemos brindar, precisamente sobre este Tema.

Comenzamos por recordar dos momentos de la autorizada y precisa intervención del Director General de la FAO, Jacques Diouf, cuando expresó: "Al comienzo del Tercer Milenio no padecer hambre sigue siendo un objetivo difícil de alcanzar para 820 millones de personas y continúa frenando el desarrollo de muchas naciones." Para más adelante expresar: "Muchas personas aceptan el hambre como una realidad penosa pero inevitable. No tiene por qué ser así; el hambre y la malnutrición no son inevitables en un mundo donde reina la abundancia. Tampoco es tolerable esta realidad. Tenemos los conocimientos, tecnología y recursos necesarios para avanzar rápidamente en la lucha mundial contra el hambre. Es sobre todo la falta de una voluntad colectiva lo que nos impide eliminar el hambre. Debemos comprometernos firmemente a rechazar lo inaceptable y lo intolerable."

En coincidencia con estos planteamientos conocimos las consideraciones del último informe, precisamente difundido el 16 de octubre, Día Mundial de la Alimentación, al afirmar la FAO "que el hambre con mayúscula afecta a 826 millones de seres humanos y de éstos, 796 millones viven en nuestros países en vías de desarrollo."

El informe *Estado de la Inseguridad Alimentaria Mundial 2000* de la FAO, constata que "desde el último censo realizado no ha habido ningún progreso en el índice de disminución de la población que sufre hambre crónica en el mundo", condicionando que para alcanzar el objetivo de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación al ritmo actual se necesitarán 15 años a menos que se tomen medidas urgentes.

No entiendo necesario repetir nuestra intervención en la pasada reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, tan sólo tenerla presente. No es posible eliminar el hambre sin erradicar las causas que la originan.

Volvamos a la Ceremonia del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. En su noble y oportuno mensaje escrito en español, el Santo Padre Juan Pablo II señalaba: "Liberar del hambre a centenares de millones de seres humanos, víctimas aun de este flagelo, no es empresa fácil. En efecto, supone en primer lugar el compromiso de extirpar de raíz las causas del hambre y de la desnutrición."

Reitero que interrelacionar estos señalamientos recogidos todos en una fecha tan significativa como el Día Mundial de la Alimentación debería constituir una base de profunda reflexión para el análisis de este Tema.

Como en otra parte de la Orden del Día del programa podremos ampliar sobre estos Temas, pasamos a otro aspecto que tiene una relación directa con el tema que estamos analizando y que incide sobre la difícil situación que atraviesa Cuba en cuanto a su seguridad alimentaria.

Como los medios de difusión no están en manos precisamente de los países en desarrollo, queremos explicar dentro de este tema que el bloqueo impuesto unilateralmente a nuestro país en lugar de flexibilizarse como se pretende dar a conocer se recrudece, endureciendo aun más las sanciones y aumentando las dificultades para que nuestro pueblo no pueda tener acceso ni a alimentos ni a medicinas.

Ante el manifiesto rechazo internacional, se trata de engañar a la opinión pública acerca de una supuesta flexibilización del bloqueo, en particular a través del anuncio de medidas selectivas que en realidad en nada modifican el complejo andamiaje legislativo y normativo que conforma el bloqueo, sino que por el contrario lo refuerza y lo empeora; bloqueo que está dirigido contra la población cubana y tiene graves consecuencias para los sectores más vulnerables, en particular en el área de la alimentación y la salud, ocasionando sufrimientos y privaciones especialmente a niños, ancianos y enfermos.

Es interesante conocer que en la Convención de Ginebra proscriben medidas que impiden el acceso de la población de un país en tiempo de guerra, precisamente a estos renglones. En esta oportunidad no entiendo necesario, por conocida, insistir en la repercusión de algo obsoleto, remanente de una llamada "Guerra Fría" que trasciende el siglo XXI, pues las mismas están recogidas como método de utilización en acuerdos en nuestras propias esferas de trabajo desde la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, Consejos, Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y Conferencias Regionales.

De acuerdo a estas consideraciones, es nuestro propósito actualizar la situación con hechos recientes. Esta situación del bloqueo que incide muy directamente con la inseguridad alimentaria en Cuba es ampliamente conocida por esta Plenaria, que ha sido testigo y participante en mis análisis. Nuestra denuncia no se ha caracterizado en el uso ni de adjetivos ni retórica sino en hechos, al manifestar nuestra firme posición en un tema tan sensible para nuestro pueblo.

En este orden de ideas, permítame compartir con usted y las distinguidas delegaciones aquí presentes algunas informaciones que son más elocuentes que cualquier comentario, pues demuestran de manera fehaciente como han ido ganando en respaldo internacional precisamente los mismos países que están aquí reunidos en este Consejo de la FAO, con relación a este anacrónico bloqueo a nuestro país.

Recientemente la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas volvió a tratar y votar la Resolución, por noveno año consecutivo, de poner fin al bloqueo comercial y financiero contra Cuba.

Tan solo brindaremos datos y una breve reflexión. La Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, el pasado 9 de noviembre, volvió a tratar el tema de poner fin al bloqueo contra Cuba y nuevamente fue aprobado por una abrumadora mayoría de 167 votos, 4 abstenciones y sólo 3 votos en contra - primer análisis: más votos que el año anterior y menos abstenciones, resolución que reafirma en su texto: "la igualdad soberana de los Estados, la no-intervención, la no-injerencia en sus asuntos internos y la libertad de comercio y navegaciones internacionales." Recuerdo así mismo "las declaraciones formuladas por los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno en las Cumbres Iberoamericanas relativas a la necesidad de eliminar la aplicación unilateral de medidas de carácter económico y comercial contra otro estado que afecte el libre desarrollo del comercio internacional."

Observamos que prácticamente lo acordado se relaciona en definiciones y objetivos generales con lo señalado en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación tanto en sus textos de la Declaración Política como en su Plan de Acción, compromiso IV, párrafo 37.

Expresé no hacer comentario, pero sí una breve reflexión. Esta Resolución de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas tiene una evolución ascendente prácticamente de consenso en cuanto al cese de bloqueo a Cuba. Si observamos su comportamiento desde el año 1992, en nueve años consecutivos hasta el 2000, en cuanto a países que han votado a favor de la Resolución cubana, sus abstenciones y como se han mantenido los que están en contra en un raquítico 2 o 3 votos, hace que Cuba sienta un respaldo solidario y otros deben conformarse con el aislamiento más preocupante.

El cuadro estadístico y detallado de esta evolución está a disposición de los delegados presentes en este 119º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO que estén interesados en esta información.

Todo lo expresado está dentro de una realidad que el pueblo de Cuba observa con firmeza y serena posición. Leí hace poco una frase del Premio Nobel en literatura José Saramago que expresaba: "el sufrimiento no se acabó, pero tampoco se ha acabado la esperanza."

Nehad Ibrahim ABDEL-LATIF (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We are dealing with the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000*, and I have reviewed this question in detail. I should like here to congratulate the Secretariat for having submitted this excellent document. We are meeting here, within FAO, which is the major agency of the United Nations dealing with agriculture and food. It is appropriate to deal with the content of this document.

However, this is not enough. What we think is lacking in the document is the role of the Organization in reaching, or in finding solutions to the problems suffered by a number of countries, as contained in the document. We would like to ask the Secretariat to clarify the role of the Organization in all its dimensions and in all its aspects so that we, as Member Nations, will feel secure that FAO is taking its share of responsibilities. This applies basically to the developing countries and those affected by food shortages.

In addition to that, we need to know more about the social, economic and food supplies in the developing countries. In the year 2000, we see that 36 countries are now affected by these problems whereas, in February 2000, the number of these countries was just 32.

So the document submitted here is well prepared but it is not enough. In the future, when the Secretariat submits such documents, we hope that it will clearly indicate the role of the Organization and clarify the solutions it proposes in order to solve these problems.

Mario MOYA PALENCIA (México)

Ante este importante órgano de la FAO, la delegación de México desea reiterar el invariable apoyo a los altos principios que guían la labor de la Organización. Mi país continuará apoyando, como siempre, las acciones de la FAO para alcanzar los objetivos que todos juntos le hemos otorgado y solidariza también con lo señalado aquí por Argentina en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

El Gobierno de México tiene el mandato constitucional de promover la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo. Por ello, nuestra política exterior es y continuará siendo solidaria con todos los pueblos del mundo, especialmente con los más necesitados y reclama de los demás la misma vocación, sobre todo de los países industrializados.

Hoy vemos con gran preocupación que las metas que nos hemos trazado están aun lejos de alcanzarse. Hace cuatro años, aquí en Roma, adoptamos el compromiso de reducir a la mitad, para el año 2015, el número de seres humanos que se despiertan sin tener lo indispensable para comer; ya ha pasado una cuarta parte del plazo propuesto y la situación es desalentadora.

El Director General de la Organización nos ha informado que los esfuerzos internacionales permiten abatir en ocho millones anuales el número de gente que padece hambre. Cifra importante, sin duda, pero insuficiente frente a los 826 millones de seres humanos que sufren este problema y que en el mejor de los casos son un 2,6 por ciento más que los 800 millones calculados en 1996.

Los números son dramáticos y reflejan una realidad incuestionable: hace falta redoblar los esfuerzos, se requiere un compromiso aun mayor y verdadera voluntad política para alcanzar la meta acordada.

Por ello, la delegación de México considera con interés la propuesta del Director General para la realización de una Reunión de Alto Nivel a fin de evaluar los avances de los compromisos asumidos en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, pero sobre todo para perfeccionar los mecanismos y las acciones que permitan combatir de manera más eficiente los flagelos que representan el hambre y la malnutrición.

En un mundo en el que abundan los alimentos, en el que algunos despilfarran o desechan miles de toneladas de productos, se da la injusta paradoja de que otros carecen de lo mínimo para alimentarse.

El documento sobre el *Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación 2000* indica que el año pasado la producción agropecuaria se incrementó nuevamente. Por ello, en las condiciones de producción actuales, el debate no puede centrarse en discusiones que se refieran al incremento o disminución de la producción sino sobre todo a las posibilidades de acceso. El hecho es que existe un sistema económico que no ha podido sacar de la pobreza, la marginación y el hambre a millones de seres humanos, un sistema que nunca se ha propuesto otra cosa que beneficiar la generación de capital pero no la aplicación de los recursos productivos para remediar los problemas más urgentes de la población mundial y que no ha concebido ninguna previsión para combatir la pobreza y el hambre en los países en desarrollo. Si seguimos por este camino, en 2015 puede haber casi mil millones de hambrientos. Debemos darle un viraje a este sistema o el hambre y los problemas sociales que de ella se derivan asfixiarán al mundo en su conjunto, incluso a los países que todo tienen.

Esta es una situación intolerable por injusta, pero es también una condición estructural que atenta contra la sustentabilidad del planeta.

Ampliémos la visión en torno a lo que representa la agricultura y el medio rural, pero antes, resolvamos lo principal: eliminar el hambre en el mundo. Démosle un rostro humano a la economía, pongamos al servicio de las mujeres y de los hombre nuestras decisiones y dejemos de confiar en que la acumulación de capital y las llamadas leyes del mercado resolverán la injusticia social.

Mi delegación ve con profunda preocupación que los compromisos de cooperación internacional para el desarrollo mantienen un nivel del 30 por ciento menor al de hace 15 años. Es imprescindible que los países industrializados cumplan con la meta acordada internacionalmente del 0,7 por ciento del PIB para la asistencia oficial para el desarrollo. Más preocupante resulta aun que este tipo de asistencia dirigida a la agricultura esté privilegiando cada vez más a las denominadas actividades agrícolas en sentido amplio, en detrimento de aquéllas que inciden inmediatamente en el bienestar de los habitantes de las comunidades rurales, es decir, las que con más agudeza sufren los estragos de la falta de alimentos.

No sería conveniente para los objetivos de la FAO que este tipo de ayuda mantenga sus bajos niveles y la tendencia actual, por que en pocos años nos enfrentaríamos a la paradoja de tener un ambiente protegido y contar con infraestructura rural, pero sin personas que puedan hacerla producir y disfrutar.

Ya no tenemos mucho tiempo para corregir las fallas de la economía mundial y ganarle al hambre y a la malnutrición una batalla que aún no hemos iniciado.

Bhaskar BARUA (India)

On behalf of the Government of India, I extend to you my warmest greetings, as also to all the other distinguished delegates here. We are confident that, under your able guidance, the deliberations of the Council will be fruitful and rewarding.

My delegation appreciates the wealth of research that is in the document, the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000*. We note that the world crop and livestock production expanded by 2 percent, as we are told now, which is a slight improvement on what was earlier. There is, however, concern that several developing countries have experienced such low agricultural growth. Many countries have faced conditions of drought, floods or decline in area quota of crops, due to unfavourable trade prices. The forecast, which is up slightly, is really not good enough. The number of developing countries facing serious food shortages is going up by ten to 62, and is again a very disturbing trend.

It is against this background that we would like to look at the commitments of ODA. In keeping with the recent trend, we find the 6 percent below as already stated, and the over 30 percent level

below that of the mid-1980s very, very disturbing in the context of agricultural growth not taking place at an adequate rate.

As the distinguished delegate from Mexico said just now, there has been a shift in emphasis in ODA to activities such as environment, production and world development or infrastructure. As he mentioned, all these are good things and vital for production and world infrastructure and development. However, if direct productivity enhancing effects of expenditure on agriculture is not given emphasis, and a balanced view taken between rural development and environment *per se*, I think we see more difficulties ahead.

In India, the performance of the economy is closely dependent upon that of agriculture. Agriculture supports the major wage good, that is food, and raw material for the economy. Agriculture has potential for exports and can contribute to foreign exchange earnings. On the demand side, agriculture provides a market for non-agricultural products and services. As of now, 70 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture. Agriculture engages 60 percent of the workforce, although its contribution to GDP has declined from what was 31 percent to less than 27 percent recently. It contributes to 20 percent of exports. But the sector is complex and is characterized by interregional disparities in agro-climatic conditions, cropping patterns and yield levels.

During 1999-2000, India experienced a severe cyclone in one part of the country, and severe, very serious droughts in other parts of the country. Despite that, with efforts of the farming community of India and the assistance government could provide, food grain production reached almost 206 million tonnes. In percentage terms, of course, it is only about a 1.5 percent increase. *Per capita* available food grains has gone up, as has livestock production, production bags, etc.

We have recently formulated a National Agricultural Policy. It is a long-term policy aiming at achieving a growth rate of 4 percent *plus per annum* in the agricultural sector: a growth that is based on efficient use of resources and conservation of soil, water and biodiversity; a growth that is widespread across regions and farmers; a growth that is demand-driven and not only caters to domestic demand but maximizes benefits from exports of agricultural commodities and is able to meet the challenges of economic liberalization and globalization.

Our achievements notwithstanding, the major concerns require that we adjust on a priority basis, namely the declining trend in the growth rate of agricultural production. There is a sharp downturn in increment between the 1980s and the 1990s in the production of food grain and all crops, and production has been below its potential. There are interesting disparities in the accent of irrigated areas, level of fertilizer consumption and yields, which provides growth for growth in low growth areas where there is a large untapped potential.

There is also a need to increase productivity, particularly in the wake of agreement on agriculture. The majority of the farmers in India and other developing countries are engaged in subsistence farming and meet the food security requirements of more than half of our rural people. They are in need of continuing support to insulate them from the market forces, as the low resources at their command leave them vulnerable to such forces.

There is a need to arrest the decline in public investment in agriculture and also ensure increases in public investment in irrigation. Efficiency of water use is also low. This slow down in irrigation has effects on cropping intensity and yields, and there is a serious constraint for diversified agriculture and cropping patterns and productive increases for import, as well as food security.

We would therefore like a definite strategy to be evolved by FAO to facilitate adoption of measures in harvesting and conservation of water and efficient on-farm water management. India needs to extend the Green Revolution to the rainspread areas, which comprise about 66 percent of the net sown areas.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate FAO for its efforts in addressing the problem of hunger and food security. I would like to assure you of our continued support for FAO's enterprise. India is willing to do what we can to assist the Less Developed Countries in the cause

of food security. We are also willing to share our human expertise and capital and experience for the development of agriculture in other countries, in the spirit of South-South cooperation, as well as TCDC.

I also take this opportunity to express our support to the Director-General's initiative for the expansion of SPFS. Besides Eritrea, we now look forward to sharing our expertise with Mozambique, Mongolia and Lesotho. We are also making efforts to enable the funds contributed by India to the Trust Fund of the African Development Bank to be utilized for SPFS activities of FAO in Africa. I am confident that FAO will continue to take steps to prepare the developing countries to face the rapid changes in the global environment, by providing expertise and support and issues emanating from the WTO regime, such as TBT, SPS, and enhancing the capacity of developing countries to participate in negotiations properly. In the same context, we are grateful to FAO for approving a project to India for strengthening our national quota extremity from TCP resources.

I once again commend the role of FAO, which has worked in close collaboration with developing countries. I am confident that the same relationship will continue and, in fact, will be enhanced in the new phase of agricultural development.

August SCHUMACHER (United States of America)

Four years ago, the United States joined 185 other countries in a pledge. It was a promise made to 800 million people, many of whom will never know what was said on their behalf. We set a goal in 1996. By 2015, there will be 400 million people with hope. With hope, not hunger. It is now 2000. How far have we come?

We have been fighting an uphill battle. Natural disasters and civil strife have caused pockets of famine amid a world with record crop production. We see soil, water and other natural resources taxed to their limits to produce enough food for a growing population. As Mr De Haen has said, we have over half the people in Ethiopia, in 1999, Angola and Mozambique and the Horn were hungry. The same report, I believe, cites the figure that 34 000 children under the age of five are dying from hunger every day.

But we have seen some successes. We have seen new crops that can resist disease, pest and drought. We have developed new warning systems to alert us to nations at risk. FAO has extensive efforts underway to change things. It has made food security a key part of the Medium Term Plan. This completed its fifteen-year Strategic Framework. It has improved its results-based methodologies and programme indicators. Yet budgets need to be soundly and thoughtfully designed in an era of fiscal prudence.

I want to further commend FAO for its active role in sustainable agriculture. With the ten-year anniversary of the Euro Summit rapidly approaching, let us remind ourselves that nature gives us life but requires care in return. If we continue to deplete the soil of nutrients, decimate our forests and contaminate the water, we cannot expect to produce food at the level we need. Certainly FAO plays a critical role in implementing commitments made on sustainable agriculture and rural development. We have seen FAO do innovative conservation programmes that focus on forest and fisheries, and I especially want to commend the forestry work that is underway here in Rome at the FAO.

But, briefly, I would like just to touch on four topics in a very short time: food aid, biotechnology, sustainable agriculture and free and fair trade, as we move forward on hunger.

First on food aid. Even at this time of global commodity gluts, we still have hundreds of millions living in hunger. Our food aid programmes in the United States of America provided lifeline of wheat, corn, rice and other commodities to those facing starvation. I believe Mr De Haen quoted the figure of 100 million tonnes this past year. We worked very hard, as did Secretary Glickman in the United States Government, to provide an additional 350 000 metric tonnes to drought-afflicted and war-torn nations, including Afghanistan, Kenya and particularly the nations in the Horn of Africa. This assistance, valued US\$ 145 million, has brought our total donations for those

in need in Africa to approximately one million tonnes last year. Regrettably, this aid has generated some criticism from some countries who allege, or suspect, that the United States of America's motivation is somewhat self-serving. The United States of America categorically rejects such charges, and remains confident that we can share our bounty in a way that does not distort local markets or national trade.

In July of this year, President Clinton launched a new programme called "The Global Food for Education and Initiative". This programme will enable some surplus USA commodities for use in school feeding and pre-school nutritional projects in developing countries. The pilot programme for fiscal year 2001 will commit about US\$ 300 million to this effort.

Let me now turn to the second quick topic, and that is biotechnology. Another way we can empower agriculture and farmers throughout the world and all food producers is through biotechnology. We need a strong science-based regulation evaluation, completely open and transparent to public scrutiny. Biotechnology promises to transform agriculture as we know it and improve our ability to feed the nine billion people in the next century. Some anti-biotechnology groups in developed countries have the luxury of speaking from a fairly well-fed perspective. The food-insecure do not have that luxury. Growing conditions in the developing world require crops with stronger pest and disease resistance. The world community seeking biotechnology needs its benefits for their children's future. There are efforts by the Rockefeller Foundation and Golden Rice to produce crops that can with vitamins that can be used. Should not we use all of our tools at our disposal to save these children?

Thirdly, the importance of sustainable agriculture. What we want to insure about biotechnology is that it does no harm to the environment. We know it can reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The facts can be stated bluntly. The amount of productive land on our planet is finite. We cannot gain more of it. We must learn to better care for what we have.

And finally, let me turn to the critical importance of fair trade in agricultural products. Fostering self-reliance means more food aid, but fostering self-reliance means more food aid and disease-resistant crops will provide better nutrition. It means more than sustainable agriculture.

The Director-General, Jacques Diouf, lamented the plight of the Least Developed Countries in world trade. He cited the fact that the combined share of agricultural exports has declined from almost 5 percent by the developing countries of total world agricultural exports in the 1970s to just 1 percent in 1998. The United States of America recognizes the need for change. Those who cannot sell their goods in the world market are in a poor position to be its customers. They also face a greater risk of hunger. Exports let poor nations gain the means to purchase food. Imports can help bridge the gaps in food security. That is why the agricultural talks on trade at the WTO are so important. The innovative and broadbased proposal by the United States of America for agricultural trade reform at the WTO addresses these concerns. We want to work closely with the Food Aid Convention, FAO, IFAD and the World Food Programme on these issues. While developed nations used export subsidies, excess of trade restrictions and tariffs and other trade barriers, they created unfair advantage. They closed the door.

Let me conclude. I would like to make clear that we have no illusions about the difficulty of the task we have set for ourselves. But what we risk is even greater. I mentioned in my opening remarks the loss of 34 000 children to hunger, lives not yet begun. If all our intervention did was to allow half of these children to grow up, lead successful lives and contribute to their community, our efforts would surely have not been in vain.

Ismail ALAOUI (Maroc) (Langue originale arabe)

Au nom du Royaume du Maroc, je voudrais vous féliciter pour votre élection et vous souhaiter, ainsi qu'aux autres Membres du Bureau tous mes vœux de succès dans la conduite des travaux de cette session du Conseil.

Je voudrais également saisir cette occasion pour souligner l'efficacité du rôle joué par Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, et par ses collaborateurs et les remercier des efforts

qu'ils ont déployés pour préparer cette réunion et avoir permis de rassembler toutes les conditions nécessaires à sa réussite. Nous nous réunissons à un moment où nous assistons à l'élargissement du fossé qui sépare les pays en développement des pays développés. La pauvreté et l'exclusion se répandent partout en raison du ralentissement de la croissance économique et du ralentissement du développement social. Cette situation s'aggraverait si nous n'engageons pas des efforts concertés pour nous attaquer aux problèmes du développement économique et social, de manière à garantir la sécurité alimentaire à toutes les populations du monde.

Dans ce climat qui se caractérise par des enjeux de grande envergure, suite à la mondialisation et à la libéralisation, nous devons mettre en place des programmes qui nous permettront de nous attaquer aux fléaux que l'humanité connaît ainsi qu'aux problèmes qui se posent pour la production agricole. Nous voulons accroître la production agricole, le niveau et la qualité de vie des agriculteurs dans les pays en développement et contribuer de façon efficace et directe à lutter contre la pauvreté.

La FAO nous aide à élargir la coopération et la concertation et coordonne les efforts menés avec les autorités compétentes pour favoriser le développement agricole au niveau des régions et des pays.

Nous demandons encore à la FAO de redoubler d'efforts pour renforcer ses programmes de développement afin que nous puissions atteindre les objectifs fixés. À l'instar d'un grand nombre de pays africains, le Maroc a subi des sécheresses très graves qui ont provoqué des dommages importants pour la production agricole et des préjudices à l'économie agricole et à l'économie marocaine dans son ensemble.

Le Maroc s'efforce constamment de lutter contre le phénomène de la sécheresse qui est un problème permanent. On essaie de tenir compte de cette dimension dans tous les projets de développement pour orienter les schémas de production afin que malgré les intempéries ou les problèmes climatiques, une certaine constance de la production soit garantie. Le Maroc a élaboré une stratégie à long terme qui va jusqu'en 2020, permettant l'intégration du développement rural et du développement agricole. On prévoit des réformes du secteur agricole, notamment le renforcement des programmes d'irrigation pour l'agriculture. On veut également améliorer les rendements des productions végétales, la qualité des récoltes et favoriser l'application des innovations technologiques, la recherche et la constitution d'organisations professionnelles. Il s'agit également de procéder à des réformes sur le plan juridique et institutionnel. Nous avons toujours essayé d'améliorer la situation de l'agriculture et la condition des agriculteurs dans les pays en développement.

La FAO a appuyé les programmes de développement, fait des études pilotes, élaboré des stratégies innovatrices, essayé de procéder à une intégration de tous les services pour qu'ils contribuent au développement rural. L'innovation et la créativité sont un peu les mots d'ordre de notre Organisation qui témoignent de l'intérêt qu'elle porte constamment à l'amélioration des perspectives agricoles dans les pays en développement.

Je manquerais à mes devoirs si je ne rendais pas hommage aux excellentes relations qui existent entre la FAO et mon pays - ces relations qui ont été consacrées sur le terrain par le biais notamment de projets de grande envergure qui visent à améliorer et favoriser la production animale et végétale, afin notamment d'accroître les revenus d'un grand nombre de petits paysans. Dans les nombreux programmes mis en place par l'Organisation, nous voudrions souligner le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire mis en œuvre dans le continent africain notamment. La réussite de ce Programme est le témoignage de l'efficacité de l'Organisation. Elle a su surmonter un grand nombre d'obstacles qui se posaient à la mise en œuvre de ce Programme, obstacles qui sont souvent indépendants de sa volonté.

Le Maroc continuera d'appuyer le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique en signant un accord avec la FAO et un autre accord avec le Niger et le Burkina Faso. Nous allons détacher plus de 60 ingénieurs et techniciens pour ce programme de coopération orienté résolument vers l'avenir.

Nous nous réjouissons de cette fructueuse coopération avec les pays en développement mais, en même temps, nous voudrions souligner la nécessité d'élargir celle-ci pour qu'elle porte sur d'autres secteurs d'activité et d'autres domaines. Nous donc espérons pouvoir compter sur une coopération élargie pour la mise en œuvre, sous l'égide de la FAO, de programmes et pouvoir participer activement à des projets d'expansion dans les pays en développement où le besoin se fait sentir. La FAO en effet est le pionnier dans ce domaine. Pour accroître la réussite de la coopération Sud-sud, il conviendrait peut-être de revoir certaines dispositions des accords tripartites, surtout en ce qui concerne les promesses de contribution et les engagements financiers de la part des pays bénéficiaires ayant des ressources financières limitées.

Je crois que nous avons des points très importants à l'Ordre du jour de cette session. Cet Ordre du jour va porter sur des questions qui intéressent au premier chef les autorités nationales et tous les partenaires. Nous allons en particulier nous concentrer sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde. Nous allons également examiner la question des ressources phytogénétiques, voire l'harmonisation de l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques avec les conventions sur les diversités biologiques de la population mondiale. Il ne faut pas constamment lancer des appels à la solidarité mais en même temps nous devons trouver des solutions viables. Nous devons mobiliser tous nos efforts, toutes nos capacités pour faire face à la situation de crise devant laquelle nous nous trouvons. Nous pourrions atteindre cet objectif si nous adoptons les mesures nécessaires le plus tôt possible afin de trouver des solutions. C'est une course contre la montre. Tout retard nous empêchera de régler à fond les problèmes de la faim.

En conclusion, je voudrais offrir mes vœux de réussite à cette session du Conseil. J'espère que cette session parviendra à des résultats concrets et qu'elle formulera un programme de coopération pragmatique qui permettra de renforcer les rapports amicaux entre nos pays, afin de garantir la sécurité alimentaire pour toutes les populations mondiales.

CHAN-Joon SOHN (Korea, Republic of)

I would like to sincerely congratulate to your chairing this session. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for providing this well-structured report on the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000*. First of all, I would like to draw your attention on the expected ratio of global cereal stocks. The expected ratio of global cereal stocks to utilization in 2001 and 2002 is expected to fall below 16.5 percent, a figure lower than what FAO considers as a minimum to safeguard world food security as described in paragraph 21 of CL 119/2. When we consider the notable downturns in effective import demand of major cereals by the developing countries in economic recessions and the frequent weather anomalies, the current level of global cereal stocks can be alarming.

I would also like to indicate the undesirable situation of undernourished populations. The level of undernourished from 1996 to 1998 has not changed much since the previous report. It remains at 826 million people according to the *State of the Food Insecurity in the World 2000*, published by FAO. To reduce such a figure, the World Food Summit set an initiative to reduce the number of undernourished in half by the year 2015. According to FAO's estimation, to reach such a goal, we have to reduce the undernourished population by 20 million every year. At our own pace, we are falling 12 million short, barely reducing the undernourished population by 8 million a year.

Therefore, Member Nations should renew a common and concerted effort to reach the goals set forth by the World Food Summit. To resolve the problems that we drew your attention to, the emphasis should be placed on increasing domestic production. The means of increasing domestic production can be achieved through the effective utilization of existing production resources. The effective utilization of production should maximize the level of self-sufficiency in staple foods, through improving sustainability in the production process.

The next topic that I would like to touch on is the relationship between food security and the multifunctional character of agriculture. The multifunctional character of agriculture has a

positive correlation with the food security, especially as it regards rice paddy farming in Korea and other Asian countries.

Rice paddy farming not only serves as the prime function of supplying food, but also results in environmental conservation, flood control and the preservation of biodiversity. Of course, rice paddy farming has a positive impact on food security.

As a net food importing country, we believe that food security will be achieved through sustainable agricultural measures and effective utilization of production process for rice as a staple food. We believe that the effective utilization of production resources to the level of sustainable rice production can serve as the most efficient tool against a short to medium-term food crisis, especially if combined with the preventive government measures. In this respect, I would like to stress the importance of the need for the specific and appropriate provisions that will promote consultation on the multifunctional character of agriculture to be set up for discussion in the next Round of the World Trade Organization Negotiations and in FAO.

Mohammad Saeed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

At the outset, I welcome you, once again on the Chair of this august meeting and wish you full success. I also congratulate the members of the Bureau and the members of the Drafting Committee upon their election. I am sure that you, with the assistance of the Bureau, will successfully lead our discussions to fruitful results.

The report on the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000* is not promising. If we accept that the main indicator of food availability at the global level is *per capita* of food production, then we should accept that in the year 1999 and especially in the year 2000, as was indicated by the Director-General this morning, the global food security has experienced two consecutive setbacks. World food and livestock production expanded by 2 percent in 1999 and by 1.2 percent in the year 2000. These growth rates do not compensate the world population growth involved, and therefore on average each person had and will have less food during 1999 and the rest of the year 2000. This is more worrisome than we read in paragraph 1, that cereal production remained unchanged after falling by 1 percent in 1998. We all know that cereal is the basic staple for the large majority of the developing countries. Cereals are still the main source of energy and protein intake, especially for the poor in the developing world.

In the report of the Committee on World Food Security, we were informed and it was reconfirmed by the Director-General in his opening statements this morning, that during the past five years the number of hungry and malnourished population has decreased by an annual number of 8 000, against the target of 20 000 established by the World Food Summit in 1996. Now this report adds another negative dimension to these disappointing statistics. In the rest of the report, we are repeatedly facing a one key phenomenon, causing reduced agricultural production in different parts of the world, that is, drought.

Drought, severe drought, widespread drought, unfavourable weather, adverse weather conditions, prolonged dry spells and so on, are the expressions that are appearing in almost all cases of reduced agriculture production and almost in every paragraph of the report. But in search of remedies, cures, or even proposals or recommendations, dealing with this catastrophic phenomenon in the report, is absolutely disappointing. Nothing of this nature can be found in the report. This is very ironic, because the Director-General from the very early days of his first term of office has put major emphasis on water as the main element of combating food insecurity. This fact has been emphasized in the FAO Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Special Programme for Food Security.

Unfortunately, we do not see any reference to the outcome of the efforts in these areas in the report. What are the lessons learned? How could this ugly phenomenon could be avoided, or its negative effects reduced? Why is this happening almost entirely in developing countries? What have the developed countries done to prevent it? To what extent can technology, and especially biotechnology, be used to combat it? What have the CGIAR institutions done about it? What are

FAO's future plans in this area? This is a question which was also raised by the distinguished Ambassador of Egypt.

These are some of the questions we have been waiting to be answered for a long time. We all did accept that FAO should be a centre of excellence, and we are now from this centre of excellence expecting a much more analytical and solution-oriented report on the most important item of the agenda of this Council, that is the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000*.

We are aware that the Organization is facing the difficult situation of being asked to do more in the face of contracting real budget, but at least we expect in the future, in similar cases, to see concrete proposals, plans, programmes and recommendations, on water, water harvesting, water control, water management, efficient and sustainable use of water resources and especially drought management. This was also emphasized by the distinguished Head of Delegation of India.

Now with your permission, I shift to the next topic in the report, and draw your attention to the diagramme on the lower part of page 10, regarding world cereal carryovers and stocks utilization ratio. During the period of 1994 to 2001, the stocks utilization ratio has experienced downward, then upward, and again downward, trends. In some years, it has stayed about the safe range of 17 to 18 percent. In others within the range, or below that. This graph is inconclusive in the absence of cereal price movements in corresponding years. My question is: in the years of low stock utilization ratios, has the international cereal market witnessed extraordinary high prices, or vice versa, what about in the years of high ratios? If not, to what extent are we confident that the safe range of 17 to 18 percent is accurate? I assume that a lower ratio is associated with lower international cost of carryovers which might benefit the whole world. The Secretariat's explanation in this issue is highly appreciated.

Finally, let me touch upon the external assistance to agriculture. It is promising to see that commitments of Official Development Assistance, ODA, for agricultural development has increased for three consecutive years, starting from 1996. This might be due to commitments of donor countries at the World Food Summit in 1996. If so, it is even more encouraging. But even so, it is much below the expectations arising from the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

My delegation, while highly appreciating this upward trend, appeals to all generous donors to live up to expectations created by their commitments in the World Food Summit Plan of Action and by the 0.7 percent of their GNP which should go to the ODA. My delegation emphasizes the fact that FAO is the most suitable organization for creation of sustainable agricultural development the world over. The excellent stock of diverse high level expertise of FAO, which is strategically located all over the world, together with its vast experience gives this organization the comparative advantage of performing this task with the lowest possible variable cost. So, we hope that much more ODA and other types of assistance will be channelled to developing countries and especially to Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries through FAO.

A.M.M. SHAWKAT ALI (Bangladesh)

My delegation joins me in complimenting FAO for producing this highly informative document, the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000*. We are also thankful to ADG De Haen for some updates, and my intention here is not to go into a long series of comments, but to concentrate on a few which I think should be helpful.

Paragraph 3, page 3, refers to Bangladesh for having achieved 2.9 percent growth during 1990-1997. In fact, since 1996 onwards the calculations are that growth rate is much higher. For the last four years we have been consistently achieving a production level which is adequate. In fact, in 1996, the Plan of Action following the World Food Summit was drawn up to achieve food self-sufficiency and the target was to achieve it by 2002. Bangladesh has achieved it in year 2000 by producing 25 million tonnes of cereals.

The next aspect that I want to deal with is section III, page 12, on which some comments have already been made by distinguished fellow delegates. In paragraph 28, reference has been to

several Asian countries with respect to droughts and floods. Bangladesh has not been mentioned, and in fact, Bangladesh experienced this year the same floods which affected India. Sixteen districts in Bangladesh have been affected, of which six districts very badly. In this respect, I think it would be helpful in future, if the relevant section dealing with food shortages and emergencies provide, at least, a rough calculation of the drop in food production due to natural calamities and their monetary values. We have been talking of these food shortages and emergencies for the past several decades, and this is a fact of life that cannot be avoided, because it is basically an act of God.

Now what about the remedial measures? What can be done to offset the effect of damages to food crop production? Our experience shows that first of all very quick response to calamities is needed; second, very quick response to agricultural rehabilitation measures. In this context, I would like to refer to the most severe flood that Bangladesh experienced in 1998 and there was a deficit of 1 million tonnes, but because of timely intervention by the Government we could recover 1.1 million tonnes. That shows that quick response and timely intervention is of paramount importance in recouping the losses due to natural calamities and added with it should be medium to long-term rehabilitation plans.

I think it would be helpful for many countries if FAO can come up with some sort of a document which will provide guidelines for agricultural rehabilitation programmes, which have to follow after floods or droughts affect a particular country or countries. In this context, I would also like to emphasize the need for more investment and more collaboration in research. Our experience has shown that it is possible to have drought-resistant rice varieties. It is also possible, by adopting supplementary irrigation, to increase rice yields by 20 to 30 percent. This programme Bangladesh is currently doing, and this could be extended by more collaboration and collaborative research.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the fact that agricultural production or its goal should be looked upon as a means to alleviating poverty and malnutrition. There have been lots of research reports, and I can refer to one of the reports of IFPRI, which has shown that in countries where agricultural growth is higher, poverty reduction is easier. In addition to that, the distributional income effect is also equitable and widespread. Then, while we discussed this Plan of Action in the 1996 World Food Summit about achieving household level food security and each country was to design its own Plan of Action to achieve that. I wish to inform you that in Bangladesh as a means to achieving household level food security, we have recently undertaken a plan to convert each rural house into a total farm, not only for crop production. This was based on an assessment of the total assets of the farm household and that programme has shown very promising results.

LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation first of all wishes to thank the FAO Secretariat for having prepared document CL 119/2 and Mr de Haen for his concise presentation. The Chinese delegation believes that in general, as compared with 1998, the world food situation has improved slightly with crop and livestock production going up by 1.6 percent in 1999. It is expected that in 2000 the world total food production will reach 1 881 million tonnes. It is only an increase of six million tonnes, therefore, the situation of world food and agriculture development does not allow for optimism. The 1999 estimate for the production in 2000 shows that the rate increase is still low. The agricultural production of developing countries affected by factors such as natural disasters show that the number of food deficit countries has increased from 32 at the beginning of the year to 36. At the same time, what merits attention is the fact that the prices of cereals remain weak, which will inevitably result in a decrease of cereal production and increasing supply. The information provided by the document has substantiated our concerns. This should arouse the attention and concern by national governments and the international community as a whole.

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to food and agriculture production, and has thus formulated policies conducive to them and adopted practical and effective measures to increase production and farmers' income. The improvement of China's agro-economic operations over the 20 years since its reform and opening up has not only greatly

pushed forward the overall development of the country's national economy, but has also contributed to world agriculture development and to the realization of the WFS's goal.

The Chinese delegation wishes to take the opportunity to make the following observations regarding how to improve the world food and agricultural situation. Firstly, it will be necessary to strengthen agricultural infrastructure and disaster preparedness and resistance measures to ensure steady development of agricultural production. If one observes world agricultural development in recent years, natural disaster have remained the major constraint for agricultural production, in particular for developing countries. This year, China experienced the severest drought in 50 years since its founding, but agricultural production as a whole has been developing steadily. This should be attributed mainly to the strengthening and improvement of agricultural infrastructure, which has benefitted from the stimulating policy environment and the Government's active inputs. We think that for developing countries with relatively backward conditions, a favourable domestic environment for infrastructure development is necessary, as well as stimulating policies to promote investment coupled with assistance from the international community. International and development assistance donors, in particular, should consider infrastructure development as a priority.

Secondly, to improve macro-economic environment and create favourable conditions for agricultural production. World food and agricultural production is, to a large extent, subject to the macro-economic environment. The agricultural production of quite a number of developing countries affected by domestic and political instability and policy readjustment measures has been declining or showing negative growth. What is more, from the perspective of the international economic environment, the negative impact brought about by globalization of economy cannot be ignored. Globalization of economy is posing new challenges and difficulties to agricultural development in developing countries, which are in a vulnerable position. We propose that, through the common effort of the international community and on the basis of full participation by all countries and democratic consultation, effective international rules be formulated so that the process of economic globalization will develop in a balanced, stable and sustainable way along the direction favourable to all Member Nations, especially the developing countries and in the end establish a new just and fair international economic order.

Thirdly, to strengthen technical cooperation and assistance. At present, information on biotechnology is developing very rapidly and is contributing greatly to the economic development in some countries. However, one cannot deny the fact that that gap in agricultural technology between most developing countries and the developed ones is expanding, which is intolerable in the process of realizing food security. The Chinese delegation is of the view that, to bridge the gap between the developed and developing countries, and increasing the level of agro-technological capacity of developing countries, it is necessary to enhance international technical cooperation and assistance. FAO should intensify its efforts in this field and play an even more important role. At the same time, South-South cooperation in this area should also be strengthened. China has taken an active part in South-South cooperation and is ready to strengthen further its cooperation with FAO, the great number of developing countries and the international community, and make a joint effort to contribute to world agricultural development and food security in the spirit of firm commitment and sincere cooperation.

Faridullah KHAN (Pakistan)

Allow me to welcome you back to chair this Hundred and Nineteenth Session of FAO Council. Allow me also to congratulate the Vice Chairs and the members of the Drafting Committee on their election.

We express our appreciation to the Secretariat for the production and presentation of document CL119/2 on the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000*. We note that overall growth in crop and livestock production of 2 percent in 1999 will remain close to the historic average of the first half of the decade. In the case of Pakistan, there has been a significant revival of the agriculture sector, obtaining a growth rate of 5.5 percent in 1999-2000, with an 18.13 percent increase in wheat production and 10.3 percent increase in rice production. This has been possible mainly due

to favourable weather conditions and timely supply of inputs and extension services to the farmers. Pakistan has been in a position to export some of its wheat surplus, mainly to Afghanistan, from its 1999-2000 crop. This year, the 30 percent water shortage, however, would help us achieve only the 19 million tonne national requirement of wheat. FAO may take note, considering the serious drought hitting the adjoining Afghanistan triggering further migrations into Pakistan.

We note that the document before us does not address food insecurity as such, presumably on account of it having been discussed in a separate report by the Committee on Food Security. It would have been desirable to have a summary discussion on food security aspects of the *State of Food and Agriculture* so as to keep the statistics in proper context, establishing linkages between the two and drawing conclusions for the future. Having said that, we appreciate that FAO's main report on the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000* attempts to provide a historical perspective of agriculture development and highlights challenges for the new millenium. The document before us contains several areas which are a cause for concern. These include the likely decrease in world cereal stocks below the range considered the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security. The increase from 32 to 36 in the number of developing countries facing serious food difficulties on account of natural disasters and man-made emergencies, the continued increase in the cereal import bill of developing countries in spite of weak international cereal prices, and the low share of agriculture in overall Official Development Assistance (ODA).

In the context of ODA, though it is heartening to note that there is an indication of an upward trend in the share of agriculture, a substantial portion of it is actually going for agriculture defined in broader terms, to include environment protection and rural development. We need not emphasize continued support for hard-core agricultural activities, including research training and technology transfers. In this regard, we particularly emphasize technical assistance and technology transfer in efficient use of water resources. We take this opportunity to emphasize the central role of FAO in providing technical assistance to developing countries and support increased outlays by FAO in this regard.

Finally, the importance of agricultural trade in globalization cannot be over-emphasised. In this context, the World Trade Organization negotiations on agriculture are fundamental. From the case studies done by FAO, we know that developing countries on the whole are not benefitting from agricultural trade liberalization. Rather, not only that, the balance of payments situation for these countries has worsened and also their food insecurity, unemployment and poverty has increased. We, therefore, continue to emphasise the special and differential treatment for developing countries in these negotiations, and FAO's continued role in providing training and support to the developing countries in this context.

Leo MAIER (European Community)

On behalf of the European Community and its Member States, I would like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat on the paper CL 119/2, which provides a good overview on the state of food and agriculture on a global level.

As far as the European Community is concerned, while 1998 was marked by a sharp deterioration in the markets for certain key products, 1999 saw a better balance between the different production sectors. However, compared to the situation in the early 1990s, most sectors were better able to face tough trading conditions, and agricultural incomes in real terms remained above the levels seen prior to the 1992 reforms of the common agricultural policy. Difficulties in 1998-99 resulted partly from over production and partly from the loss of some export markets in the wake of the economic and financial crises in certain non-member countries. The clearest case in this respect were the problems which affected the market in pig meat but the markets for beef and cereals were also seriously affected. In 1999, a slight revival of internal consumption of beef was apparent. Prices for most commodities came under strong downward pressure during 1998 and 1999, as the combination of higher production, lost export markets and rising stocks took their toll. In 1998, there were, however, exceptions to this for fruit, wine, potatoes and cattle. These market difficulties inevitably affected agricultural incomes, which declined in 1998-99 by

4 percent in real terms. This decline nevertheless comes after a remarkable four-year period of income growth between 1993 and 1996, marked by the implementation of the CAP reform and the general improvement in the situation of agricultural markets.

With regard to food security, the analysis of the annual variation of agricultural production as described in the document is insufficient. It would be clearer to show parent production in relation to a five- or ten-year average and to place the production level in relation to a trend. That would give a better idea of the supply situation and would make it possible to level out the inter-annual variations. For example, the decrease in cereal production observed in the developed countries will not have an impact on availability as stocks are quite high following record production years. This is confirmed by the current prospects of low prices on the international markets. Similarly, it is difficult to analyse the food security situation in regions like the Middle East, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, where there are important variations in cereal production. In order to measure forecasts of cereal production, many tools could be used to this purpose.

As to food shortages and crises, the situations of shortage and food highlighted in the document primarily concern the emergencies connected with climatic accidents or conflicts or post-crisis rehabilitation. These situations represent the main criteria used to identify the needs of food aid. In view of the strong increase in recent years of food aid in the form of cereals, it is important to stress that this type of aid should always be planned and executed in a way which ensures that it will not have a harmful impact on local production or market structures. The European Community and its Member States have, since 1996, adopted a policy aiming at better integration of food aid into food security policies. As much food aid as possible should be provided from triangular transactions or local purchases, so as to support the emerging markets in developing countries and their integration in international trade. The adoption of the Food Aid Convention, signed in July 1999, points to the same direction. The new commitments taken by the donors within this Convention should make for the improvement of the management and of the impact of food aid based on a better targeting of the most vulnerable populations, an increased efficiency and greater harmony between the donors.

The European Community and its Member States are among the major actors in international cooperation and development assistance. In total, the European Community and its Member States provide some 55 percent of total international official development assistance and more than two thirds of grant aid. The European Community has the political and financial responsibility for more than 10 percent of total ODA worldwide. This amounts, in 2000, to 9.6 billion Euro. As regards food aid, in 1999, the European Community has provided 205 million Euro from the Food Aid Food Security Budget line.

The European Community, together with its Member States, is also the largest donor of humanitarian aid in the world. In 1999, the European Community, through its humanitarian aid office, has granted 812.9 million Euro in humanitarian aid, of which 117.9 million Euro related to the food aid component. While aid for agriculture has decreased significantly in Africa, it is worthwhile mentioning that aid for better government, conflict prevention and peace building measures has increased. These measures are pre-conditions for agriculture to develop and have thus provided an offsetting positive impact on African agriculture. According to FAO's food insecurity report SOFI 2000, sub-Saharan Africa faces the highest rates of undernourishment, which in 1996 to 1998 affected 34 percent of its population. Likewise, the extent of food deprivation is the greatest among all regions. There, in 46 percent of the countries, the undernourished had an average deficit of more than 300 kilo calories per person per day.

A final point with regard to food aid: cooperation would be useful between FAO and WTO in order to make the statistics on food aid comparable. The possibility of comparisons would further enhance the important work done in this area. FAO, WTO and ITC should also take advantage of the statistics provided under the London Convention.

With regard to a PAN European Conference on Food Safety and Quality, while aware of the importance of not increasing the number of discussion fora on food safety, the European Union and its Member States think this opportunity should be taken to consider more deeply the issues

relating to consumer information and scientific and institutional cooperation. Moreover, it might prove interesting, on the same occasion, to organize a presentation of existing food health monitoring and early warning systems, and the state of play in this field.

Zacharie PEREVET (Cameroun)

La délégation de la République du Cameroun s'associe aux autres délégations pour vous remercier pour vos souhaits de bienvenue. Elle présente également ses félicitations aux Vice-Présidents et Membres du bureau qui ont mérité la confiance de toutes les délégations ici présentes pour vous aider à mener à bien votre lourde tâche. Permettez-moi aussi de féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'excellente qualité des documents.

Concernant la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, il y a lieu de relever que dans beaucoup de pays en développement elle ne suscite pas encore beaucoup d'espoir. Les travaux de cette 119e session du Conseil de la FAO se tiennent donc dans un climat d'incertitude surtout pour les pays d'Afrique sub-saharienne. En effet, si globalement on note une légère baisse du nombre de personnes sous-alimentées dans le monde, il n'en demeure pas moins que cette réduction paraît insuffisante pour atteindre le but fixé par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, à savoir, réduire au moins de moitié le nombre des personnes souffrant de la faim d'ici 2015. Des efforts supplémentaires doivent donc être consentis par les Pays Membres et la communauté internationale pour atteindre cet objectif. C'est pourquoi le Cameroun soutient la proposition du Directeur général de la FAO d'évaluer en 2001 au niveau le plus élevé les progrès accomplis dans l'application du plan dudit Sommet cinq ans après.

Lors de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique tenue en février 2000 à Yaoundé, l'analyse de la situation alimentaire a donné lieu à l'adoption d'une déclaration intitulée "Déclaration de Yaoundé sur la sécurité alimentaire et le développement agricole en Afrique". Dans cette déclaration, les ministres Chefs de délégations des États Membres ont déploré le fait que le secteur agricole ne connaisse pas une croissance rapide et continue pour contribuer à réduire la pauvreté et assurer la sécurité alimentaire. A ce sujet, des recommandations pertinentes ont été adressées à la FAO et aux États Membres eux-mêmes. Le Cameroun a fait siennes toutes ces recommandations et plus particulièrement celles relatives à la levée des obstacles politiques, matériels et socio-économiques au commerce intérieur et entre les états, dans l'intérêt de la sécurité alimentaire et de la lutte contre la pauvreté au renforcement des programmes en faveur des femmes, au renforcement du rôle de la FAO dans la sensibilisation et la mobilisation des fonds pour une exploitation durable de nos ressources forestières.

Le Gouvernement camerounais pense que l'implication de toutes les forces nationales à l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre des stratégies et programmes visant à assurer la sécurité alimentaire et à réduire la pauvreté est un souci constant. Pour y parvenir il a posé des actes significatifs, notamment l'adoption et la promulgation d'une loi spécifique qui renforce le rôle des organisations non-gouvernementales et les organisations de la société civile dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre des politiques sociales et des stratégies de lutte contre la pauvreté en tant que partenaire à part entière. Il pense aussi que l'on ne peut parler de la sécurité alimentaire et réduction de la pauvreté sans insister sur la sécurité et la paix à l'intérieur des états et entre les états. C'est pour cela que le Cameroun, pays reconnu pour sa grande stabilité, joue depuis plusieurs années un rôle très actif dans l'instauration de la paix, de l'entente et de la cohésion dans la sous-région d'Afrique centrale.

Notre pays a ainsi contribué activement à la création et à l'adoption du Pacte de non-agression entre les états d'Afrique centrale en 1996, du Conseil de la paix et de la sécurité en Afrique centrale et du Pacte d'assistance mutuelle entre les états de la sous-région.

De l'avis de notre gouvernement, les rapports entre le Cameroun et la FAO sont excellents. Il apprécie tous les efforts que déploie la FAO pour consolider la sécurité alimentaire au Cameroun et contribuer à la réduction de la pauvreté. Le Gouvernement exprime tout spécialement sa gratitude au Directeur général de la FAO pour la tenue en février 2000 à Yaoundé de la 21e Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique dont le succès retentissant reste encore gravé dans

la mémoire du peuple camerounais, l'organisation en octobre 2000 à Yaoundé d'un séminaire régional sur le développement de la culture du manioc et la tenue en décembre prochain de l'Atelier régional pour préparer les pays africains aux futures négociations avec l'Organisation mondiale du commerce.

L'intensification des activités du Programme alimentaire mondial au Cameroun retient toute l'attention des autorités camerounaises. Elles apprécient toutes les formes d'aide accordées par le PAM au Cameroun: aide d'urgence, aide au développement. Elles lui sont très reconnaissantes pour l'élection du bureau de Yaoundé en Bureau régional pour l'Afrique centrale surtout pour l'approbation, lors de la session du Conseil d'administration de mai 2000, du schéma stratégique des pays pour le Cameroun. Le Gouvernement du Cameroun encourage les efforts inlassables que déploie le Directeur général de la FAO pour supprimer l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde et, de manière précise, réduire au moins de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim d'ici 2015. Il approuve par conséquent, le Plan à moyen terme 2002 – 2007 et s'engage fermement à s'acquitter à temps de ses contributions afin que les différents programmes prévus soient exécutés.

J'aimerais pour conclure, émettre un vœu à l'endroit du Directeur général de la FAO, celui de voir l'organisation qu'il dirige se mobiliser davantage pour sensibiliser la communauté internationale sur le rôle moteur que peut jouer l'agriculture dans les stratégies de réduction de la pauvreté. Il n'est pas superflu de rappeler qu'en Afrique l'agriculture reste encore le secteur dominant dans la plupart des économies et la principale activité des pauvres, dont 60 – 70 pour cent se trouvent en milieu rural. Pour permettre à ces pauvres de contribuer eux-mêmes à la lutte contre la pauvreté il est impératif de mettre en exergue le développement de l'agriculture dans les programmes de réduction de la pauvreté en cours d'élaboration dans les pays bénéficiant ou devant bénéficier des initiatives en faveur des pays pauvres très endettés. Elu tout récemment à l'initiative des pays pauvres très endettés, le Cameroun reconnaît que l'agriculture est l'un des principaux moteurs de croissance. Les autorités camerounaises fondent de grands espoirs sur le secteur agricole pour permettre au pays d'atteindre le taux de croissance minimale du 7 pour cent à partir duquel les initiatives de réduction de la pauvreté sont soutenables. Le secteur agricole est aussi un véritable vivier d'emploi, le maillon principal de la sécurité alimentaire. Il est par conséquent l'un des piliers de la lutte contre la pauvreté.

Au moment où des efforts louables sont consentis par les gouvernements et les bailleurs de fonds pour réhabiliter les secteurs de l'éducation, de la santé et des infrastructures, une égale attention devra aussi être portée aux secteurs productifs et notamment l'agriculture, qui peuvent permettre aux pauvres de s'alimenter, d'accroître leurs revenus et d'améliorer leur accès aux soins de santé et à l'éducation. C'est certainement de cette complémentarité et de cet équilibre dans les appuis aux secteurs sociaux et productifs et de la participation active des populations concernées que l'on observera dans les échéances souhaitées un net recul de la pauvreté.

Bill DOERING (Canada)

Welcome back to the chair. Canada commends the Secretariat for an excellent document. We welcome its orientation and in particular its focus on food security. Serial and oilseed prices have remained at cyclical lows. This has meant low returns to crop producers, but also low food import bills for importing countries. Commodity production has only marginally increased but has remained at relatively high levels. Hence, *per capita* food supply has been relatively high at relatively low prices, at least for primary staples.

The situation currently points to an improved food security in terms of production and stock levels but it is important to recognize this as not a longer term but a cyclical development. We expect that modest production increases and stronger demand will result in an upturn in the commodity price cycle within the next two years.

We have a concern regarding overall production performance in Africa, South of the Sahara, as it relates to insufficient production growth, indicating serious concerns for food security in the absence of increased trade prospects. Appropriate targeted food aid could contribute to food

security in sub-Saharan Africa. However, the fundamental solution is to provide other assistance to the poorest farmers.

We note the continued focus on food production and dietary energy availability in estimating the number of hungry people in the world. We hope the FIVIMS work on indicators will broaden this focus in order to better assess food insecurity and malnutrition.

Canada voices its concern over the ongoing and very high support levels to crop production in certain countries. Support to agriculture has reached levels not seen since the mid-1980s. The resultant higher production is contributing to the worldwide supply and demand imbalance that keeps prices down. Reducing or eliminating such support that distorts trade would encourage production in food insecure countries.

As you are aware, WTO members began a new set of agricultural trade negotiations. Multilateral trade liberalization in our view is an essential element in addressing food security. It paves the way to real market access opportunities and reduces distortions caused by export subsidies and trade distorting domestic support that limit the ability of commodity producers in developing countries to compete in the international market place. Well-functioning markets are critical to the well being of farmers, food producers and consumers worldwide.

Canada welcomes FAO's continued contributions to the understanding of the State of Food and Agriculture and particularly as it relates to food security. We recognize the FAO's important role in collaboration with the WTO in assisting developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries, to take advantage of the benefits from improved multilateral trade roles and access to markets, and in building their capacity to effectively participate in the current WTO agricultural trade negotiations.

Soendaore RACHMAD (Indonesia)

On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, I convey my deep respect to the Chair and congratulate all members of the Bureau who have just been elected. With the present composition, I trust with confidence that you would lead our deliberation to a distinct result of progress and fruitful conclusion. Allow me also to thank the FAO Secretariat for presenting such a comprehensive document on *State of Food and Agriculture 2000*.

My delegation noted with special attention the grim situation of the agriculture output in some parts of the world which are still continued in 1999, even though the provisional estimates showed that the world crops and livestock production expanded by 1.6 percent – a slight improvement compared to 1998 figures. However, several regions experiencing a drop in agricultural output in 1999 due to unfavourable weather conditions as draught occurred in Asia, Near East and North Africa, as it is stated in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the document under discussion.

May I touch upon the food and agriculture situation in Indonesia. The main food crops planted in Indonesia are paddy, maize, sweet potato, peanut, cassava and soybean. Recent data indicated that the Indonesian total production of paddy in 1999 is 50 million tonnes. The production of other crops such as sweet potato, peanut, cassava and soybean also showed a similar decrease tendency as compared to the figures in 1997 with their current total production are respectively 1.9 million tonnes, 14 million tons and 1.3 million tonnes. Maize has increased by 14 percent from 1997 to 1998 with its current total production of 10 million tonnes.

The natural phenomenon of *El Nino* has been blamed as the major factor responsible for the decrease of the Indonesian major crops. This natural phenomenon has brought about a wide range of disasters such as a long draught, irregularity in planting session and forest fires, resulting in serious damage to the Indonesian Government's long lasting-efforts to increase food production and strengthen its food security.

Since rice is still the very high share in the daily diet of Indonesians, rice production sufficiency is therefore the top priority in the development of agricultural sector. The Indonesian rice production should continuously improve to meet the increasing demand. Indeed, the Indonesian Government always takes into consideration to strengthen its national food security and by that

notion, Indonesia cannot fully depend on food supply from the world market. Due to this particular condition, the Indonesian Government has continuously undertaken a policy to raise rice production through various programmes such as introducing high-yield rice varieties, intensifying agriculture in irrigated areas, strengthening the application of integrated pest control programme and improving the development of the upland agriculture. It is also highly compulsory since rice remains an economically and psycho-politico strategic commodity that the Government intervention is still required in market mechanism of supply and distribution of rice. The Government intervenes in the market for rice through the implementation of floor and ceiling prices, considering the condition of domestic agriculture production and technological inputs.

Within this policy framework of my Government, we do hope that in the near future Indonesia could avoid the present condition as the largest rice importer as stipulated in paragraph 17 of the Secretariat Report.

Issa KARGOUGOU (Burkina Faso)

Au nom de la délégation du Burkina Faso, je voudrais remercier le Président ainsi que Madame et Messieurs les autres membres du Présidium pour leur élection et traduire en même temps tous nos sentiments de joie d'être ici et de pouvoir partager avec vous et avec tous les autres Pays membres de ce Conseil de la FAO les expériences que nos différents pays ont vécues depuis le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996. Je voudrais profiter de cette tribune pour féliciter particulièrement la FAO pour ses efforts incommensurables et soutenus, développés dans tous les domaines en faveur du développement de l'agriculture dans nos pays respectifs.

A l'instar d'un bon nombre de pays, le Burkina Faso est un pays essentiellement agricole qui ne peut connaître de développement socio-économique si son agriculture n'est pas développée. Je voudrais également remercier la FAO et surtout son Directeur général pour les efforts inlassables déployés dans le sens du développement de la coopération Sud-sud à travers le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, programme dont a bénéficié à un très haut niveau le Burkina Faso, et qui a permis d'établir d'excellents rapports de coopération entre mon pays et notamment le Maroc. C'est pour ces raisons que je voudrais féliciter le Gouvernement marocain et demander aux représentants de ce pays de traduire toute la reconnaissance de mon pays pour l'excellence des rapports qui existent entre nos deux pays.

Avec de nombreux pays, le Burkina Faso a participé ici en 1996 au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et c'est avec ces pays qu'il avait aussi pris l'engagement de réduire de moitié le chiffre de la population souffrant de sous-alimentation d'ici l'an 2015.

Entre 1996 et l'an 2000, beaucoup de choses se sont passées et c'est pour cette raison que je suis ici pour représenter le Burkina Faso et rendre compte de ce qui s'est passé dans ce pays entre 1996 et l'an 2000. C'est aussi la raison pour laquelle je voudrais terminer après l'exposé du succès passé entre 1996 et l'an 2000 dans mon pays, en vous présentant ce que la délégation du Burkina Faso pense être les points les plus importants: les actes sur lesquels nous aurons encore à solliciter cette Organisation si importante qu'est la FAO.

Un rappel sur ce petit pays qu'est le Burkina Faso, enclavé dans l'Afrique de l'Ouest, d'une superficie de 274 000 km² qui ne jouit que d'un potentiel de terres agricoles de 88 000 km² dont malheureusement 32 pour cent seulement sont exploitées. Le Burkina Faso est également ce pays essentiellement constitué de plaines qui sur le plan pluviométrique est subdivisé en trois zones distinctes: une zone sahéenne au Nord, une zone nord-soudanienne en son milieu et une zone sud-soudanienne à la fin, dans la partie Sud. Mais le Burkina Faso est aussi ce pays qui sur le plan pluviométrique et à travers ces trois zones décrites ne reçoit respectivement qu'environ 600 mm, 750 mm et 900 mm d'eau. C'est vrai qu'entre ces chiffres il y a de grands écarts. On pourrait être tenté de penser qu'il y a suffisamment de pluies dans ce pays, mais ce n'est pas tant la hauteur d'eau qui compte. Dans mon pays cette quantité d'eau est si variable d'un espace géographique à un autre et connaît également des écarts tant dans la répartition dans le temps que dans l'espace et aussi au cours des années.

C'est pourquoi le Burkina Faso, entre 1996 et 2000, n'a connu réellement qu'une seule bonne campagne agricole et une autre au cours de laquelle on pourrait dire que c'était moyen autrement dit acceptable. En dehors de ces deux années, je peux dire qu'au cours des dix dernières années, le Burkina Faso a connu des années de grande sécheresse qui bien sûr ont eu des impacts terribles sur la production nationale. Les effets de la sécheresse sur la production nationale se ressentent surtout dans les céréales principales qui constituent la base de l'alimentation. Il s'agit essentiellement du sorgho, du mil, du maïs et éventuellement du riz, si bien que sur le plan national la production totale au niveau des céréales principales en bonne année est très bonne, tandis que dans les années de sécheresse elle baisse. Après avoir expérimenté de graves difficultés au cours des campagnes agricoles 1996-1997, 1997-1998, le Burkina Faso cette année encore est en passe d'expérimenter une autre campagne agricole difficile car la saison agricole 2000-2001 sera montrée comme une saison agricole avec une pluviométrie très mal répartie. Dans la partie sahélienne de mon pays aujourd'hui, non seulement la végétation n'a pas poussé, ce qui constitue un handicap pour le bétail, mais il y a également les marécages et les points d'eau qui ont vu les nappes phréatiques s'approfondir; il y aura donc des difficultés pour l'approvisionnement en eau des populations et du bétail également. Il y aura des difficultés pour l'alimentation du bétail, or mon pays ne repose sur le plan économique que sur l'agriculture et l'élevage. Ce sont ces deux sous-secteurs fournissant 32 pour cent du PIB qui occupent plus de 86 pour cent de la population dans ce pays.

Il est vrai qu'entre 1996 et 2000 le Burkina Faso a enregistré de bonnes périodes de production céréalières qui ont totalisé 1 million/1,5 millions de tonnes. Il est également vrai que dans les années où le Burkina Faso n'a pas enregistré de bonnes campagnes, la production céréalière était tombée en dessous de 800 000 tonnes. Nous sommes heureux de pouvoir vous dire que, grâce à la FAO et aux autres pays qui ont appuyé le développement de mon pays, le Burkina Faso a continué de bénéficier depuis 1996 à ce jour, de l'aide alimentaire sous les trois formes suivantes: programmes, projets, aide pour des situations difficiles.

Pour rendre compte de la situation agricole dans mon pays, je dois également ajouter que l'on constate une certaine diminution progressive de l'aide alimentaire due au fait que la situation s'améliore. Elle s'améliore parce que d'importants efforts sont faits tant dans le sens de la prévention que de celui de juguler les crises. Dans ces domaines précis, le Gouvernement a mis en œuvre un certain nombre de structures appuyées par les partenaires au développement. Ce pays a mis également en place des organes capables de se mettre en œuvre pour apporter les solutions nécessaires. Cependant, le temps n'est pas suffisant pour que l'on puisse dire que les efforts entrepris aujourd'hui attestent que le Burkina Faso peut continuellement et à chaque fois venir à bout de difficultés qui peuvent se poser quand les campagnes agricoles sont mauvaises.

C'est donc pour ces raisons qu'en dépit des efforts déployés je pense qu'il convient aujourd'hui de demander à la FAO d'intercéder auprès du Burkina Faso et de l'ensemble de tous les pays sahéliens, surtout pour intervenir auprès des pays qui peuvent les aider pour que les stratégies, les projets et programmes qui sont mis en œuvre puissent connaître des appuis conséquents.

Je voudrais également solliciter que le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire que j'ai évoqué tout à l'heure puisse connaître en tous cas un développement particulier aussi bien au Burkina Faso que dans les autres pays. Compte tenu du temps imparti pour les interventions, je voudrais m'arrêter là et vous remercier encore une fois pour avoir invité mon pays, le Burkina Faso, et nous avoir donné la possibilité de partager avec tous les pays ici présents.

Suthiporn CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks for having the floor this morning. I am sure that under your able Chairmanship the meeting of this Council will be successful.

I fully agree with the findings under the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000*. In particular, the report indicates that world cereal stocks are declining but inventories in the major exporting countries are likely to rise. Cereal prices will remain weak.

However, I would like to point out the paradox we are facing at the moment. The Director-General has said this morning that we have not done enough to reduce the number of the hungry, as earlier planned. I believe that much will be achieved if both exporting and importing countries are fully committed to greater liberalization of international trade and finance in cereal crops. Government intervention in pricing should be kept at minimum and Government policy should be substantially focussed and directed toward reduction of the hungry and undernourished.

I would like to inform the Council that, if rice prices are sustained at a higher level, the Thai rice farmers can produce much more than at the current production of 23 million tonnes a year. Under these circumstances we, as a major food exporting country, can better feed the world.

I would recommend FAO to pay more attention to the distribution, that is, the distribution of world cereal supplies among those exporting and importing Member Nations, especially those Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries in future reports on the *State of Food and Agriculture*. In so doing, we should be able to identify problem areas and design strategic approaches to combat world poverty and malnutrition.

Ms Fatimah HASAN J. HAYAT (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group and North Africa, delegated to do so by the Chairman of the Near East Group, Dr Nouri, His Excellency the Ambassador from Libya.

We thank the Director-General for his clear statement, in which he highlighted the setback in meeting the targets set by the World Food Summit. We fully share his concern for a greater effort by all Member Governments and financing institutions in accelerating the process that would ultimately lead to the elimination of hunger in every part of the world. In particular, we fully subscribe to his wish for increased ODA to agriculture, particularly for the promotion of food production, processing and distribution.

We also thank Mr de Haen, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Department, for his introduction of the *State of Food and Agriculture* report. In his statement, Mr de Haen underlined the critical situation in the world's food production, particularly in the developing regions. As he mentioned, the drop in cereal production is grave and there are signs of rising import prices for all cereals as well as feed grains. The Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries are most severely affected and do not possess the resources to make up for the shortfall without urgent external aid.

The countries of the Near East and North Africa have witnessed severe droughts in 1999 and 2000. Cereal production dropped by 14 percent in 1999 and will probably drop by another 20 percent in the year 2000. As pointed out in CL 119/2, many countries of the Near East and North Africa are adversely affected by this persistent drought and need to import a large quantity of cereals from outside the region. Considering the tight market for cereals, the import bill is bound to be very high. Populations in some of the countries of the Near East and North Africa are already at risk and, without outside assistance, there is the grave danger of starvation for some of the rural poor.

The reasons for the lack of assistance are manifold and we all know them. We already see signs of this in war-stricken Afghanistan, on which the WFP and FAO produced reports that should draw our attention to the dismal situation. It is a war-stricken country, where two to three million people could face starvation if no urgent food assistance reaches it.

David BLANCO ZABALA (Observador de Bolivia)

Quiero iniciar mi participación haciéndole llegar nuestras felicitaciones, extensivas a los demás miembros de la mesa Directiva. Asimismo, endosamos la presentación realizada por la Representante de la República Argentina en nombre de los países de América Latina y el Caribe.

En esta ocasión solamente quiero referirme a los siguientes temas:

Primero. En 1996, después de 50 años, se produce por primera vez una reunión a nivel mundial expresada en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación en la que se reconoce el hambre como el problema prioritario de la humanidad.

Este nuevo siglo que iniciamos se caracteriza por el tema de la globalización en la que estamos inmersos países desarrollados y países en desarrollo. En este contexto la agenda de la política económica y social a nivel de los gobiernos, las organizaciones bilaterales y multilaterales, incorpora además del tema del ajuste estructural que incide en la política fiscal y monetaria, ha incluido principalmente el tema de la reducción de la pobreza, expresada esencialmente en reformas y recursos en los sectores de la educación y la salud. Mi país, Bolivia, es pionero en la implementación de estas políticas llevadas a cabo en el marco del respeto a los derechos humanos y al fortalecimiento de la democracia.

Sin embargo, es necesario mencionar un hecho acontecido en los últimos 3 años. Bolivia ha eliminado voluntariamente y por decisión soberana la producción excedentaria del 90 por ciento de coca destinada a la producción de droga. Como consecuencia de ello, 250 toneladas de droga por año anteriormente producidas en mi país, no ingresarán al circuito mundial del consumo. Con este esfuerzo gigantesco estamos seguros que estamos realizando una contribución efectiva a la humanidad. Es por ello, que ahora más que nunca requerimos del apoyo internacional para el desarrollo alternativo, la apertura de los mercados internacionales a nuestros productos y sobre todo recursos para llegar a los más pobres que están localizados particularmente en las áreas rurales.

La FAO y sus organismos, el PMA y el FIDA han contribuido en el pasado a ello y creemos que deben continuar su rol acrecentado en el horizonte inmediato. Como consecuencia de ello, criterios de graduación parciales posibles excluyentes de países receptores de recursos que se establezcan en el futuro, no son razonables, ni responden a la realidad actual de países como Bolivia.

Segundo. Señor Presidente: Nos preocupa el no poder cumplir con las metas establecidas por los Países Miembros para reducir el hambre en el mundo. Otros delegados, ya se han referido a este tema. Solamente en esta ocasión quisiéramos realizar una propuesta a este distinguido grupo de participantes - apoyar íntegra y decididamente los esfuerzos del Director General en la generación de un cambio en la voluntad política mundial para considerar y definir como el Tema N°1 y el desafío del nuevo milenio – la eliminación del hambre. Este esfuerzo involucra movilizar la opinión pública nacional e internacional, la opinión y apoyo de los Gobiernos, las organizaciones bilaterales y multilaterales de financiamiento, los parlamentos, los intelectuales y los expertos en el tema. ¿Cómo puede un niño con hambre estudiar al día siguiente?

Hoy, que el tema de la deuda externa y la pobreza dominan las agendas mundiales, el interés está en los sectores de la educación y la salud, como problemas estructurales básicos, olvidando el tema del hambre. Si esta conciencia y esta voluntad política se materializa dándole esta prioridad, no solo aumentará la importancia de la asignación de recursos en los presupuestos nacionales o los programas de financiamiento para la agricultura en instituciones tales como los bancos regionales: Asiático, Africano o Interamericano de Desarrollo y los respectivos entes regionales, entre otros.

The meeting rose at 12.55 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.55 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Nineteenth Session Cent dix-neuvième session 119º período de sesiones
Rome, 20-25 November 2000 Rome, 20-25 novembre 2000 Roma, 20-25 de noviembre de 2000
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
20 November 2000

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours
Mr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (CONT'D)
II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE
L'AGRICULTURE (SUITE)
II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACIÓN (CONTINUACIÓN)

3. STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2000 (CL 119/2) (CONT'D)
3. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE
2000 (CL 119/2) (SUITE)
3. EL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN
2000 (CL 119/2) (CONTINUACIÓN)

Georges RUPHIN (Madagascar)

La délégation de Madagascar voudrait joindre sa voix à celle des délégations qui ont manifesté leur plaisir de vous voir présider à nouveau les travaux du Conseil. Nos félicitations s'adressent aux trois Vice-Présidents ainsi qu'aux autres Membres du Bureau pour leur brillante élection. Nous sommes convaincus, que sous votre haute présidence éclairée et grâce à votre compétence et vos qualités personnelles, nos travaux seront couronnés de succès. Qu'il me soit permis ici également de rendre hommage au Secrétariat de la FAO pour la qualité des documents soumis à l'examen du Conseil.

La délégation de Madagascar a examiné avec attention le document CL 119/2 qui nous est présenté, notamment les trois points ci-après: pénurie alimentaire et situation d'urgence, assistance extérieure à l'agriculture, flux d'aide alimentaire et coût global des importations céréalières des pays en développement. En effet, aux paragraphes 26 et 27, la situation alimentaire en Afrique est évoquée de manière particulièrement inquiétante. Selon les estimations, en Afrique australe et en Afrique orientale, 20 millions de personnes sont actuellement en situation d'urgence alimentaire due à la sécheresse. En Afrique de l'ouest, centrale et australe, la déstabilisation meurtrière politique et les conflits armés sont venus s'ajouter aux aléas climatiques: inondations, cyclones, etc. Les pays comme le Mozambique et Madagascar ont été respectivement victimes des inondations et de passages successifs de trois cyclones au début de l'année.

Devant une telle situation, une aide de secours et de remise en état de leurs infrastructures s'impose. A cet effet, je lance un appel à tous les pays donateurs ici présents d'accorder leur aide à ces pays et en particulier à mon pays, le Madagascar.

Au paragraphe 38, le document prévoit pour les pays à faibles revenus et déficit vivrier une augmentation de leurs importations céréalières de 74 millions de tonnes en 2000-2001 soit un million de plus par rapport à l'année dernière.

Il apparaît évident que ces pays qui affrontent une érosion constante de leurs revenus ne pourront pas faire face à ces importations et devront encore compter sur des aides alimentaires, en espérant que ces dernières puissent respecter leurs habitudes alimentaires et les agricultures locales et qu'une partie de cette aide assure la promotion des projets profitables à leur production alimentaire nationale.

Au paragraphe 36, la délégation de Madagascar regrette le déclin de l'appui que la communauté internationale accorde à l'investissement rural en Afrique par rapport aux autres régions, de 4,513 milliards de dollars des Etats-Unis en 1990, cette aide publique à l'agriculture n'est plus que de 2,898 milliards en 1998, soit de 30 pour cent de l'APD à 21 pour cent des engagements totaux. Or, l'insuffisance d'investissements est connue comme la cause principale de la dégradation et du délabrement des infrastructures d'irrigation et de communication. Et c'est pour la même raison que le Service de soutien à l'agriculture et en particulier la recherche et la vulgarisation agricoles,

fournissent de très faibles performances. Nous soulignons donc la nécessité pour la FAO de se pencher beaucoup plus, à l'avenir, sur cette situation et de favoriser l'aide publique au développement de l'agriculture dans les pays en développement, notamment en faveur de l'Afrique.

Pour terminer, si la délégation de Madagascar se doit d'exprimer ses vifs remerciements pour l'aide d'urgence qui lui a été accordée à l'occasion du passage des cyclones que j'ai évoqué au début de mon intervention, elle en appelle à la compréhension de la communauté internationale pour soutenir le peuple malgache dans les efforts qu'il déploie pour la reconstruction et la réhabilitation des infrastructures qui ont subi des dégâts importants et ce, pour assurer sa sécurité alimentaire.

Bachar AKBIK (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank warmly the Secretariat, and I am very grateful to His Excellency, Dr Diouf, the Director-General of FAO and his staff for everything they have provided and continue to provide in order to assist poor developing countries overcome their agricultural and food crises, especially as regard the efforts they engage in in order to tackle the problem of hunger, which is suffered in so many areas of the world, year after year. We know perfectly well that there are tremendous challenges before us, and that the results are a long way yet from what we hope will be achieved. We trust that the Director-General and his staff will do everything in their power to improve the efficiency of the Organization, in raising the level of the Organization's activities so that they respond to the needs of the hungry people of the world and satisfy the hopes of the developing countries.

Having carefully read the document on the *State of Food and Agriculture 2001*, we note that the crises due to drought are the very focal point in this document because of the serious damage that has been wrought upon the economies of the countries suffering them, especially as regard repercussions on agricultural production and the combating of hunger and poverty.

The problem of droughts is increasing more and more every year in our countries, in Palestine, Lebanon, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Turkey. The Syrian Government has been working very hard over recent years through a series of measures and emergency provisions, in order to minimize the impact of this extended drought. Yet we have not yet been able to overcome the damage done to our cotton and cereal harvests.

The Middle East Region in recent days seems to be suffering from serious instability, and this seems to indicate there will be a breakdown. This is due to a problem of world injustice, where the aggressor always seems to appear to be the one suffering aggression, and no one supports those who are suffering from aggression. We must seriously tackle the problem of drought too, because this is something that will increase the possibilities of seeing instability in our countries, not only on an economic and social level, but also as regards the question of food security.

Finally, we believe that the time is now ripe for FAO to make another further, special effort to focus more and more on this area of ours in the world in order to tackle in the fullest possible manner all these problems of drought and the underlying reasons for this situation so that we will increase our capacity to combat these difficulties. We believe that the Organization is able to take up these challenges and face up to a situation which we trust will not be allowed to undermine stability, not only in our Region but throughout the world.

Pape DIOUF (Sénégal)

Je voudrais d'abord exprimer tout le plaisir que j'ai de m'adresser à votre Assemblée pour la première fois. Permettez-moi au nom de la délégation sénégalaise de vous féliciter vivement pour la manière dont vous conduisez depuis votre élection les travaux du Conseil. Je voudrais aussi remercier tous les Membres pour l'honneur fait à mon pays en m'élisant comme Vice-Président et féliciter tous mes collègues du Bureau.

Ma présence aujourd'hui témoigne du soutien du Sénégal aux activités de la FAO sous la direction efficace de Monsieur Jacques Diouf. Dans le rapport, par ailleurs bien présenté, soumis à notre

attention, il est noté qu'en 1999 la production végétale et animale a progressé de 1,6 pour cent soit un taux de croissance supérieur à celui de 1998. Par contre, il est regrettable que dans les pays en développement, la croissance de l'agriculture ait ralenti pour tomber à moins de 2 pour cent en 1999, tendance non vérifiée pour l'année 1999 en Afrique sub-saharienne et en particulier dans les pays du Sahel comme le Sénégal.

L'agriculture sénégalaise est essentiellement pluviale. Sur les potentialités de 3,8 millions d'hectares, seuls 2,5 millions d'hectares sont cultivés annuellement et moins de 50 000 hectares sont irrigués sur un potentiel irrigable dépassant 400 000 hectares. Les exploitations familiales constituent 95 pour cent des exploitations agricoles. L'agriculture n'occupe la grande moitié des exploitations que quatre à six mois de l'année. La crise agricole des deux dernières décennies: sécheresse cyclique, dégradation de l'environnement, baisse et instabilité de la production ont accentué la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaires en milieu rural. Ce qui a été à la base d'un exode rural massif, mais aussi une des tentatives de diversification d'activités telles que le transport, le commerce, le charbonnage, etc. Pour l'exploitation des ressources forestières, 22,3 pour cent des exploitations agricoles sont concernées. Pour ce qui est de la production animale, presque toutes les exploitations agricoles pratiquent l'élevage avec une proportion de 93,5 pour cent. Pour la pêche, seulement 4,6 pour cent des exploitations s'y adonnent.

Au Sénégal, le secteur primaire qui regroupe toutes les activités économiques associées à l'agriculture, à l'élevage, à la forêt et à la pêche, occupe une place prépondérante dans l'économie nationale. Ce secteur emploie plus de 60 pour cent de la population, contribue pour plus de 50 pour cent aux exploitations et participe jusqu'à hauteur de 20 pour cent du PIB. De même, les activités industrielles associées à la production alimentaire représentent 3 à 4 pour cent du PIB dans le secteur formel et 1 à 2 pour cent dans le secteur informel.

L'ensemble des activités de transformation du secteur primaire assure l'emploi à près de 70 000 personnes. Le Sénégal importe jusqu'à présent 45 pour cent du volume des céréales consommées, avec 34 pour cent pour le riz, 9 pour cent pour le blé et 2 pour cent pour le maïs et le sorgho.

Parmi les contraintes de notre agriculture, on peut citer l'accès difficile aux intrants et semences, des sécheresses cycliques, un environnement se dégradant avec les différentes attaques, érosions éoliennes et hydriques, sécheresse, actions de l'homme, feux de brousse, etc., l'accès difficile au crédit pour adapter le rythme très lent d'aménagement hydro-agricole et de lutte contre le sel pour la récupération des terres et des îles cultivables, le manque de promotion des cultures maraîchères et fruitières ainsi que le manque d'infrastructures adéquates, l'enclavement de certaines zones de production, la concurrence de produits importés, la faible utilisation de l'engrais et de semences de qualité, le sous-équipement en matériel agricole, les importantes pertes post-récoltes.

C'est face à ces difficultés que mon Gouvernement a abordé la campagne agricole 2000-2001. La campagne agricole 2000-2001 a coïncidé avec l'avènement de l'alternance politique au Sénégal et constitue un événement historique consacrant une rupture avec ce qui avait été fait jusqu'ici par l'ancien régime. Pour marquer cet événement, le Gouvernement de l'alternance a innové en matière de politiques agricoles en optant pour un accès facile des producteurs aux intrants agricoles, notamment les semences et les engrais. C'est ainsi que cette présente campagne est pleine de promesses, d'autant plus que la pluviométrie est au rendez-vous dans l'espace et dans le temps. Il faut cependant souligner que de novembre 1999 à septembre 2000, le marché céréalier national a été relativement stable et par rapport aux deux dernières années, la soudure juin-juillet-août de l'an 2000 a été moins éprouvante sur l'ensemble du territoire national. Déjà au mois de septembre 2000, des récoltes en vert étaient en cours pour certains produits comme le maïs. Les marchés sont bien approvisionnés et les prix sont relativement bas et plus accessibles dans la majeure partie du pays que ceux de l'année dernière à la même période.

Au nom du Sénégal, le Programme spécial du PAM, que nous remercions par ailleurs, a été bénéfique aux sinistrés des inondations de 1999. L'accès d'un plus grand nombre de parcs cultures aux semences d'arachide et à l'engrais moins cher a été à la base de productions record de céréales: 1 million à 1 300 000 tonnes contre une moyenne de 902 500 tonnes pour la période 1994-1999 et 730 000 tonnes pour la campagne 1998-1999. Les prévisions pour l'ensemble des

pays du CILSS sont de 9 500 000 tonnes pour la campagne 2000-2001. Pour l'arachide, la production est estimée à environ 1 million de tonnes en 2000-2001 contre une moyenne de 540 000 tonnes en 1998-1999 et une moyenne de 620 000 tonnes en 1994-1999. Des améliorations sont notées dans les parties quotidiennes de notre culture grâce à la coopération internationale avec nos différents partenaires.

Nous saisissons l'opportunité qui nous est offerte ici pour exprimer notre satisfaction pour le travail efficace effectué dans le cadre du Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire qui est un exemple de coopération sud-sud. Nous remercions vivement la FAO, certains pays amis dont, notamment l'Italie et la France et particulièrement le Viêtnam et ses experts travaillant au Sénégal. Nous sollicitons un appui de nos partenaires pour amplifier ce programme qui donne des résultats satisfaisants.

Avant de conclure, je souhaiterais au nom de ma délégation appuyer la proposition du Directeur général de la FAO de convoquer en 2001 une réunion au sommet afin de sensibiliser les plus hautes autorités de la planète sur la situation de l'alimentation et la sécurité alimentaires dans le monde, cinq ans après l'adoption du Plan d'action de Rome; situation qui est loin de répondre aux attentes du Sommet de 1996. Je voudrais donc dire avec un ton très solennel que 2001 est déjà loin puisque chaque minute qui passe, chaque heure qui passe voit des milliers de personnes mourir de faim alors qu'ils n'ont pas choisi là où ils sont nés face à une situation difficile.

Masato ITO (Japan)

First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend our congratulations to the three Vice-Chairpersons for their election.

It is one of the most important works of FAO to make regular reviews and provide information on the world food and agricultural situation. Therefore, my delegation would like to commend the Secretariat for its effort to prepare the excellent document CL 119/2, as well as its recently published more comprehensive document of SOFA 2000 and SOFI 2000, both containing useful information.

The world cereal supply/demand situation, which has been loosening up for the last several years, will turn into a little tightening situation, mainly due to natural disasters, including drought, in many countries.

My delegation notes with concern that global cereal stock level will decrease to slightly below the minimum necessary level, while the cereal stocks in major exporting countries will likely expand. The global cereal supply might become more dependent on the climate and other conditions of those countries. This trend reminds us of the importance of domestic agricultural production in a sustainable manner. In order to avoid such circumstances, where many developing countries face severe food crises, FAO and each Member Nation should work together to strengthen their efforts to achieve food security.

My delegation believes that, in order to achieve world food security, each country should pursue efforts to enhance sustainable agricultural production through full utilization of domestic resources as a basis for stable food supply. For net food-importing countries, it is essential to combine food imports with building stocks to maximize domestic production.

Based on these viewpoints, Japan pledges to continue its active support to developing countries' efforts to promote their food production. As one of such efforts, we are pleased to announce that Japan started to contribute to SPFS projects in several Asian countries.

In addition, Japan is also extending emergency food aid to developing countries which are facing severe food deficit. For example, Japan, in response to WFP's appeal, recently decided to grant 500 000 tonnes of rice to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in addition to 100 000 tonnes of rice already donated this year.

Finally, I would like to stress that it is necessary to strengthen the coordination and cooperation among international and bilateral corporations. FAO should further play an active and catalytic

role in such cooperative activities, making the utmost use of its worldwide network and accumulated knowledge and expertise.

Mengistu HULLUKA (Ethiopia)

First of all, let me join my colleagues in congratulating all those who assumed the Chairmanship, Vice-chairpersons, and Members of the Drafting Committee. The document on the *State of Food and Agriculture 2000* before the Council shows that, despite the global demand and supply balance, 36 countries in the world are facing serious food shortages because domestic production was severed by natural or man-made disasters, or a combination of the two. Among these food deficit countries, 16 are in Africa. In our continent, East Africa is the most food insecure region of the world.

The recent report by the Inter-agency Task Force on the United Nations Response to the Long-Term Food Security, Agriculture Development and related aspects initialled by the Secretary-General of the United Nations indicates that 45 percent of the people of the Sub-Region live under a state of chronic food insecurity, apart from the 20 million who are in need of emergency food aid.

In Ethiopia alone 10 million people are affected by three consecutive failures of both main and short rain crop seasons. With remarkable and timely life saving actions of the international community, the generous food aid from frontline donors and my Government, the famine was averted. The overall relief operation was challenging but successful, though there were disappointing experiences at times.

Having touched upon the emergency situation in the country in the past, let me resort to the current food and agricultural conditions in my country. We are in agreement with the recent global information and early warning system report on food and agriculture production of FAO that the production is slightly improved. In the year 2000 short rain seasons crop which accounts nearly 10 percent of cereal production has failed and exacerbated existing food shortages. It is also important to bear in mind that these crops provide the bulk of the annual food supply in some areas. Food shortages are particularly severe in the pastoral areas. Their livestock is perished because of the drought. Of course, the border conflict with Eritrea also contributed to the displacement of 400 000 people.

Ethiopia also hosts a large number of refugees from neighbouring countries. This critical food shortage exists in our sub-Region in the face of a declining official development assistance to agriculture. The decline in assistance to the continent is obvious both in absolute terms and in relation to the volume distributed elsewhere. The decline in the level of food aid worldwide also induced targeted distribution in areas where the problem is acute. In this respect, five countries including my country Ethiopia received more than half of the total shipments in 1999/2000 while 87 shared the balance. No matter how modest international prices remained, import bills of Low Income, Food Deficit Countries will increase since donor fatigue in food aid is gradually inevitable and bridging the gap through import is natural.

In view of the continuous food insecurity in the sub-Region mainly emanating out of natural and man-made disasters, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Ms Catherine Bertini as his Special Envoy on the drought in the Horn of Africa to assess the situation and make recommendations on how best the United Nations could support the affected countries in addressing the immediate life saving task, after paying visits to the sub-Region. The Executive Director paid two visits to the sub-Region in March and September 2000, respectively. We wish to put our highest appreciation for the dedication, cooperation and active role played by Ms Bertini and the entire World Food Programme staff to make the relief effort a success.

The immediate action of my government through local purchase and distribution of food to people who were in desperate need of food, helped the affected population to remain in their localities. This helped the hungry people to remain with their energy and not die on their way in search of food and bridged the time between pledge, confirmation and transporting of food aid. Then the food aid, especially from the front line donors, also reached the majority of the affected

population. In this connection, we sincerely thank all those who in one way or the other have contributed to the emergency relief effort.

In the same manner, the Secretary-General of the United Nations called upon the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, to establish an Inter-agency task force to be chaired by him, came up with recommendations to the long-term solution to the food security, development and related aspects in the Horn of Africa. The Director-General of FAO also paid two visits to the sub-Region and discussed the issue with Heads of States and governments. The Task Force headed by the Director-General produced a comprehensive document identifying the underlying causes of the persistent problem and suggested a number of recommendations, including measures to be taken by the countries in the sub-Region and the international community at large.

We are grateful to the Director-General of FAO and the Inter-agency Task Force on the United Nations Response to Long-Term Food Security, Agricultural Development and related aspects for this timely intervention.

In a briefing by the Director-General here in Rome on the occasion of the official submission of the document to the countries of the sub-Region and to the possible donors supporting the programme initiated by the Secretary-General, it is learned that the World Bank will be the lead agency, while FAO and other United Nations Agencies will be giving support where they have a comparative advantage.

We hope the resource mobilization and other activities will move simultaneously. Since the sub-Region has a lingering problem, it is appropriate and timely that the governments of the sub-Region in cooperation with the international community, support the initiative in terms of financial and technical assistance for a lasting solution. It is also interesting to note that the initiative will build on the existing programmes and projects, both at national and sub-Regional levels. Hence the experience gained in the Special Programme for Food Security and the ongoing south-south cooperation will be very instrumental.

On our side, we have recently embarked upon our second five-year perspective plan of agricultural development. As a long-term plan, Ethiopia's development policy focus mainly on agricultural-led industrialization. The policy aims at benefiting the large majority, 89 percent of the rural population. The focus is on the smallholder farmers, while the policy environment is also conducive to private commercial farming.

Finally, Ethiopia attaches special importance to food self-sufficiency and food security. In the current budget year my Government has allocated more than 70 percent of its budget to productive sectors like road construction, communication and agriculture. This is simple testimony of the commitment and dedication of the Government to set the economy of the country on a better footing and improve the life and livelihood of the majority of its population. We hope and we are confident that bilateral and multilateral assistance will also be forthcoming. We shall strive to ensure food security at the household level shortly.

Percy W. MISIKA (Namibia)

Welcome to the chair once again, we are happy to see you at the helm of this august house. We also take this opportunity to congratulate your three vice-chairpersons and the elected members of the drafting committee. Namibia would like to thank the Secretariat for compiling *the State of Food and Agriculture Report 2000*. We find this report to be useful as it gives information that is relevant for policy and planning purposes to all those who are concerned about food and agriculture.

Namibia wishes to start by making two general comments before coming to the specifics of the report. The first one, it would seem to that the report is very silent, if not inadequate with regard to the situation of livestock production. As our farming system is predominantly a livestock production system, we would have wished to see this sub-sector being accorded equal status to the one enjoyed by the crop sub-sector in this report. It is our belief that food is derived from both crops and livestock, and we therefore urge FAO to pay attention to this aspect in its future reports.

Second, we would also like to comment generally on the reported causes for food shortages. It is true that natural disasters, floods and droughts, and the conflicts are the main causes of food shortages, but in some cases it is also true that HIV-AIDS epidemic has contributed and is like to continue contributing more and more to this unfortunate situation. Therefore, although HIV-AIDS issues are dealt with by other United Nations Bodies, such as WHO, we suggest that FAO should start a process of assessing the impact of this scourge on world food supplies and inform Member Nations accordingly. This, we believe, would help ensure that the world community pays more attention to this disease.

Coming to specifics, it is disheartening to note that while overall food supplies tend to be on an acceptable level world over, the situation in Africa is disheartening. Out of the reported statistics countries that continue to face food insecurity, most of the countries are in Africa and mainly sub-Saharan Africa. These are the same countries which are facing the problems of high import bills and as if that was not enough the same countries continue to face the surging high value of the dollar. Therefore, you will find that their own currencies become less and less of value. These factors would combine to render the efforts of these countries worthless in the face of the current situation, where food is abound everywhere it would be a little bit impossible for these countries to import that food and have it accessed by their populations. If that situation is to continue then the majority of our poor people in sub-Saharan Africa are facing a situation of starvation.

We would then urge that deliberate actions should be taken to ensure that food production base and systems in these countries are improved and that the people are assisted through either bilateral or multilateral assistance and other investments, so that they can improve their food situations. If this is not done then most of our people and nations stand on the verge of starvation.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

On behalf of our delegation, I want to congratulate you and to say that I wish you well as you conduct the affairs of the Council for the next few days.

The comment from my delegation are very brief, two-pronged. One relates to the seeming dilemma that the sub-Saharan Africa is finding itself in the global geometry. Here we are outlining a situation that about 34 percent of the population of that region is undernourished, so I was told this morning. Here we are with a situation where the greatest natural disasters are most prevalent, particularly drought. I am particularly delighted to get the confirmation this morning about the progress so far made by the Inter-Agency Task Force headed by the Director-General for the Horn of Africa. The situation attaining in East Africa may be replicated, may well be assumed to be replicated in the north-western part of West Africa and, indeed, the north part of Africa generally.

In other words, one of the basic impediments to food security and increase in agricultural production appears to be related to water harvesting, water management and conservation. One would therefore hope that FAO will continue to take the lead in spearheading, drawing up programmes encouraging international donors and encouraging the home governments to actually concentrate on this area that will provide a long-term solution to the food security problem.

Last, I want to place on record the appreciation of the Nigerian delegation, and indeed the rest of my colleagues, I am sure, in the sub-Saharan Africa for the support we have been getting from WFP in terms of food aid. However, you must admit that a sustainable solution to the problem does not lie in a piecemeal support of the nature we get because of the emergency situations. The long-term solution lies in putting in place those structures, institutional, organizational, infrastructural that will ensure a sustainable, moving away from the situation we are today.

Regarding this report, in the face of this contradiction it is interesting that paragraph 36 of this report indicates that the lowest amount of the ODA support appears to be in the same region. Now may we take the opportunity here, and let me join my colleagues from Africa in pleading to the international donors that the situations do not seem to tally. Here is a region that is regarded the most vulnerable, here is the same region receiving the least amount of aid from those whom are pleading with and whom we expect to be very sympathetic. We would like to crave your

indulgence and to the FAO to spearhead the plea with our more privileged and lucky international donors to be a bit more sympathetic to this region.

I have only one specific comment with respect to my country, Nigeria. Paragraph 5 talks of a decline in agricultural output from about 9 percent in 1997 and 1998 down to about 4 percent. This exemplifies some of the contradictions that developing countries find themselves in. In 1998 Nigeria in kind of responding to the international global screaming about subsidy, went out of its way and removed the subsidy entirely on fertilizer, completely. You know that the greatest consumers of fertiliser in the crop sub-sector are cereal crops. When that happened the farmers naturally withdrew because they could not afford the resources to buy the fertilizers at the so-called deregulated prices, and the net effect is that fertiliser consumption dipped very sharply. This is what we have got as a result today. I am sure a similar situation was reported during the meeting of the Committee on Food Security by a West African sister country. We would not like to belabour this issue here. The question one would want to put forward is, here we are clamouring for deregulation of the fertiliser market, here is the classical result of the deregulation of the fertiliser market. I am not saying that the Nigerian Government have gone back on that, but I am not sure how long it will take us to pick up. I just want to leave that with the international community to appreciate that some of the policies that they appear to be very attractive on the surface, have their own undoing and when we do implement them I am happy we are able to bring the results here for all of you to see. Of course, the Government has gone out of its way to formulate a very comprehensive rural development programme that gets agriculture at the centre of it. How the procurement of inputs in the face of the liberalized market situation will affect the implementation of this programme, we will live to see.

We will do our best, but in conclusion let me plead with FAO, plead again with the international donors that some of us are facing a very confused situation, , some of us, where we are fighting with rural poverty, fighting with deregulation, fighting with input procurement, fighting—name them. It is all a gamut of confused situations that we find ourselves in, and unless the international community takes a targeted position and view our situation with some peculiarity, we may find ourselves in the situation my next neighbour commented a few minutes ago.

Antonio BERTHONGARAY (Argentina)

Efectivamente como Ministro de la Agricultura he querido participar en esta 119ª período de sesiones del Consejo de FAO, para presentar algunas breves reflexiones. Nuestro país, Argentina, está incrementando su producción de cosechas. El año pasado tuvimos la segunda cosecha récord de toda su historia y este año vamos a mejorar los niveles de producción, fundamentalmente en trigo y en soja, y con ello las harinas proteicas vegetales. Pero paradójicamente, a esta situación de incremento de las producciones va aparejado un incremento del aumento de la línea de pobreza en nuestra nación. Hoy, más del 30 por ciento de nuestra población está por debajo de la línea de pobreza y alguien podría preguntarse cómo son compatibles estas dos afirmaciones: aumentos de producciones y aumento de la pobreza. La explicación será: porque los aumentos de producciones se dan con un aumento de la concentración en grande escala de los factores productivos y una exclusión de los pequeños y medianos productores. Esto, sin lugar a duda, es producto de las políticas que rigen en el mundo motivadas con aquello de "la libertad de los mercados". La libertad de los mercados, acompañada por los subsidios y la multifuncionalidad, que algunos invocan, hacen que solamente nuestros países - que son muy eficientes por su tecnología y por su aplicación - puedan subsistir sobre la base de altísimas concentraciones de producción. Esto lógicamente crea grandes problemas sociales y grandes problemas políticos aparejados a estas exclusiones sociales.

Entonces las nuevas formas de asociativismo aparecen como un fenómeno nuevo. Algunas tienden a ser voluntarias y otras a tener un respaldo legal. Formas de asociativismo a través del desarrollo de las cooperativas, de los institutos que tratan de unificar a los más débiles para llegar a tener alguna fuerza frente a los actores principales.

Queremos señalar que el problema de los subsidios trae aparejado excedentes de stocks que se vuelcan en ayudas alimentarias. No nos oponemos a las ayudas alimentarias por razones

humanitarias pero sí estamos convencidos, siguiendo aquellos viejos adagios orientales, que la mejor ayuda alimentaria es la que significa trasladar a los países carenciados ayudas tecnológicas y ayudas económicas que les permitan a ellos mismos desarrollar sus alimentos. Como decían los orientales: "si te doy un pescado te quito el hambre de un día, si te enseño a pescar te quito el hambre de siempre". La función de solidaridad que debemos tener nosotros con los países que más necesidades alimentarias tienen es, fundamentalmente, ayudar a crear sistemas de sustentabilidad que les permitan a ellos, a través de su propio desarrollo, ir cada vez necesitando menos ayuda alimentaria. Ayuda tecnológica, ayuda técnica, ayuda genética, ayuda en mejores artes de riego, es la mejor colaboración que podemos brindar para tratar de solucionar estas necesidades desde el punto de vista humanitario. Pero el aumento de los subsidios, la distorsión que este sistema provoca en el comercio internacional hace que se creen situaciones paradójicas, como he señalado, tal como está ocurriendo en la República Argentina, donde aumentan los niveles de productividad pero también simultáneamente los niveles de pobreza, a causa de los altísimos niveles de concentración y de exclusión social al cual los subsidios llevan a países como el nuestro, que son eficientemente productivos, pero que - lamentablemente por esta misma situación - se ven con grandes problemas económicos y sociales.

N.M. NKAMBULE (Observer for Swaziland)

May I, on behalf of my delegation, express our appreciation for giving us the opportunity to make a statement. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on the manner in which you have conducted the business of the Council thus far, and I would also like to recognize and congratulate the Bureau which was elected this morning.

The statistics on world agricultural growth, as indicated by the Director-General and Mr de Haen in their introductory remarks this morning, indicate a gloomy picture for the year 2000 as opposed to 1999. That same introduction also indicated a stagnating agricultural production situation for sub-Saharan Africa. All this calls for a very serious review of agriculture and food production strategies in our respective countries. This is more so, since we are also being told that our efforts at reducing the world's hungry population are falling far too short of what we had set ourselves to accomplish during the World Food Summit in 1996.

With respect to external assistance to agriculture, as reflected in paragraph 33, my delegation wishes to register Swaziland's appreciation to the leading role assumed by Japan, in particular. In fact, Japanese assistance to my country in the form of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides and agricultural machinery, as well as training, has been very critical in enabling us to transform our agriculture and to enhance our overall food security status.

We also wish to register our appreciation and satisfaction with FAO initiatives or initiated programmes, particularly the South-South Cooperation Programme and the Special Programme for Food Security. My country is actively participating in these two initiatives and we believe they will facilitate our efforts at increasing food production overall. We would not but humbly submit that there is need for serious review to the concept of local contribution, particularly with respect to the South-South Cooperation Programme, as it impacts on the fragile economies of the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. Otherwise, my delegation is convinced that these two Programmes are very innovative and will definitely facilitate agricultural and food production in participating countries.

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Observateur pour l'Algérie)

La délégation algérienne s'associe aux félicitations qui vous ont été adressées ainsi qu'au Bureau élu et exprime sa satisfaction pour la qualité du travail fourni par le Secrétariat.

Tout a été dit dans cette enceinte sur la situation de l'alimentation et l'agriculture pour l'année en cours. Permettez-moi de présenter quelques réflexions sur ce sujet. Le document CL 119/2 élucide, et dans l'ensemble sans complaisance, son contenu nous interpelle à plus d'un titre car il nous permet de relever certaines contradictions liées à notre époque. Contradiction d'abord entre les espoirs d'une vie meilleure et de développement nées à la faveur de la mobilisation de la Communauté internationale lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et les inquiétudes liées à la

situation qui demeure précaire pour la grande majorité de la population des pays en développement et dans l'évolution actuelle de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture telle que reflétée dans le document ne pousse guère à l'optimisme. Contradiction ensuite entre les besoins d'une population en expansion en plus des situations d'urgence exigeant une augmentation de la production vivrière et agricole et la diminution de l'aide extérieure en faveur de l'agriculture dans le sens étroit du terme au détriment de celle couvrant la protection de l'environnement telle que présentée dans le paragraphe 35 du document. Contradiction enfin entre les défis multiples auxquels sont confrontés les pays en développement et notamment pour la mise en œuvre des engagements du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et la régression d'un côté de l'aide publique au développement. Le document du Secrétariat fait état d'une situation des plus négatives pour l'Afrique.

La situation en l'an 2000 comme les années précédentes demeure inquiétante. C'est une crise que traverse ce continent et elle perdure. Elle s'inscrit dans un contexte de tensions économiques, sociales, environnementales et climatiques dont les caractéristiques sont décrites dans le document. Le résultat est une situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture qui ne cesse de régresser au cours de la décennie écoulée : la famine, la sécheresse, la dégradation de la qualité de la vie et l'appauvrissement et même de pauvreté absolue s'y installent. Le poids de la dette ne cesse de peser sur les économies fragiles de ces pays. Pour y faire face, les pays africains recourent principalement à l'importation dont le poids ne cesse de peser sur les économies déjà fragiles de ces pays qui greffent considérablement leur budget de développement. Enfin, nous rappelons à juste titre la pertinence de l'intervention du représentant de l'Égypte lançant un appel à la FAO pour remédier à cette situation. Il est aujourd'hui urgent que des mesures concrètes de la FAO et de l'ensemble de la Communauté internationale et notamment des pays développés doivent être prises en vue d'aider les pays en développement à améliorer leur niveau de protection voire leur situation alimentaire et agricole.

Helder Dos Santos Félix MONTEIRO MUTEIA (Observer for Mozambique)

It is a great honour for Mozambique to participate, and take the floor in this importance conference. On behalf of the people and Government of Mozambique, I convey our best compliments and congratulations for this Hundred and Nineteenth Session of FAO's Council. Special regards to Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO.

At this time, I would like to remember the floods that affected the sub-Saharan countries in the African continent, causing great damage and desolation to the provinces of the south and centre of Mozambique, caused by a series of strong cyclones. This disaster resulted in the loss of human beings and displacement of families. Up to 4.5 million people were affected and close to 2 million suffered absolute loss of their possessions. Up to 200 000 hectares of food and cash crops were devastated, together with all cattle and domestic animals, in the worst region. Destruction of communication and productive infrastructure is also very significant.

The Government of Mozambique wants to reaffirm to this noble assembly its firm commitment to reduce food insecurity, as well as cut by 50 percent the number of malnourished people in the country by 2015, contributing in this way to building a world where hunger is not a serious threat to human kind.

Additional food security and nutrition strategy Plan of Action against absolute poverty is the basic instrument approved by the Government of Mozambique. It is being implemented through the integrated plans of action, aimed to increase availability and access to food, as well as to improve its biological utilization. On the other hand, a rural development programme is being implemented, which will allow the equitable development of rural population.

The Special Programme for Food Security supported by FAO is expanding to raise high potential zones and has been very successful in increasing national production and involving whole communities. Rice is a deficit crop in Mozambique and now it is being reduced.

Nevertheless, environmental protection is important, where appropriate legislation is being approved in order to ensure sustainable management and natural resources, including forests and

wildlife. Community involvement has been a key to success in this process, leading us to sustainable development.

The role of the United Nations agencies and other parties in the cooperation community has to be exalted. Once more, they show their willingness and prompt action to support our Government in alleviating the suffering of the population and saving the lives of elders, women and children. Nevertheless, Mozambique is under rehabilitation and recuperation of the social issues, as well as the social infrastructure. Without them, the damage makes us more vulnerable to increasing levels of poverty. We are talking about rural population with a high dependency on agriculture for subsistence and income generation. The recuperation of large compounds, due to floods, constitutes a serious concern to the Government.

It is also a concern of Government to increase the *per capita* consumption of animal proteins and micronutrients to improve the food intake. With this action, we count on firmly implementing policies and strategies to ensure reduction of absolute poverty and hunger. We are also working to achieve rural development, especially through agricultural development and investment programmes, aimed to integrate the private and public investment.

The agrometeorological interpretation of this year suggests a good crop season, although chances are for above normal rains, able to cause new floods. First of all, the Government is involved in early warning activities, preventing the population from new disasters and creating institutional and populational response mechanisms. We do not want shortage in food production again and intend to secure the mechanism to move supplies from some zones to the deficit areas. Implementation of policies, strategies and intervention plans in support of national development and wellbeing of the population, including the proposed reduction of malnourishment, require necessarily require support from FAO and other agencies from the multinational system, as well as from other partners of the international community. We want to reiterate our appeal to FAO and our international friends to support our country in the implementation of the different programmes and development plans of the people of Mozambique.

Arturo GANGOTENA GUARDERAS (Observador de Ecuador)

En mi calidad de Embajador, Representante Permanente de la República del Ecuador, quisiera felicitar a la Mesa Directiva por su tan importante elección; quisiera subrayar un tema que he estado conversando con el Director General, que es la dicotomía que se le presenta al mundo en general. Es la gran disyuntiva: la decisión política de los grandes bloques de los países desarrollados cuando, en lugar de discurrir sobre el tema de la pobreza y del decaimiento de la producción agropecuaria en el mundo, y la falta de su seguridad alimentaria, debaten, egoístamente, en la temática de cómo dividirse, o cómo se partiría una empresa de alta tecnología. Es decir, casi nos retrotraemos en el tiempo - haciendo un parangón comparativo - a lo que le sucedió al Imperio Romano de Oriente, cuando se discutía un tema de orden teológico como era el de pensar si los ángeles tenían sexo o no. Pero, hoy en día estamos frente a seres humanos que, por falta de alimentación, por falta de poder comer, además del detrimento de su calidad humana y de sus futuras generaciones, van indefectiblemente a la muerte.

Por este motivo considero que el primer punto y lo más importante es que haya una toma de conciencia de parte de la gran dirigencia del mundo para que se tome la decisión política de considerar la seguridad alimentaria, priorizándola y desarrollando la agricultura. Esto está íntimamente ligado a la posibilidad de obtener los recursos necesarios para el crecimiento de la misma y es incuestionable que la más importante fuente de los mismos está en los países de alta tecnología que puedan canalizarla hacia la agricultura de los países en desarrollo.

También está en los organismos internacionales y, por supuesto, en nuestros propios países que apenas destinamos el 1.6 por ciento de nuestros presupuestos para desarrollar los bienes para la alimentación. Pero el gran drama de la agricultura está centrado en su capacidad de producir a bajos costos a través de un crédito de largo plazo e intereses bajos. Pero estamos totalmente huérfanos de recursos financieros con bajas tasas de interés. El costo del dinero se ha vuelto el factor detonante y destructivo de la agricultura, que se refleja en la decadencia y en el declive de

la producción. ¿Cómo se puede producir con tasas de interés tan altas en los países de bajo desarrollo económico y competir frente a países desarrollados donde las tasas de interés son bajas y los costos de producción bajos, por ende, les permite ser altamente competitivos? Basta comparar las tasas de interés para ver qué agricultura ha podido desarrollarse y cual no.

Considero que esta noble institución, la FAO, ha hecho muchísimo, pero es indispensable, para transmitir al resto de los organismos rectores de la política monetaria, de la política cambiaria, de la política crediticia, tomar conciencia de la necesidad vital que tiene la agricultura de producir con bajo costo de producción y con tasas de interés bajas para lograr una alimentación a nivel mundial.

Coincido absolutamente con el señor Director-General, cuando plantea una nueva Conferencia para dar soporte político a la FAO. Quizás este llamado no sea más que una reflexión sobre aquel filósofo español, Don Miguel de Unamuno quien, cuando tocando en una orquesta comenzó con su instrumento a desafinar y el director le preguntó: "¿Por qué desafinas Miguel?" Y él le contestó: "Para que me escuchen, señor director". Creo que esta asamblea tendría que hacer lo mismo que hizo Don Miguel de Unamuno para decirle al mundo que la agricultura requiere recursos con más bajas tasas de interés para ser impulsada.

No es posible que se sigan dando países cada vez más desabastecidos de alimentos por no tener crédito e intereses bajos, debido a la imposición de sistemas cambiarios y monetarios negativos, y otros que tienen crédito e intereses bajos por tener sistemas cambiarios y monetarios positivos y soberanos.

Anton KOHLER (Observer for Switzerland)

Two documents are in front of us; a voluminous three hundred page long document of high quality and very enlightening indeed and the document CL 119/2, the discussion of which we could follow in the capacity of observers. I would like to thank the Secretariat for the high quality of both these documents.

Since no reference was made to the three hundred page publication, do not fear that I am going to comment on it now, because it is too rich, as I said it is really enlightening, and worthwhile to be discussed at length. I could only encourage all the Members and all the delegations to have a good and profound look into this document and study it carefully because as I could imagine it would be a very rich background for our next debate probably during the Conference of next year.

I would like to ask, however, the Secretariat whether we would get a chance before the Conference to discuss this really enlightening document.

Patrick SAINT-HILAIRE (Observateur de Haïti)

Je voudrais tout d'abord m'associer aux autres intervenants qui m'ont précédé pour présenter mes plus vives félicitations au Président, aux Membres du Bureau, ainsi qu'au Secrétariat de la FAO pour cette session du Conseil. La délégation de l'Argentine qui a la présidence du Groupe régional a exprimé ce matin les vues de notre région sur l'ensemble du document *Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 2000*. Elle a clairement indiqué la satisfaction et les préoccupations de notre région quant à ce document. Ma délégation souscrit pleinement à sa déclaration et souhaite aussi appuyer les déclarations faites par d'autres délégations de la région, notamment celle de Cuba. Ma délégation souhaite aussi se référer au paragraphe 29 du document traitant des pénuries alimentaires et des situations d'urgence en Amérique Latine. Elle estime que ces quatre lignes consacrées à l'Amérique Latine sont bien loin de refléter les principales préoccupations de notre région, les principales caractéristiques de la situation agricole et alimentaire de la région. Elle souhaite donc qu'une meilleure attention puisse être accordée à la problématique agricole et alimentaire de la région ainsi qu'aux situations d'urgence auxquelles elle se trouve confrontée.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Observer for Bulgaria)

I would like in the first place to congratulate you, the Vice-Chairmen, and the Members of the Bureau and wish you all success in guiding the workings of the Council. I would especially like to thank the FAO Secretariat for keeping its sensitive finger on the unevenly beating pulse of Food and Agriculture output in the world, so crisply demonstrated in the report prepared and the latest update that Director-General Diouf and Mr de Haen provided us this morning.

The more important it is taken the unhappy trends detected that might prevent us from achieving the World Food Summit targets. That is why I would like to take this opportunity and reiterate the importance Bulgaria attaches to enhancing all common action to achieve the noble goals that we have all, as an international community, dedicated ourselves to.

We therefore consider, that this Session of the Council is an appropriate opportunity for our Organization to welcome the recent reaffirmation by the UN Millennium Summit of the World Food Summit target of halving the number of people who suffer from hunger by the year 2015. In fact, we deem it appropriate to have our Organization at this first Session of an FAO Governing Body, after the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations, pronounce itself on all the wealth of ideas and resolute decisions taken at the Millennium Summit.

In our view, in doing so, FAO would reaffirm its importance as a principal organ of the United Nations with regard to food and agriculture.

B. SANDAMU (Observer for Zimbabwe)

I will be very brief. I would like to thank you for giving me the floor, and I also wish you success like the others with the help of this Council Session.

Zimbabwe like Mozambique as the Minister of Mozambique was saying, was also devastated by cyclone Eline. But we were lucky that in other parts of the country we were able to produce enough maize, which is the major staple food crop for Zimbabwe. Production was up to 2.2 million tonnes which is above national requirements of 1.8 million tonnes. If we take into account the carryover stocks from the previous season, the surplus is in the region of seven hundred and fifty thousand tonnes.

Like other developing countries Zimbabwe has major constraints; investment in agriculture, very little investment has been made in irrigation which could be another area where we could improve our food security; farmers do not have access to adequate credit to purchase inputs in the majority of cases. Also training in model farming still needs to be intensified. If these constraints are tackled together with some macroeconomic problems, this could have a positive impact on agricultural and food production.

We feel FAO has a role at the international fora to argue for more action and resources to agriculture. In this case, Zimbabwe has benefitted from South-South Cooperation and our farmers have visited Indonesia and Malaysia to learn from the practical experiences of these countries.

We also welcome the continuing efforts by FAO to expand Special Programme for Food Security to alleviate poverty.

I will submit the full text of my intervention to the Secretariat.

Hartwig DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

Thank you distinguished delegates for this very rich debate. We have taken careful note and I will now try to respond to some of the issues raised.

We have noted that many speakers added additional information that was not covered in the document pertaining to their respective countries. We have in particular noted those statements which confirmed an even more critical situation with regard to food supplies, food insecurity and food emergency than we had reported in the document. Here I refer, for example, not only to the

distinguished delegate of Argentina who spoke for the entire Latin American and Caribbean region, but also to countries like Bangladesh. We will certainly make sure that this information is properly analyzed by the Secretariat.

Speaking of the distinguished delegate of Bangladesh. I can confirm that we will do more in order to document also the estimated impact on production of food emergency situations of natural and man-made disasters. There is a limit to which we can include these and other information pieces because there is a length limit to the document. Therefore, you will understand that we will have to be selective, and there is no way around this.

This leads me to a more general response to the distinguished delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also of Egypt and others, who ask for two things to be systematically improved. One is to include more analysis of the factors that cause this situation to be as it was, and the other was to include more on the solutions sought by countries and the role that FAO has been playing in overcoming food insecurity and supply constraints.

Distinguished delegates, I think with regard to analysis, I can say that we will certainly try to do better in analyzing the main factors that seem to have caused the situation as we are reporting it. However, with regard to the solutions found, the efforts made by countries and by FAO, I am afraid I have to say that it is not the essential and main role of this document to report about action taken about the situation as it is.

We have many other documents, channels and fora in which we report about solutions and actions in this regard. I refer to the Technical Committees, COAG, COFI, COFO or of the Report to the CFS where a general report is always provided on the implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit and which also includes a reporting of FAO's action in this regard. Therefore, you will understand and appreciate I hope, that it is difficult to include all that in this limited report.

There was in this context, a special request to report more comprehensively about action that FAO is taking to address the problems of countries facing food emergencies. Again, the reporting channel through which we normally report includes a number of things. Certainly, there is the *Food Outlook*, which comes out every two months. You, will have the most recent edition available to you within the next day. However, *Special Alerts* on countries that face food emergencies are regularly issued.

FAO in general, responds to these situations, I would say in three ways, one is Early Warning and Special Alerts and the second is assessment of the situation and its impact on people and natural resources, as well as production capacity and thirdly, rehabilitation. But it would go beyond this document to go into detail here.

On the inclusion of more information on the state of natural resources, and in particular water, mentioned by the distinguished delegate Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I am sorry to repeat that the space is limited for such a document. We recognize, of course, the particular importance of water scarcity and floods, the two extremes that have affected so many countries, in particular during the reporting period. One could probably have said that we could have emphasised this even more although it is mentioned, but may I refer you to the next session of the Committee on Agriculture Session next year which will have a special item on its Agenda on storms and floods.

I would also say that FAO has been reporting on action oriented responses to water problems. In particular, at the World Water Forum that was held in the Hague in March 2000 where a document was presented entitled *Crops and Drops*. I would also say that occasionally the Economic and Social Department goes into much more depth with regard to action in the field of water. It may sound too far to go but it is the *State of Food and Agriculture 1993* that had devoted a major part of the book on water policies and agriculture. So, occasionally, we can deepen the treatment of water issues in this regard.

The distinguished delegate of Namibia in analogous proposal suggested that more coverage should be put into this kind of document on the livestock sector. May I just say that you will note that the reporting on recent production trends does make a distinction between crops and livestock and some detail also by region. But to include more on the situation of the livestock sector we will do our best to achieve that, but again we may need special documents for that.

There were two questions again by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran whose statement contained a number of things. There were two questions on the stocks of cereals. He wants some additional information on two things, essentially how prices were moving overtime in comparison to the stock levels and secondly, about the validity of FAOs stock utilization ratio which FAO considers to be an indicator of the safety of the world's food supplies.

Now with regard to the correlation between price movements and stock movements, we can confirm that prices do normally move in the opposite direction when stocks are high prices tend to be low and vice-versa. In fact, statistical analysis confirms that two-thirds of the variation in annual cereal prices is explained by the level of carryover stocks of cereals in the current year and in the previous year.

Regarding the validity of the stock to utilization ratio, this is a complex area and we usually discuss this in more detail in the Committee on World Food Security as well as occasionally in the Committee on Commodity Problems. I would only say that this ratio measures the physical availability of cereal with regard to the utilization. But of course the food security depends on other things; physical stocks are one factor but there is also the policies with which these countries tend to use these stocks; who holds then the stocks; and a number of other factors. We believe it can be discussed at one of our future sessions by one of the Committees I have just mentioned.

In some countries recent policy changes have brought about reductions in domestic grain inventories. Largely, driven by changing global trading environments, and by the need to reduce the ever-growing financial burden associated with managing large stocks. You will find in the next issue of the *Food Outlook* that we mentioned that in our view that this calls for a closer look at a change in the level of stocks held, particularly by the major producing countries. The Secretariat will therefore review the stock levels for such countries and refine its estimates as necessary in future reports of the *Food Outlook*.

I went into some detail on this because we consider it rather essential for an overall interpretation of the world food security situation.

I have only a few more comments. One is with regard to the statement made by the delegate from the European Commission on the need for FAO and WTO to collaborate on food aid statistics, I shall say first that WTO as such does not publish food aid statistics. Actually, work is underway to improve the coverage and the consistency of food aid statistics and this is being done in cooperation with FAO, WFP and the International Grains Council. The International Grains Council has recently, that is in 1999, implemented under the new food aid convention context a system to collect data also in cash contributions. The other part of the question was regarding the impact of food aid. I should say that this impact is frequently discussed in meetings of the FAO Consultative Committee on Surplus Disposal, as some of you may know. The conceptual framework established under the WTO serves as a basis for these discussions.

Distinguished delegates, to conclude, I would just sum up in three points and say we have taken note of the additional information provided to the Secretariat and to Members of the Council. We will continue to make the report still more analytical as far possible but the analysis will concentrate on the factors contributing to the situation as we find it, whereas factors that explain the response to these problems and reporting about action by FAO Members to resolve the problems will have to be left to other Bodies and other reporting channels.

We will attempt, as suggested by several of you, to address all aspects contributing to the overall food supply including production, trade and stock policies and of course also emphasize access to food.

May I end by thanking the distinguished delegate from Switzerland for having given some publicity to the recent issue of the *State of Food and Agriculture*, the book I mean, which contains a special chapter on fifty years of experience in addressing food and food security issues worldwide. I am told that the book is available outside in all languages, and I hope those that have not had a chance to look in to it may find it interesting to study it.

5. NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES, IN HARMONY WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CL 119/7)
5. NÉGOCIATIONS EN VUE DE L'HARMONISATION DE L'ENGAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL DES RESSOURCES PHYTOGÉNÉTIQUES AVEC LA CONVENTION SUR LA DIVERSITÉ BIOLOGIQUE (CL 119/7)
5. NEGOCIACIONES RELATIVAS AL COMPROMISO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE LOS RECURSOS FITOGENÉTICOS, EN ARMONÍA CON EL CONVENIO SOBRE LA DIVERSIDAD BIOLÓGICA (CL 119/7)

CHAIRMAN

We will now turn to Item 5 *Negotiation for the Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in Harmony with Convention on Biological Diversity*. The relevant documents, CL 119/7 and CL 119/7-Sup.1, include a report on progress made from November 1999 to the negotiation of the Commission's Contact Group, which took place in Neuchâtel, Switzerland only last week.

The revised Undertaking will be submitted to the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the Council in June 2001.

I now give the floor to the Chairman of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Ambassador Fernando Gerbasi, whom I wish to thank for being here with us today.

Fernando GERBASI (Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura)

Vuelvo de nuevo ante ustedes en mi calidad de Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura con la finalidad de informarles sobre los avances de las negociaciones para la revisión del Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos en armonía con el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica. La Comisión en abril de 1999 decidió autorizarme a convocar, en consulta con el Director-General, y siempre que se dispusiera de financiación, reuniones negociadoras del Grupo de Contacto y que cuando se llegara a un punto en el que la Comisión pudiera aprobar el texto final del Compromiso Internacional Revisado, pidiera al Director-General la convocatoria de una reunión extraordinaria de la Comisión. Con tal finalidad, el Grupo de Contacto integrado por 41 países que me honro en presidir se ha reunido cuatro veces, de las cuales tres a lo largo del presente año. El trabajo ha sido arduo, dedicado, innovador y complejo. Sobre la segunda y tercera reunión celebradas en Roma del 3 al 7 de abril y en Teherán (República Islámica de Irán) del 26 al 31 de agosto, he presentado un informe por escrito que se encuentra recogido en el documento CL 119/7 que, con toda seguridad, ustedes tienen entre sus manos. La cuarta reunión, como usted bien lo dijo, del Grupo de Contacto tuvo lugar en la ciudad de Neuchâtel (Suiza) del 12 al 17 noviembre, es decir la semana pasada.

Aprovecho la ocasión para agradecer a los Gobiernos de la República Islámica de Irán y de Suiza, por haber financiado y organizado estas dos últimas reuniones en sus países; los Gobiernos de Japón y de Suecia, por haber facilitado la participación de los representantes de las naciones en desarrollo.

Gracias a la generosidad de Bélgica, Italia, Japón, Noruega y los Países Bajos, Suecia y Suiza contamos también con los fondos extra-presupuestarios necesarios para continuar el proceso de negociación, aunque ellos por sí solos no son suficientes.

Ciertamente a lo largo del presente año hemos logrado avances sustantivos que tienen que ver esencialmente con las cuestiones relativas al acceso facilitado a los recursos fitogenéticos en el marco de un sistema multilateral, al uso final de ese material al cual se tendrá acceso facilitado y, por cierto, aquí quiero informar que la mayoría de las regiones presentaron ya sus listas de cultivos para su posible inclusión en el sistema multilateral. A la distribución de los beneficios, lo que tiene que ver con el intercambio de información, el acceso a la tecnología y su transferencia, la creación de capacidades nacionales y la distribución de los beneficios monetarios derivados del uso comercial.

En lo que respecta a los recursos financieros, el Órgano Rector elaborará y mantendrá bajo revisión una estrategia de financiación, cuya finalidad será potenciar la disponibilidad, transparencia, eficacia y efectividad del suministro de recursos financieros para la ejecución de las actividades del compromiso internacional. Con tal fin el Órgano Rector fijará periódicamente una meta, es decir la cantidad necesaria estimada de los fondos a obtener. De conformidad con esta estrategia de financiación, se ha convenido la forma y manera en que se movilizarán recursos financieros de fuentes múltiples de financiación para programas y proyectos abordados en el compromiso internacional, así como los aportes de los países, en particular los desarrollados, y las contribuciones voluntarias originarias de los propios países del sector privado de las organizaciones no gubernamentales y de otras fuentes.

La innovación más importante reside en la manera de alcanzar la distribución de los beneficios derivados del uso comercial. Además de las colaboraciones y asociaciones con los sectores públicos y privados, se prevén pagos de un *Royalty* equitativo por parte de los detentores de derechos de propiedad intelectual, de acuerdo con las prácticas comerciales, cuando el producto derivado del uso de recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura comprendido en el sistema multilateral, esté sujeto a derechos de propiedad intelectual que limiten su ulterior utilización con fines de investigación o fito-mejoramiento. Cuando los derechos de propiedad intelectual no restrinjan la utilización del producto derivado para fines de investigación o fito-mejoramiento, las partes adoptarán las medidas que consideren apropiadas para el pago voluntario de *Royalties* por parte del propietario del derecho como consecuencia de la explotación comercial del mismo. El Órgano Rector, en un período de cinco años después de la entrada en vigor del compromiso, podrá hacer también obligatorio lo señalado en este último caso y analizará todo lo descrito con miras a utilizar los beneficios derivados de las anteriores provisiones.

A raíz de la reunión de Teherán que tuvo lugar en agosto de este año, donde por primera vez se abordó de la manera que acabo de explicar, la distribución de los beneficios derivado del uso comercial de los productos, la mayoría de los delegados incluyendo el Presidente, tuvieron el convencimiento que se había alcanzado un consenso y que tan sólo faltaba la confirmación por parte de unos pocos países que habían solicitado tiempo para consultar sus capitales al respecto. Se trató de un serio error de juicio de percepción, pues en Neuchatel no sólo no fue posible obtener el consenso a pesar de haber mejorado la redacción y, por tanto, el entendimiento de los textos, sino que se pudo comprobar que cuatro países no aceptaban su contenido. Lo anterior, nos colocó en una perspectiva totalmente distinta a la que tuvimos al concluir la tercera reunión celebrada en Teherán donde por los avances alcanzados llegamos a pensar que estábamos a las puertas de la conclusión de nuestras negociaciones y así lo pusimos por escrito en el informe que sometimos a vuestra consideración.

Hoy tenemos frente a nosotros un panorama diferente, que no podemos calificar de desolador pero que sin duda alguna no nos permite decir, ni siquiera de manera aproximativa cuando estaremos en condiciones de concluir las negociaciones para la revisión del compromiso internacional en armonía con el convenio sobre la diversidad biológica. Después de cuatro reuniones del Grupo de Contacto tenemos muchos artículos en cuyos textos hemos trabajado en profundidad, pero lamentablemente aun persisten corchetes y notas al pie de página que significa que todavía no hay consenso, por lo que solamente contamos con dos artículos sustantivos cuyos textos están totalmente limpios: los artículos 11 y 15 que tratan del sistema multilateral de acceso y distribución de los beneficios y de los derechos del agricultor. Es verdad y serán numerosos los que así lo afirmarán, que hemos avanzado muchísimo con respecto a lo que teníamos hace tres

años atrás. Hoy contamos con los elementos del presidente derivados de la reunión de Montreux los cuales representan un amplio consenso que la Comisión decidió utilizar como bases para la continuación de las negociaciones, decisión que fue ratificada por ustedes en su 116º período de sesiones y por la Conferencia en su 30º período de sesiones. Basándonos en lo anterior, elaboramos un texto integrado del compromiso que ha facilitado en mucho el proceso negociador. Además, los debates han sido de tal naturaleza y riqueza técnica, que hoy por hoy existe un conocimiento muy bien sustentado sobre todas las interrelaciones posibles entre los diferentes artículos claves del Compromiso, así como lo que éste significará para la obtención de la seguridad alimentaria mundial y el desarrollo sostenible de todas las regiones.

Hoy vuelvo ante ustedes para hacer uso de vuestra benevolencia y comprensión. En más de una ocasión hemos solicitado ampliar nuestro mandato para poder continuar nuestro proceso negociador con miras a concluirlo en un tiempo prudencial. En ello hemos recibido vuestro total respaldo, el de la Conferencia de la FAO e incluso de otras instituciones como el de la Conferencia de las partes del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica. Contábamos con elementos objetivos que avalaban nuestra solicitud. Hoy estoy convencido que la situación es diferente, se hace necesaria más que nunca una evaluación política de nuestro proceso, de porqué el mismo no es objeto de avances constantes que permitan mantener los consensos obtenidos y alcanzar otros en torno a los asuntos fundamentales; y, de si existe o no, una voluntad política real para concluir las negociaciones a corto plazo.

Estoy convencido de que si la voluntad política existe y tiene que existir, ésta se debe demostrar de una manera fehaciente y concreta. Estoy convencido de que sólo nosotros representantes del sector agrícola podemos encontrar las soluciones adecuadas a los problemas y aspiraciones del sector agrícola, así como de la necesidad de proceder con rapidez. La única manera de convenir en la conclusión relativamente rápida de nuestras negociaciones sería a través de un compromiso político que se plasmara en una fecha concreta de conclusión, no sujeta a más cambios y que en consecuencia los países que participan en el proceso negociador nombrasen delegaciones con el suficiente nivel político que les permita tomar decisiones en la propia mesa de negociaciones.

Como el Grupo de Contacto fue creado por la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura en su octava reunión ordinaria celebrada en abril de 1999, podría competir a ella en su próxima reunión ordinaria a celebrarse a mediados del próximo año, la evaluación política que he planteado y adoptar las medidas que considere pertinente. Sin embargo, ello significaría una pérdida innecesaria de tiempo y del impulso negociador por lo que estimo que debe ser el Consejo, en este período de sesiones quien tome las decisiones correspondientes.

Dato' ANNUAR MA'ARUF (Malaysia)

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for the floor. Congratulations to you also for the efficient conduct of this meeting thus far. Congratulations to the distinguished Chairman of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the tremendous effort put into the working of this Commission.

The Malaysian delegation would like to recall the FAO Conference Resolution 7/93 on the Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The Conference then requested the Director-General to provide a forum for negotiation among governments on the following: (a) for the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity; (b) for the consideration on the issues of access on mutually agreed terms to plant genetic resources, including *ex situ* collections not addressed by the Convention, as well as for the issue of realizing Farmers' Rights.

Over the last seven years since the Conference decision, the negotiation process had gone through eight meetings of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, one expert group meeting and three meetings of the Chairperson's Contact Group, yet there is still no prospect for an early successful conclusion of the negotiation process. Of the above three main areas that the Conference requested governments to negotiate, the only agreed text was on Farmers' Rights. This long and protracted history of the negotiation process shows that

governments are not yet ready to revise the International Undertaking in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. We recognize the benefits of the International Undertaking in terms of food security, through a new equitable global partnership, in access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the form of information exchange, technology transfer and finance. This partnership commits all states to engage in a fair and equitable benefit sharing, through the exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture inspired by the need to achieve food security, and keeping in view the interdependence of genetic resources among nations. It is recognized that, for the success of this new partnership, it is important to foster a climate for private sector investment in biological innovation. In this regard, we must also deal with the important private sector incentives of intellectual property right protection for innovations on plant genetic resources and its related benefit sharing, arising from the financial and technical aspects of germplasm flows and transfer.

Recognizing that the International Undertaking's ultimate objective is the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for agriculture and food security, Malaysia and other developing countries have supported the establishment of a Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing under the revised International Undertaking. We are willing to provide facilitated access of germplasm in the proposed Multilateral System. We noted that the potential financial benefits arising from such system would probably be minimal but the principle of sharing commercial as well as other benefits has to be incorporated in the revised International Undertaking, since this principle is already agreed to in the Convention on Biological Diversity. This principle is absolutely necessary in the revised International Undertaking, in order to provide for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits, as well as the incentives to those that conserve and maintain agro-biodiversity and those that innovate and improve such biodiversity for food and agriculture. This principle will provide the necessary framework for the implementation of the International Undertaking in a manner that is fair and equitable to all countries, whether it is a poor developing country whose farmers are conserving agro-biodiversity or a rich developed country, whose entrepreneurs are using such biodiversity for new product development.

We know that substantial progress has been made on the critical issue of financial provision in the International Undertaking at the Fourth Inter-sessional Contact Group Meeting in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, last week. We are glad that the final agreed text of the financial provision reflects common but differentiated responsibilities in the implementation of the International Undertaking. We understand that a few developed countries need more time to consider the provision on the sharing of benefits arising from the commercial use of genetic resources in the proposed Multilateral System. We hope that an early agreement can be reached on the other critical issue of commercial benefit sharing.

Malaysia remains committed to the early successful completion of the negotiation on the revision of the International Undertaking. Malaysia therefore supports strongly a further meeting of the Contact Group or an extraordinary session of the Commission in early 2001, to bring the negotiation process to a successful completion at the earliest possible date.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

Je voudrais m'exprimer au nom de l'Union européenne même si nous avons pu faire part de notre position aux autres pays du Groupe Europe et si certains, je le pense, pourront appuyer cette position. Nous accueillons favorablement le rapport de l'Ambassadeur, Monsieur Gerbasi et nous saluons ses efforts pour guider le travail du Groupe de contact vers une conclusion positive.

Nous pensons fermement que ce processus doit continuer et qu'il doit continuer sous la direction de Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi. La Communauté européenne et ses États Membres saluent aussi les efforts des membres du Groupe de contact pour parvenir à un accord sur un texte révisé en harmonie avec la Convention sur la diversité biologique. Bien qu'un projet de texte complet ne puisse pas être soumis à l'examen de ce Conseil, des progrès substantiels ont été réalisés depuis notre dernier examen du point au Conseil. Nous pensons qu'une volonté politique a été manifestée pendant les deux dernières sessions, ce qui a permis des avancées significatives sur les articles 11, 12, 13, 14 et 16. La Communauté européenne et ses États Membres espèrent que la prochaine

réunion de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation sera en mesure de mettre un terme à la révision du texte de l'engagement international dans la perspective de son adoption par la Conférence de la FAO de novembre 2001 comme un texte juridiquement contraignant avec des liens forts avec la FAO et la Convention sur la diversité biologique.

Sur la base des résultats de la réunion informelle de Montreux, les réunions du Groupe de contact ont permis de concrétiser une grande partie du système multilatéral qui constitue, de notre point de vue, l'ossature de l'engagement international. Nous nous félicitons des solutions et des compromis trouvés en matière de règles d'accès aux ressources génétiques et de partage des avantages dans le contexte spécifique des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation.

Selon nous, les règles de ce système multilatéral devraient s'appliquer dans le respect des droits de propriété au plus grand nombre possible de ressources phytogénétiques importantes pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation, pour contribuer effectivement à la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action mondial. La Communauté européenne et ses États Membres attachent une grande importance à l'équilibre des dispositions de l'ensemble de l'engagement international. Nous en avons fait la preuve par notre approche des discussions sur les droits des agriculteurs à Rome et sur le partage des avantages à Neuchâtel. Nous espérons que cet esprit prévaudra aussi pour toutes les autres délégations pour la suite des négociations.

Nous pensons fermement que nous devons maintenir l'élan des dernières réunions. Nous voudrions suggérer que de nouvelles sessions du Groupe de contact se tiennent avant la prochaine réunion de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation.

Nous voudrions aussi proposer que la prochaine session du Groupe de contact comprenne un travail en petits groupes de rédaction juridique de composition régionalement équilibrée et un travail en groupes techniques sur la question des définitions. A plusieurs reprises les Membres de la FAO ont insisté sur la nécessité de conclure rapidement ces négociations. Nous soutenons pleinement cet objectif et travaillerons pour l'atteindre.

Nous croyons fermement que l'engagement international bénéficiera à toutes les parties dans leurs efforts pour conserver leurs propres ressources génétiques et élaborer les variétés adaptées aux besoins de leur agriculture. Notre ambition est de fournir aux générations actuelles et futures un cadre efficace pour la gestion de la diversité génétique, pour la sécurité alimentaire et l'agriculture durable.

Mrs Sigridur Ásdís SNAEVAR (Iceland)

Iceland is giving this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.

The revision of the International Undertaking on the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture into a legally binding agreement, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, is now moving towards its final stages. We welcome the report made by Ambassador Gerbasi and would like to congratulate him on the progress he and the Contact Group have achieved this autumn.

The meeting of the Contact Group last week did, in principle, come to an agreement on the financial issues. The negotiations on benefit sharing did not result in an agreed text at this stage, but the Contact Group clarified many central aspects of this important part of the undertaking.

These negotiations have been going on for many years. While countries are negotiating, the world is moving ahead, and the establishment of a Multilateral System with open access to PGRFA, based on the needs of agriculture, will be even more difficult in the future.

The mandate for the renegotiation of the Undertaking is to establish a legal instrument on agrobiodiversity in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. We have agreed to provide access to PGRFA in an open, multilateral system. This must be balanced by clear commitments on benefit sharing, on the commercialization of PGRFA.

It is now crucial that the work of the Contact Group, under the able guidance of Ambassador Gerbasi, is continued with the clear aim of concluding the negotiations in the next months. It is our firm belief that if there is a political will, we will succeed.

Finally, for FAO, as a leading organization in global food and agriculture, it is of great importance that these negotiations come to a satisfactory completion. The Nordic countries have supported FAO in activities such as this, and would like to reiterate that we consider that it should firmly remain one of the core activities of the Organization.

Dr. SUWARNO (Indonesia)

First of all, the Indonesian delegation would like to thank Ambassador Gerbasi, the Chairperson of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for the very comprehensive report. We also note that, without the Chairperson's ability, the present negotiation would not have reached this encouraging momentum.

As we all remember, FAO Conference Resolution 7/93 requested FAO to facilitate further negotiation for revising the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, as stated in paragraph 4 of the report by the Chairperson as in document CL 119/7. Indonesia, which has quite a large amount of genetic resources, always supports the idea of the Undertaking.

Genetic resources should be conserved and made available for plant breeding and other research purposes. The genetic resources have been used, cultured, selected and successfully conserved by farmers until the introduction of improved varieties. Therefore, we should appreciate what the farmers have done. With this consideration, we have to observe the Farmers' Rights.

Furthermore, our delegation gives full support to the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of FAO, which is currently developing the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in Harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Undertaking, we expect, will regulate the balance among the issue of access, benefit sharing, and the issue of Farmers' Rights.

For your information, the Government of Indonesia is currently developing a plant variety protection law, which is now being discussed with parliament for its approval. The purpose of the law is to protect new varieties which are unique, uniform and stable. The law will also protect the existing local varieties, especially for developing essentially derived varieties and for repeated use for producing new varieties.

To conclude, our delegation once again would like to stress our support to the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

MA SHIQING (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation appreciates what has been achieved in negotiations by the Contact Group. We support FAO and trust it will speed up the work of revising the Undertaking. Allow me to take this opportunity to make the following remarks on this subject.

Firstly, the protection of plant genetic resources everywhere in the world involves the rational use of these resources, which are a great wealth for mankind, and they are of great importance for improving food security throughout the world, and on-going development of agriculture.

Plant genetic resources are the material basis for improving health and welfare of mankind. They provide us with essential conditions for the introducing of new species and improved biotechnology in the development of agriculture, as well as ensuring that the resources are available to provide food wherever needed. In many countries, they are a great source of wealth. The least destruction is bound to have tremendous impact on the existence and development of humankind. China welcomes the work engaged in by all countries to help protect these resources.

Thirdly, plant genetic resources are to be found in many different countries and regions. Local farmers have contributed considerably to the protection of these species and this is what has been handed down to us. The countries have engaged considerable financial and human resources for

the protection of these resources; consequently, we should acknowledge their rights. We should fully recognize the rights of farmers to establish a mechanism which is necessary to protect these resources and their ownership thereof. The other countries, when they use these plant genetic resources, should adequately recompense the countries which hold these resources. Also the user countries, in their use of these resources, should provide technical assistance and technology transfer to developing countries. China is one of the wealthiest countries in terms of plant genetic resources. China has undertaken a great enterprise to protect and select these resources. This is very important. Indeed, in our agriculture, 360 000 species are to be found in our collections so far.

Germplasm banks, *ex situ* banks and *in situ* banks have been established. This has enabled us to protect neoplasm resources, most of which were systematically identified and included in these databanks. Nevertheless, when a country or a region is not self-sufficient in plant genetic resources, China is prepared to promote the exchange of cooperation between countries as regards the exchange conservation study and on-going use of these plant genetic resources, in accordance with the principles of equality and reciprocal advantages and so long as the sovereignty of the holding country be respected.

Lastly, we believe the crops to be included in the Multilateral System should be subject to these conditions. We should ensure food security, we believe it is necessary to begin with a limited list of resources, the coverage of which would be decided according to the application thereof.

Elías REYES BRAVO (México)

Mi delegación desea expresar su reconocimiento a los esfuerzos que esta Organización y sus Estados Miembros han realizado sobre este tema. Las reuniones del Grupo de Contacto son una muestra clara de la voluntad para avanzar en un tema complejo y estratégico. En la cuarta reunión del Grupo de Contacto se avanzó sustancialmente sobre el tema relativo a los mecanismos de financiamiento. No obstante, continúan pendientes temas de gran interés como los relativos a los centros internacionales de investigación por una parte, y a la distribución de los beneficios por otra. Estos son dos temas sobre los cuales se debe avanzar en mayor medida.

Mi delegación manifiesta su preocupación porque, aun cuando hay avances en las negociaciones, no parece cercana la conclusión de las mismas. Sigue siendo preocupante la definición de la situación de los centros internacionales, ya que si bien aparentemente hay consensos en que el Grupo Consultivo sobre Investigación Agrícola Internacional y sus centros sean parte del compromiso internacional, algunos países manifiestan preocupación de que los términos del compromiso desalienten el apoyo por parte de los patrocinadores del Grupo Consultivo.

Para México es de gran interés la posición de estos centros dadas las posibilidades de un esquema paralelo de los mismos, ya que la entrega de sus materiales a cualquier país está basada sólo en la buena fe de quienes declaran que algún material solicitado para protección proviene de alguno de ellos. Este es el caso del Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y del Trigo para el caso del maíz. Por otra parte, algunos países hicieron reservas sobre el artículo relativo a la distribución de beneficios, lo cual representa un retroceso respecto a la reunión de Teherán. Por tanto, mi delegación reitera la invitación a esos países para que se entienda la distribución de beneficios como elemento indispensable para el acceso facilitado.

México reafirma su compromiso para continuar con el proceso de negociación y que llegue a feliz término aceptado por todos bajo la Presidencia del Embajador Gervasi.

Suthiporn CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

The Thai delegation would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency, Ambassador Fernando Gerbasí of Venezuela, the Chairperson of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for his extremely valuable services rendered to the Council and, more importantly, to FAO. The International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources has been a time-consuming process, and it could raise a number of criticisms and comments, as well as uncertainties, from Member Countries in its deliberations.

From the Convention of Biological Diversity, it is clear that it is extremely difficult to reach a consensus, if any, on a number of issues involved. I am sure that, without the strong leadership under the Ambassador as the Chairperson of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, such progress would have been much slower.

My gratitude also goes to the members of the Contact Group initiated by the Chairperson. They have tirelessly worked towards a successful conclusion of the negotiations on the revised International Undertaking.

Although there are still many issues outstanding, and requiring political intervention, as the Chairperson has said, Thailand, being fully committed to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, is looking forward to the finalization of the revised International Undertaking at a Council meeting in the near future.

Ms Malgorzata PIOTROWSKA (Poland)

The delegation of Poland would like to support the statement made by the distinguished delegate of France, on behalf of the European Community.

Poland is a member of the Contact Group and, together with other European countries, attaches high importance to the process of negotiations. The need for global food security and sustainable agriculture is a commitment and a guiding principle for Poland in making efforts to bring negotiations to a successful conclusion, with the expectation that the negotiated text will be adopted by the FAO Conference as a legally binding instrument. We view it as a foundation for international cooperation on food security and the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The progress that is being steadily achieved is directly related to the complexity of the issues which are being negotiated. The Contact Group has experienced difficulties on some occasions, but they were resolved following in-depth discussions and comprehensive negotiations.

Our understanding is that there is a strong political will and spirit among the parties to proceed to successful finalization. As long as that is the case, we should not waste time, and give a green light to further intersessional meetings of the Contact Group and request Ambassador Gerbasi to continue his leadership of these negotiations.

At this point, Poland would like to express its appreciation to Ambassador Gerbasi for the time, efforts and commitments which he has invested in the process of harmonization of the International Undertaking with CBD, and assure him that his excellent leadership is of great importance for bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

CHAN-Joon SOHN (Korea, Republic of)

Before I comment on this agenda item, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the Honourable Ambassador Fernando Gerbasi, and the Secretariat for making a lot of effort to speed up the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

Firstly, we consider that the revision of the International Undertaking in several important articles has made good progress through the Chairperson's Contact Group meetings. However, there are obstacles. There is still much left undone that needs additional revisions. Also, support from contracting parties is still required in order arrive at a full agreement on each revision.

In this matter, we would like to make our stance clear. The Republic of Korea has been closely involved in the negotiation on the revision in the past, and the Republic of Korea will continue to cooperate, to help accelerate the revision process.

In the region of the International Undertaking we are seeking the revision on the issue of open access to the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We believe that the coverage of plant genetic resources under the Multilateral System should be expanded to the extent possible.

Also, relevant international organizations and institutes should be incorporated into the multilateral system. We also believe that ensuring facilitated access to the international network

of the plant genetic resources within the Multilateral System should also be looked upon. With these factors combined, our goal is to implement a multilateral system in plant genetic resources under fair and equitable benefit-sharing to find a feasible and acceptable system.

We feel that open access to the utilization of the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will contribute to the improvement of global food security.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America)

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, and also to Ambassador Gerbasi for capturing where we are in the negotiating process, and recommending next steps.

The United States of America is committed to the goal of global food security through the sustainable conservation and utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We have all benefitted from a decades-old system which facilitates access to plant genetic resources, and which has successfully promoted widespread dissemination of those resources.

As a nation, we are proud of our substantial contribution to this area. We work with almost every country in this room, be it in sharing germplasm, promoting technology transfer and/or funding capacity-building. We have done this through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels.

We are also committed to working together toward a revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, which will further these goals. We recognize the challenges of harmonizing the Undertaking with the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is in all of our interests here to find an expeditious solution to these challenges.

We have made progress in a series of Contact Group meetings under the chairpersonship of Ambassador Gerbasi. In addition, we are very appreciative of the generous support of the Governments of Switzerland and the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting recent meetings, and to other governments for funding so much of the travel of developing country delegates, and providing extra-budgetary funding for meetings.

We recognize that progress has been uneven in these meetings. This reflects the complicated subject matter and the importance of these issues. However, breakthroughs in understanding and resolution of problems have occurred as the delegates have gained knowledge of the issues and each other's concerns. There still exists a real opportunity of agreement.

We have many challenges ahead. The main unresolved issue at the moment, in our view, is to find a practical way of bringing the commercial sector into a realistic system of benefit-sharing. We need to ensure that the benefit sharing is implementable, that it is efficient in delivering benefits to the appropriate beneficiaries, with a minimum of additional costs and impediments in creation of new bureaucracies. Unfortunately, this issue has become intertwined in the current text with that of the practice of restricting access to material that has been developed from plant genetic resources, through the legitimate exercise of intellectual property rights.

We strongly support the objectives of the International Undertaking and we are willing to engage in continuing negotiations, with a view to concluding by the November 2001 FAO Conference. We would strongly recommend keeping the discussion at the Contact Group level until the core text of the most difficult issues is resolved. We believe the Contact Group, or even a smaller informal group format, is the most helpful because it provides the opportunity for genuine discussion that can lead to solutions. Such groups, however, must always include full representation of geographic regions and ranges of concerns, or the results of the discussions will not be accepted by the larger group.

We concur with Chairperson Gerbasi's recommendation that his mandate to convene the Contact Group be extended.

Finally, we support France's proposal to convene an interim group of legal experts to make a legal scrub of the text of Articles 11 to 16, to ensure that legal problems do not later trip up a delicately-balanced substantive agreement.

Katsuhiko TAKAHASHI (Japan)

Japan has been actively participating in the Contact Group meetings and making a financial contribution to the holding of the series of Contact Group sessions in expectation of successful finalization of the text of the revised International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Japan would like to reiterate our will of doing our best for a successful and expeditious conclusion of the negotiation. We acknowledge the important progress made so far, for which we would like to express our appreciation and pay special tribute to the Chairman of the Contact Group, Ambassador Gerbasi, for his untiring efforts, and the guidance demonstrated for many years. At the same time, we must admit that in spite of all the efforts and goodwill of all the participating countries, the last four meetings of the Contact Group have not brought about a successful finalization of the text of the revised International Undertaking.

The Japanese delegation is happy to note that a number of delegates in this room have expressed their views in support of continuing the work of revising the International Undertaking. However, we should bear in mind that as each country's internal difficulties and ideas are getting clearer, differences of opinion are becoming more imminent, in particular on the issue of benefit-sharing. It appears to us that it will be very difficult to narrow the gap if the discussion continues in the same manner as it is.

Having borne these points in mind, our delegation would like to suggest that the Council encourages both developing as well as developed countries to listen to positions and proposals from each side with more flexibility and stronger political will to narrow the gap so that we can achieve further progress in the Contact Group. We are also of the view that a clear deadline should be set in this Council for expeditious conclusion, not to lose the momentum of the negotiations. We believe that the Conference to be held in November next year should be the new deadline as the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, has mentioned this morning.

Finally, I also want to remind all of you that the successful and expeditious conclusion of this negotiation has essential importance for the credibility of FAO in the international community since this task was mandated in the resolution made at the time of the Diplomatic Conference, where the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted.

Bhaskar BARUA (India)

Many distinguished delegates have given very good and solid reasons why this process should go further. We are all for it. The Indian delegation associates itself with, firstly, the expressions of compliments paid to Ambassador Gerbasi. We understand sometimes the task has been difficult, but he has done an admirable job so far, and will continue to do so we are sure.

Secondly, we feel that this process must be moved forward in the interests of food security, and in the interest of greater agricultural production, particularly looking at the dependence of the hungry millions on this particular agreement. We do feel that the appropriate forum for getting this forward, given the political will, is the entire Contact Group. It has achieved certain dynamics, it has got a collective identity so far and perhaps that is the best forum for carrying this process forward. I think a target date, if not a deadline of the next Council meeting in June 2001 would be appropriate for Ambassador Gerbasi and the Contact Group to consider. One could have expressed disappointment at what was not achieved at Neuchâtel, however, instead of expressing disappointment, we would like to express optimism that this process can certainly go forward and we associate ourselves with this fully.

Bill DOERING (Canada)

The revision and adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in Harmony with the Convention on Biologic Diversity is a crucial initiative. Progress is being made by Ambassador Gerbasi and the Contact Group, and we commend their commitment to finding a solution to this difficult and complex issue. Canada strongly supports the continuation of the negotiations through an extension of the Group's negotiating mandate to reach a satisfactory conclusion, by the next Conference in November 2001. We also encourage the Contact Group to

meet again early in the new year to benefit from the current momentum and to advance the negotiations as soon as possible.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Mi país está entre aquellos Estados para los que las negociaciones relativas a negociaciones de la revisión del Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos en armonía con el Convenio sobre Biodiversidad Biológica reviste una importancia fundamental. Tanto es así que ha participado con amplio espíritu constructivo y con voluntad política de llegar a conclusiones positivas en todas las reuniones del Grupo de Contacto. Hemos escuchado con gran atención el informe que acaba de hacer el Embajador Gerbasi y, en virtud de ello, mi delegación acompaña la solicitud que ha formulado el Presidente del Grupo de Contacto de que se amplíe el mandato de dicho Grupo, y esperamos que siga bajo su eficiente y sabia conducción para poder continuar el proceso negociador para su conclusión a corto plazo, y que este Consejo sea el que tome una decisión positiva en tal sentido.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Alemania)

Mi delegación comparte plenamente lo dicho por el delegado de Francia al hablar en nombre de la Comunidad Europea, que recalcó la urgencia de continuar y concluir con éxito el proceso negociador para el Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos. Como sabemos, este proceso debe llegar a adaptar este documento al Convenio de Diversidad Biológica y a convertirlo también en un Compromiso Internacional de base jurídica, en un instrumento del derecho internacional. Consideramos este proceso de gran importancia porque una vez realizado el Compromiso Internacional será una importante base para conservar y utilizar, de manera sostenible, los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura.

Alemania ha participado activamente en este proceso y es por ello que sabemos apreciar y también agradecer el trabajo realizado por la Comisión y el Grupo de Trabajo bajo la presidencia astuta, paciente y perseverante del señor Gerbasi. Como ustedes saben, Alemania fue el país anfitrión de la Conferencia Internacional Técnica sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos en 1996 en Leipzig. En aquel entonces teníamos la esperanza de que podíamos aprobar este documento durante la Conferencia de Leipzig, cosa que no fue posible, lo que refleja a su vez las dificultades del trabajo de los expertos. Por ello esperamos que el Grupo de Trabajo y la Comisión lleguen pronto a soluciones de compromiso sobre aspectos técnica y legalmente muy complejos. Agradecemos al señor Gerbasi y lo alentamos a seguir, exhortando a aquellos países que todavía tienen reservas sobre ciertos aspectos importantes, como la distribución de beneficios, lleguen a concordar con soluciones de compromiso.

En 1996 tuvo lugar la Conferencia Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos y la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación; ojalá el año 2001 se convierta en su culminación, de manera que podamos aprobar el Compromiso en ocasión de la próxima Conferencia.

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brasil)

La negociación relativa al fácil acceso a los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, es una negociación difícil porque representa, desde el inicio, una diferencia de intereses entre países detenedores de megabiodiversidad y países detenedores de los recursos industriales más importantes del mundo. Es difícil además, porque se enfrentan países que negocian el acceso a sus recursos y países que para obtenerlos deben de negociar la repartición de los beneficios que obtienen a raíz de aquel acceso que pretenden les sea facilitado.

Quizás, las dificultades que enfrentamos en esa negociación pudieran ser resueltas si, en vez de Compromiso Internacional para el acceso facilitado a los recursos fitogenéticos, estuviéramos negociando lo mismo pero con la siguiente modificación: Compromiso Internacional para el acceso facilitado a los recursos fitogenéticos para alimentación y agricultura y su consecuente y simétrica repartición de beneficios.

Sin embargo, las negociaciones caminan con la lentitud proporcional a la prudencia de negociadores técnicos desprovistos de recursos políticos; y caminan porque detrás de los técnicos existe la voluntad política para que avancen y lleguen a buen término. Además porque todos estamos sinceramente comprometidos en contribuir a favor del principio *Alimento para Todos*.

Finalmente, las negociaciones caminan porque en la Presidencia de la Comisión y del Grupo de Contacto está el Embajador Fernando Gerbasi, un apasionado del tema, un profesional de larguísima experiencia en diplomacia bilateral y multilateral, ex-vice ministro de relaciones exteriores en su país de origen. Fernando Gerbasi es, ante todo, un político; su capacidad de armonizar esos intereses a los cuales me he referido, sin embargo, va más allá de lo político, es más cercano a otra clase de profesionales, los prestidigitadores. Su actuación en esas negociaciones es de tal imparcialidad que más de una vez, como colega de región y Representante como él de un país con megabiodiversidad, me pidió una definición sobre el ánimo negociador de Brasil en la discusión del Compromiso, pidiéndome al mismo tiempo una actitud más positiva en la consecución de nuestros objetivos. En sano juicio nadie podrá discordar con esa imparcialidad, y creo que, si aún existiera entre los negociadores algún desprovisto de intimidad con la razón, tampoco se atrevería a discordar conmigo en ese punto. De esa forma, la Delegación de Brasil, apoya fuertemente y con sumo interés la conducción íntegra y enérgica del Embajador Gerbasi y a la vez conciliadora, firme y decidida. Con este espíritu, Brasil se une a los que creen que el deber de este Consejo será conferir un plazo prudencial y flexible hasta la próxima sesión del Consejo que antecede la próxima Conferencia, para que el Grupo de Contacto siga con su edificante tarea.

Mengistu HULLUKA (Ethiopia)

In the history of Intergovernmental sessions the negotiations of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is among the works that took so long a time to finalize. The Commission began its work in the 1980s, and still has not fully completed its work. In spite of a long delay, the negotiation is still in the process of formulation to the satisfaction of all stakeholders in quest for common ground on a number of important issues.

Of course, the negotiation being challenging, time and resource consuming and at times frustrating, has not progressed at the expected pace on the basis of the programmes and plans envisaged under the regular budget, thus the need for inter-session meetings are obvious. Extra budgetary resources were sought and many generous donors supported the negotiation through financing the sessions and the participation of developing countries. The setting up of the contact groups was very instrumental to actually arrange the negotiation. We pledge our appreciation for the commendable work done by the Chairman of the Contact Group and members of the Bureau. We are also very grateful to the Secretariat of the Commission for the wonderful job they have been doing all these years.

We would also look to put on record our appreciation for the many active members, and others who contributed to the finalization of the negotiations of the revised International Undertaking. The objective of this untiring negotiation is for the immediate and successful completion of the revised International Undertaking in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to designing a comprehensive strategy for the sustainable utilization, management and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the framework of present and future users. It is hoped that the promotion, conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture will help increase in food production for the attainment of the goal of the World Food Summit. Besides its importance in terms of achieving food security, it is believed that the advancement in the conservation, management and sustainable utilization of genetic resources enables the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the commercialization of the product.

We note with appreciation that, despite the many difficulties, the Commission managed to resolve many of the protracted issues pertaining to the elements of the Undertaking especially the formulation of workable multilateral systems of accessing plant genetic resources, a beneficiary mechanism taking into account Farmers' Rights in terms of access to and transfer of technology and capacity-building, information sharing, sharing of benefits from commercialization, the

availability of the financial resources for the International Undertaking to operate programmes at national level, involving the many actors. We are also glad to see that, when finalized, the International Undertaking will be a legally binding instrument.

In conclusion, we are aware that the work of the Contact Group met in Rome, Teheran and Neuchâtel made some progress. My delegation hopes that the negotiation of the Revised International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity will come to a successful ending with Council's reflection and guidance to empower the Contact Group to continue the negotiations.

Mrs Mariann KOVÁCS (Hungary)

The Hungarian delegation, as others, would like to commend Ambassador Gerbasi for the outstanding work he has done in the interest of the Revised Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. We would like to express our appreciation for the efforts made by different Governments to host the meetings of the Contact Group as well.

Having seen the document, and listened carefully to the verbal report of Ambassador Gerbasi, we are of the opinion that the Contact Group has made a significant progress towards a final text, although there are still very important issues open. We firmly believe that after years, it is high time to conclude our work, thus we urge the Contact Group to continue its activity in such a way that the negotiations could be brought to an end next year.

In conclusion, my delegate fully support the statements of France made on behalf of the European Union.

Mohammad Saeed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I am not an expert on genetic resources. I simply asked for the floor to sincerely thank the extremely skilful leadership of Ambassador Gerbasi and the tireless efforts of the FAO Secretariat in negotiations on the revised International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in Harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. I witnessed the hard work, innovative approaches and dedication of Ambassador Gerbasi and the FAO Secretariat in the Teheran meeting.

When I was reading the report of CL 119/7, and especially paragraph 12, which says the Third Inter-sessional Meeting was probably the most fruitful to date, there were major breakthroughs in the text, or that significant progress was made, I thought that there has been something in the food or air in Teheran that has created this atmosphere of political will and spirit of cooperation. So I was thinking of re-inviting the group to Teheran to finish the job but, listening to Ambassador Gerbasi's statement today, I understood that this has been very temporary and not sustainable, so my invitation would be depending on Ambassador Gerbasi's political evaluation on the process which he has proposed.

But listening to all delegations who have spoken before me I am convinced that the only way to a successful conclusion to this is to ask, let's say, Captain Gerbasi to continue navigating his plane until he brings it to a very soft and successful landing.

I have seen enthusiasm in the statements of all delegates who have spoken before me. I think that their political will does exist. What is needed would be more patience on the part of Ambassador Gerbasi and the FAO Secretariat. So do we support the extension of the mandate of Ambassador Gerbasi up to the next FAO Conference and we are confident that we would have a successful conclusion to this meeting.

Ms Kristiane HERRMANN (Australia)

The negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking have borne out that issues are complex and interrelated. This has sometimes contributed to slow progress as concepts are clarified and shared understandings are developed. Developing shared understandings of key concepts and principles is, and must continue to be, an integral part of the revision process if workable and implementable solutions are to be found through agreed text.

Substantive negotiations have now taken place on all key provisions of the multilateral system. This represents considerable progress over the last twelve months and we thank Ambassador Gerbasi for bringing us to this point. We now have a clearer understanding of how the issues relate to each other across the different provisions. In taking issues forward in these final stages, it will be important to adopt arrangements which recognize the interrelated nature of issues and legal implications. The drafting process needs to focus on developing a workable and effective revised Undertaking which can be implemented by all parties.

For our part, we are committed to participating in the negotiations to bring them to a conclusion for the benefit of all by the time of next year's Conference.

Rachid LAKHDAR (Maroc)

Le Maroc fait partie de la majorité des composantes du système mondial de conservation et d'utilisation des ressources phytogénétiques, placées sous les auspices de la FAO. Il a en particulier signé l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques, le Code de conduite pour la collecte et le transfert des ressources phytogénétiques et l'Accord sur le réseau international des banques de gènes. Nous sommes persuadés que l'engagement, qui vise à faire en sorte que les ressources phytogénétiques présentant un intérêt pour l'agriculture soient prospectées, pré-évaluées et mises à la disposition des chercheurs en vue de leur valorisation, est essentiel pour le développement et l'avancée des différentes agricultures de nos pays.

La délégation marocaine souhaite rendre hommage à l'action de Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi et nous enregistrons les progrès et résultats importants qui ont été enregistrés sur certains articles essentiels. Il reste cependant à poursuivre le travail et les activités du Groupe de contact. La délégation marocaine soutient la poursuite de ces activités et espère que des options politiques puissent être effectivement prises à ce niveau à l'occasion des prochaines réunions.

Antonio ONORATI (Italie)

Je voudrais tout d'abord apporter ici les salutations distinguées de mon ministre qui, comme vous le savez, avec d'autres ministres européens siège en ce moment à Bruxelles pour des questions typiques de cette Europe un peu compliquée. Je vais apporter d'abord une considération qui fait suite aux déclarations de l'Union européenne, une considération à certaines remarques que l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi a fait. Il a appelé à un engagement politique fort et clair. L'Italie, qui est pays un peu à mi-chemin, étant dans le centre des diversités biologiques de la Méditerranée, est un pays qui, comme d'autres pays développés, a bien sûr à prendre des ressources génétiques mais aussi un pays qui a à offrir des ressources génétiques. C'est pour cela que nous comprenons très bien cette demande d'une forte expression politique. C'est à cause de cela justement que mon ministre a décidé que cette question, depuis la reprise des négociations après Téhéran, que nous avons estimée fort positivement, soit traitée directement au niveau de son cabinet. Par-là nous ne voulons donner des leçons à personne bien sûr, mais nous croyons que le moment est venu d'arriver à des conclusions qui apportent des avantages pour tout le monde parce qu'il s'agit ici de trouver des solutions appréciées par tous, dans une vision multilatérale qui nous touche d'une manière équilibrée. Une deuxième remarque que nous voudrions faire c'est ici faire hommage, et je crois le représentant du Brésil l'a fait avec des paroles mieux exprimées que les miennes, à l'équilibre dont l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi a donné preuve durant toutes ces négociations.

L'Italie ne fait pas partie du Groupe de contact mais a eu de bonnes notes ce qui nous permet donc de bien apprécier à travers, non seulement les dossiers, mais aussi à travers les expressions qui nous ont été apportées. Quelqu'un a déjà parlé de conflit d'intérêt, il est normal et quelque fois positif. Ce qui fait la différence c'est que dans un système multilatéral qui traite des ressources génétiques il faudra assumer la responsabilité de cette contradiction et la mener à bien pour avoir un accord international. C'est pour cela que nous insistons pour que le travail continue, pour que la direction de ce travail continue, pour que les échéances qui ont été répétées par toutes les délégations soient maintenues. De notre part, si nous pouvons offrir quelque chose de la part de l'Italie nous sommes prêts, et là je m'exprime au nom de mon ministre, à faire des discussions pour voir si des conditions matérielles ou d'autres supports pourraient être nécessaires pour que le

travail puisse continuer avec un "timing", comme il a été dit dans plusieurs des interventions. Je vous prie de considérer que cet engagement fait partie des préoccupations qui ont déjà été présentées par la France mais qui sont fort partagées aussi dans le reste des pays comme vous le savez et comme beaucoup d'entre vous le savent. Les ressources génétiques sont un thème conflictuel aussi dans notre société mais elles sont au coeur de certaines reformes que l'on voudrait voir dans l'agriculture européenne.

M. SMITH (United Kingdom)

I would just like to speak for a moment in support of the statement already made by France on behalf of the European Union.

My delegation believes that there has been significant progress over the last two years. We have developed much of the basic shape of the Multilateral System which will be the core of the International Undertaking. My delegation believes that the progress that we have achieved on that is, in large part, due to the clear and practical guidance that we have received from Ambassador Gerbasi.

Now the progress has not been as fast as all of us would have liked and there are still some very difficult issues to be resolved, but we must remember that we are here defining a completely new system for which there is no precedent to help us in our work. We have gained real momentum over the last year and this is a momentum which we believe should be maintained.

I would like to highlight the proposal that France made that there should be established a small legal drafting group and a small technical group to consider definitions to work in parallel with the Contact Group. We believe that will help very much in creating the structure of the debate in the Contact Group.

So, in summary, we fully support the continuation of the Contact Group process under the excellent guidance of Ambassador Gerbasi.

Ioan PAVEL (Observateur de Roumanie)

La Roumanie, en tant que membre du Groupe de contact pour les négociations de l'engagement international révisé sur les ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, aimerait féliciter et remercier l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi pour ses efforts déployés durant ces difficiles négociations. Nous voudrions remercier aussi le Secrétariat de la Commission pour son travail. La Roumanie considère que le processus des négociations doit continuer pour achever le but d'avoir prochainement un engagement profitable à tous. Nous apprécions que seulement sous la présidence de l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi le Groupe de contact peut porter les négociations à une conclusion fructueuse. Dans ce contexte, la délégation de la Roumanie aimerait apporter son ferme appui à la déclaration présentée par la France au nom de l'Union européenne.

Francis MONTANARO MIFSUD (Observer for Malta)

We would like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Gerbasi for his encouraging report and also for his dedication to his formidable task.

In view of the progress achieved in the revision of the Undertaking, we would urge that the process of negotiation of the substantive issues be continued under Ambassador Gerbasi's able leadership and that the next stage should be the meeting of the Contact Group.

In this connection, I would like to register our support for the intervention of the distinguished representative of France on behalf of the European Union, and to express our general agreement with the observations contained in the EU Statement. In the same spirit, we would support the statement of Iceland on behalf of the Nordic Group.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je voudrais, avec la permission du Ministre de l'agriculture, Chef de la délégation sénégalaise, vous dire combien notre pays, membre du Groupe de contact également, a apprécié les efforts faits par les pays donateurs qui ont permis la poursuite de ces négociations. Nous voulons

également saluer la perspicacité et l'efficacité de mon ami, l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi, qui a fait un travail excellent et être d'accord avec lui que dans cette entreprise très complexe et difficile, mais combien importante pour nos agriculteurs, il est important que nous ayons une volonté politique suffisante pour mener à terme cette noble entreprise si tel est notre désir. C'est pourquoi nous voulons souhaiter que l'on puisse donner la chance à ce Groupe de contact de poursuivre ces négociations en engageant tous les pays encore réticents à s'associer à cette bonne volonté pour que d'ici juin de l'année prochaine, à l'occasion de la réunion du prochain Conseil, l'on puisse réellement aboutir à des résultats concrets et éviter quand même de faire durer cette question éternellement au moment où les besoins sont très pressants et importants pour nos agriculteurs dans nos pays.

Anton KOHLER (Observateur de la Suisse)

La Suisse aimerait remercier le Président de la Commission pour les ressources phytogénétiques, Son Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Fernando Gerbasi, d'avoir dirigé avec patience et compétence la séance du Groupe de contact dans notre pays à Chaumons, à Neuchâtel. Les négociations internes reflétaient parfaitement le changement permanent du climat dehors; un peu de soleil, la pluie, des nuages, de la neige et finalement la perspective promettante du panorama et des Alpes de l'est à l'ouest et du nord au sud. L'analyse des résultats obtenus lors de cette séance permet de tirer certaines conclusions. Il est tout d'abord important que tous les pays continuent à réviser l'engagement international avec unanimité. Les réserves qui existent doivent être prises au sérieux. La confiance mutuelle accrue certainement permet une continuation constructive et une conclusion dans l'intérêt des paysans et de l'alimentation mondiale.

J'aimerais terminer mon intervention en me référant à l'intervention de l'Ambassadeur de la France au nom de l'Union européenne avec laquelle nous sommes pleinement d'accord.

CHAIRMAN

We have heard a very constructive and positive debate on Item No. 5. I think we do have a consensus here, we have read and we have listened to the report by Ambassador Gerbasi and we have appreciated his efforts and of all the Contact Groups, everybody there. We are also aware of the myriad of problems and difficulties that are still faced by the Contact Group to come to a final conclusion which we have expected to be reported in this Hundred and Nineteenth Session of the Council.

Nevertheless, we are looking at it in a positive way and we have a consensus, I think, that we should continue and extend the mandate to the Contact Group under the Chairpersonship of Ambassador Gerbasi, with the objective that the finalization of the product will be acted upon by the Conference next year, 2001. We hope that every effort would be made to reach that objective. We heard that there is mention of a planned Contact Group Meeting early in 2001, probably in January, and I think Ambassador Gerbasi then will try everything that can be done.

We have heard also suggestions by the European Commission, European countries suggested by France. We take note of that again.

Before concluding, I would like to ask Ambassador Gerbasi to respond to the debate.

Fernando GERBASI (Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura)

Yo creo que de la evaluación hecha aquí emergen varios consensos que son sumamente importantes. En primer lugar constato que existe la voluntad política para continuar las negociaciones, hecho fundamental y esencial. Reconocemos que hay diferencias, eso es importante también, como alguien dijo en la diversidad está la unidad, por lo tanto al reconocer la diferencia podemos constatar que también podemos avanzar y buscar caminos intermedios que nos permitan encontrar la solución adecuada.

Se ha indicado con toda razón la interrelación que existe entre los temas, algo que no podemos perder de vista y que es bueno que sea analizado correctamente para poder evaluar las posturas negociadoras en el futuro cercano.

En cuanto al consenso, concuerdo con ustedes que hay el deseo de renovar el mandato al grupo de contacto para que ultime las negociaciones y presente sus resultados para la Conferencia en noviembre de 2001. Yo no se cuántas reuniones serán necesarias, nosotros tenemos recursos suficientes para hacer por lo menos dos reuniones del Grupo de Contacto, y si fuera necesario una tercera; tengo la seguridad de que los países encontrarían los fondos para el caso.

Creo que aquí es importante que se me autorice para actuar en plena consulta con el Director General de forma tal de que se tomen las medidas dentro de la propia institución para organizar el trabajo del Grupo de Contacto de la Comisión del Consejo; la parte administrativa es también esencial para poder llegar a la Conferencia con un texto que pueda ser aprobado por los señores Ministros o Jefes de Estado en esa oportunidad, esperemos la Cumbre que tanto se ha conversado.

Ms Louise FRESCO (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department)

I do believe it is important to tell you how much importance the Secretariat attaches to this endeavour. It is a long way and we are extremely pleased with your expressions of support to the process. Please trust that we will be working very closely as a Secretariat both with the Chairman, with the countries of the Contact Group and with all the countries. This has very high priority in the Agriculture Department and the Organization as a whole. We truly look forward to being able to have a discussion on a real result in this process as soon as possible and certainly by the next meeting of your Council, there should be something on the table.

Thank you very much and let me also, on behalf of the Secretariat, express our sincere gratitude and thanks to the Chairman for the wonderful way in which we have been able to cooperate.

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Nineteenth Session Cent dix-neuvième session 119º período de sesiones
Rome, 20-25 November 2000 Rome, 20-25 novembre 2000 Roma, 20-25 de noviembre de 2000
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
21 November 2000

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9h45
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (CONT'D)

II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (SUITE)

II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (CONTINUACIÓN)

4. REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (ROME, SEPTEMBER 2000) (CL 119/14)

4. RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SIXIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DE LA SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE MONDIALE (ROME, SEPTEMBRE 2000) (CL 119/14)

4. INFORME DEL 26° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA MUNDIAL (ROMA, SEPTIEMBRE DE 2000) (CL 119/14)

CHAIRMAN

I call the Third Meeting of the Hundred and Nineteenth Session of the FAO Council to order.

The first item on our Agenda this morning is Item 4, Report of the *Twenty-Sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security* (Rome, September 2000) and the relative document is CL119/14.

In addition to the Report of the Committee, the Secretariat has issued document CL 119/LIM/3, entitled *Proposal for FAO Conference Review of Progress in Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action (WFS: Five Years Later)*. This document contains further information as requested by the Committee on Food Security, to enable the Council to consider and take a position on the Director-General's proposal to use the FAO Conference as the forum for the World Food Summit: Five Years Later.

I would like to ask Mr O'Driscoll, the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security, to introduce the Report.

Aidan O'DRISCOLL (Chairman, Committee on World Food Security)

As you say, the documents we are examining are CL 119/14 and CL 119/LIM/3.

The Committee, at its session in September, considered the world food security situation and the follow-up to the World Food Summit.

I would like to highlight, in particular, the main recommendations of the Committee which are set out in pages 6, 7 and 8 of CL 119/14. These recommendations are addressed to governments, the international community and the FAO Secretariat. The recommendations to Governments emphasize the need to create an enabling environment to implement gender-sensitive poverty eradication programmes and to identify constraints to the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. Governments are also asked to emphasize the results of actions in future country reports on follow-up to the World Food Summit.

Another set of recommendations pertaining to the international community refers to the need to enhance the flow of resources to, and reduce the debt burden of, developing countries to help them implement the World Food Summit Plan of Action and to strengthen their capacity to prevent and reduce the impact of disasters.

The Committee also calls for UN Agencies to strengthen their collaboration in implementing the Plan of Action.

The Committee also asks the FAO Secretariat to ensure that all important issues are identified in future food security progress reports and to highlight positive and replicable examples. The Secretariat is also urged to further improve indicators, including the identification of vulnerable groups, and to report on the incidence of HIV-AIDS and to monitor the impact of AIDS on food security.

The Committee concludes that FAO should continue to play a lead role in promoting world food security and provide capacity-building assistance to developing countries, and countries in transition, to enable them to satisfy the standards required for access to world markets.

In relation to FIVIMS, the Committee recommends that support to Latin America be increased. It emphasized the need to strengthen linkages between relevant agencies and to continue to develop the methodology for vulnerable group profiling and to rectify FAO estimates using more precise national data.

The Committee chose the following thematic issue for its next meeting: "The application of appropriate agricultural technology and practices and their impact on food security and the eradication of poverty: lessons learned from selected community-based experiences".

The CFS also considered in some detail a proposal from the Director-General on the subject of the World Food Summit Five Years Later, as you have mentioned, and it requested the Secretariat to develop further the proposal for discussion at this session of the Council. In response, the Secretariat has now produced document CL 119/LIM/3 for your consideration. Ms Killingsworth will introduce this document in a moment.

I should finally note that the deliberations of the CFS, and of the informal panel meeting outside of the formal Agenda of the meeting, were enriched by the participation, in an observer capacity, of representatives of other international organizations and of NGOs and CSOs. The important role of the latter in implementing the Plan of Action was underlined.

I have attempted to summarize a very rich discussion in comparatively few words and I am sure I may have missed some important points. I am happy to say, however, that the Committee's Report is of a very high quality and is indeed a possible model for other FAO reports, which is a tribute to the work of our drafting Committee and, of course, of the Secretariat. I commend the CFS Report to you and look forward to your consideration of that document and of the proposal on World Food Summit: five years later.

Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Assistant Director-General, Special Adviser on World Food Summit Follow-up)

Just to supplement what the Chairman of the CFS has said. Document CL 119/LIM/3, as requested by the CFS, provides further information on the Director-General's proposal to use the FAO Conference next November as a forum for the consideration of progress in implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action five years after the World Food Summit. The Director-General himself, in his address to you yesterday, explained the reasons for his proposal and I don't think I need go into them now. I would just point out the major elements of the proposal, as contained in CL 119/LIM/3.

The first is that the objective here is to focus on measures needed to accelerate progress in implementation of the World Food Summit commitments. For that purpose, political will is required to ensure that the action needed to accelerate the pace of change will be implemented. Such political will needs to be mobilized at the level of Heads of State or Government: the leaders who are in a position to influence policy for all segments of society and all sectors of the economy.

It is essential to avoid reopening debate on any part of the Rome Declaration and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, and rather to consider what is needed to fulfil the undertakings contained in them. The proposal also foresees that this review will not duplicate, but rather complement, the on-going process of monitoring by the Committee on World Food Security and will provide additional impetus, support and follow-up for that process. The use of an already scheduled

session of the FAO Conference, and the reliance on the scheduled sessions of the CFS in May and the Council in June, are proposed in the interest of cost-effectiveness and efficiency as they avoid the need for new or separate meetings.

In sum, the Council is requested to consider, and take a decision on, two cardinal points. The first is that it request the Director-General to include the item on the Provisional Agenda of the Thirty-First Session of the Conference in 2001. The second is that it support the Director-General's proposal to invite Heads of State and Government of all Members of FAO, and also of Members of the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, as was the case for the World Food Summit itself, to attend the Conference for this purpose.

I will stop here. I am happy to answer any questions after your debate, which we look forward to hearing.

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

Allow me to thank the Chairman of CFS and Ms Killingsworth for the presentation of the Report and the LIM document. Our delegation, like the Chairman of CFS, would like to appreciate the new format of the Report, noting that it is more focussed and reflects enhanced clarity in presentation.

We express our concern in the findings in paragraph 8 of the Report, that with business as usual, the World Food Summit objectives of reducing the number of undernourished by half by 2015 cannot be attained. We further note that the challenges and opportunities identified in paragraphs 12 to 17 of the document far outweigh the encouraging trends indicated in paragraphs 9 to 11. As such, the situation calls for immediate corrective measures.

In general, we support the recommendations contained in paragraph 30 and exhort all actors to discharge their responsibilities under the WFS Plan of Action in a befitting manner. We particularly call upon the international community to provide FAO, and other international organizations dealing with food security, with enhanced outlays for discharging effectively their respective responsibilities.

Our delegation attaches great importance to the FIVIMS initiative. In our recent visit, as part of a WFP executive board delegation, to two developing countries, we noted that preparation of national FIVIMS suffered greatly on account of lack of resources. Therefore, while in general supporting the recommendations contained in paragraph 39 of the Report, we recommend enhanced allocations for FIVIMS for its development at the national level in all regions.

Finally, we have already indicated that business as usual would not help attain the World Food Summit Plan of Action targets, and collective action is necessary. We have studied the document CL 119/LIM/3, together with the Report of the Committee on Food Security, and find ourselves in sympathy with the Director-General's proposal for the FAO Conference review of progress in implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. From the procedure outlined in CL 119/LIM/3, however, we note the likelihood of the review becoming merely an occasion for delivering country statements on progress on implementation in respective countries, without addressing real challenges and issues. There is thus a need for further work by the FAO Secretariat and the CFS Bureau, to ensure that the proposed review remains focussed, addresses the key areas of concern, and has a meaningful outcome.

Bill DOERING (Canada)

We would also like to start out by echoing Pakistan's comments about the Report, which we consider to be quite focussed and comprehensive. We would also like to commend Mr O'Driscoll's leadership in this issue, and that of the Bureau.

Canada understands that the progress to date in food security is slow, and that a review after five years would reaffirm international commitments to advance the objectives set out in 1996. We appreciate the Director-General's vision and leadership in getting countries to recommit to the

WFS goals. The 2001 Conference is an appropriate venue for that recommitment. However, we have a number of concerns about how best to achieve that goal.

For example, we are somewhat apprehensive that a five-year review may be too soon to form an adequate assessment of the impact of the Summit's Plan of Action, given that we have only just completed one cycle reporting. In addition, it is important to recall that national governments, and I repeat, national governments have primary responsibility for implementing the Summit's outcome by outlining and pursuing sustainable development strategies. These multidimensional strategies must integrate social, economic and environmental issues in order to stimulate progress at the national level by governments working in tandem with international organizations and civil society. As well, a review conference, at the Head of State level, would be costly for both FAO and national governments, which may divert scarce resources away from food security programming under these strategies. The reality is that five-year review conferences which have taken place over the last two years, such as Copenhagen: Plus-5, Beijing: Plus-5, did not result in substantive pledges of new and additional resources. Instead, the trend is now to move towards a more substantive policy dialogue. These discussions allow for sharing of best practices and lessons learned, which together will provide for a real meeting of minds and a collective will. Given that there will be three major conferences in 2001, including one on children, HIV-AIDS, LDC-3, in our view it is imperative to ensure that the FAO Conference includes substantive technical discussion that will bring consensus among Member States to nurture the political will to move forward with a recommitment. A general discussion at the Head of State level, or a pledge in Conference during a busy year, could be counterproductive and may dilute existing support.

In summary, we recognize the need to recommit governments to the World Food Summit goal by reducing by half the number of undernourished people by 2015. However, we remain concerned about a number of factors such as the early nature of the review, diverting scarce resources, the importance of the link between international cooperation and national responsibilities, the somewhat ineffective nature of past review conferences, the number of major conferences in 2001, and the risk of diluting existing support.

In conclusion, we believe that the best possible approach to achieving a substantive recommitment to food security would involve engagement of national governments, including civil society, at the appropriate ministerial level and with those ministers with leadership responsibilities in food security. A successful review will be one that will bring North-South members together in order to find practical ways to achieve our common goal.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Así lo afirmamos durante nuestra intervención en las sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, donde nuestro grupo regional hizo saber su percepción con respecto a la situación actual de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, sobre el grado de aplicación de los compromisos contraídos y ratificados por los gobiernos en la Cumbre Mundial de 1996 y, en alguna manera, sobre cómo imprimir vigor e impulso a su decidida ejecución y desarrollo. El GRULAC aprueba este informe aunque estimamos conveniente subrayar algunas observaciones.

La inseguridad alimentaria afecta a gran parte de la población de nuestras naciones, por lo que es necesario adelantar acciones substantivas para revertir esta situación. En este aspecto, la comunidad internacional reconoció que no es suficiente lo que hasta hoy hemos hecho, individual y colectivamente, y que es imprescindible para acelerar la marcha, trabajar de manera consistente con la voluntad política que en 1996 inspiró nuestros acuerdos.

América Latina y el Caribe está convencida que la comunidad internacional tiene la responsabilidad ineludible de combatir el flagelo del hambre, sobre todo en el mundo en desarrollo, tal como lo recoge el presente informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Las recomendaciones que se concertaron brindan una valiosa orientación a los gobiernos, a los organismos intergubernamentales y a la sociedad civil, para trabajar colectivamente en la

identificación de los medios que permitan profundizar las acciones y superar las dificultades con las cuales hemos tropezado en la aplicación del Plan de Acción.

Las recomendaciones de acrecentar la corriente de asistencia financiera y técnica a los países en desarrollo, de aliviar la carga de su deuda externa, de reforzar la asistencia para prevenir y reducir los efectos de las catástrofes naturales, de dotar a la Organización de un presupuesto suficiente que le permita un mejor desempeño y para que se redoblen los esfuerzos, de manera de garantizar un entorno favorable a la formulación y aplicación de políticas de desarrollo, no deben caer en el vacío. Asimismo el informe, afortunadamente, contiene algunos aspectos cruciales que no fueron tratados debidamente en los documentos preparados para el Comité. Es bien sabido que impulsamos, y lo seguiremos haciendo, la idea de elaborar y adoptar un código de conducta sobre el derecho a la alimentación. Además, rechazamos el hecho de que los alimentos sean utilizados como instrumento de presión política y económica. La comunidad internacional debe tener siempre presente estos conceptos fundamentales y su consecuente mandato.

Y es, con relación a estos últimos aspectos, que solicitamos que el Consejo faculte al Director-General para que atienda, tal y como se ha procedido en otros organismos internacionales, las consultas contempladas en la Resolución A/55/L.7, aprobada en la última Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en su 55º período de sesiones.

El informe del Comité contiene un asunto que debe ser tratado con detenimiento. Me refiero al planteamiento que auspicia el Director-General de llevar a cabo un examen, al más alto nivel político, de la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, cinco años después, en el marco de la Conferencia de 2001.

Permítame recordar hoy que el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe jugó un papel relevante en la preparación de la Cumbre de 1996. En ese entonces, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el Grupo de los 77 y el Consejo de la FAO eran presididos por representantes de Estados de la región. Esta comprometedor circunstancia sirvió de estímulo para llevar a buen término el arduo trabajo preparatorio que significó la elaboración de los documentos que fueron sometidos a la consideración de nuestros Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno.

El GRULAC comparte las preocupaciones del Director General por la lentitud de la aplicación del Plan de Acción de 1996, que, con tanto esfuerzo, logramos definir y acordar. Sin embargo, estimamos también que es responsabilidad de los Estados Miembros honrar los compromisos adquiridos, y que corresponde a la FAO velar porque se cumplan plenamente los mandatos que le han sido conferidos. En este sentido, cabe recordar la observación que formuló el Director-General Adjunto ante el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, cuando señaló: "es, sin duda, conveniente que el Comité dedique gran parte de su trabajo a vigilar la aplicación del Plan de Acción, de manera que, cuando sea necesario, puedan recomendarse y adoptarse a todos los niveles oportunas medidas correctivas y de refuerzo".

Esta observación toca el corazón del asunto. Como señaló el Director-General en su carta del 2 de agosto pasado, dirigida a los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de los Estados Miembros, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial recibió de la Cumbre la responsabilidad de seguir de cerca la aplicación del Plan de Acción y de elaborar informes al respecto. En ese sentido, planteó que la Organización proporcione al Comité, en su período de sesiones de mayo de 2001, la información más actualizada sobre el tema. El informe habría de contener: 1) los esfuerzos realizados por los países y por la comunidad internacional para poner en práctica los compromisos adquiridos en la Cumbre; 2) los resultados conseguidos; 3) los obstáculos encontrados; y 4) los medios para superarlos. El GRULAC estima que, a esta información habría de sumarle la evaluación de los actos de las propias organizaciones internacionales, sus esfuerzos, resultados, obstáculos y medios propuestos para superarlos.

El Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe otorga toda la importancia que merece un planteamiento de esta envergadura. La posible convocatoria a Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno para que se reúnan dentro de un año debería estar precedida por un cuidadoso trabajo preparatorio por parte de todos y cada uno de los órganos políticos que integran la Organización. Si bien está claro el propósito

de una convocatoria de esta naturaleza, persisten muchos interrogantes que deberíamos ir aclarando colectivamente con respecto a los medios, las vías y los recursos para alcanzarlo. El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y este Consejo tienen la potestad para dedicarse a este trabajo que será, seguramente, difícil.

Jaime CAMPOS QUIROGA (Chile)

En primer lugar, mi representación desea sumarse a la declaración efectuada por la delegación argentina a nombre de mi región y que expresa claramente nuestra preocupación colectiva sobre la necesaria reflexión entorno a los acuerdos de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación convenidos en noviembre de 1996. Es importante recordar con cuanta esperanza los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de más de 180 naciones se reunieron para subscribir un compromiso moral y un itinerario para avanzar en la eliminación de las limitaciones y dificultades que presenta el planeta para superar el flagelo del hambre. El Plan de Acción de la Cumbre representa un hito en el esfuerzo consensuado e integral cuya responsabilidad de ejecución pertenece a todos los actuales protagonistas internacionales. Su aplicación efectiva nos compete a cada uno de nosotros, en la justa medida de nuestras capacidades y riquezas; esa es la única forma de avanzar en la materialización de los acuerdos de la Cumbre; y este importante documento, cuya preparación y negociación se extendió por más de un año, y en la que mi país tuvo la suerte de conducir los trabajos, nos brinda un claro y categórico itinerario.

El señor Director-General de la FAO tiene mucha razón cuando expresa que es la voluntad política la que falta entre nuestros países; es la voluntad política la que restringe un mayor acceso a los alimentos, una mejor distribución de éstos, un adecuado acceso a los mercados de los productores agrícolas en igualdad de condiciones; es voluntad política lo que falta para que los precios reflejen efectivamente los costos de producción y, de consecuencia, la eliminación de los ingentes subsidios a la producción y a la explotación. Todo ello gravita en el mantenimiento de la pobreza en los países en desarrollo.

En este sentido, deseo manifestar la preocupación de mi país por la persistencia de los subsidios agrícolas, las barreras arancelaria y pararancelarias y muchas otras prácticas que impiden que los países en desarrollo, como el mío, puedan alcanzar el desarrollo que esperamos. Nos preocupa la emergencia de nuevos paradigmas en materia de política agrícola; por ejemplo, el enfoque multifuncional de la agricultura, porque creemos que pueda reforzar los desequilibrios entre los países que componen la comunidad internacional.

Y si de voluntad política se trata, mi Ministerio de la Agricultura está implementando desde marzo del presente año, fecha de la instalación del Gobierno del Presidente Lagos, una política de estado para la agricultura chilena, la que hemos definido en conjunto con las asociaciones de agricultores, el parlamento, el sector académico y los colegios profesionales, a través de una instancia que presidí y que denominamos "La Mesa Agrícola". Esta instancia ha permitido concretar algunos de los principales objetivos de nuestro gobierno: democratizar la gestión pública y asegurar la participación de la ciudadanía haciendo más transparente el proceso de inserción internacional de la agricultura chilena. Luego de un proceso de más de seis meses de trabajo, esta Mesa Agrícola ha concordado una estrategia de trabajo basada en siete áreas fundamentales: generación de instrumentos y de regulaciones que den confianza y seguridad a los productores agrícolas; desarrollo y perfeccionamiento de los mercados interno y externo; mejoramiento a la productividad de los recursos naturales; mejoramiento de la competitividad; promoción de una agricultura límpida y de calidad; manejo sustentable del bosque nativo y de plantaciones con especies exóticas; desarrollo de la ruralidad e inserción de la pequeña producción en el desarrollo económico nacional.

Mi país apoya la celebración de la Cumbre Cinco Años Después, pero desea recomendar que esta iniciativa sea acompañada con una clara identificación de las limitaciones que hoy día condicionan la eliminación de la pobreza y la malnutrición. El Gobierno de Chile, presidido por el Presidente Ricardo Lagos, está firmemente empeñado en un combate frontal contra la pobreza, pero asimismo reconoce la obligación internacional que tenemos para cooperar en la identificación y en la solución de los problemas de la pobreza y el hambre en nuestros países. Es

insoportable para nosotros que, en algunos países, mientras sobran los alimentos, en otros, niños y mujeres se vayan a dormir sin haber probado el necesario alimento. El Gobierno de Chile, de acuerdo a sus capacidades, participa y continuará participando en acciones regionales y subregionales para facilitar la eliminación de la pobreza y promover el desarrollo de la silvoagricultura.

Si cada uno de los gobiernos que integran la comunidad de naciones actuamos efectiva y generosamente, podremos cumplir con la meta suscrita por los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno en noviembre de 1996, y habremos disminuido, al menos un 50 por ciento, las personas hambrientas en el mundo en el año 2015; y de ese modo habremos contribuido a la felicidad de nuestros pueblos.

Rudolph HINKSON (Barbados)

I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this item, and indeed for giving me the first opportunity to speak in this Council, as this is my first attendance at this august body.

I speak not only on behalf of my own Government, but also on behalf of the 13 English-speaking countries of the Caribbean. We wish to join the position taken by Canada and Argentina on this matter, and congratulate the Committee on World Food Security, its Chairman, Mr O'Driscoll, and his Bureau, for a thorough and comprehensive report on its Twenty-sixth Session.

We note with interest the action taken towards poverty reduction, and I wish to report, for the information of the Council, the actions taken by our Governments in this regard. We have found that by the establishment of a social investment fund, by the creation of urban and rural development commissions, we have used these as the main tenets of our thrust toward the eradication of poverty.

Established within the Ministry of Agriculture, the Rural Development Commission creates access by small farmers to very concessionary loans, as well as technical expertise with which to create microbusinesses in agriculture. This, we find, has gone a long way towards empowerment of the rural poor and especially of rural women. Indeed, our self-sufficiency in poultry has been based for years upon the involvement of hundreds of small farmers financed through this agency.

We wish to congratulate the Executive on its report, and we wish to indicate that we take seriously the recommendations in paragraph 30. We also wish to state that we will take equally seriously the last bullet in the recommendations made for the FAO Secretariat, particularly with respect to capacity-building and transition to standards of *Codex Alimentarius*, as we move towards the WTO and SPS compliance. We will endeavour to hold the Secretariat to these.

Ms Anchalee OORAIKUL (Thailand)

On behalf of the Thai delegation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to FAO for its significant role in contributing to world food security, especially for the establishment of measures to mitigate global malnutrition. I also support the Director-General's strategic idea in organizing the meeting of the Heads of States or Heads of Governments in the year 2001.

In fact, every country has realized that food security is a major factor leading to the rapid and sustained national economic development and has put its massive efforts to achieve the national food security target. Since greater food security can be obtained through various factors, for example, food self-sufficiency production, reduction of post-harvest losses, increased efficiency of food distribution systems and better income and food purchasing power, as well as improved health of the people. FAO should be the principal organization to assist Member Nations in achieving food security.

Regarding FIVIMS, the establishment of IAWG is more than welcome since such cooperation leads to more efficient utilization of the existing limited natural and budgetary resources, particularly human resources. This kind of cooperation should also be extended to other related projects or activities.

However, FIVIMS should focus on strengthening national agencies in adopting a national FIVIMS programme through selection of their own indicators and measurement of the FIVIMS at the national level.

As regards to the theme for the next CFS meeting, the Thai delegation would prefer the theme to be brief and focuses only on important elements, rather than the lengthy theme.

In the case of data related to the *State of Food Insecurity in the World*, which was previously published by FAO, Thailand considers this publication very useful and it enables Member Countries to realize their problems involving hunger and malnutrition.

However, FAO should carefully examine the data before releasing them in order that they are accurate and acceptable. Thailand feels uncomfortable with the FAO's data stating that 21 percent of Thai population in 1996-98 are in a hunger state. Moreover, the data indicated that the depth of the hunger had reached the level of 260 kilo-calories per person per day, despite Thailand is one of the world's major net food-exporting countries.

The Government realized that the problem of hunger exists in some remote areas and severe drought areas, and among the vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women; so many special projects have been launched specifically to alleviate the risks and problems in accordance with the World Food Summit Plan of Action. The report on Food and Nutrition Survey conducted by the Ministry of Health in 1995 also showed that energy consumption in all age groups is adequate. It is, therefore, difficult to accept the data stated in the FAO document.

To make FAO's data more acceptable, my delegation would like to urge FAO, through its country and regional offices, to consult more closely with Government authorities on related data before publishing.

Nehad Ibrahim ABDEL-LATIF (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We should like to thank the Secretariat for the good preparation of this important document regarding the evaluation of food security in the world. We have noticed that those who are malnourished in the world are 826 million, out of which 729 million are in the developing countries. If we examine the case at the regional level, then the situation is tragic and if the rate continues as it is now, we will find that the undernourished in the developing countries will be reduced to 508 million by 2015 instead of 400 million, which is the objective fixed by the World Food Summit.

After having examined the document, we find that the positive trends are less than the negative ones. It was mentioned in the report that food must not be used as a means to put political or economic pressure on countries, and that it is the right of every person to obtain food and nutrition, and to enjoy the fundamental right to be free of hunger. We would like to underline that it is important to include this extremely important issue in all the United Nations relevant bodies cooperating with FAO.

Progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, adopted in 1996, does not live up to the expectations despite the elapsed period of four years. I would like to stress that my country actively participates in efforts made to reduce the number of undernourished in the world with a view to ensuring food security. In this regard, I would like to praise the cooperation between FAO and Egypt, since this issue is one of the priority issues in that cooperation through the Special Programme for Food Security, and through the South-South cooperation on the basis of the Tripartite Agreements.

Egypt has concluded agreements with FAO on the one hand, and a number of sisterly African countries on the other, United Republic of Tanzania, Djibouti, Malawi and Cameroon. According to the basis of the agreements, Egypt provides its experts and its technicians to contribute to food security in those countries.

Globalization has made the malnourishment, hunger and poverty world issues and not regional ones, since globalization makes the world a small village. Thus we have to intensify collective

efforts in this regard. We are duty-bound to find solutions and to pave the way for the poorer countries to ensure their food security by providing technology and tools necessary to ensure food security, and not through food aid alone.

We can say in conclusion that we will only be able to achieve our objectives and demonstrate our interest in that issue by working together to achieve the World Food Summit course. I would like to stress that my country supports the proposal and initiative of the Director-General with a view to making this issue, reducing the undernourished priority issue in our general Conference next year. Only through this we will be able to objectively assess, after five years, the progress achieved in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action adopted in 1996, since the results achieved so far have not lived up to the expectations. Discussing this issue, and earmarking sufficient time for it next year, is extremely important.

Aziz MEKOUAR (Maroc)

Le rapport de la vingt-sixième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, dont nous remercions les Membres et le Secrétariat de la FAO pour sa clarté et sa brièveté ainsi que la présentation qui vient d'en être faite, nous satisfait pleinement. Au nom de la délégation de mon pays et en ma qualité de président du Groupe africain, j'exprime notre adhésion aux recommandations contenues dans les paragraphes 30 et 39 de ce rapport. Je voudrais insister également sur la proposition du Directeur général de la FAO, évoquée dans les paragraphes 40 à 45 du rapport, pour manifester notre appui ainsi que celui du Groupe africain à cette initiative. En proposant le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après, en novembre 2001, à l'occasion de la prochaine Conférence de la FAO, le Directeur général tire la sonnette d'alarme en raison de l'écart notoire constaté entre les objectifs fixés par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996 et le taux de réalisation et de mise en œuvre de son Plan d'action.

La tenue de ce Sommet projeté n'entraînera pas de dépenses significatives ni pour l'Organisation ni pour les Etats Membres et attirera de nouveau l'attention de la Communauté internationale sur les questions dramatiques relatives à la sécurité alimentaire en identifiant les difficultés et en préconisant des solutions adéquates.

Pour terminer cette intervention, et au nom du Groupe africain, j'invite les Membres du Conseil à réserver une réponse favorable à la proposition du Directeur général.

Fabien OWONO-ESSONO (Gabon)

C'est la première fois que je prends la parole et je voudrais, au nom de la délégation que j'accompagne, vous féliciter pour votre élection à ce Bureau ainsi que tous les autres Membres du Bureau et le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui nous ont été présentés. Les pays ici présents se préoccupent des besoins en alimentation de leur population. Tous nos États ont le devoir de permettre à leur population de manger à leur faim et, ce faisant, nous apprécions l'initiative qui est prise par le Bureau et la Direction générale de faire en sorte que les délégations ici présentes se prononcent sur ce problème, tant les cas sont différents dans chaque pays et qu'il faut en tenir compte.

Notre pays est un pays importateur de denrées alimentaires et nous saluons à cet égard les dispositions prises par la FAO sur le Programme spécial de la sécurité alimentaire qui nous ont permis de faire en sorte que non seulement il faut reconnaître à chaque pays sa consommation mais aussi sa production car en produisant chaque population pourra avoir de la nourriture en quantité et en qualité.

Cela ne sera possible que si l'on arrive à faire en sorte que la paix soit sauvegardée, notamment dans nos régions d'Afrique où il y a des conflits. Pour maintenir cette position, nos Chefs d'État devraient être intimement associés à tout ce que nous faisons car c'est la seule façon constatée depuis la dernière Conférence permettant de surmonter les difficultés. Ce sont des obstacles énormes, mais comment faire en sorte que tout cela soit sauvegardé si nous n'arrivons pas à les impliquer directement pour que nous puissions faire le point des avancées constatées depuis le dernier Sommet.

Notre pays s'associe à la déclaration faite par le Maroc pour qu'une fois encore après avoir fait l'évaluation des progrès accomplis nous verrons comment aider chaque État afin qu'il puisse progressivement avoir des éléments à fournir à son pays et que réellement les préoccupations de l'alimentation dans le monde soient sauvegardées en vue de préserver la paix.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

La delegación de México reitera su reconocimiento por el extraordinario trabajo realizado por usted en la conducción de las sesiones del Consejo y apoya los planteamientos expresados por la delegación de Argentina a nombre del grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

El informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que analizamos en esta sesión, es contundente: de continuar con las tendencias actuales no se alcanzarán los objetivos establecidos en la Cumbre Mundial para la Alimentación. Es indispensable redoblar los esfuerzos y afianzar los compromisos.

El párrafo 45 del informe señala la recomendación para que la Secretaría elabore una propuesta, con base en la sugerencia del Director-General, para que la próxima Conferencia sirva de foro para un examen a alto nivel político de las acciones emprendidas y los avances alcanzados. México ve con interés la iniciativa. Sin embargo, la propuesta contenida en el CL 119/LIM/3 debería ser clara en cuanto a su naturaleza y contenido, aún hay interrogantes.

Mi país reafirma su compromiso para la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre y para coadyuvar, en la medida de sus posibilidades, en los objetivos de reducir los niveles de hambre y malnutrición en el mundo. Ratifica también su llamado para que los países industrializados honren su compromiso de apoyar con el 0.7 por ciento de sus Productos Internos Brutos para la Asistencia Oficial al Desarrollo.

En México, estamos aplicando programas que han mostrado su viabilidad para fortalecer la seguridad alimentaria, reducir la pobreza e incrementar la productividad agrícola en sentido amplio.

Con apoyos tripartitas entre productores, gobiernos locales y gobierno federal, el programa Alianza para el Campo está aumentando los niveles productivos especialmente en las regiones menos favorecidas; con el PROCAMPO, se apoya de manera directa a los pequeños productores; en tanto que el PROGRESA es un esfuerzo del gobierno federal para disminuir los índices de pobreza con apoyos a la salud, la alimentación y la educación en zonas marginadas.

Para el apartado de Novedades Positivas del Informe, mi delegación desea destacar el trabajo de investigación realizado en México, que dio como resultado una variedad de maíz más nutritivo. Con seguridad, este avance contribuirá a mejorar la nutrición de una gran cantidad de personas en muchos países.

México se pronuncia a favor de ratificar las recomendaciones contenidas en los párrafos 30 y 39 del informe y hace un llamado para que todos los agentes involucrados (gobiernos, comunidades e instituciones internacionales, Secretaría de la FAO y Secretaría del SICIAV) redoblen sus acciones para cumplir con las tareas asignadas a cada uno de ellos y poder así, en una unidad de esfuerzos, hacer más eficiente la lucha contra el hambre.

En relación al párrafo 36, ratificamos lo expresado en las Sesiones del Comité: la población femenina en su totalidad no conforma un grupo vulnerable *per se*; para ser más efectivo en las acciones deben incorporarse indicadores como: origen étnico, ruralidad y edad, entre otros, que puedan dar sentido específico a la vulnerabilidad femenina. Por otra parte, llama la atención en el capítulo 3 que sólo 91 países hubieran presentado informes sobre la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre, es decir, sólo la mitad de los Estados Miembros de esta Organización. El Consejo debería recomendar el cumplimiento oportuno de este compromiso básico, que es también un ejercicio que refleja el interés y las posibilidades de los países para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria.

Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela)

Para nosotros es sumamente grato verle en la Presidencia y constatar la forma diligente y acertada en que viene orientando nuestros trabajos. Queremos también aprovechar la ocasión para felicitar a los otros miembros de la Junta de la Mesa Directiva por su elección.

Deseo ante todo, en nombre de la delegación de Venezuela, reiterar nuestro respaldo a la declaración que la delegación de Argentina formuló en esta sesión, en nombre de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe, de tal manera que esta declaración será breve porque sólo deseamos subrayar algunos aspectos que son de particular interés para Venezuela y, a nuestro juicio, para la Organización en su conjunto.

Uno de los asuntos que destacó el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, durante su más reciente período de sesiones, se relaciona con el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria que, con el respaldo de la FAO, se viene instrumentando en países en desarrollo con el propósito de ayudarlos a aumentar, con relativa rapidez, su producción agrícola y el acceso de la población rural a los alimentos mediante un enfoque multidisciplinario y participativo.

En esta ocasión, nuestra delegación reconoció que el Programa constituye una valiosa herramienta y que, por tanto, debemos promover su desarrollo. El Gobierno del Presidente Hugo Chávez, con el apoyo técnico de la FAO que aprovechamos para agradecer, adoptó el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria y, para su aplicación, ha destinado una inversión de 35 millones de dólares que se desembolsarán en un lapso de 3 años. Estos recursos serán aportados por entidades nacionales para dirigirlos al desarrollo de los 30 municipios más pobres del país.

Esta es una decisión que conjuga los compromisos asumidos en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación de 1996 y la voluntad política de honrarlos, pues corresponde a los Estados traducir en acciones lo que plasmamos en los documentos que sometimos a la consideración y ratificación de nuestros Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno en esa oportunidad. Sin embargo, las acciones individuales, que con mucho esfuerzo, adelantamos un buen número de países en desarrollo, no están compensadas con la necesaria cooperación que debe proporcionar la comunidad internacional. En este aspecto, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria reconoció que no es suficiente lo que hasta hoy hemos hecho y que es imprescindible trabajar de manera consistente con la voluntad política que en 1996 inspiró nuestros acuerdos.

La movilización de recursos financieros en favor del sector agropecuario es de crucial importancia para cumplir con los objetivos del Plan de Acción. Es bien conocida la reducción que viene experimentando la parte asignada a este sector en la Asistencia Oficial para el Desarrollo, así como en la cartera financiera de la asistencia bilateral y de las instituciones financieras internacionales. Llama poderosamente la atención la inaceptable circunstancia que para el sector agropecuario, por ejemplo, la carta de inversión financiera del Banco Mundial y del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo sea tan solo del 7 por ciento y del 2 por ciento respectivamente.

Es comprensible, por consiguiente, el planteamiento del Director General de llevar a cabo un examen, al más alto nivel y en el marco de la Conferencia de 2001, de la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, a cinco años de su realización, pues como se ha señalado, es responsabilidad de los Estados Miembros honrar los compromisos adquiridos, y la FAO debe velar porque se cumplan plenamente los mandatos que le fueron conferidos. En tal sentido, corresponde al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y a este Consejo vigilar su aplicación, así como, cuando sea necesario, recomendar y adoptar medidas correctivas y de refuerzo. Por ello, la Delegación de Venezuela brinda su respaldo para que el Comité, en su período de sesiones de mayo próximo, examine con detenimiento y a fondo la iniciativa de una posible convocatoria para que, los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno impriman vigor al cumplimiento de los compromisos suscritos y ratificados por los Estados Miembros. Como afirmó la delegación de Argentina en nombre del GRULAC, persisten interrogantes que debemos ir aclarando, con voluntad política y colectivamente, sobre todo con respecto a los medios, las vías y los recursos para alcanzar lo que se propone.

Dato' ANNUAR MA'ARUF (Malaysia)

Malaysia shares the concern expressed by Members on the slow pace of progress achieved so far in realizing the target of the World Food Summit. Obviously, if the present trend continues, we will not be successful in fulfilling our objective of reducing by half the number of undernourished in the world by 2015.

Malaysia congratulates the Committee on World Food Security for its fine effort in evaluating the progress, identifying the problems they encountered, and proposing recommendations for a more effective implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. Malaysia would like to reiterate its commitment to the World Food Summit Plan of Action and supports the recommendation proposed by the Committee as stipulated in paragraph 30 of document CL 119/14.

In particular, Malaysia would like FAO to accelerate its effort in interacting actively with, and urging the international community to enhance the flow of financial and technical assistance to developing countries in implementing the Plan of Action. Malaysia would also like to commend the hard work done by FAO in this direction, and request FAO to give its continued support and further enhance its capacity building and technology transfer effort to developing countries, to assist them towards sustainable food production and food security.

Having said all this, the slow progress achieved thus far in the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action certainly warrants a detailed review of the situation at the highest political level. The most appropriate time would be after five years of implementation, i.e. during the Thirty-First session of the FAO Conference 2001. On this note, Malaysia views positively the idea of inviting the Heads of State, or Governments to attend a conference for a review of progress in the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action but would, however, request that a detailed paper be prepared first by the Secretariat, outlining clearly the objectives, justification and issues to be discussed before making any commitments. We would like to see a more interactive discussion or dialogue be formulated for this Summit, rather than the traditional country statement approach. Discussions should also be focused on issues of utmost urgency, including an especially effective mobilization of financial resources so critically needed to fully implement the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Georges RUPHIN (Madagascar)

Ayant participé aux travaux de la 26e session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, au cours de laquelle l'évaluation de la situation mondiale en matière de sécurité alimentaire et les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des engagements du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation ont été traités, la délégation de Madagascar voudrait faire des commentaires au point 5 du rapport sur lequel le Comité a concentré son attention.

Il s'agit de la proposition du Directeur général, tendant à ce que la Conférence examine les progrès accomplis dans l'application du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, cinq ans après ce Sommet.

Le 13 novembre 1996, des Chefs d'état et de gouvernement ont approuvé la Déclaration de Rome sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et le Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation sur les sept engagements comportant notamment l'objectif visant à réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim jusqu'à 2015. L'objectif à atteindre est donc clair et précis. La Déclaration de Rome et le Plan d'action y afférent en définissent les voies et moyens pour les réaliser. Eradiquer la pauvreté et vaincre l'insécurité alimentaire constituent déjà l'objectif prioritaire que le Gouvernement de la République de Madagascar s'est fixé dans son document cadre de politique économique. Pour la réalisation de cet objectif, le Plan d'action pour le développement rural a été conçu et adopté; constituant le document de référence à tous les programmes et projets de développement rural.

Il a été renforcé par une nouvelle politique agricole et alimentaire. C'est ainsi que Madagascar en participant aux travaux du Sommet en 1996 a souscrit pleinement aux conclusions du Sommet et

bénéficie actuellement du Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire en tant que pays à faibles revenus et à déficit vivrier.

Depuis cette date, le Ministère de l'agriculture, Service de sécurité alimentaire assure le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et en fait rapport régulièrement. Nous sommes convaincus qu'avec le rythme actuel, il ne sera pas possible d'atteindre l'objectif fixé par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes mal nourries représentant une réduction de 8 millions de personnes sous-alimentées par an au lieu de 20 millions.

Face à cette situation, pour le moins inquiétante, ma délégation accueille favorablement les propositions du Directeur général de convoquer une Conférence pour l'évaluation des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 2001 et appuie sans réserve la déclaration du délégué du Maroc faite au nom du Groupe africain, d'autant que la tenue de cette Conférence n'entraînera aucun coût supplémentaire.

Mrs M. MOLUMELI (Lesotho)

Let me take this opportunity, since this is my first time to take the floor, to wish you well, all the best while directing the Council deliberations.

Lesotho reaffirms its commitment to the objectives of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. We have, since the Summit, introduced reforms in agriculture, education, health and law sectors with the aim to improve livelihoods of its population, particularly the poor and the children. The reform process included a participatory process on land and land-use issues, although the land reform process is still on-going and it is still at the early stage. Currently we are developing a Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme and hope to finalize it in September 2001.

Coming to the reports in front of us, we note with concern that, at this time, that is the fourth year of our implementing the Plan of Action, we have only managed to reduce 8 million in the number of undernourished people, instead of at least 20 million, so that we could be able to achieve our 2015 target. Although we appreciate that, in some parts of the world, the forces of nature may have contributed to this state of affairs, it is, however, imperative that the nations establish necessary structures or mechanisms to redress the situation.

In our opinion, what is required is that there should be a strong multi-sectoral coordinating forum at country level to monitor progress on the WFS Plan of Action. We propose that FAO provide necessary assistance to Member Countries to strengthen this forum. This, it is hoped, will produce accurate statistics and improved and timely progress reports.

We agree with the Committee on World Food Security that a close monitoring of progress in implementing the WFS Plan of Action is a priority. This will help in identifying corrective measures as early as possible so that by the time a broad-based progress assessment in the year 2006 is done, a considerable number of undernourished and hungry will be reduced.

Lesotho concurs, and supports what Morocco has put forward, that there is a need to review the Plan of Action in the Fifth Anniversary of the World Food Summit, and therefore supports the Director-General's proposal that the World Food Summit Plan of Action be reviewed at the highest political level in November 2001. The Director-General's proposal, to invite Heads of State or Governments of all Members and members of the United Nations system to this meeting, should be given approval by Council.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Sobre este tema del 26° período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria seremos breves. El informe fue aprobado en bloque y, en este mismo orden de ideas la intervención del GRULAC ha sido completa en su análisis, lo que hace tarea difícil aportar algo nuevo a lo ya expresado por la representante de Argentina, como Presidente, y en nombre de nuestro grupo regional.

El último día de sesiones del Comité, en el pasado mes de septiembre, planteamos que había que observar lo apretado del temario y sus días de duración, y tenerlo presente para el próximo Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Señalamos la importancia de este Comité, al que ya se habían sumado,

después de la Cumbre Mundial, la responsabilidad de sus acuerdos ahora revitalizado con la Cumbre más Cinco. Entiendo que todos estos factores deben pasar por un riguroso examen y sacar las conclusiones de cara a la realidad.

La posición de Cuba ha sido siempre muy clara en cuanto a los cumplimientos de los acuerdos de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. El mundo en general, y la FAO en particular, habían pasado años y décadas buscando soluciones a un problema complejo y difícil, cuando surgió la idea de convocar un evento mundial a niveles de Jefe de Estado y de Gobierno. Una coyuntura histórica agrupó factores objetivos y subjetivos en aquel noviembre de 1996; tras un largo proceso se realizó un profundo análisis de todas las amplias gamas de factores que fueron agrupados en siete grupos de trabajo para su análisis. Bajo ese prisma del principio de la voluntad política fue definida la Declaración de Roma. ¿Qué falta ahora? Exigir que se cumpla esta voluntad política. Definición que se ha utilizado reiteradamente en el día de ayer y hoy; pero hace falta, además, pasar de la referencia a su materialización. De allí tenemos que partir, lo demás es no atenerse a la realidad. Con relación al examen de los acuerdos de la Cumbre más Cinco abordado por el GRULAC en su declaración leída por la Representación Argentina, nuestra Delegación ha manifestado su posición clara y precisa para otorgarle toda la importancia que merece, así como la necesidad de estar precedida por un cuidadoso trabajo preparatorio.

En nuestra intervención en el pasado Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, donde manifestamos la importancia de esta propuesta, señalamos que este examen debe realizarse, tanto en el principio de no reabrir debates, como bajo la óptica de indicadores viables, cuantificables e identificables dentro de lo aprobado en sus textos. Tenemos delante el documento CL 119/LIM/3. El mismo recoge lo que se ha estado diciendo y reiterando en los documentos de la FAO, como en todas las reuniones realizadas: buscar medidas urgentes. Hasta la fecha no se han realizado progresos suficientes para alcanzar las metas fijadas de la Cumbre.

Entiendo que el documento presenta en forma precisa la propuesta constituyendo una base para elaborar su proceso y los pasos requeridos hacia la dirección en que es necesario trabajar.

Finalmente, una breve reflexión que me llama la atención: una de las palabras del título "Propuesta relativa a un examen por la Conferencia de la FAO de los progresos en la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación". Pregunto: ¿Porqué la palabra 'progreso' cuando es todo lo contrario? La misma da una imagen triunfalista cuando los hechos demuestran que aquí no existen progresos. Si me lo solicitaran, yo la suprimiría.

Bandar AL-SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)

This is the first time I am taking the floor this Session, and I wish to pay tribute to you on the excellent way you are directing the work of our Council. I also congratulate the other officers, because of the trust shown to them.

I am grateful to the Chairman of the CFS and Ms Killingsworth, too, for the brilliant introduction given to this document. I recall full well that the key aim of the World Food Summit, which is to reduce by half the number of those suffering from hunger, to reduce those numbers by half by the year 2015, made an appeal to us. We are invited to adopt a serious approach, we should not lose a minute in aiming at this goal, in achieving this goal, if we want the international community to live in a world which is really freed from the scourge of hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was one of the pioneers in struggling against hunger and poverty, thanks to its contribution to various international agencies, financing agencies and through its donations and the support it has given multilaterally and bilaterally, between brothers. This itself speaks of the importance which my country gives to this overall question of the combating of hunger.

In our capital, those in charge of these matters have carefully studied the Director-General's proposal that the next general Conference in November 2001 should be used as an opportunity to hold a special Summit, a Summit which would enable us, at the highest political level, to register the progress achieved by the WFS Plan of Action. We fully support the Director-General's proposal.

Il-Ho CHO (Korea, Republic of Korea)

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Secretariat for providing this excellent report on the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Firstly, we have provided the Secretariat with the Report on the Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action in the Republic of Korea, as the commitment to the WFS. This Report reflects our various efforts to achieve national food security during the recent financial crisis. This case is just one example of the need to contribute to the improvement of world food security.

The lesson we have learned through financial crises is that food security is not sufficiently addressed by free trade alone. There is need for governments to maximize production of staple food to the extent possible allowed by the sustainable production process. Such action will minimize risks and uncertainties arising from dependence on food import and therefore enable us to maintain an optimal level of food stocks throughout crises. We are very much committed to this issue of food security, and will remain strongly committed in joining international common efforts to achieve world food security in the future.

Concerning the Director-General's proposal that the next FAO Conference be used as a forum at the highest political level, we note that it would be desirable, in view of the reinforcement of the monitoring process of the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action. On this occasion, however, we would like to emphasize that proper and satisfactory preparation should first be made in order to successively carry out the Director-General's proposal.

Hashim Bader AL SADA (Qatar) (Original language Arabic)

Perhaps we could give the floor to the representative of the G77 to speak on our behalf.

Ranamukalage Deeptha KULATILLEKE (Observer for Sri Lanka)

Thank you for permitting me to speak on behalf of the G-77 on this agenda item.

We still have not had the opportunity to discuss this document, CL 119/LIM/3, in our Group. However, we appreciate the initiative of the Director-General and, in principal the Group of 77 wishes to registers its support for the proposed World Food Summit: Five Years Later.

We, as a Group representing developing countries, believe that such a dialogue and review at Head of State-and Government-level will give the desired political impetus and contribute in a significant way to highlighting the problem and suggesting remedial measures to achieve the objectives of the World Food Summit held in 1996.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

En esta oportunidad intervengo como Representante de Argentina para referirme al documento de debate para este punto de la agenda CL 119/14, en cuyo párrafo 9 se destaca como evento "positivo" el bajo costo de las importaciones para ciertos países. Lamentablemente no se analiza la causa de tal bajo costo. Pero lo que merece ser analizado con detenimiento es la apreciación de evento "positivo" a la actual situación de precios en el mercado internacional de productos agropecuarios. Dado que, los bajos precios internacionales resultan del abuso de subsidios que han alcanzado los niveles de la década del 80, este razonamiento está en línea con la idea que los subsidios son "buenos" para los países en desarrollo que importan alimentos. Es real que, en el corto plazo, los bajos precios son un importante ahorro para estos países que, justificadamente, deben cubrir sus necesidades; pero no es menos real que las exportaciones subsidiadas, incluidas aquella por la vía del crédito a la exportación o ayuda alimentaria atada, contribuyen a consolidar la situación de dependencia alimentaria de los receptores de tal "ayuda" al impedir el desarrollo de la agricultura de estos países deficitarios en alimentos. Su agricultura sufre, además, el proteccionismo y la competencia desleal de la mayoría de los países desarrollados, impidiendo el desarrollo de al menos algunos cultivos cuya exportación pudiera aumentar las divisas para importar alimentos.

Para completar este compendio de adversidades, las divisas que esforzadamente estos países obtienen se usan para comprar alimentos subsidiados en los países desarrollados que subsidian, perdiéndose la oportunidad de crear puestos de trabajo. Todas estas ideas han sido presentadas para su debate al Comité de Agricultura de la Organización Mundial de Comercio por los países del Mercosur (Brasil, Paraguay, Uruguay y Argentina), así como por Bolivia, Costa Rica y Chile.

Es por ello que, considero apresurada y con escaso fundamento la buena noticia del bajo costo de las importaciones, porque simplifica el problema en el corto plazo y no toma en cuenta la situación de los agricultores y ganaderos de los países en desarrollo, además de establecer un círculo vicioso de subsidios-destrucción de la agricultura en estos países, déficit de alimentos y más subsidios, un verdadero encadenamiento a la dependencia alimentaria.

Dada la importancia de esta cuestión, solicito que la Organización tome en cuenta este nuevo enfoque de la seguridad o, mejor dicho, inseguridad y dependencia alimentaria y su vínculo causal con los subsidios y el proteccionismo agrícola de la mayoría de los países desarrollados. La real solución al problema consiste en una liberalización del comercio agropecuario internacional que permita a los países en desarrollo que importan alimentos, desarrollar sus sectores agropecuarios para reducir la dependencia alimentaria de la que actualmente son prisioneros.

I. Nyoman ARDHA (Indonesia)

Our delegation already studied in detail the *Report of Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security* and wishes to congratulate the Secretariat, as well as the Chairperson of the Committee, for its clarity and comprehensive presentation of this topic for the Council deliberation this morning.

We noted with concern the finding and conclusion on the assessment of the World Food Security situation, including the progress in the implementation of Commitment 1, 2, 5 and the relevant part of Commitment 7 of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. Of course there are reports on encouraging trends, among others, lower import bills of the Low-Income-Food-Deficit-Countries as well some favourable domestic production in some countries.

However, the number of undernourished persons reported in developing countries decline only at an average rate of eight million each year, far below the target set by the World Food Summit of 20 million per year.

Furthermore, the slow rate of decline appears to have been entrapped by the severe economic crisis - as our country has also experienced - and unfavourable weather conditions affecting several Member Countries in 1998, whose effects have lasted until the present time. With this background our delegation supports the recommendation as contained in paragraph 30 of the report of the Committee, as in document CL 119/14.

Having said that, Indonesia would also associate its intervention with Sri Lanka, as the Chairman of the G-77 to support the WFS: Five Years Later and requested the Secretariat to prepare further details of the Terms of Reference to be discussed in the coming session of World Food Security.

Furthermore, our delegation also supports the proposal made by the Committee as contained in paragraph 45 of the report to enable the Council to discuss in detail the proposal of the Director-General of FAO to review the progress made in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, five years after the Summit of 1996. Our delegation is of the view that it is the right time for the policy makers of the world to take stock of the situation, as soon as possible, as to ensure the implementation of the necessary measures to step up the pace of change which has been assessed by the Committee on World Food Security.

Allow me also to touch on the domestic front, in the context of the follow-up of the World Food Summit. Our delegation appreciates the initiative of FAO for promoting the Special Programme for Food Security as a means of property allocation efforts. In Indonesia we have now reached the step of socialization of the SPFS which was started in several provinces of our area and has been identified on the national food and nutrition surveillance system. This system will soon be

integrated to the format of FIVIMS as had been developed by FAO Secretariat and recommended by the Committee on the World Food Security.

As the coordinating body for the follow-up of the World Food Summit in the country a national agency for food security, CFS, has been established within the Ministry of Agriculture. This agency will also function as national focal point of FIVIM activities.

To conclude, we do hope that the FAO Secretariat makes special efforts to continuously assist developing member countries in increasing local capabilities in dealing with this FIVIMS affair.

Ms Patricia GARAMENDI (United States of America)

It was an honour and a privilege for me to head the US delegation to the Committee on World Food Security and to have been elected as a Vice Chairperson. The United States endorses the *Report of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security*. We are pleased at the achievements of the meeting including greater recognition of the contribution of civil society, commitment by FAO to broaden civil society's participation in food security matters and the strengthening of FIVIMS.

The United States appreciates the role of FAO in assisting Member Countries countries to achieve food security and monitoring the food insecurity situation in the world. We compliment FAO on a productive Twenty-sixth Session of the CFS, particularly with respect to progress made on broadening participation of civil society and its work.

At the World Food Summit of 1996 participating nations committed to halving world hunger by 2015. This commitment represented an enormous challenge which we should all whole-heartedly embrace, as it is our ability to share and to serve others that gives human life meaning. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I present you with the progress report on the implementation of the US Action Plan on Food Security which was presented in draft form at the Twenty-sixth Session of the CFS. Included in this book are recent pictures that I just took on a food security mission to Africa, meeting with the leaders in Eritrea and Ethiopia and hearing their vision on food security and how they can move from food aid to food security and the strength of the people. I was also in Kakouma in Northern Kenya, the refugee camp, where there were nine countries represented and hearing their leadership talk about their vision on how they can get back to their countries and have food security. As they said to me; when the mother leaves the hut, the children watch the door waiting for her to return". I would like to challenge all of the other leaders in this room that your nations are looking to you on food security and halving world hunger, they are looking for you to return with ideas.

Despite our efforts current projections of food insecurity show that we are not on track to meet our targets for reducing food insecurity, there is also a large gap remaining in resources required to reach the targets. Aggressive action is urgently needed. In regard to the 2001 Conference, we support the need for update, review and recommitment to the goals of the 1996 World Food Summit.

The United States asks the leading world governments and civil society to join hands and work toward our stated goal. To consider joining us with Ambassador McGovern and President Clinton's vision of every child, every day, everywhere in the world having at least one nutritious meal. With over 800 million people on earth chronically malnourished the global hunger crisis will only worsen over the next half century as the world population increases by a staggering 3 billion. Eighty percent of this 3 billion will be in food insecure regions. It is going to take all of us, working together to reach our goal of halving food insecurity by the year 2015.

The goal of ending hunger is certainly attainable but requires the leadership in this room, the vision, the commitment, in order to reach it is already demonstrated by the Director-General Diouf's initiatives in the food security area.

Mrs Mariann KOVÁCS (Hungary)

My delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the concise report presented to this Council. The Committee on World Food Security, at its last session, made an assessment of the world food security situation and progress made in the implementation of the commitments of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. Undoubtedly, we can say, there have been promising trends in reducing the number of under-nourished in several countries in combating poverty and in setting up national food security programmes. Yet, we cannot be satisfied with the results. An annual reduction by eight million in the number of under-nourished.

If this trend is going to be continued, it will not be able to reach the target set up in 1996 at the World Food Summit. More efforts are needed at national, regional and international level by all actors.

Regarding future steps, we endorse the recommendations of the document in paragraph 30 and 39 with special emphasis on gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women and on capacity building assistance to developing countries and countries in transition. We would like to draw the attention of Member Nations to the timely reporting process as well.

Concerning the use of FIVIMS, my delegation would strongly advise close collaboration with other agencies and the utilization of the results of other mapping systems like the FIVIMS.

In connection with paragraph 45, document CL 119/LIM/3, we agree with the Director-General that there is a need for a reinforcement of the commitments made in 1996. We also agree with the proposed review of the progress made after five years of the World Food Summit should not be a reopening of the debate on the Plan of Action but a very thorough analysis of obstacles in all the related fields. Furthermore, our view is that there must be a clear reference to the relevant parts of the Millennium Summit Declaration to FAO's role in its implementation as well.

As far as procedure and documentation for the World Food Summit: Five Years Later, we would like to receive more information from the Secretariat concerning the nature of the document which would be discussed at the Conference under the subject, the expected number of preparatory meetings and the possible ad-hoc arrangements during the Conference taking into account the proposed reform of the general debate of the Conference.

Bachar AKBIK (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to very sincerely thank the Secretariat and all those who have taken part in preparing the document under discussion.

It is clear that generally speaking its contents are worrying, to a certain extent, because the results of the World Food Summit have obviously not been taken seriously, in particular, the various undertakings and commitments of the Action Plan. This calls for a very clear review of the true reasons for the lack of implementation of that action plan.

Of course, there are causes, there are reasons, that may have prevented the implementation of the Plan as such: as civil war or climatic conditions, which for example have affected a certain number of regions in the Middle East region that were subject to drought and colonial pressure.

Syria attaches enormous importance to all the decisions taken at the World Food Summit in 1996. Syria set up all necessary mechanisms for the government and civil society. In other words, we have managed to increase food production which is ahead of demographic growth thus, despite the drought that struck my country in 1999 and this year too – we are ahead. We have managed to feed the least developed areas thanks to integrated development on our part. We have also managed to make considerable progress. Nevertheless, results would have been better had it not been for drought and of course lack of material resources.

Coming now to this initiative for a WFS: Five Years Later to review the degree of implementation of all commitments, we would be very much in favour of such an initiative in order to see what

the constraints and difficulties are, and also in order to improve the situation throughout the world.

Miss Fatimah HASAN J. HAYAT (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. All the indicators for food security and the agricultural situation throughout the world, in general, last year and so far this year, prove that food production increase has not kept step with demographic growth throughout the world. We have only managed to achieve 45 percent of the objective set by the World Food Summit.

In addition to that, weather conditions, floods, cyclones, plus the fact that food aid and agricultural aid has been reduced and in the light of all these challenges, we have to review the situation, yet again, to see how best we can achieve the objectives set by the World Food Summit. That is why we would like to recall to the meeting that our governments undertook, they committed themselves, to implement the World Food Summit Action Plan and it is high time to gather at least a part of the fruits of that commitment.

We do not agree that it is too early to review the progress made in the implementation of the commitment. On the contrary, we are convinced that the initiatives of the Director-General to carry out a full review in 2001 is very timely indeed. We must not overlook the fact that FAO, in whom we have great trust, has established a very good strategy before even proposing such an initiative. Of course, every event has a price tag and we nevertheless, would wholeheartedly support the Director-General's initiative.

The Near East Group unreservedly supports the Director-General's initiative to organize the WFS: Five Years Later next year, so that we can see the state of progress and also look at the reasons why a number of commitments have not been fully implemented and take the necessary remedying measures.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

Permettez-moi, au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses États Membres, de remercier le Secrétariat pour le document de synthèse des travaux de la 26e session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Ce document traduit bien l'intensité des débats qui ont fait suite à l'examen des rapports d'évaluation de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, débats qui ont fait apparaître combien la pauvreté est aggravée par des problèmes tels que les conflits, les catastrophes naturelles, le SIDA ou encore le poids de la dette.

A cet égard, il nous paraît opportun de saluer la participation des représentants du Programme alimentaire mondial et du Fonds international de développement agricole aux travaux de ce Comité de sécurité alimentaire. Cette simple participation n'est qu'un premier pas mais elle donne plus de corps au partenariat étroit que la Communauté européenne appelle de ses vœux entre les institutions romaines en charge de la sécurité alimentaire et plus généralement entre la FAO et les autres organisations des Nations Unies et de la société civile.

La 26e session du Comité a également été l'occasion de mesurer le travail accompli dans le cadre du Groupe de travail inter-institutions, le GTI-SICIAV, pour la mise en œuvre des systèmes d'information sur la sécurité alimentaire et la vulnérabilité au Plan national et international et sur les travaux sur les SICIAV et le PSSA. Dans ce cadre ces travaux sont mieux cernés et permettent d'escompter des collaborations plus étroites tant au niveau de la conception des projets et des outils qu'à celui de leur mise en œuvre.

Cependant, s'agissant du PSSA, il apparaît nécessaire, près de cinq ans après son lancement, qu'il soit l'objet dans un proche avenir d'une évaluation, afin d'éclairer les donateurs potentiels et de faciliter leur décision de participation à ce programme. En effet, une appréciation positive ne pourrait que renforcer l'efficacité de ce programme et son extension vers d'autres pays demandeurs.

Comme il en avait été convenu lors du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, cette session du Conseil doit examiner la proposition du Directeur général de profiter de la 31e Conférence générale de

notre organisation en 2001 pour réunir une nouvelle fois les Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement afin que ceux-ci redisent l'importance qu'ils attachent à l'objectif du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de malnutrition chronique d'ici à 2015.

Permettez-moi d'appeler votre attention sur un point particulier auquel nous sommes particulièrement attachés.

Au Sommet du Millénaire il y a deux mois à New-York, les Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement ont adopté une déclaration qui établit pour l'avenir les valeurs, les principes et les buts de la Communauté internationale tout entière. La Déclaration du Millénaire réaffirme notre engagement le plus déterminé en faveur du travail des Nations Unies et de ses organisations; elle fournit pour le prochain Millénaire un cadre d'action pour la Communauté internationale et les Nations Unies.

Pour la FAO la Déclaration du Millénaire contient un grand nombre de dispositions et de références qui sont d'importance cruciale pour son mandat et pour sa mission. Parmi les objectifs de développement international qui ont été reconfirmés par les Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement figure l'objet du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de réduire de moitié d'ici 2015, la proportion de la population qui souffre de la faim.

A l'heure actuelle, les modalités du suivi de la Déclaration font l'objet d'un débat au sein des Nations Unies. Le champ global de la Déclaration du Millénaire renforce le besoin d'une approche intégrée et coordonnée de sa mise en œuvre par tous les acteurs concernés et des engagements pris. Dans ce processus, il est important de rechercher une cohérence des politiques, une meilleure coopération et complémentarité entre les Nations Unies, leurs agences, les institutions Bretton Woods et les autres institutions multilatérales de développement.

Nous pensons que la FAO devrait saisir cette occasion pour exercer un rôle prépondérant dans le cadre de son mandat et participer à l'effort coordonné des Nations Unies pour mettre en œuvre la Déclaration et profiter ainsi de l'élan et de la prise de conscience issus du Sommet du Millénaire.

En contribuant à ce processus, la FAO aura une excellente occasion de renforcer sa position dans le système des Nations Unies et d'affirmer son image. Elle pourra aussi s'assurer que l'état des personnes souffrant de la faim dans le monde recevra une plus grande attention au sein du système des Nations Unies et, par extension, au sein de la Communauté internationale. Ceci correspond au souhait du Directeur général d'appeler l'attention sur la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation lors de la prochaine Conférence de la FAO.

Nous accueillons donc favorablement la Déclaration du Sommet du Millénaire et nous demandons au Directeur général de nous rendre compte lors du prochain Conseil de la contribution de la FAO à la mise en œuvre de cette déclaration.

Nous demandons aussi au Directeur général de coordonner les efforts de la FAO avec ceux des autres organisations internationales au niveau des pays et de contribuer dans le cadre du Comité de coordination administratif au rapport d'étapes à soumettre au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies.

Dans le même esprit, la FAO devra s'assurer de la prise en compte des objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation dans les prochaines conférences des Nations Unies et particulièrement dans les deux événements majeurs que constituent en 2001 la troisième conférence des pays moins avancés et la réunion à haut niveau sur le financement du développement.

A cet égard, si la Communauté européenne et ses États Membres ont indiqué n'être pas favorables à la tenue de nouveaux Sommets + 5, il est cependant possible d'estimer qu'une réunion des responsables politiques à Rome dès l'an prochain pourrait contribuer efficacement à ces conférences des Nations Unies. Mais il demeure indispensable que cette réunion à Rome, dans le cadre de la Conférence, ne se substitue en rien aux efforts que la FAO doit déployer sans délais pour deux objectifs: d'une part participer efficacement à ces événements, d'autre part privilégier un examen des résultats du Plan d'action de Rome selon le processus et le calendrier décidés au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation pour identifier les causes réelles du retard accumulé et

proposer aux Membres de la FAO les mesures à prendre pour y remédier. C'est là le vœu de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres.

Ms Sigridur Ásdís SNÆVAR (Iceland)

Iceland is giving this statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.

The Nordic Countries share the views of the report regarding the challenges in relation to food security, of which the most critical are seen to be in conflict, emergencies due to natural disasters, impact of HIV/AIDS and the debt burden. The ability to react to these challenges is heavily affected by poverty. The recent Millennium Summit also stressed poverty eradication as an overall goal for international community action in the new century.

In order for the follow-up of the Millennium Summit to be comprehensive, full FAO participation will be necessary, which the Nordic countries would like to heartily encourage and support FAO to pursue. We look forward to being informed of the Conference in 2001 of work in this respect.

Furthermore, to allow FAO's advisory role to governments to reach its full potential, FAO must enhance cooperation and collaboration with all relevant UN family organizations, international financing institutions, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, as well as Member Countries.

In this context, FAO's active participation in the on-going reform processes is vital, including the World Bank Comprehensive Development Framework, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund work on poverty reduction strategy papers, and the UN Development Assistance Framework.

Achieving the goals of the World Food Summit Plan of Action is a national responsibility, so each country must identify its problems and obstacles for food security and plan its own implementation. Several difficult areas were outlined in the background documents to this year's Committee on Food Security, with each country to confront their challenges and to be able to report on them. They need assistance from outside, in which FAO participation plays a key role in cooperation with others.

As mentioned in the CFS Report, some very important issues were poorly covered in the Progress Report to CFS, due to a lack of substantive data. The content of the background document was, of course, based on data submitted by us, the Member States. We would like to draw attention to two issues where we feel information is lacking. The first is the Development of Human Rights Approach, and the second is Gender Mainstreaming and Empowerment of Women. All human rights are equally important and interrelated, and should not be divided.

In this context, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is most relevant, where food is specified as a human right. Regarding the human rights' approach, we fear that the report from CFS to this Council is too weak, reaffirming only the importance of this subject, instead of asking for more progress. In further reporting to CFS on the progress of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, the Nordic countries would like to see a chapter on the role played by FAO in implementing the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

The follow-up reporting of the World Food Summit Plan of Action is a learning process; the Rome Declaration has a very wide scope. We believe that if we, the Member Nations and the Secretariat, continue to work constructively together, the Mid-Term Review in 2006 will provide an excellent opportunity not only to see the situation clearly and the challenges ahead but also to see ways of speeding up the work in order to reach the level necessary to attain our main goal, halving the number of starving by 2015, a challenge that remains as tough as ever.

As we are all aware, it has been proposed by the Director-General Jacques Diouf that the opportunity be taken during the next FAO Conference to convene a meeting for Heads of State and of Government to review and renew commitments to the World Food Summit Plan of Action. This proposal was discussed at the last CFS meeting, in September 2000, with the conclusion that

the Secretariat needed to develop the proposal further for consideration by the Council. Regrettably, document CL 119/LIM/3 is not what we had hoped for. Very little new information is there to take decision on the issue. In the document, a three-step preparation process is introduced and proposed, where a document, the contents of which are still unclear, would first be prepared for CFS in May 2001, which then would be transmitted through Council at its Hundred and Twentieth Session in June 2001, to the Conference.

This clarification of the process is important, but what still remains unanswered is the question of what results can be expected from the joint conference and from the World Food Summit Meeting: Five Years Later, that we could not obtain from already scheduled FAO and other relevant meetings. Our serious consideration is that we continue to prepare for the WFS: Plus 10, in 2006 as was originally decided and now planned by CFS. Nevertheless, we support that the proposal of the Item on *Progress in Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action five years after the Summit*, be prepared for discussion in a special Plenary Session of the Conference, but without the special invitations to Heads of State and Government.

This is in light of the expected lack of representation of Heads of States and Governments in the meeting, that little time is left for preparing the necessary comprehensive documents, and that the first full reporting cycle will only be finished in 2002.

Finally, we strongly encourage FAO to use the opportunity to fully cooperate and collaborate in all relevant follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Millennium Declaration which, in many respects, reflects the Meeting of the World Food Summit: Five Years Later, aiming at fulfilling the same objectives.

If FAO were to take a leading role within its mandate, it would not only greatly assist efforts to eradicate poverty but also raise FAO's profile in the UN family. The Nordic countries would, therefore, give strong support to the proposal from France, on behalf of the European Union, that at the next Council we will get the report on the contribution of FAO to the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

Bhaskar BARUA (India)

We are thankful to the Director-General for the paper CL 119/LIM/3, giving a detailed proposal on the conduct of WFS: Five Years Later, as desired in the CFS meeting held in September 2000.

Like all the Members who spoke before me, we are seriously concerned about the number of the hungry and poor in the world and the slow decline in their number, even after the commitments made in the World Food Summit in 1996 and several other commitments in various fora in the world.

We do feel that a serious review is necessary of the commitments made in 1996. The Director-General has proposed that such a review will be complementary to the work of the CFS and it will be a part of the Conference in November 2001.

Obstacles in the way of implementing the commitments in developing countries are reasonably well known. I would like to highlight two issues: what are the most effective ways of overcoming these problems, and how can FAO help in mobilizing international will and resources to supplement national efforts. We feel that these are two issues which have to be necessarily gone into by FAO.

On the question of international will and resources: yesterday, while we reviewed the *State of Food and Agriculture*, all of us shared the very serious concern on the reduction of official ODA to a crucial sector like agriculture. In our view, therefore, it is necessary for the FAO Secretariat to indicate more clearly the different approaches and mechanisms that can be proposed for this purpose.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Australia is supportive, in principle, of efforts to have a more focused debate at the FAO Conference. Possible reform of the debate at the Conference is, of course, the subject of a

separate Agenda Item at this Council, but obviously this is relevant to the Director-General's proposal.

Australia recognizes that progress on World Food Summit goals have been slow. However, we are cautious about the need for any additional mechanism for reviewing implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. The experience with other Summits Plus Five has not been very favourable. In particular, we do not want to see any reopening of debate on any issues in the Plan of Action. We are pleased that the Director-General has said in the document before us that he does not want to reopen debate.

While the document notes that the proposal for a focused debate at the Conference on WFS Plan of Action implementation will not involve significant incremental costs, we cannot ignore the fact that this proposal will cost money.

Also, the document does not provide answers to many of the questions asked at the Committee on Food Security, particularly about what are the expected outcomes, will there be a declaration, and how would such a document be negotiated. Any preparatory process will also cost money and we are concerned to see any mechanism established that will take away resources from the technical programmes of the Organization which are, after all, focused on implementing the Plan of Action.

No one can ignore the fact that more needs to be done if the World Food Summit target of halving the world's hungry is to be reached by 2015. But we need to be sure that having a discussion at Heads of State or Heads of Government level next year is necessarily the best use of the scarce resources available to us, and that it does not distract the Organization from its core work.

As to whether countries will send Heads of State or Heads of Government to the Conference is, as has been acknowledged, a matter for each sovereign state. Each country will need to take into account other international events that are to occur around that time.

Issa KARGOUGOU (Burkina Faso)

Au nom de la délégation du Burkina Faso, je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat pour la clarté du rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale mis à la disposition des participants pour examen. Ma délégation voudrait également remercier la FAO pour ses efforts inlassables dans la recherche de la sécurité alimentaire.

En ce qui concerne le document en question, la délégation du Burkina Faso apprécie la légère amélioration de la situation actuelle de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde, même s'il ne s'agit en réalité que de petites avancées vers l'objectif fixé, lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Les pays en développement ont connu durant les dix dernières années une légère baisse du nombre des personnes sous-alimentées. Cet élan a malheureusement été interrompu par de graves problèmes économiques, politiques et climatiques.

C'est le constat que nous faisons après l'historique Sommet mondial de l'alimentation 15 ans avant la date butoir que nous nous sommes fixés de réduire de moitié la population sous-alimentée.

La réalisation de l'objectif mérite d'être poursuivie car elle apparaît possible au vu des tendances encourageantes observées au cours de ces dernières années. Il faudra cependant souligner que pour y parvenir la Communauté internationale toute entière devra développer une volonté et une solidarité exceptionnelles pour arriver à une réduction de 20 millions par an du nombre des personnes mal nourries dans le monde.

C'est dire qu'en dépit des tendances encourageantes, il faudra également que dans le processus, la Communauté internationale trouve les moyens de faire face aux défis complexes qui inhibent les efforts de l'ensemble des pays. J'ai cité le nombre et la gravité des conflits, les catastrophes naturelles, les effets du SIDA, le niveau d'endettement élevé de la plupart des pays en développement.

Le caractère multidimensionnel du suivi du Sommet implique entre autres des actions au niveau tant national qu'international. En tout état de cause, les institutions et organismes internationaux, la Communauté internationale et le système des Nations Unies ont beaucoup à apporter aux pays

membres qui, malgré leurs efforts dans la recherche de la sécurité alimentaire, connaissent de plus en plus de graves problèmes de nutrition des populations.

C'est pourquoi le Burkina Faso se joint à plusieurs des pays membres de la FAO pour appuyer sans réserve les recommandations formulées par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, en particulier la dotation du budget adéquat à la FAO et à toutes les organisations internationales impliquées dans la sécurité alimentaire.

La mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation a incontestablement accompli des progrès, même si par moment on a noté quelques goulots d'étranglement. Aussi, face aux différents défis recensés par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, lors de la 26e session, le Burkina Faso appuie la déclaration du Président du Groupe africain, et partant, l'initiative du Directeur général de convoquer un Sommet cinq ans après le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation avec une participation des premiers responsables des pays membres en vue de réexaminer au plus haut niveau la situation actuelle de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

Leopoldo SANDOVAL VILLEDA (Guatemala)

Nos congratulamos de que el Comité haya sido capaz de superar la inexcusable omisión de la Secretaría en cuanto a la falta de cumplimiento del compromiso de la Cumbre, en cuanto a la no-utilización de los alimentos como arma de presión política, y respaldamos plenamente la posición regional de América Latina y el Caribe ya expresada. El Consejo debe dar vía libre al Director- General para dar respuesta a lo resuelto por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas que fuera transmitida por el Secretario-General de la Organización.

El Gobierno de Guatemala, encabezado por el Presidente Alfonso Portillo, está fuertemente empeñado en la reducción de la pobreza y comprometido en aplicar medidas para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria de la grande mayoría pobre del país. En este sentido, visto que la pobreza se concentra, principalmente, en el medio rural, se está trabajando en un plan nacional de capacitación para la creación masiva de empleo rural como estrategia fundamental para proveer y mejorar el ingreso de los pobres, que les permita producir y/o comprar alimentos. Sin despreciar todas las medidas tradicionales que ya se han enumerado en esta y otras reuniones de la FAO, creemos que, sólo generando masivamente fuentes de empleo y de ingreso será posible combatir el hambre y reducir la pobreza. Problemas masivos sólo se pueden afrontar con acciones masivas. En tal sentido solicito a la FAO un apoyo decidido para este plan.

Otra acción tomada por mi Gobierno es la formulación de una Política Nacional de Desarrollo Rural para el corto, mediano y largo plazo, en la cual está colaborando la comunidad internacional, especialmente los organismos del sistema de Naciones Unidas y del sistema interamericano, así como la Unión Europea y países cooperantes que proporcionan ayuda bilateral.

Mi país, Guatemala, apoya la propuesta de Argentina actuando en nombre del GRULAC, de una posible convocatoria a los Presidentes y Jefes de Estado para reunirse dentro de un año y para dar seguimiento a la Conferencia de Seguridad Alimentaria, con motivo de la Conferencia de la FAO del año próximo.

LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation attended the Twenty-Sixth Session of the CFS and re-expressed our views on the various items of the Agenda. The Chinese delegation supports the *Report of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security*.

The World Food Summit was held more than four years ago. We believe that the situation as regards that Summit, the Plan of Action that derived from it and the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action, is not satisfactory. The problems that exist in the world of agriculture and food are still very serious in countless countries. There is a shortage of grain and cereals. My delegation, therefore, believes that the convening, during the next general Conference next year, of a Summit to deal with certain forms, certain manners of studying the implementation of the Plan of Action is something that is necessary.

Rudolph HINKSON (Barbados)

I would just like to clarify the position of Barbados and the Caribbean countries in relation to this proposal before us.

We support the initiative of the Director-General while, at the same time, we note the position and the concerns of Canada, but our position is entirely in line with Argentina speaking on behalf of GRULAC. I hope that that clarifies our position.

Percy W. MISIKA (Namibia)

Namibia welcomes the *Report of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and the Proposal for FAO Conference Review of Progress in Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action*.

Namibia yesterday commented on the *State of Food and Agriculture Report 2000*. Those comments equally apply to the issues raised in the *Report of the Committee on World Food Security* before us now, save to express our full support for the recommendations of the Committee listed in paragraph 39 of the Report.

With regard to the Director-General's proposal, Namibia fully supports the Africa Group Chair, the distinguished delegate of Morocco, and the Chair of G-77, the distinguished delegate of Sri Lanka, in supporting the Director-General's proposal for an FAO Conference Review of Progress and Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action is crucial for achieving food security for all. The Heads of State unanimously adopted the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action. In adopting this Declaration, the Heads of State unanimously assigned the Member Nations and FAO to implement the Plan in pursuance of the adopted commitments. For the past four years, FAO and Member Nations have been hard at work implementing the Plan. However, frustrations, disappointments and, in some cases, humiliation, are being experienced by all because of the slow pace of the implementation process.

Furthermore, instead of progressively reducing the numbers of the undernourished and hungry, these numbers have, in some cases, been increasing. This is the case of Africa, as we heard from the reports presented to Council yesterday and today.

Therefore, we believe that when one is given an assignment, and one encounters problems in the execution of that assignment, it is only proper that one reports back to whoever initiated the assignment. FAO and Member Nations were given an assignment by Heads of State and we are currently experiencing some problems in executing the assignment. It is only proper that we report back to the Heads of State. This, we believe, is necessary to ensure that the initiator understands the problems encountered by the implementer. Such an understanding will help the initiator explore remedial ways and means to smoothen the implementation process.

In light of the above, Namibia throws its weight behind Morocco, Lesotho, Gabon and Sri Lanka, and all others who have raised their voices in support of the Director-General's proposal as outlined in document CL 119/LIM/3.

Zacharie PEREVET (Cameroun)

Nous voudrions saisir cette nouvelle occasion pour féliciter les Membres du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale dont les travaux ont eu le mérite d'établir sans complaisance la lenteur observée dans la réalisation des objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, à savoir huit millions sur vingt millions attendus de baisse de personnes sous-alimentées. C'est ce qui a alerté le Directeur général de la FAO et l'a amené à proposer la tenue d'un autre Sommet pour réévaluer la situation.

Hier, dans notre déclaration, nous avons eu à donner notre soutien à la proposition de tenir le Sommet en 2001. Suite à certaines interventions qui nous paraissent fondées, notamment celles

des représentants de la France, du Canada et de beaucoup d'autres personnalités ici présentes, nous sommes amenés à préciser notre position.

La délégation camerounaise soutient la tenue d'un Sommet pour évaluer mais peut-être serait-il trop tôt en 2001. Peut-être faudra-t-il tenir d'autres petites réunions, notamment auprès du Ministère des finances, il y a eu dernièrement une réunion qui concernait les représentants du peuple pour les sensibiliser à la situation. Peut-être faudrait-il également tenir une réunion qui regrouperait le Ministère des finances, le Ministère de l'agriculture et aussi les représentants du peuple parce que dans certains de nos pays on clame toujours que l'agriculture est le fondement du développement, mais on constate dans les budgets accordés à ce secteur que rien n'évolue comme on le clame réellement. Il faudrait tout d'abord procéder à sensibiliser certains partenaires, notamment le Ministère des finances et peut-être aussi les représentants du peuple avant de tenir une réunion de Chefs d'État.

Nous soutenons les positions de certains pays qui souhaitent d'abord qu'on exploite réellement les nouvelles opportunités qui s'offrent à nous, notamment les conclusions du Sommet des Chefs d'État qui se sont réunis dernièrement aux États-Unis.

Nous voulions donc préciser notre position. Nous voudrions bien qu'un Sommet se tienne pour réévaluer la situation mais l'an 2001 est trop proche, il faudrait plutôt sensibiliser d'autres partenaires comme le Ministère des finances et les représentants du peuple avant d'entrevoir un autre Sommet de Chefs d'État.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

I think the issues on the floor have been well articulated and deliberated upon this morning. Let me start by congratulating my Chairman, the Chairman of the Committee on Food Security. It was a wonderful job. I had the opportunity of attending the full session and incidentally to congratulate my dear friend here, he did a wonderful job as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I still recall it very well.

I noted this morning that the whole House feels a sense of despondency, frustration and disappointment. The Nigerian delegation does not feel that sense of despondency in the situation we are talking about: a twenty-year plan, and we are only four years along, already we are writing it off as a failure. I think the level of despondency, in our judgement, is overblown. Coming from the academia, just because a student does not do well in the first two years of a six-year programme, you write him off, it is not possible. I think that we should adopt a more optimistic approach to this whole issue quite frankly. There were some fundamental reasons at least in respect of some countries that I know of in my region, maybe not measuring up to what this august assembly would have expected. Let me take the example of my own country. The Declaration of the World Food Summit came at a time when Nigeria was in its worst political crisis in its history. I am talking about 1996, 1995, maybe 1997. It would have been a miracle to expect that the target set by that Committee would have been met within two or three years. Right now, having gone this far to come up with a democratic government in place, with democratic institutions now being put in place, Nigeria has started laying the fundamental structures that will probably see some of these dreams come true.

Yesterday, I mentioned the issue of the low capacity of consumer-scale farmers to acquire input through their efforts. Nigeria has today set up a response to that crisis, set up an agricultural and rural development bank. That institution was not there some ten, fifteen, twenty years ago. It is in an effort to address some of the chronic problems that we envisage that will impeach on the implementation on the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

I am sure I can say this with respect to a number of countries in my own geopolitical region. With this in mind, therefore, the situation may not be as gloomy. We can only pray that what precipitated the crisis in the years past does not recur in the years ahead. Fifteen years from now is ample time to be able to pick up from where we are.

Having said that, I would like to lend my support to the position taken by the Chairman of the Africa Group and the Chairman of G-77, that the time has come for us, even with only five years, to take corrective measures before it becomes too late. I believe that, at the end of the Summit next year, we still have about 14 more years thereafter to see whether we meet our target. That is ample time for us to implement whatever accommodation may come at that meeting. We, therefore, support fully the request by the Director-General to allow for a meeting of the Heads of State to review the situation.

Hirofumi KUGITA (Japan)

First of all, I would like to join many previous speakers who welcomed the new format of the Report of the Committee on World Food Security, which is concise and clearly summarises the discussions.

With regard to the proposal of World Food Summit: Five Years Later, I wish to remind the Council Members that Japan, like many other delegations, expressed several concerns and requested further information in the last CFS meeting in September this year. Japan appreciates the concept of the follow-up and monitoring of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and does not have any objections to the rationale stipulated in the document. However, the outcome which FAO is pursuing, the procedure to organize the meeting and the contents to be addressed in the meeting are not yet clear to us.

Therefore, my delegation would again like to request further clarification from the Secretariat at the earliest convenience.

Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'ajouter mes souhaits à ceux qui ont déjà été exprimés afin que cette session sous votre présidence puisse atteindre les résultats espérés par tous les Pays Membres.

En tant que représentant du pays hôte, je désire assurer brièvement le Conseil et les Pays Membres de l'Organisation que l'Italie ne manquera pas d'assurer l'assistance et les conditions d'accueil pour que la Conférence de 2001 puisse donner un apport déterminant dans la poursuite de l'objectif de la réduction de moitié d'ici à 2015 de la population victime de malnutrition.

A ce propos, nous avons constaté avec satisfaction, que le rapport étroit entre la lutte contre la pauvreté et la réduction de la faim, inscrit par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation parmi les grands objectifs de la Communauté internationale, a été confirmé dans la Déclaration du millénaire.

Nous souhaitons que la prochaine Conférence puisse apporter le plein soutien des Etats Membres au renforcement des stratégies nationales et internationales qui ont été jusqu'ici mises en œuvre.

Ms Mitzi GURGEL VALENTE da COSTA (Brazil)

First of all, I would like to fully support the declaration that was made by the Argentinean delegation in the name of the Latin American and Caribbean Region. Furthermore, I would like to note that Brazil has undertaken, in the past five years since the World Food Summit, a wide range of measures aimed at reducing the hunger and poverty levels that unfortunately still prevail in some areas of my country. Active participation of the Brazilian Government, together with members of the civil society, the public and private sectors, state and municipal governments, in cooperation with the rural poor, have allowed more than 16 million Brazilians to rise above the poverty line since 1995. A government initiative, known as *Comunidade Solidaria*, or Solidarity community, has been diligently coordinating the implementation of plans and programmes, together with civil society representatives, in order to set up efficient people-centred strategies aimed at the social inclusion and the empowerment of the rural poor.

Brazil remains firmly committed, in the years to come, to its goals to achieve the targets set out in the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

My delegation would also like to echo comments made by several delegations who have spoken before me, which have pointed out the effects in developing countries that subsidies to agricultural production and export have played in our economies. These subsidies contribute to the reduction of the prices of agricultural products in world markets. They also eliminate any gains in competitiveness the developing countries have achieved in their own agricultural production processes.

By keeping developing countries' agricultural products from freely accessing world markets, these unfair subsidies for the production and for the export of agricultural products from certain developed countries, are certainly contributing to the maintenance, and even to the increase, of hunger and social exclusion in our countries.

Leopoldo SANDOVAL VILLEDA (Guatemala)

Habiendo escuchado todas las intervenciones de esta mañana y dado que, el apoyo a la propuesta del Director General parece mayoritaria, cabe pensar que los Estados Miembros del Consejo que no han hecho uso de la palabra en esta reunión, respaldan dicha propuesta, o al menos no la objetan.

Guatemala estima importante que si no fuese así, lo expresen con sus discursos y observaciones en busca de un total consenso para la propuesta de la convocatoria a los Presidentes y Jefes de Estado para la próxima Conferencia de la FAO.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

Eritrea commends the follow-up made by the Committee of Food Security to the World Food Summit and appreciates the efforts and shares the comments made by the Ambassador of Morocco on behalf of the African Group.

Eritrea fully supports the proposal of the Director-General to hold the World Food Summit: Five Years Later. I also appreciate and am grateful for the statement made by the representative of the United States of America about the desire and dedication of my Government to achieve food security. It is true that Eritrea was almost food secure before the drought and conflict but now, in conflict, we are dependent on food aid. In normal situations, or peaceful environments, Eritrea looks forward to achieving high food security.

I will indicate one of the issues which has not been addressed by many speakers, and that is, most of the countries who are undernourished and food insecure are sub-Saharan Africa. Most of these countries are embroiled in conflict, either with their neighbours or within their own states. Under such situations, it will be very difficult to think of sustainable development or long-term food security. So long as these conflicts continue, it will be very difficult to have any meaningful economic development.

The World Food Summit document has made several recommendations for strategic action to achieve long-term food security. However, it should make no secret of where the main problem lies around troubled regions. It should warn, in all honesty, who are and where the biggest mistakes are. On World Food Summit: Five Years Later, we should appreciate such criticisms if we are serious about our own multiple catastrophes we have been facing in our region. The truth is that countries that are in war will remain on their knees as long as they continue their war efforts and blindly look to the west, expecting and accepting all western assistance as a solution to our nightmares.

I recognize fully well that any kind of candour, any kind of explicit statement, is not always welcome at FAO or UN Summits and does cause controversy. However, such a stand will not diagnose anyone as a woe of the region or country but would share a brave commitment to fix the problem.

Mengistu HULLUKA (Ethiopia)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity again to speak on this important issue, especially in relation to our sub-Region.

At the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, held between 18 and 22 September 2000, the Secretariat document highlighted the number of undernourished declining at the rate of 8 million people annually despite the projection of 20 million people per year. The slow rate was attributed to severe political, economic and climatic conditions that affected many countries in 1998. Assuming that the present trend continues, the Summit target of halving the number of hungry and poor people by the year 2015 is not achievable.

It is a source of concern that the planned reduction of the undernourished is going off the track. It is against this background that we support the initiative of the Director-General to review the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action during the November 2001 Conference.

The Committee on World Food Security, having been charged with the responsibility of monitoring the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action, has extensively reviewed Commitments 1, 2 and 5 and the relevant parts of Commitment 7 of the World Food Summit Action Plan, and recommended actions to be taken by the various stakeholders. While we endorse the recommendations and look forward to their implementation by respective bodies, we wish to make the following observations.

As relates to the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security, it is our view that FAO, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations agencies, can do better on the preventive aspects through support to education. The same can be done for waterborne diseases, which are also a menace to food security since it is only a healthy society that can produce sufficient food to ensure household food security.

The post Summit era is characterized by the high incidence of natural disasters and man-made conflicts. They have adversely impacted on human life, damaged properties and have limited economic progress. These disasters severely affected the life and livelihood of the poor people in these countries. It is a global concern, and especially worrying that this is happening at a time when the relevant Commitments of the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action are under implementation.

While the significant increase in the level of natural disasters is as a result of change in climate, given the advancement in technology, the loss of life and damage to properties are signalling a message to the international community that preventive actions must be in place if we are to fulfil our commitment, as indicated in the Action Plan.

In this context, it is important to make reference to CFS/2000/3, paragraphs 56 and 57, where, while some developing countries have established the necessary institutions for an early warning system, food security reserves, and, at times, a disaster action plan, their effectiveness was constrained by a lack of requisite financial resources.

We fully agree with the recommendations of the CFS in relation to the enhancement of resources and technical assistance to help implementation of the Commitments. We also propose, along the same line, that Commitment 6 be effected as soon as possible to fill shortfalls in resources.

CHAIRMAN

I have to apologise to the Observers that have expressed their wishes to speak also, but certain Observers will then have the opportunity to take the floor in the afternoon, because of the time constraint that we are facing now.

I would like to give the floor now to Mr O'Driscoll and Ms Killingsworth to respond.

There is a proposition by Mr O'Driscoll, by the Secretariat, to give the opportunity to the Observers first. Therefore, I think I would like to invite Algeria to take the floor, please.

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Observateur pour l'Algérie)

Mon intervention sera brève, elle se limitera aux recommandations contenues dans le document. S'agissant des recommandations du paragraphe 30, nous soulignons la pertinence de celles-ci mais

certaines réflexions méritent d'être faites. Pour celles formulées à l'intention du Gouvernement, leur pertinence se situe pour certaines d'entre elles dans un contexte théorique voire philosophique. Je regrette qu'une question de vie ou de survie de millions d'êtres humains soit placée dans une optique de démocratisation et de bonne gouvernance.

Il y a quelques années dans cette même enceinte, et plus précisément au sein du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, les pays en développement sollicitaient l'aide et assistance pour améliorer leur production afin de subvenir à leurs besoins. D'autres pays parlaient alors d'amélioration de la qualité de la vie. Aujourd'hui, lorsque ces millions de personnes revendiquent leur droit à la nourriture pour vivre et survivre, d'autres pays parlent de bonne gouvernance et de démocratisation.

Je veux bien croire que ces concepts tels qu'utilisés puissent diminuer l'écart qui existe entre les pays riches et les pays pauvres où des millions de personnes dont certaines d'entre elles continuent à subir les affres de la sécurité alimentaire et n'ont même plus les moyens de se procurer leur nourriture. Pourtant, nous constatons qu'en dépit d'énormes efforts et sacrifices consentis à des coûts sociaux élevés, la situation des pays en développement demeure préoccupante. Cependant, il est tout à fait clair que toute action ou stratégie nationale ou politique appropriée soit-elle, même si je ne suis pas convaincu de l'utilisation du terme approprié, toute action serait inefficace et illusoire si elle ne reposait pas sur une base financière solide à la mesure des défis à relever et des objectifs à atteindre.

L'Algérie, mon pays, a organisé en octobre dernier une Conférence nationale sur la pauvreté et l'exclusion avec la participation notamment de tous les acteurs de la société civile, et également des Institutions internationales dont la FAO. Mon pays s'est engagé, dans la limite de ses modestes capacités, à mettre en oeuvre le Programme national d'action pour la lutte contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion.

Concernant les recommandations formulées à l'intention de la Communauté internationale, nous suggérons de notre côté l'encouragement des politiques suivies par certains pays visant à reconvertir la dette extérieure en investissements.

Pour les recommandations à l'intention du Secrétariat de la FAO et des institutions internationales, nous rappelons la nécessité de fournir l'aide et l'assistance aux pays en développement en vue de leur permettre de mettre en oeuvre leurs programmes et Plans nationaux de lutte contre la pauvreté et la malnutrition, conformément au Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Enfin, nous saluons l'initiative du Directeur général d'inviter les Chefs d'État ou de Gouvernement des Membres de la FAO et des Institutions internationales à participer à la prochaine Conférence en 2001 pour examiner les étapes franchies, pour ne pas dire les progrès, pour répondre à l'appel de Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de Cuba, dans la mise en oeuvre des engagements du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après, initiative qui a déjà été appuyée officiellement et nous le rappelons aujourd'hui.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12h45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Nineteenth Session Cent dix-neuvième session 119º período de sesiones
Rome, 20-25 November 2000 Rome, 20-25 novembre 2000 Roma, 20-25 de noviembre de 2000
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
21 November 2000

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

4. REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (ROME, SEPTEMBER 2000) (CL 119/14) (continued)

4. RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SIXIEME SESSION DU COMITE DE LA SECURITE ALIMENTAIRE MONDIALE (ROME, SEPTEMBRE 2000)

(CL 119/14) (suite)

4. INFORME DEL 26° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA MUNDIAL (ROMA, SEPTIEMBRE DE 2000) (CL 119/14) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN

I think it is time for reconvene. We are still on item 4, and I have two Observers that have expressed their wishes to take the floor. If they are already here, I would like to invite Mauritius to take the floor.

Denis CANGY (Observer for Mauritius)

I speak on behalf of Mauritius as a Small Island Developing State, which chaired the Ministerial Conference on Small Island Developing States on Agriculture convened by FAO in March last year.

Mauritius supports the initiative of the Director-General to include the World Food Summit: Five Years Later Plan of Action on the agenda of the Conference in the year 2001 and to invite Heads of State or Governments for the reasons put forward already by various speakers here this morning.

In this connection, Mauritius requests the FAO Secretariat to include among the preparatory documents of the Conference, an assessment of the Plan of Action of the Small Island Developing States which has already been considered by the United Nations General Assembly in September 1999, in its review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action.

Anton KOHLER (Observer for Switzerland)

Please allow me to report the following observations. When discussing paper CL 119/LIM/3 many delegations refer to it as a Secretariat's proposal to hold in the year 2001 a World Food Summit: Five Years Later, but the document recommends in paragraph 12 that the Council requests the Director-General to include on the Provisional Agenda of the Thirty-first Session of the Conference an item entitled *Progress in Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action Five Years After the Summit*. This is fine. Nevertheless, the problem with the document CL 119/LIM/3 is that in agreement with the statement of the Nordic countries, the paper is not what we had hoped for, after the discussion at the last CFS meeting in September 2000.

Please also allow the following observation. Before reviewing what has gone well or wrong during the implementation of the Plan of Action, we have to pass through a whole cycle of reporting to the CFS under the participation of all members, not just 95 reporting countries alone. Maybe that in the year 2003 we will then be better prepared for the World Food Summit Plus Seven, inviting Heads of States and Governments for active participation. But allow me to conclude that we are in agreement with the proposal to carefully prepare a special Plenary Session

of the Conference in 2001 to deal with progress and setbacks in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action Five Years after the Summit, according to the Secretariat's proposal.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Observateur d'Angola)

Puisque j'interviens pour la première fois, je voudrais, au nom de ma délégation et à mon nom personnel, vous féliciter pour la façon dont vous dirigez les débats. Féliciter également les Membres du Bureau qui ont été élus pour vous aider dans cette tâche qui, j'en suis convaincu, sera couronnée de succès. L'Angola a participé au plus haut niveau au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation qui a eu lieu dans ce bâtiment et au cours duquel une Déclaration et un Plan d'action ont été adoptés unanimement. Le document que le Conseil examine actuellement présente l'évaluation de la situation mondiale en matière de sécurité alimentaire et le progrès accompli dans la mise en œuvre des quatre engagements. Je voudrais comme les autres délégations qui m'ont précédés, exprimer les préoccupations sur les résultats obtenus à ce jour. A la suite de ces constatations, il est donc normal que cinq ans après les assises du Sommet, les Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement qui ont approuvé les deux documents se retrouvent ensemble pour faire le bilan. C'est cela qui justifie la proposition du Directeur général de la FAO d'organiser le Sommet + 5. En Angola notre Gouvernement continue à croire aux sept engagements du Plan d'action. C'est pourquoi l'Angola voudrait appuyer la déclaration de l'Ambassadeur du Maroc faite au nom du Groupe africain.

Mrs Bettina CORKE (Observer for the International Alliance of Women)

The International Alliance of Women would like to point out to the distinguished delegates present here, three very serious constraints in our view, and from our experience in working with ministries of agriculture and national machineries for women on food security issues since the World Food Summit. What exists for our membership when we wish to make operational the World Food Summit Food Security Commitments at the national level. One constraint of course, as we all know, is the continuing dominant discourse on globalization and structural debt which continues to insist nationally and internationally that this kind of globalization is our inevitable future.

The second constraint is the result of the first in which the traditional agricultural sector is being undercut by the imposition of an economic market-place national development which relies upon World Bank/IMF insistence that cash crops for export purposes, rather than the production of crops for national food security be continued. This limited food security approach actually helps transnational, agro-business, corporate networks, in a more forceful and entrenched way at the national level. It becomes a food aid programme, not a food security programme.

The third is an apparent inability within the United Nations system to make operational in a more substantial way the commitments of the World Food Summit and the other five United Nations world conferences.

Let me give you here an in-house example of a United Nations operational food security gap. Article 14 CEDAW, that is, the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, states in paragraph 2 (d), (e), (g) and (h) the following: (d) says to obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy as well as, *inter alia*, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency. Here I should say that article 14 does deal specifically with rural women;

(e) is to organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment and self-employment;

(g) is to have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform, as well as in land settlement schemes;

(h) is to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

Yet, at a preparatory meeting, prior to the holding of the Social Summit Plus Five, agrarian reform was removed from a commitment previously agreed upon by governments at the Social Summit held in Copenhagen in 1995. Where will land use, land development, be debated in the future work of food security? Our membership of women farmers and rural populations will certainly be at a disadvantage when we take this article 14 to our national governments to try to implement it at the national level. This pick and choose, in limbo kind of leadership in matters of agriculture and rural development undercuts the ability of ministries of agriculture to continue what was its traditional function, to act as a multisectoral, an inter-disciplinary governmental body, interacting with their national populations.

As Seattle and other international NGO participation has shown at the various United Nations conferences, we do not wish our needy populations, through no fault of their own, to be shuttled around as if they were surplus goods to be dispensed with by clichés, coded language and platitudes. Our hungry men and women cannot wait for another year, another conference, another media campaign, only to be faced with the same situation that we have today, that there will more hungry people in the world one year from now than there are now.

Aidan O'DRISCOLL (Chairman, Committee on World Food Security)

I will just speak on the CFS document CL 119/14. I can be very brief because the overwhelming feeling that I received from the various comments that have been made by delegates, is a very positive response to the CFS report, and I am very grateful for that and very grateful for the comments that have been made.

There were just a few points that I think I will respond to. Argentina raised a particular issue under paragraph 9, which refers to the reduction in import bills of LIFDCs. I think we have to understand that paragraph as being simply a reflection of a factual position and not reflecting any particular view on the trade policy issues which, as we know, different Member Nations have different views on this issue. So that paragraph should not be interpreted as stating any particular view on those issues, which is indeed reflected in the fact that all Member Nations supported the report.

Iceland, on behalf of the Nordic countries, made a number of important points about the quality of the report on follow-up to the World Food Summit and this is also reflected in the CFS report itself. I think we would all agree that the quality of reporting on World Food Summit follow-up could be improved and, as the Nordic statement correctly identifies, that is very much up to ourselves – the Member States – in our reporting of our follow-up. The Secretariat can only, in their report to the CFS, reflect what we tell them, so that there is a need for improvement in national reports on follow-up to the World Food Summit is quite clear and is again reflected in the CFS document, particularly in the recommendation that we should focus more on the results of our actions, the results actually achieved, to get a more practical feedback and in particular, to get a more positive feedback on what works and what does not.

I was very struck that almost all of the speakers referred to the recommendations in paragraph 30 and paragraph 39 of the Report in a very positive way. And I think that is very helpful. I think it is, of course, easy to make recommendations and easy to agree with recommendations. What is actually difficult is to implement them. So in that regard, I take it that the fact that we all agree with these recommendations means that we will alert our national administrations to them and ensure that they get the necessary recognition and profile in the future work of our national administrations, both in following up the World Food Summit Plan of Action and in other respects.

Finally, maybe I should just say that for our next meeting, it is clear that we will have a very full and challenging agenda and that the Bureau wishes to ensure that our discussions at that meeting are as meaningful and well-focused as possible. We will also seek to ensure that the deliberations of the Committee obtain a higher profile as part of the process of raising the profile of food security issues generally. It is the Bureau's intention also to again run an informal panel, as it facilitates open and flowing discussion of sometimes difficult issues. We also hope to retain and

develop the new report format which has generally been welcomed by delegates, and which I think we can take to another level at the next meeting.

Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Assistant Director-General/Special Adviser on World Food Summit Follow-up)

May I start by expressing the Secretariat's appreciation for the wide and strong support that I believe the Director-General's proposal received in the debate today. First of all, it is gratifying that the need for recommitment to the World Food Summit's objectives and for the infusion of new impetus into implementation of the Plan of Action is universally recognized.

At the same time, I would also like reassure all members and particularly those who have expressed concerns regarding one or another aspect of the proposal, that their voices have been heard. What is needed now from the Council is support to the principle in order to set the agenda for the Conference, to issue the invitations and to initiate preparations. But the Director-General has already assured you that he wants to take this process forward in consultation with you, to the maximum extent possible, and that means using all channels available to us, formal and informal for that purpose.

This debate today, like the debate at the CFS in September, has already indicated some avenues, which obviously the Secretariat in consultation with the Members must pursue. In making a few comments, and responses to questions that were raised, I would like to address a few of those now, recognizing that many others will undoubtedly arise and require to be addressed in the coming months.

First of all, with regard to the level of representation at the Conference for the discussion of the progress in implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, there was great support for the principle of inviting heads of state and government. It was also pointed out that it is, and will remain, the sovereign right of each nation to decide how it will be represented. There was also a fear expressed by a few delegations that we might be mobilizing Heads of State and Government too early. To that, we can only say, as the Director-General indicated in his original proposal, that 2006 might also be too late.

It was suggested that some of the Plus Five exercises in the United Nations have been less than successful. Obviously there are lessons to be learned from those experiences. I believe that the other United Nations organizations are also taking those lessons into account in their planning for next year. The major lesson that we have drawn from them, and which is embodied already in the Director-General's proposal, is that it is essential not to reopen debates. It is essential to concentrate on how to implement the commitments already agreed upon. It was gratifying to see how much support there has been on the floor today for that principle as well. It was also suggested that what we need is a substantive discussion, but that it should be focused, concise and oriented toward action, as many including Argentina, on behalf of the Latin American Group, pointed out very specifically.

Another issue raised by several delegations was the question of the relationship of this process with other United Nations initiatives and other conferences scheduled in the year 2001. As we had mentioned at the CFS, FAO is involved already in the preparations for the Conference on Least Developed Countries and is prepared to make an input for the special event on financing for development, when the appropriate time comes. There are several other General Assembly Special Sessions and events planned during the year, and FAO Secretariat on the behalf of our members will play the role it always plays, in trying to ensure that your views from this forum are reflected in those other fora. However, we can do that by providing, in response to requests from those other fora, or from their Secretariats, input based on the guidance you have already given us. When it comes to the events themselves and the adoption of their conclusions, as you well know, the Secretariat representatives can do very little. It has been our experience, including very recently, that food frequently gets forgotten. We need your help to redress this, to ensure there is greater receptivity in those other fora to the concerns that you are expressing here.

I think that again during the coming months, the Secretariat needs to find ways of keeping you better informed of when an intervention from you through your capitals, to pass on messages to your delegations in those fora would be most appropriate and necessary. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit is a good example. As you know, the reference to hunger and the hungry was an eleventh hour inclusion, and it was brought about by Member Nations. So, we take this as an indication that we need to continue to act in this way but we also need to develop the work which you are doing here to facilitate and give impetus to the fulfilment of the World Food Summit commitments.

The Millennium Declaration is now adopted, and its implementation will be discussed at the General Assembly. It was suggested that the Secretariat should be ready not only to play an important role in cooperation with partners in the system, but also to report thereon. I would note that we certainly will be prepared to play our role, and that in the draft resolution on follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, which is now in informal discussions in New York, before going to the General Assembly, one of the major points is that the Assembly would decide to use existing structures and mechanisms, and upcoming events, to the maximum extent possible to further the implementation of the Declaration's objectives. I would suggest that a major contribution by FAO could also be in 2001 to successfully complete an action-oriented review of implementation of the Plan of Action and to have the results available as an input to that process of implementing the Millennium Declaration. In other words, the two exercises should not be mutually exclusive but rather mutually reinforcing.

A number of Members also indicated that the paper CL 119/LIM/3 was not as detailed as they would have hoped. I would thank the observer from Switzerland for his clarification that the proposal is not to hold a new Summit; therefore the preparatory process we are talking about does not need to be nearly as complex as that undertaken for the Summit. It may be partly for that reason that the paper seems even too simple. But major questions do remain to be discussed and decided upon, and as indicated, they should be decided by the CFS in May and the Council in June.

Two essential areas of discussion need to be pursued. One is what would be the focus of the document which would be prepared during the year, and the other is what would be the format of the debate. On the question of content, I thank the delegate of India and a number of others this morning who made specific proposals as to what they thought were the issues that we needed to concentrate on, in identifying constraints to implementation and suggesting avenues for action. We have taken note of those. The Secretariat has already begun thinking and working on this issue, but we look forward to testing some of these ideas with Members, to ensure that the document does meet the requirements.

With regard to format, it is obvious that there is a general feeling that there should be greater interactivity among participants at the Conference. We look forward to a debate that the Council will have later this week on the format of the Conference debates, and on the basis of your comments today and your comments later on, we will also be making proposals to the CFS for discussion and eventual proposal to the Council on how that debate should be organized in November.

In conclusion, the Council's support for the principle, the objective, the general orientation, is what the Secretariat needed at this session. We do look forward now to working with members to ensure that the event and its preparatory process will achieve their purpose. I hope I have covered the questions that were raised this morning. I thank Members again for their support and remain at your disposal if there are any further questions.

CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank Mr O'Driscoll at this point. I think both have explained in an excellent way and I must say that the explanation by Ms Killingsworth is not only excellent but it really is a resumé of what we have been debating and the content of the debate at this time.

Ms Killingsworth also said that at this point what we need is a general agreement on the principle of the initiative of the Director-General and I do not see any objection on that principle. That much work has still to be done, I think the Secretariat explained very well and is very much aware of the work that has still to be done. That will be taken up in next year's meeting in May and will be reported again to the Council in June. On that note, I think it is timely for us to conclude this session on Item 4 of the Agenda of this Council.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IV. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

7. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 1998-99 (C 2001/8; C 2001/8-CORR.1-REV.1)

7. RAPPORT SUR L'EXÉCUTION DU PROGRAMME 1998-99 (C 2001/8; C 2001/8-CORR.1-REV.1)

7. INFORME SOBRE LA EJECUCIÓN DEL PROGRAMA 1998-99 (C 2001/8; C 2001/8-CORR.1-REV.1)

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I will be very brief; you are now going to consider one of two quite different accountability reports – the *Programme Implementation Report*. The other *post-facto* reporting document is the *Programme Evaluation Report* which you will be considering at your next session.

It is perhaps useful to make the distinction between these two reports which serve quite different purposes. The *Programme Implementation Report* which you have before you today is intended to be comprehensive, that is it covers all programmes; it is intended to be quantitative in that it deals with resource utilisation and reports on the outputs produced; and it is limited to a time-scale of one biennium, that is, it is reporting on 1998-99. The other document, which is the *Programme Evaluation Report* that you will be considering at your next session, is very different. It is selective, each edition tends to cover about three programmes and two thematic issues. It is very much qualitative in its analysis and it usually examines a much longer period – usually two to three biennia.

I make this point so as to set the correct perspective on the scope of the *Programme Implementation Report*, otherwise one might conclude that it is not qualitative in its analysis and that it doesn't address effectiveness which in fact is correct. However, that is the intention because the reality is that if a comprehensive report on FAO's activities were produced covering the entire Programme and covering the qualitative aspects of the Programme it would be something like five or six times longer than the report you have before you. So we must rely on the Programme Evaluation Report for the qualitative assessment.

As regards the issue of comprehensiveness, we have continued the practice that was commenced last biennium, which was to summarise the key outputs of the document in the document itself but to provide the detail on the fate of all the outputs originally planned in the Programme of Work and Budget 1998-99 on the FAO website, and you can find the reference to that in the document. So you can, in fact, look up any particular output that was promised to you in the budget and see what happened to it, whether it was produced or not.

Overall the results were very good, particularly given the constraints faced. Despite a major shortfall in support cost income of some US\$ 10 million, expenditure was successfully adjusted downwards to arrive at a small surplus of around about a million dollars or less than 0.2 percent of the budget. And while we had to cancel some outputs we managed to make up for more than

this number through additions to the Programme, in the end adding around about 5 percent of the outputs to the total planned. We continued to make progress in cost reductions which directly affected field programme support costs and, in fact, administrative and operational support costs in 1998-99 fell to an all-time low of 10.7 percent that was down from 14.1 percent in 1996-97 reflecting an absolute reduction of US\$ 10.9 million.

And then finally, of course, it is important to point out that there were several major achievements made and recognised for their contribution to the international system at large and to development.

I would like to draw your attention to some other improvements. The document has been professionally edited to try and make it a little bit more readable and enhanced with a two-colour presentation, both of which we hope do make it easier for the reader. The Director-General looks forward to hearing the comments of the members on the report.

Richard J. HUGHES (United States of America)

First of all, I would like to make some comments on this very intensive report. We support the continued new programme model of the *Programme Implementation Report* that will improve programming, planning, presentation and the facilitation of project accomplishments. The format is much improved from previous reports and allows the reader to understand better just how FAO is succeeding, or not succeeding, in carrying out approved projects, particularly in the areas of sustainable development and food security objectives. The PIR is easier to read because of tables and graphs and we hope that it will continue to evolve as you change the scope and format.

We are pleased that FAO is thinking in terms of a longer-term vision for the Organization in conjunction with the Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan, the Programmes of Work and Budget and Programme Evaluation - all important to detail accountability within programmes and publicising accomplishments. Results based budgeting is important to the Organization and we support any steps and strengths to improve the quality of programme indicators.

We do have some observations we would like to share.

The Executive Summary is a good overview of the programmes that are important to Member Nations, but, as one reads the various chapters, it becomes evident that the document does become a listing of accomplishments, detailing resources and expenditures associated with the work being done by the Organization. The report becomes an accounting document because it shows how activities can or cannot be carried out because of underlying funding issues. The PIR basically links success to budget transfers in order to accomplish the final Programme of Work in both the Regular and Field Programmes, the costs of Field Programme support and extent of technical support provided to the Field by FAO technical officers.

There are many sections of the report that leave the reader uncertain about further action, if any, for example: outputs or diverse. Support was provided and papers dealing with this subject were produced. However, on a more positive note, we would like to call your attention to the graph on page 43 – Natural Resource Management for Bangladesh - which provides the reader an excellent summary of how a programme is implemented and its outcome. Similarly, the box on page 117, about the breadth of the Investment Centre contributions to agricultural and rural development in Ghana, appears to be a worthwhile synthesis. This is the kind of reporting, regardless of the budgetary constraints, that show that the Organization is purposeful and focussed while, at the same time, also showing efficiency improvement in reporting as it modernizes its operations.

Ms Malgorzata PIOTROWSKA (Poland)

The Programme Implementation Report sets out the Organization's work and achievements during the 1998-99 biennium, executed towards the limited resources placed at its disposal. A Strategic Framework to guide the work of FAO until 2015 has been approved by the FAO Conference last year, and the Medium-Term Plan for the period 2002-2007 will be discussed under a separate Agenda Item. Allow me to offer some comments on specific items mentioned in the *Programme*

Implementation Report, only from the point of view as it provides a starting point for future FAO activities.

As concerns the impressive number of specific training activities reviewed in the report, I will only strongly refer to and express appreciation for the programme for training in Uruguay Round follow-up and multilateral trade negotiations. While Poland has been a long time member of GAD, and presently at WTO, we appreciate the challenge of the present negotiations and certainly look towards FAO's assistance. We strongly support this activity as part of FAO's training programme. While Poland has so far not participated directly in FAO's activities in the field of sustainable management of land and water resources, I believe the interest of Member Nations in the European Region in the field will increase as we begin to realise that water is becoming a scarce source which could become a major constraint to crop production. On our part, we are ready to share our experience in work on the rehabilitation of degraded and polluted soils.

I would like to compliment the presentation of FAO activities on the Internet. We support strongly increasing access by professionals and farmers as well as students to the outputs of FAO work in this way, and would comment that no resources should be spared to make this important material available to an ever broader audience. I would also like to express appreciation for the clear presentation of the due place and importance of gender and women in development related activities.

Allow me to comment on the issue of the state of food insecurity in the world as a follow-up to the World Food Summit. First of all, I would like to comment on the large group of Central and Eastern Europe transition economies which are classified as food insecure. There are many aspects to this situation, ranging from worse to natural disasters, and the impact of transition. It would be interesting to find in the next *Programme Implementation Report*, and of course, in the Regional Conference for Europe documents, more information how the specific issues related to food insecurity in the European region were addressed in FAO activities. FAO estimates and monitoring of food insecurity, in particular in the CIS countries, are a major service provided. There is no other Organization better placed to do this. Certainly, the work done in Azerbaijan in Georgia deserves more information.

Paul SADLER (Canada)

The PIR is one of four key FAO documents for programming and planning at FAO, in our view complementing the new Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Evaluation Reports that the Director mentioned in introducing the item.

This year's PIR reports on the period prior to the adoption of the new Framework and, as such, reflects that a more descriptive style of reporting than we expect in next year's report, which may be more analytical and evaluative. The report, however, does address major programmes of interest to Member Nations. As well, there are a number of positive trends identified in the report which we hope will continue - including the decrease in administrative and operational costs, increased use of local experts, improvement in narrowing the gap on cross subsidies from the Regular Programmes to the Technical Assistance Programmes and, finally, ensuring that gender issues (as the distinguished delegate from Poland just mentioned) continues to be a high priority. We notice that, for example, while there were a significant number of budget transfers between programmes, there were none out of the Women in Development programmes.

There is, however, one area in particular where we expect a change in next year's report. Although the Director indicated that there are other separate evaluation reports, it is impossible to separate out implementation from evaluation under the Strategic Framework. In this regard, we are hoping that in next year's report we will see more emphasis on the enhanced analysis of programme outcomes rather than a mere listing of projects, and include the indicators used to measure the effectiveness and impact of those outcomes. As the delegate from the United States mentioned, one example of this would be the Bangladesh programme on page 43 as a nice example of a highlight of implementation.

We would also seek clarification on one issue related in the report to the number of changes that take place during the year between the deletion of planned activities and the addition of so-called unplanned activities, although we are not enamoured with the term. We recognize that that is an issue from a point of reference at the start of the year in terms of unplanned as opposed to non-strategic. However, in numerous areas such as publications and cooperation with other international organizations, there are substantial changes during the year, sometimes in the neighbourhood of 25 and 30 percent swings in planned to unplanned activities. Although this is positive in the sense of being both flexible and responsive in responding to Members' needs, we would be interested to know more about the causes of these overall changes and if this degree of change during the year has presented any particular challenges for managers in efficient allocation of resources.

In conclusion, I would like to say that although this year's report is generally more descriptive and less analytical than we would like, we feel that next year's report will be more results based as it reports on programme implementation under the new Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Hago mi declaración en nombre de los países del GRULAC. Los países de América Latina y el Caribe hacemos un reconocimiento al trabajo y a la contribución de todos los niveles de la Organización en la preparación del Plan a Plazo Medio 2002-2007 que constituye una herramienta fundamental del marco estratégico aprobado en la anterior Conferencia.

Consideramos que el Plan a Plazo Medio debe convertirse en un instrumento fundamental para ayudar a los Estados Miembros en el cumplimiento de los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, en especial, para los países en vías de desarrollo en un mundo donde persiste la pobreza, aumenta la desigualdad y se acrecienta la diferencia entre desarrollo y atraso, entre ricos y pobres.

En ese sentido, preocupa a mi Región la continua política de austeridad que se viene imponiendo a la FAO, la cual se traduce en programas de labores y presupuestos de crecimiento nominal cero que entrañan una disminución en términos reales de los programas ejecutados por la Organización y la supresión de puestos de trabajo, entre ellos numerosos de la categoría profesional, con el consecuente decrecimiento de su potencial técnico y el evidente perjuicio para los países en desarrollo.

En la opinión del GRULAC, resulta paradójico pensar que se pueden alcanzar los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, de disminuir al 50 por ciento el número de personas que sufren hambre en el mundo hasta el año 2015, cuando a lo largo de cuatro ejercicios presupuestarios consecutivos han aplicado drásticas reducciones efectivas a los recursos de la principal organización que presta asistencia directa a los Estados para incrementar la producción de alimentos. Ningún otro organismo de las Naciones Unidas ha sufrido una reducción tan severa durante el mismo período.

El presupuesto de la FAO para el bienio 2000-2001 contempla asignar el 11,14 por ciento de lo destinado a sus principales programas a la región de América Latina y el Caribe. Nuestra región hace un llamado a la Organización para revisar el presupuesto de los sistemas de producción agrícola y servicios de apoyo. Para los países de América Latina y el Caribe, este tema tiene una gran relevancia debido a su decisivo impacto en el aumento de la producción agrícola, lo cual permitiría sin duda disminuir en gran parte la pobreza rural con el consiguiente mejoramiento de la seguridad alimentaria de la Región. En este sentido el GRULAC considera que es necesario buscar fórmulas que permitan aumentar los niveles de cooperación destinados a la región, en especial, cuando la aplicación de nuevas tecnologías es indispensable para aumentar la capacidad y la competitividad agrícola.

Es necesario destacar que nuestra Región se encuentra presupuestariamente en niveles similares o inferiores a los fondos destinados a Europa. Es el caso de los recursos destinados a cultivos, a producción agrícola y agricultura, a aplicaciones agrícolas de los isótopos y la biotecnología y a

los recursos destinados a la mujer rural quién, como es por todos sabido, desempeña tradicionalmente un papel fundamental en los procesos de producción, reproducción y distribución de la producción agrícola.

La actividad pesquera constituye otro importante hito para América Latina y el Caribe como fuente de alimentos y empleo. Congruente con estos intereses y con la relevancia del tema dentro de la Organización, mi región participa activamente en los distintos foros internacionales y ha recibido permanentemente apoyo técnico de la FAO. Sin embargo, nos sorprende el desequilibrio que existe en los recursos destinados a acciones de campo en este rubro.

América Latina recibe el 1,49 por ciento del total de los fondos destinados a la pesca, mientras otras regiones reciben: la más beneficiada el 49 por ciento del presupuesto y la menos beneficiada, excluyendo la nuestra, el 10,2 por ciento. Insistimos en la importancia que le da el mandato de la FAO a una aplicación equilibrada de los aspectos informativos, normativos y operacionales, tanto en los programas como en los documentos de la Organización. El GRULAC da la mayor importancia al refuerzo de los programas técnicos y económicos y, en especial, al Programa de Cooperación Técnica y al Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Nuestra región insta a la FAO con el fin de que se hagan los mayores esfuerzos para obtener los recursos financieros necesarios para cumplir con los objetivos del Plan a Plazo Medio. En este sentido, reiteramos el llamado para que todos los Estados Miembros, en especial, los mayores contribuyentes, cumplan con sus compromisos, realicen el pago de sus cuotas atrasadas sin condicionamiento alguno, de manera de no influir negativamente en la ejecución y eficiencia de los programas y proyectos de la Organización.

El GRULAC lamenta que la actual iliquidez financiera de la Organización se base en el "supuesto de que próximamente se recibiría el pago de la cuenta corriente del mayor contribuyente, que constituye aproximadamente unos 82 millones de dólares, así como el resto de la cuota del segundo contribuyente, en orden de importancia, que representa unos 31 millones de dólares, y que si no se recibieran estas contribuciones, la liquidez financiera de la Organización se vería gravemente afectada", tal como se desprende del Comité de Finanzas.

Respecto al Informe Anual sobre la ejecución del Presupuesto y las referencias en el Programa y el Presupuesto en el bienio 1998-1999, el GRULAC expresa su satisfacción por el hecho de que la Organización haya administrado las consignaciones presupuestarias del Programa Ordinario de conformidad con el reglamento financiero, y sobre todo, en que el gasto neto global durante el período en cuestión haya sido inferior en 1,2 millones de dólares a las consignaciones presupuestarias, así como que las transferencias presupuestarias requeridas estén comprendidas dentro de los límites aprobados.

Asimismo, nuestro Grupo Regional apoya el informe relativo contenido en el Anexo 1 del Informe del Comité de Finanzas.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Ante todo permítame expresar nuestro apoyo a lo manifestado por Argentina a nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe; dicho lo anterior, permítame señalar que dentro del Informe sobre la ejecución del Programa 1998-99, mi país otorga gran interés al tema relativo a las actividades dirigidas al desarrollo sostenible de la ganadería, dentro de los programas técnicos de economía. Lo anterior, comprende una serie de aspectos dirigidos a la prevención y control de enfermedades, al desarrollo de sistemas de información para la toma de decisiones en el sector ganadero, a la ordenación de recursos genéticos de los animales domésticos y a la capacitación sobre la tendencia y efectos de los sistemas de producción intensivos.

Dentro de esta línea, a lo largo de los últimos cuatro años, México ha estado participando activamente en el análisis de sus recursos genéticos, para lo cual cuenta con el Programa Nacional de Recursos Genéticos y Pecuarios, cuyo propósito es la conservación, evaluación y utilización estratégica de sus especies y razas de ganado, de conformidad con sus sistemas de producción y las condiciones agroecológicas y de mercado.

Asimismo, mi país cuenta con el Consejo Nacional de los Recursos Genéticos y Pecuarios, Organismo no Gubernamental, compuesto por asociaciones de criadores de ganado de registro, instituciones de educación superior e investigación en la materia. Este Consejo es responsable de la implementación y seguimiento de aquellas actividades previstas dentro del programa de los recursos genéticos pecuarios.

Las actividades que se realizan a nivel nacional coinciden plenamente con la estrategia mundial de la FAO para la ordenación de los recursos genéticos de los animales de granja, cuyos avances han sido muy importantes en los últimos años, tal como lo demuestran las dos reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo Técnico Intergubernamental sobre Recursos Zoogenéticos, el cual recomendó a la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos elaborar, a partir de febrero de 2001, un primer informe sobre la situación de los recursos zoogenéticos mundiales, siendo ésta una recomendación que nos complace respaldar.

Bajo esta perspectiva, mi delegación apoya el presente informe e insta a la FAO para que continúe con este programa y siga apoyando la capacitación de los países que puedan intensificar sus sistemas de producción animal, pero con especial atención a la preservación de los recursos naturales. Lo anterior es de suma importancia, sobre todo si se tienen en cuenta las expectativas de un fuerte incremento en las próximas dos décadas en lo que se refiere a la demanda de productos de origen animal por parte de los países en desarrollo.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

Je m'exprime une fois encore au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses États Membres. Le rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 1998-99 nous est présenté alors que plusieurs innovations ont marqué cette période et qu'elles auront des conséquences à long terme sur l'activité de la FAO.

En effet, comme le rappelle le Directeur général dans son avant-propos, la Conférence générale de novembre 1999 a approuvé le Cadre stratégique 2000-2015 et le Conseil, à l'occasion de cette session, doit se prononcer sur l'adoption d'un Plan à moyen terme 2000-2007.

Je voudrais d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qu'il a préparés à notre intention. Sur le fond, je distinguerais cinq points. Le premier point, le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire est à présent opérationnel dans cinquante pays. Il le sera à terme dans vingt pays supplémentaires. Selon le rapport d'exécution du Programme 1998-99, près de 9 millions de dollars ont été consacrés au PSSA sur le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation pour ce biennium auxquels s'ajoutent 7 millions de dollars pour les prestations des services opérationnels. De plus, durant la même période, un montant de 80 millions de dollars aurait été mobilisé au titre des ressources extrabudgétaires.

Dans le Plan à moyen terme 2002-2007, il est fait état d'une prévision de 30 millions de dollars pour la période considérée sans qu'il soit fait mention du montant des fonds nécessaires pour les prestations de service du Siège pour la formulation, la mise en œuvre et la coordination du PSSA. Je crois qu'une clarification du Secrétariat à ce sujet serait la bienvenue. Une meilleure présentation des chiffres permettrait une plus grande clarté dans la lecture de ces financements, ce que ne permettent pas les documents dans leur forme actuelle.

C'est pourquoi, je crois qu'il serait souhaitable que, dès le prochain rapport d'exécution, la présentation des programmes et de ces financements soit en cohérence avec le Cadre stratégique et le Plan à moyen terme, même si celui-ci ne devient applicable qu'à partir de 2002.

Il est en effet important de connaître effectivement les montants financiers à partir des fonds de la FAO pour la formulation, l'exécution, la coordination et le suivi du PSSA, selon les indications contenues dans le Plan à moyen terme, notamment aux points 2, 5, 6 traitant de la production alimentaire à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faibles revenus et déficit vivrier. Compte tenu de l'importance et de l'envergure de ce programme, il serait pour nous opportun de procéder à son évaluation avec une attention particulière sur les points ci-après: l'amélioration de la production et l'atténuation des variations de production aux niveaux local et national, l'impact sur la sécurité alimentaire locale ou nationale, le renforcement des capacités locales pour

poursuivre les programmes, le renforcement des capacités des autorités locales et nationales à multiplier les actions proposées dans les pays, la coordination du Programme PSSA avec les programmes d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire dans les différents pays, l'évaluation également de la coopération sud-sud et des perspectives de développement.

Mon point 2 concerne, comme il est indiqué dans le Plan à moyen terme que je me réserve de commenter lorsque nous examinerons le point 8 de l'Ordre du jour, les normes à bases scientifiques destinées à assurer la qualité et la sécurité alimentaires des aliments qui revêtent une importance particulière pour la mise en œuvre des accords de Marrakech et le développement des échanges commerciaux mais aussi, on le voit bien, la protection des consommateurs. Il appartient à la FAO qui assure le Secrétariat du Codex Alimentarius avec l'OMS de rendre compte de manière plus exhaustive dans son Rapport d'exécution des travaux réalisés à la Commission du Codex Alimentarius ainsi que de l'origine et du mode de mise en œuvre des financements nécessaires à l'organisation de ces travaux.

Mon troisième point concerne la forêt. Evoquant le Programme forestier majeur, point 2.4, le rapport sur la mise en œuvre du programme met l'accent sur la participation de la FAO aux différents organismes intergouvernementaux et interinstitutionnels s'occupant des forêts.

A la suite de la huitième session de la Commission du développement durable (CDD) qui s'est tenue antérieurement cette année, le dialogue international sur les forêts s'est poursuivi. De nouvelles tâches et de nouveaux objectifs ont été définis lors de cette session et la Commission du développement durable a ainsi décidé, entre autres, d'instaurer l'arrangement international sur les forêts composé du Forum des Nations Unies sur les forêts et pour donner suite aux travaux du Groupe spécial interinstitutionnel sur les forêts (*Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests*), de créer un Partenariat sur les forêts. Dans ce cadre, le Partenariat sur les forêts devra réaliser des tâches importantes pour la mise en œuvre des propositions d'action telles qu'elles ont été formulées respectivement par le Groupe spécial interinstitutionnel sur les forêts et par le Forum international sur les forêts.

Cela vaut en particulier pour la coordination des activités menées par les différentes institutions actives dans le domaine international des forêts.

Le Rapport final du Forum international sur les forêts sur la décision correspondante de la Commission du développement durable (8) fournit les informations détaillées à ce sujet. Etant donné que bon nombre des multiples organisations, institutions, et instruments internationaux compétents agissant dans ce domaine, ne dépendent pas directement du Secrétariat général des Nations Unies, on s'est contenté dans le Rapport du Forum international sur les forêts et dans la décision de la CDD et, par conséquent, dans la décision de l'ECOSOC du 18 octobre 2000, d'inviter les chefs de ces institutions spécialisées à mettre en place le Partenariat sur les forêts.

La mission de ce Partenariat est de soutenir les activités du Forum des Nations Unies sur les forêts (UNFF) et d'assurer la coopération de tous les organismes concernés.

Le point 9 du Rapport du Forum international sur les forêts indique que le Partenariat sur les forêts doit émaner du Groupe spécial interinstitutionnel et fournir à l'UNFF, après en avoir reçu des instructions pour ses travaux, des contributions coordonnées et des rapports d'activités.

Compte tenu de ces développements et considérations, je m'excuse d'avoir été un peu long sur ce thème, il conviendrait que le Secrétariat de la FAO mette au point dans les meilleurs délais, avant la première réunion constitutive de l'UNFF, un concept, structure, mandat, procédure pour le Partenariat sur les forêts et qu'elle entreprenne les préparatifs en vue d'établir et de faciliter son propre fonctionnement en tirant profit de l'expérience acquise au sein de l'*Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests*.

Mon quatrième point sera très bref. En ce qui concerne la politique d'équilibre linguistique de l'Organisation, le Rapport donne une photographie précise de la situation des années 1998-99, mais ne permet pas encore une évaluation des progrès accomplis en réponse aux interrogations

soulevées dans le Comité des programmes et le Comité financier au mois de mai 1999. Il est donc nécessaire de poursuivre les efforts de transparence et de rééquilibrage.

Mon cinquième point concerne les activités liées à la formation pour noter qu'un effort particulièrement important a été consenti par la FAO puisque le nombre des sessions de formation réalisées a été deux fois plus important que celui prévu dans le Programme de travail et budget. Cependant, il conviendrait d'intensifier les efforts de formation pour le suivi du cycle d'Uruguay et les négociations commerciales multilatérales en recherchant un partenariat efficace avec l'Organisation mondiale du commerce, le partenariat entre les différentes organisations mondiales étant, vous le savez, une préoccupation constante des pays de la Communauté européenne.

Mengistu HULLUKA (Ethiopia)

We have carefully reviewed the *Programme Implementation 1998-99* and noted with satisfaction the many achievements mentioned at the beginning of the Report under consideration.

Having noted the relevance and effectiveness of these achievements, our delegation wishes to further reflect on some issues.

It is our considered opinion that FAO plays a crucial role in the normative task. However, a declining trend in its field operation is something unacceptable, especially when the organization had a lead role in assisting Member Nations in the implementation of the Plan of Action which is at the centre of our deliberation. In this context, it is advisable to keep a striking balance between the normative and the field operations and it is timely to reverse the declining trends in the field operations experienced currently.

It is true that programme implementation is a challenging task and has to be done with utmost care. It is equally important that the ultimate goal of programme implementation should not be measured only in terms of outputs. Evaluation and impact assessment of the targeted beneficiaries is indispensable.

Having underlined on the importance of the need for a comprehensive and action oriented cycle of project formulation and implementation, it is regrettable that Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation activities are supported by extra-budgetary resources and implementation of some of these programmes and projects conceived after the severe drought in Ethiopia do not go beyond formulation, especially as they pertain to basic inputs and agricultural implements.

In view of the fact that our sub-Region is the most food insecure, support from the international programme on technology and research in irrigation and drainage is then very desirable in water control and management, water harvesting and water harnessing techniques to supplement the precarious rainfed agricultural practice.

We have also keen interest in the development and strengthening of local capacity in FIVIMS, aquaculture and inland fisheries.

We appreciate the work of EMPRES in relation to their intervention in Desert Locust Control. Attention to the control of transboundary pest and diseases, such as army worm, quela quela birds, and Rift Valley Fever is very necessary in view of the colossal damage impacting on the economy of smallholders and agro-pastoralists in the sub-Region.

Our delegation appreciates FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the intervention regarding African Trypanosomiasis a disease carried by Tsetse fly. It is a fact that the disease affects the productive farming population and livestock, which are vital to the economy of many African countries.

Measures to reduce the African Trypanosomiasis was there for many years but it has never been effective and sustainable. The Sterile Insect Techniques may be the best option in the eradication of this disease. Many African countries have established the PAN-African Forum in Addis Ababa in collaboration with the OAU with a view to sharing experiences in using this technique.

The Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Heads of States and Governments of the Region, held in Lomé in July 2000 adopted a declaration to support the application of Sterile Insect Techniques and the Forum as a mechanism through which the area-wide tsetse eradication can be achieved and called upon the Secretary-General of the OAU to support the forum. In conclusion, we call upon the FAO and potential donors to kindly assist the programme so that food security can be achievable as planned.

We acknowledge FAO's intervention also in the disposal of hazardous chemicals in line with the principles of the *International Code of Conduct* and on the *Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent*. We pledge our support that the activities be strengthened to make the continent free from obsolete pesticides, to reduce pollution in the continent. We encourage environmentally friendly alternatives be researched upon as a lasting solution which is lacking at present.

In this connection, we are very grateful to the Government of the United States of America, the Netherlands, the Swedish Government and others, who are committed in supporting the disposal operation of the obsolete pesticides in Ethiopia.

Bhaskar BARUA (India)

On the Programme Implementation Report, we would like to say that we thank the Secretariat for the document C 2001/8 on *Programme Implementation Report*.

We realize the future format of the PIR will perhaps change in keeping with the new programme approach and the MTP based upon the Strategic Framework. We have a few comments on the report which we would like to share with you.

We note with concern that the total resources with FAO have shown only a marginal increase for the time period under consideration. There has been a significant reduction in the extra-budgetary flow to field projects if, we exclude the emergency programmes. Budgetary transfers have been resuscitated to cover the shortfalls in income arising out of the fall in income and support cost reimbursement as a result.

It is regrettable that due to the zero nominal growth such budgetary transfers from technical programmes continue according to fund contingencies.

On the Programme of Work and Budget output, we welcome suggestions for a review of the component methodologies and guidelines in the future planning process. We feel that this output should be more sharply defined and focussed with a clear statement on the end use of such guidelines.

Resources for TCP, despite demand from Member Nations have remained constant. We are glad however that projects related to development support are increasing in number. Technical Cooperation Projects aim at giving a rapid response to Member's needs. We see that the lag between submission approval is significant, and that only 36 percent of the project submitted got approved during the biennium. This performance I am sure can be improved and we advise an effective monitoring of sanction and implementation. Under the field programmes it will be useful, in the future, to have details under each programme of areas which are funded by extra-budgetary resources.

Hirofumi KUGITA (Japan)

My delegation appreciates the very informative document, *Programme Implementation Report 1998-99* which covers the full range of FAO programmes and contains various useful information such as Programme Outcome and Selected Indicators.

However, it seems that few analyses have been made with regard to the Cross-organizational Issues addressed in the Strategic Framework, including Enhancing inter-disciplinarity, Broadening Partnerships and Alliances, and Improving the Management Process. My delegation is particularly interested in how FAO has coordinated or cooperated with other relevant organizations such as WFP, IFAD, World Bank, and bilateral cooperation agencies in its

activities, including field projects, and wishes to know the outcomes of such cooperation. FAO should include such information in the future report as much as possible.

My delegation understands that the new approach to formulate the *Programme Implementation Report* is in the process of development, and expects that the format and the contents will be further improved, corresponding to the drawing and implementing the successive PWB and MTP. In this regard, FAO should ensure the transparency and accountability through the newly developed reports, taking into consideration the requests of Member Nations.

Javier PIERNAVIEJA NIEMBRO (España)

Comienzo mi intervención asumiendo y apoyando la declaración de la Comunidad Europea y sus Países Miembros leída por el Presidente de nuestro grupo: la Presidencia Francesa.

Quisiera referirme a la política de la Organización, que en el documento que analizamos se recoge en los párrafos 51 a 65 y centrarme, de modo especial, en la situación del español en la FAO.

Es justo reconocer la mejora y el cuidado que hasta la fecha hemos percibido en la implementación de la política de idiomas en la FAO y, concretamente, en el español. Incluso podríamos destacar, también, de modo positivo el carácter moderadamente crítico del documento en el análisis de algunas áreas que cita expresamente: "destacó con brevedad el problema de las traducciones externas, el escaso número de intérpretes y señaló el escaso número de publicaciones y traducciones en español". En este sentido, mi país apoya con recursos extra-presupuestarios en ocasiones publicaciones o traducciones en español. Hemos percibido, también, un mayor cuidado en la presencia del español, en reuniones en general aunque sin alcanzar los objetivos perseguidos.

En nuestra intervención de junio de 1999 habíamos incidido algunas áreas de la FAO en las que se percibía de modo claro una menor relevancia, una menor presencia de una política de idiomas equilibrada, de un modo organizado y coherente. Citábamos WAICENT y citábamos el *Codex Alimentarius* como dos ejes a cuidar de modo especial. Respecto a WAICENT quisiéramos reconocer la mejora que se ha producido aunque destacar, también, la insuficiencia de los logros alcanzados. En áreas de WAICENT, la enorme cantidad de trabajo que puede asimilar el Centro de Información Agraria Mundial, quisiéramos destacar las posibilidades de cooperación con otros organismos o instituciones de España y de América Latina que permitirían una coherencia en acciones, en proyectos y en actividades en el que el español -en el contexto de WAICENT- podría extender su influencia. Sin embargo quisiera ser crítico respecto a la situación del *Codex Alimentarius*. Realmente la mejora percibida sigue siendo escasa, las situaciones de información, documentación en una actividad normativa de importancia fundamental para los países, sigue siendo realmente no adecuada al peso que tiene el *Codex* en la Organización. Incluso en estos momentos con las posibilidades que tiene de incidencia en el comercio agro-alimentario mundial, en un tema tan sensible como es la seguridad de los alimentos.

Quisiera, por último, agradecer el esfuerzo que ha realizado la Organización y destacar la necesidad de trabajar y evaluar lo realizado para mejorar los aspectos en que realmente la Organización debe cuidar el equilibrio lingüístico, algunos de los cuales he citado en mi intervención.

Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italy)

Italy appreciates the considerable efforts made by the Secretariat in presenting the *ex post facto* report of achievements in the *Programme Implementation Report*. It is an important step forward in the life and the management of this Organization.

Nevertheless, we wish to add a few remarks to what France said on behalf of the European Union on the Special Programme for Food Security.

My country is among those Member Nations who have supported the Programme since its inception and they have significantly contributed with the provision of human and financial resources. We have committed ourselves to the Programme again this year, by financing new

projects in four additional countries. For this reason, it is becoming crucial to us to evaluate, as extensively as possible, the impact of the various projects on the local economies of the areas interested by the activities of the Special Programme for Food Security. To this effect, further efforts will be welcome in the evaluation of activities, both by providing additional detailed information, and by performing tripartite missions in the field. Furthermore, a general evaluation of the whole Special Programme for Food Security should have a role, in our opinion, in the preparation of the next Conference and will help us to pursue and strengthen support to the Programme.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

La delegación de Guatemala, en primer lugar, desea manifestar su pleno apoyo a la declaración de la Presidencia del GRULAC en la Representación de la Argentina y luego desea referirse a la muy interesante e importantísima declaración que ha hecho la Representación de España, pues ha tocado uno de los puntos fundamentales de esta Organización que se refiere a la posibilidad de tener un amplio debate y discusión que esta Organización debe garantizar. No puede haber debate ni discusión de ningún tema, ni hablar de desarrollo, ni de los programas de esta Organización, si no propiciamos que las delegaciones, que los Países Miembros, que los que participan como Observadores, puedan expresarse en su propio idioma.

En tal sentido, la delegación de Guatemala apoya, fundamentalmente, el equilibrio en todos los idiomas de esta Organización. Creo que es apropiado hacer un reconocimiento a los esfuerzos que se han realizado hasta la fecha pero que no son suficientes. En tal sentido deseamos que se continúe trabajando por cada uno de los idiomas oficiales en esta Organización y que, además, programas importantísimos como son los del WAICENT, el PESA, etc., representen toda una unidad, no que cada División desarrolle sus trabajos de manera separada, sino que deben coordinarse todos los esfuerzos de manera que la información para el desarrollo, objetivo de esta Organización, en los trabajos y en este programa de presupuesto, se lleven a cabo perfectamente.

Lothar CAVIEZEL (Observateur de la Suisse)

Comme les intervenants précédents, la Suisse remercie également le Secrétariat pour le *Rapport sur l'exécution du programme 1998-99* qui est nettement meilleur que ceux des années précédentes. J'aimerais cependant faire quelques remarques.

Première remarque: concernant la présentation des activités de la FAO, nous observons que des progrès ont déjà été réalisés dans la présentation des aspects qualitatifs des activités mais des améliorations peuvent encore être apportées. Il s'agirait en particulier de fournir plus d'informations sur les résultats économiques, sociaux et écologiques, les activités entreprises et sur leur utilisation. Ceci permettrait de mieux faire ressortir leur contribution à la réduction de la pauvreté et par-là au développement durable dans les divers pays.

Deuxième remarque: concernant le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire, nous avons également observé des améliorations qui ont été apportées sur le terrain depuis la première phase. Nous apprécions en particulier l'approche multidisciplinaire et participative, la prise en charge nationale et les partenariats, notamment Sud-sud en faveur du développement.

Cette nouvelle approche liée à l'utilisation de techniques appropriées, en particulier celle de l'eau à faible coût, permet d'améliorer l'accès à la nourriture et d'assurer ainsi la sécurité alimentaire. En vue de montrer son soutien à ce programme, la Suisse a fait cette année une contribution pour le PSSA du Niger en vue de la mise en œuvre de la collaboration Sud-sud-Maroc-Niger. La Suisse fait aussi appel à d'autres pays donateurs en vue de soutenir ce programme qui a globalement un impact positif sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Ma dernière remarque: nous sommes favorables à la publication des contributions financières des donateurs dans le cadre du PSSA dans le tableau 2.5/2, mais nous aimerions aussi que la même transparence des informations soit appliquée aux contributions des donateurs au Fonds *fiduciaire* (*Trust Funds*) qui représente 272 millions de dollars. Nous demandons donc au Secrétariat de

publier ces informations dans un tableau supplémentaire au prochain rapport sur l'exécution du Programme.

Evlogui BONEV (United Nations Development Programme)

I would make two comments: one, related to resources for operational activities, and, two, on FAO participation in the coordination mechanism of the UN System.

To the disappointment of all of us, ODA has diminished drastically in the last few years. To UNDP particularly, while non-core resources were increasing, the core resources reached their lowest level this year, less than US\$ 700 million compared to US\$ 1.1 billion only a few years ago. In the light of this financial crisis and on the initiative of the Administrator of UNDP, on 11 September this year, the first ever ministerial meeting on the future of UNDP was held. Never before in UNDP's history have so many high-level representatives, from both programme and donor countries, come together to talk about our role, our performance and our future. Participants included ministers of foreign affairs and of development cooperation, state secretaries and other senior officials. Many participants chose to highlight the irony of UNDP's declined core-resource base in the context of the emerging global consensus around the campaign to end world poverty and hunger. The UNDP resource situation was a constant issue that ministers chose to discuss.

The good news was that a number of donor countries committed themselves during the day to seeking increased levels of core and non-core resources in 2001, including France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Norway. Sweden announced an additional contribution of US\$ 3.3 million to core resources for this year. All participants reaffirmed their commitment to UNDP's role and its new agenda. The true impact for UNDP of this meeting will become apparent in the months ahead, but we are confident that it represents a major step towards rebuilding the degree of political support and attention that our work deserves. We hope that such high-level meetings will be institutionalized in future for UNDP.

On the second point, the Chairman of the UN Development Group, Mr Mark Malloch Brown, requested me to express his appreciation for the productive work and relations that have been maintained between FAO and the UNDP through the CCPOQ and its Working Groups.

As we move ahead with the UN Common Country Assessments, the UNDP and initiatives to encourage joint programming, closer cooperation with FAO, is vital. The UNDP believes that FAO has a vital role to play in these endeavours which are aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and impact of the development work of the United Nations system at the country level, in support of national development priorities. Mr Malloch Brown encourages FAO in this direction. He also wishes to acknowledge FAO's contribution to the strengthening of the resident coordinator system.

FAO, through these and other contributions, is helping to improve the overall coherence of the UN system. We hope, therefore, that this trend of cooperation will be further reinforced and developed for the benefit of our Member Nations.

Concluding, I would like to say that, while, due to circumstances well known to all of you, UNDP is no more a major funding source for FAO's operational activities, FAO will remain one of UNDP's major partners in the efforts for poverty and hunger eradication. Our enhanced collaboration will be the right response to the new visions and aspirations of our constituents for the new Millennium.

Halifa DRAMMEH (United Nations Environment Programme)

I think it is quite deliberate that I am sitting next to the UNDP and the World Food Programme because I guess they are, like UNEP, part of the solution of some of the problems which are under discussion in this important meeting.

First and foremost, I wish to convey to you all the best wishes of Dr Klaus Topfer, who is the Director-General of the United Nations in Kenya and also the Executive Director of the United

Nations Environment Programme. He has also asked me to convey to this meeting his satisfaction of the on-going collaboration with FAO in various areas and various activities.

You will have noted from the document under consideration the multiplicity of efforts undertaken by the two Organizations to promote or, at least, to ensure the achievement of the goal, not only of food security, but also of social, economic and environmental security. In dealing with the challenges of coastal areas management, we have been quite happy to be collaborating with FAO within the framework of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

We are also working very closely in the joint programme on Prior Inform Consent. We also collaborate in activities relating to the Multilateral Fund, especially where ozone depleting substances are concerned.

We are also engaged in cooperation with FAO in the Pesticides Disposal Programme, and also within the framework of activities undertaken by the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources. Very recently we hosted, at UNEP in Nairobi, a Wood-Energy Workshop for the Africa region. All these show the multiple form of collaboration between FAO and UNEP.

We welcome the proposals made here this morning with regard to the five-year review of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and wish to assure FAO that UNEP will extend all possible support to its effort.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity. We wanted to bear testimony to the very fruitful collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and FAO.

CHAIRMAN

I thank you for your contributions to the debate. I note that the Council in general welcomed the improved format of this version of the *Programme Implementation Report*, and it looks forward to further improvements in light of the likely impact of the new programming model now extensively used in FAO. It was also evident that the Council was of the view that the Programme of Work achieved during the last biennium had been satisfactory overall.

I now offer the floor to Mr Wade to answer questions, comments in the light of the discussion.

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

Thank you delegates for their input to this process. I will cover half a dozen subjects if I may as briefly as possible.

I think the first thing to cover is the expression of interest in the future format of reports which came up from a number of delegates; comments came from the United States of America, Canada, France, India, Japan and Switzerland, as I saw it. The linkage between the Strategic Framework through to the Medium-Term Plan and finally to the Programme of Work and Budget is of course critical to post-facto reporting, and in fact, this Report does not attempt to address the Strategic Framework in any way, as you would imagine, it considers a period of two years up to the moment of approval of the Framework. I have to warn you that next biennium report will also suffer this problem to a certain degree because it will cover the period 2000-2001. The first full introduction of the new programme model comes in the Medium Term Plan 2002-07, which is the next item on the Agenda. So we won't be able to adapt the Programme Implementation Report fully until we are addressing our performance in achievements for 2002-2003. That is not to say that there won't be any changes in the next Plan and the Programme Committee has actually asked us to share with them our ideas for the next *Programme Implementation Report* and to consult them on how we can best address those various concerns. May I say that all the ideas that have been raised today, will put as input to the Programme Committee so that it can give us an indication of what it feels is possible and what is not possible. I think it may be important to pick up one specific point in relation to that, which is the comment of France concerning the Special Programme and how we are reporting the information on it. In fact the comments apply to just about all programmes but it was interesting for what was said. I think that the concern that was expressed was that we ought to align the *Programme Implementation Report* as much as possible

to the information that is in the Planning Reports. Clearly we agree with that because it is meant to be a report of achievement against what we targeted. However, it is also true to say that post facto information is greater, or is available in more detail than planning information. So for example, we supply in this Programme Implementation Report the precise extent, for example, of technical support services provided to a particular programme and the extent of extra budgetary support that was given. That is very hard to do in the planning documents because the figures are really very loose if you are looking at six years in advance. But the point is taken that we will continue to work to align the document so that there is no difficulty in comparing plans to *post facto* reporting.

The distinguished delegate of Japan raised an interesting question concerning partnerships and the ability to be able to see what partnerships are being addressed in our work. If I may move briefly to the Medium-Term Plan, one thing that we found there was that to list partnerships in the document would have been very repetitive and tedious and not terribly useful. What we have done, however, is we have put them on the web in such a way that you can look up any organization and find all the linkages we have with that organization in the plan. I would say that in response to your question, one of the things we will try and do in the new version of the *Programme Implementation Report*, is to cover that also in the post facto reporting so that you will be able to, in fact, examine the extent to which partnerships have been entered into in implementation as well as in planning.

The comments on extrabudgetary resources by Ethiopia and India are of course, the concerns shared by the Director-General. He is, in fact, so concerned that he established a task force under the Deputy Director-General on field programme development. That work is on-going. We believe we can make some progress in generating more support from donors, in particular through strategic partnerships with them which link well into the Strategic Framework. So this is a practical emanation of how the Strategic Framework is working to encourage, or to assist donors in a way, to support the programmes of the Organization.

On language policy, Spain, Guatemala and France made comments on this issue and expressed the importance they feel should be accorded for priority for language coverage. This is fully shared by the Director-General and in fact you will recall that in the Programme of Work and Budget 2000-2001 additional resources have specifically been set aside to try and increase the coverage. Our reason for including this information in the Report was to provide a baseline so that in future Reports we can demonstrate the improvements that have been made. I am fully in agreement that the situation is not good enough at the moment and that we have to show improvement. Our problem has been of course to dedicate the resources to languages as quickly as we can. It takes time and of course we will continue to try and show the improvements that you seek.

Canada asked a question for clarification on why there is extensive change in the plans versus outputs delivered. In a way he answered the question recognizing that often such changes are to respond to the needs of Members and a line has to be drawn between what is good change, because it is in direct response to the demands of Members and what is bad change because it is bad planning. I can't give you a very straight answer but we did find that in looking at one particular area, that is methodologies and guidelines, there is an extent of optimism in the planning which really wasn't warranted. We believe the new programme model will help in this. When you plan outputs over a two-year period in the nature of methodologies and guidelines, which tend to take longer than two years, there is a risk that you try count them too early in the process. When you do it in a Medium-Term Plan framework of six years you are much more likely to be realistic. So I think we will see some decline in that variance as we enter into the new programme model and its implementation in the future biennium.

Italy re-emphasized the need for the evaluation of the Special Programme and I say that is confirmed. That will be carried out in 2001 without doubt.

I noted that UNDP's comments on our work in support of CCAs, UNDAF and joint programming. I would like to re-emphasize that this is very much the policy of the Organization. It is

specifically covered in the Strategic Framework and efforts are now being made to try and make funds more readily available to FAORs as our representatives at the country level so that they can actively participate in this process.

There was one other question, which I am not qualified to answer. I wonder whether you would give the floor to Mr Hosny El-Lakany, the Assistant Director-General of Forestry to respond to the issue on the International Forum on Forestry.

M. Hosny EL-LAKANY (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

Just a very brief answer to the question from the distinguished representative of France relating to the international forestry dialogue.

We have followed the proposals for the international arrangements on forests since the final session of the Inter-Agency Forum on Forests last February, and also the eventual presentation of a resolution to the ECOSOC, which included the establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the collaborative partnership on forests.

Our commitment to, and belief in the continuation of the international dialogue on forests, and the need to move from talk to action, has been acted on. For example, we included provisions in our Medium-Term Plan for serving the international forestry dialogue, and we have proposed to host the UNFF Secretariat.

We took another positive step in moving forward the preparations for the international arrangements by convening, last month, a meeting of the Inter-agency task force on forests, which is chaired by FAO in Rome. We discussed with our eight ITFF partners the formation of the collaborative partnership on forests, and in particular its tasks, as well as its membership, and we also discussed the implementation planned for the IPF IFF Plan of Action.

FAO looks forward in taking part in the eight-country initiative, to be held in Bonn at the end of next week, where the suggestions for the multi-year programme of work of the UNFF will be discussed. We also look forward to assisting the organization and meeting of the UNFF next February.

**8. MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 2002-2007 (CL 119/17; CL 119/17-CORR.1;
CL 119/INF/12)**

**8. PLAN À MOYEN TERME 2000-2007 (CL 119/17; CL 119/17-CORR.1;
CL 119/INF/12)**

**8. PLAN A PLAZO MEDIO 2000-2007 (CL 119/17; CL 119/17-CORR.1;
CL 119/INF/12)**

CHAIRMAN

We should move on immediately to Item 8 on our Agenda, which is the *Medium-Term Plan 2002-2007*. The relative documents are CL 119/17; CL 119/17-Corr.1 and CL 119/INF/12.

I would like to invite Mr Wade again to introduce the Item.

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

This is the first *Medium-Term Plan*, which takes into account the *Strategic Framework 2000-2015*, as approved by the Conference at its session in November 1999. As such this Plan is radically different from its predecessors, and we believe very much improved, although that is, of course, for you to judge.

It is necessary to provide a short introduction, which is based very much on a presentation we gave to the Permanent Representatives in Rome in September this year, but somewhat abbreviated to save your time.

I think the first thing to draw to your attention is the place of the *Medium Term Plan* in the overall planning process, and this was laid down in the *Strategic Framework* document, which the Conference approved. The *Medium-Term Plan* covers a six-year period and addresses the *Strategic Framework* by examining what is required over the next six years, but on a rolling basis – every two years. You saw the Strategic Framework go through the Conference in November 1999; the *Medium-Term Plan* for the next six years, 2002-2007 has been through the Programme and Finance Committees, has come to the Council for your decision with the current meeting, but will go on to the Technical Committees, after this current meeting, to COAG, COFI and COFO, in the first quarter of next year.

Now, I would ask you to note that the Council is asked to endorse the *Medium-Term Plan*, as the basis for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003, subject, of course, to whatever conclusions you may wish to draw in your report. In making its endorsement, it is expected that the Council, in accordance with the wishes of the Conference, will also wish to have the Technical Committees review those parts of the proposed Plan relevant to their respective sectors, and therefore you will ask the Director-General to take the outcome of such deliberations into account when we prepare the budget.

The second point I would like to make concerns the fact that this document reflects the *Strategic Framework*, but that is an understatement. The *Strategic Framework* is the foundation of this document. In particular, I draw your attention to the section entitled Operationalizing the Strategic Framework, which can be found in paragraphs 20 to 64, where we show the proposed distribution of resources by the twelve strategic objectives that you find in the Framework, or that you approved in the *Framework*.

In addition, the relationship between this Plan and the Framework is pursued further under each Programme within Part II, Strategies to address Members' needs, using tables which graphically display the contribution of each entity to the twelve strategic objectives. In passing, 'entity' is a generic term we use to refer to technical projects, continuing programme activities and technical service agreements.

The third point is interdisciplinarity. This was, in fact, the first cornerstone of the *Strategic Framework*. It re-emphasised the need to bring interdisciplinary solutions to interdisciplinary problems. The MTP creates a mechanism which specifically targets what we refer to as 'priority areas for interdisciplinary action' or 'PAIAs', which is the acronym we use.

Sixteen of these priority areas have been selected through an extensive internal process of consultation, and finally a decision by senior management.

Interdisciplinary approaches tend to be more difficult and time-consuming to manage than monodisciplinary approaches in organizations like FAO, which are organized along sectoral lines, and that is because interdisciplinary work requires more interdepartmental discussion, more consultation, and even sometimes arbitration, to arrive at agreed objectives and the contribution to those objectives.

We have established internal mechanisms to coordinate the work of each of these priority areas, including a requirement for annual reporting by the Chairperson or Coordinator of each of group, through the Deputy Director-General. Furthermore, the preparatory work for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget requires cross-referencing of outputs, which are designed to contribute to each priority area for interdisciplinary action.

I say 'cross-referencing'; what I am saying is that each Division will be developing its own Programme of Work and Budget in line with the Medium-Term Plan, but at the same time will be indicating which outputs are designed to contribute to the priority areas for interdisciplinary action. That will also allow us to give you an estimation of the level of resources being directed at, or focused on, these priority areas.

I think a point needs to be emphasised here, which is that the resources associated with such outputs will remain with the Divisions concerned. The commitment by the contributing Division

is to produce an agreed output, and not to provide a specific level of resources. Generally, only limited resources, if any, are to be allocated directly to the priority areas themselves.

A second cornerstone of the *Strategic Framework* was partnerships, and I referred to this briefly in my response to the distinguished delegate of Japan on the last agenda item. As I indicated, we have not included details on proposed partnerships in this document. Such partnerships take their meaning at the level of each major output, and therefore the data becomes very repetitive in a printed document. Instead, we have developed a database of the major outputs, which is now available on the FAO web site www.fao.org/mtp.

What is interesting is that in addition to being able to see and examine the partnerships of given major outputs, the database also allows you to look up any one of some 470 institutions; that is NGOs, civil society institutions, United Nations System organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other agencies, and to see all of the areas of cooperation that have been recognized in the planning process for that particular partner.

The next area I would like to address is results-oriented planning, or results-based budgeting, or the various expressions that apply to that.

As foreseen in the *Strategic Framework*, the *Medium-Term Plan* also involves full scale implementation, for the first time, of the new programme model that aims at focusing the planning process on results or outcomes which are to be achieved. In the document we use the word 'objective', but for us it is interchangeable with 'outcome'.

Hence all technical work is organized under three programme entity types, which were approved as being part of a new model. This is the technical project, the continuing programme activity, or the technical service agreement. The structure of these entities involves the clear identification of outcomes, with indicators, to facilitate measurement of their eventual achievement. In practice, the indicators have been developed at both the level of outcome and at the level of major output, although the document only provides a summary of these at this stage. I might add that this has proved to be a difficult innovation, and one which we recognize and believe can be improved upon in future documents.

On the question of non-technical work, the *Medium-Term Plan* does not attempt to redescribe the budget and programme of work for non-technical departments. That would have been repetitive in each Plan and of the budget document itself. Instead, the Plan includes a section, Part III, which addresses the "Strategies to address cross-organizational issues" – I draw that to the attention of the distinguished delegate of Japan, who raised the question under the previous item. These strategies were approved in the *Strategic Framework*, and what we show here are the major initiatives to be undertaken to facilitate the work of the Organization.

In conclusion, I would add that the Secretariat has found the process to be very valuable. The foundation provided by the *Strategic Framework*, its emphasis on interdisciplinarity, the extended time-frame of six years, instead of trying to plan this sort of activity over two years, and the discipline of the new programme model, have all combined in a fashion to produce a much improved process, which we believe has helped us plan to better meet your needs. We hope that the benefits of the internal process are apparent in the document, and that it reflects your expectations for a more effective and more meaningful *Medium-Term Plan*.

A.M.M. SHAWKAT ALI (Bangladesh)

FAO did good work in presenting, for the first time, a *Medium-Term Plan* document, which has been based on the *Strategic Framework*.

By any definition, any *Plan* must be a forward-looking and aspirational document, which sets out strategies, programmes and projects to achieve a certain set of objectives. In this process, the sources made available to implement planning targets are highly critical as planning and budgetary exercises are closely linked. Adverse food security situation in many Member Nations warrants significant strengthening of FAO's technical and field services.

Although the actual budget levels during the Plan period will be determined through the PWB exercises in future, we believe that it is important to give FAO a clear signal that the resources will be available, so that the Organization is able to fulfil its mandate. In this prospective, we strongly support the proposal of 14.6 percent increase of FAO's Regular Programme, resources in the terminal year from this current base.

We also support the proposed increases of 15 percent in the Technical Programmes as realized 39 percent increase in TCP. TCP resources are extremely useful for the Members to tackle a host of problems in agriculture and food production process, including emergencies. But TCP resource distribution in the last biennium explicitly demonstrates the need for a more regional balance in its allocation.

We also appreciate the result-oriented approach, as is evident in the document. However, in many cases, outcomes and indicators need to be made fully clear. We encourage FAO to further define various output and outcome indicators to move towards, as far as practicable, quantitatively verifiable indicators.

We also support the interdisciplinary approach, and the areas identified for such action. An integrated approach is expected to make better impact in improving the rural livelihood in developing countries. As mentioned in paragraph 70, we encourage FAO to strive towards full-fledged cross-sectoral programme entities in future. In our view this would help to avoid duplication of efforts in the Organization which will also help to focus on purely strategic areas requiring intervention.

The Plan has rightly adopted, as I said, the interdisciplinary approach, without which integration is not possible, not to speak of impact on the rural poor, especially in developing countries. While saying this, we also note that there is perhaps some scope to avoid duplication and overlaps. We recognise an approach to refine the document in this light.

We also commend FAO to design disciplines in a way that reflects the demand of the Member States. It should be demand to them rather than supply to them. Furthermore, in all such and related projects care should be taken, proportionately 40 to 50 percent of the total allocation, and ensure that it goes to the direct benefit of the farmers.

Finally, we appreciate the inclusion of Gender Mainstreaming on page 39 of the document before us. As far as I can recall, in the early 1990s, FAO conducted a study on the invisibility of women's role in agriculture and suggested that we must get away from gender blindness. The document provides for a Plan of Action on gender development to be submitted to the Conference in 2001. We wish to emphasise that women's role in agriculture will vary from country to country, and even within the same country, from region to region.

When drawing the detailed Plan of Action, the location of specific situations should be taken adequately into account.

Roseley Bin KHALID (Malaysia)

Malaysia would like to commend FAO's effort in preparing the *Medium Term Plan 2002-2007*. The six-year rolling plan gives full attention to the challenges and requirements under the Strategic Framework for FAO. The Plan clearly indicates the financial resources needed in implementing each major programmes over the three biennium of the *Plan* period.

Malaysia applauds the proposal of 15 percent increase in the Technical Programmes, and raising the share of the Technical Cooperation Programme from the current level of 14.1 percent to 17 percent by the end of the Plan period.

We believe that identifying the 16 Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action will not only adequately reflect the wishes and the needs of Member Nations, but will also improve cooperation across FAO Departments and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Interdepartmental Working Groups within FAO.

Malaysia, however, would like to propose the following measures to improve on the Plan presentation.

In addition to allocating resources by major programmes, we suggest the *Medium-Term Plan* also attempts to allocate resources by target groups, specifically the undernourished people, children and women. Allocation of resources should also be according to regional needs and requirements. Subsequently, an in-built monitoring and evolution system should be developed, linking the successes achieved from the programmes implemented to the target beneficiaries. Besides financial indicators, physical indicators should be developed and applied, including coverage of programmes, inputs provided, number of beneficiaries, income, and food production outputs.

Malaysia feels these added measures will lead to better clarify the plan objectives, a more focused approach to the plan implementation, and will facilitate a more objective evaluation of the impact of the *Medium-Term Plan*.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

Australia welcomes the first *Medium-Term Plan* to be presented to us under the new programming and evaluation process being implemented in FAO.

As we said in the Programme Committee, our reaction to this document is generally positive. It is, for the most part, a good first effort, aside from an issue which we will come to later, and reflects a lot of hard work by not only the FAO staff involved in drawing this document together, but also from all the areas of FAO, who have worked to reshape their approach to their activities, and as we have said previously, the process that FAO has gone through internally is probably more important than the document itself. The process represents part of a cultural change within FAO towards a more results-based accounting and evaluation system, which will be of important benefit to all of us, as we help FAO shape its future priorities and work programmes.

Of course, there are areas for improvement, as the Secretariat readily acknowledges, and we look forward to seeing future editions improving on, and building from, this first attempt.

In the Programme Committee, we went through the *Medium-Term Plan* very thoroughly, programme by programme, and it showed up differences across the house in how well this new approach has been embraced, and reflected in the report.

One particular area that needs more work, and again is acknowledged by the Secretariat, is in presenting activities in a time-bound measurable way. All too often, areas of FAO have presented activities as ongoing when they would be better described as time-bound, with better descriptions of the outputs and performance indicators of those activities. We would also wish to see the indicators as more outcomes focused.

We heard testimony that it has been difficult, but is welcomed by staff. One of the fears has been that in presenting an ongoing area of work in time-bound components, there was a risk that the work would be cut off after it reached its time limit. But this should not be the case as a matter of course. By undertaking activities in a time-bound way, this provides a regular opportunity to review and evaluate progress, and to reorient or adjust programmes in response to developments, and if entirely necessary, shift work into a new direction, and hence also if necessary, close off previous work.

It is all about focusing FAO's resources on the work it does best, and on work that is of most importance in addressing the needs and interests of the whole membership.

Another important matter to note is that in some areas of the *Plan*, there is a sense that existing activities have been forced into the new format – in other words, a *status quo* approach. There at times seems to be a disconnection between the rationale given for activities, and what is actually in the description of the activities themselves. Another point we would note is that priorities could be more fully expressed.

Turning to the indicative resourcing numbers in the Plan, as was agreed by the Programme and Finance Committees, the discussion on the level of resources for the next biennium should take

place in the context of the next Programme of Work and Budget. As the Director-General indicates in his introduction, the resource projections are considered indicative, and not binding on the membership.

In approving this *Medium-Term Plan* as a basis for the development of the next Programme of Work and Budget, it needs to be made clear in the Council report that there is no endorsement of the projections in the *Medium-Term Plan*.

A further point concerns the Director-General's introduction, where there is the reference to the amount of US\$ 95 million no longer available to the Organization, as a result of budget reductions. We would draw attention to Council document CL 119/INF12, which shows that over the period of the last three biennia, between US\$ 50 million and US \$60 million per annum have become available to the Organization through efficiency savings.

When the membership comes to debate the next Programme of Work and Budget, they should be provided with as much information as possible on future budget levels. Just as when the current Programme of Work and Budget was developed, where we were given various scenarios to help us in considering the level of the Programme of Work and Budget.

We would therefore encourage the Secretariat in preparing the next draft Programme of Work and Budget, that as well as developing a scenario based on the figures presented in the *Medium-Term Plan*, they should develop at least another scenario. Australia believes the appropriate level for that additional scenario should be ZNG. We feel that by making this suggestion now, we are providing the Secretariat with plenty of notice to allow them to incorporate this new scenario into their preparation of the next Programme of Work and Budget.

A Member mentioned in the debate yesterday that FAO should undertake work on multifunctionality. As Members are aware, there have been many divisive debates in the FAO over the past year, concerning this issue. At the FAO Conference, almost exactly twelve months ago, this issue proved to be the most controversial at the whole Conference, and occupied many hours of debate, and jeopardised the adoption of the *FAO Strategic Framework*. The outcome of that debate is clear. There is no consensus on a role for FAO with respect to work in this area.

Australia is concerned to learn of a project FAO is carrying out entitled "Socio-Economic Analysis and Policy Implications of the Roles of Agriculture in Developing Countries". This project is being funded by Japan and involves the significant amount of US\$ 4 million over three years.

Australia has been provided with a copy of the project document by the FAO Secretariat, after having sought, and received, the concurrence of the donor country. The development of this project proposal, and its content, raise a number of serious questions.

According to the project document, the project is to analyse the diverse roles of agriculture – economic, social, environmental, cultural – in the societies of developing countries, and to develop tools to address their policy implications. The expected result of the project is to make available concrete and quantified evidence of the diverse roles of agriculture in developing countries.

Australia can see no difference between what is now being called: diverse roles of agriculture or ROA, and the multifunctional character of agriculture, or multifunctionality.

The FAO Council last November, in considering the outcome of the Maastricht Conference, was asked to provide guidance to FAO on the need for FAO to do work "to improve the understanding of the multifunctional character of agriculture in furthering the goal of SARD, and for the development of practical tools to assist Member Nations". The Council and Conference concluded clearly there was no role for FAO in this area.

And nothing has happened since then to change this situation. Even the recent FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Japan, concluded that still no consensus exists on

further work within FAO on multifunctionality. So we question, then, why this work is now being implemented.

We are concerned that what is going on here is a thinly veiled attempt to disguise a contravention of the decisions of the FAO Conference. Australia considers this totally unacceptable. FAO should not be used as part of a tactical game directed at the WTO debate.

We would also ask how it is that FAO can countenance such an activity, when it is clearly against the expressed consensus of the FAO Conference? We understand that funding is scarce. However, this work is clearly not in the interests of the broader FAO Membership, particularly developing countries, and the membership have already clearly said so. For multifunctionality is inextricably linked with trade distorting agricultural policies in rich countries. It does not serve the interests of developing countries, where agriculture is such a fundamental economic sector.

When we look at this project in the context of the *Strategic Framework* and the *Medium Term Plan*, we ask how it fits within the priorities set out there? The Strategic Framework certainly gives no priority for this sort of work. And in the Medium Term Plan, we find no specific activity areas which refer to this work, nor is there any Priority Area for Interdisciplinary Action, or PAIA, mentioned on the diverse roles of agriculture. And yet we read in the project document that there is to be an interdepartmental mechanism established within FAO, with the mandate to oversee FAO's activities related to the diverse functions of agriculture, in the framework of FAO's work on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.

So as well as our more specific concerns regarding the content of this project, this matter raises a more general question about whether the *Medium-Term Plan* does properly reflect the work that FAO intends as its priorities for the future.

Even more importantly, there is the issue of transparency concerning the development of FAO's extra-budgetary activities. We ask when was it intended that the broader membership would be provided with an opportunity to scrutinise such a sensitive proposal?

We are concerned that a significant project proposal, which involves over US\$ 4 million, will draw extensively on FAO's resources for general advisory, coordination and technical expertise, and in the promotion of results, intends to produce work of relevance to all FAO Members, and addresses an issue that is very controversial and divisive. How can this be developed and finalized without reference to the governing bodies or to the Membership?

In fact, the way this project first came to the notice of Australia was when it was mentioned to a recent OECD Committee on multifunctionality as being of relevance to the OECD's work.

We believe this matter highlights a serious question of Governance. We know that Trust Fund extra-budgetary resources represent an amount which is not that much less than FAO has in its whole Regular Programme, and yet the process where FAO develops Trust Fund projects with donors and other funding sources is not transparent.

In conclusion, we question how this project can proceed, given the decision of the FAO Ministerial Conference against this sort of work in FAO.

Mrs Neela GANGADHARAN (India)

May I first express the deep appreciation of the Government of India for the efforts that have gone into the preparation of the *Medium-Term Plan 2002-2007*. As decided in the Conference in November 1999, we find that the *Strategic Framework* has become the basis of an enhanced planning process in FAO, and the MTP is the first step in this direction. Assigning indicative resources to programmes in the *Medium-Term Plan* has brought specificity and greater clarity in terms of the weightage assigned to each programme. The new programme approach adopted in the Plan will no doubt improve assessment of output, outcome and impact. We look at this document as an evolving one, and also as a precursor to the PWB 2001-2002.

We have some general observations and also some specific comments, which I will just now express very briefly. On the resources level, we share the concern of the Director-General that in

the past eight years the regular budget has stagnated. In addition, there has been a reduction in the Trust Funds for field programmes, especially from the UNDP. If we exclude the funds that were earmarked for emergency operation, FAO has not had any significant increase in extra-budgetary resources either. As Member Nations, we need to see that FAO delivers results in an optimal manner. At the same time, we should strive to keep the Organization financially secure to preserve its neutrality and intellectual independence.

The current developments in agriculture are raising several questions, including ethical ones, and neutral forums like FAO need to play an important proactive role. The efficiency gains that the Organization has been able to reap in the past biennia during the budget reduction phase must be rewarded with strong focus programmes, in our view.

We therefore support the growth trend shown in the Medium-Term Plan. We do appreciate that commitments by individual Member Nations can be made during the discussion on the PWB 2001-2002.

The second general observation of mine would be that an exercise like the formulation of Medium-Term Plan provides an opportunity to the Organization to attempt at rationalizing, refining, merging and consolidating programmes. If this process has been initiated in FAO, we would like it to be further strengthened to sharpen the focus of FAO. This, we believe, is also closely linked to the cross-organizational issue on ensuring excellence for the Organization.

We welcome the establishment of priority areas for inter-disciplinary action to achieve coordination across Departments and we feel that this is a step in the right direction. It remains to be seen as to how effectively this is going to be operationalized, especially the monitoring of the coordination itself. The streamlining of schemes, which we mentioned earlier, will greatly help this process to be facilitated.

The Strategic Framework pointed out that the strategies to address Members' needs are rooted in normative work, complemented by operational activities requested by Member Countries, maintaining an appropriate balance between the two. We see that most of the priority areas described in the Medium-Term Plan are normative in scope, except for a few which have elements of field level applications and support to Member Nations.

We welcome all the important normative areas where FAO can play an important role in the context of its mandate. At the same time, we see the necessity for FAO's presence being enhanced in the field to respond to Members' needs. In this context, we wholeheartedly welcome the Director-General's proposal to increase the outlay on Technical Cooperation Programmes. We also support this addition of the Programme and Finance Committees that some indication of the prospects for extra-budgetary funding will be useful in the Medium-Term Plan. We agree with the listing of priorities for extra-budgetary funding in the document. These are crucial areas, which need the attention of donors from both developed and the developing countries. The flow of extra-budgetary supports to these priority areas has not been sufficient in the past biennium at least, judging from the figures available in the *Programme Implementation Report*.

More specifically, on the Programmes, we welcome the new programme approach. However, in spelling out the results expected, we would have liked to see more specificity for the time-bound programmes, quantifiable outputs wherever possible as pointed out the delegation from Bangladesh earlier. Better description of benefits that regions or Member Nations will receive from such schemes will improve the clarity of the document.

A recent research report of the International Food Policy Research Institute on the linkages between government spending, growth and poverty in rural India has found that additional government spending on agricultural research and extension has the largest impact on the rural poor, next only to rural roads. We would like to see FAO play a proactive role in agricultural research in areas like biotechnology, in association with the CGIAR, biotechnology applications for increasing net value of crops grown in rainfed areas, developing stress tolerance varieties which take little water, or areas where private sector does not invest much resources. FAO should actively pursue efforts for development of biotechnology in the public domain to tackle problems

of the poor farmers. In this regard, we would like to point that the mandate of the Agriculture Department in the FAO does not cover research and extension. These subjects fall under the Sustainable Development Department. We are slightly puzzled by this and we feel that this mandate needs to be reviewed in the context of better coordination and minimizing of duplication of efforts.

With the advent of globalization, quality improvement, post-harvest handling, processing and marketing issues are now becoming of utmost importance to farmers in developing countries. If they have to participate actively in, and derive advantage from, the global market, FAO's programmes in these areas also need to be strengthened, in our view.

We appreciate the efforts made by FAO in assisting developing countries in WTO issues. FAO needs to give more attention to matters relating to intellectual property rights in agriculture and forestry.

Under fisheries, we would like more emphasis on development of database and application of global information systems in the areas of aquaculture and inland fisheries. Pilot programmes for minimizing discards at sea, post-harvest losses, etc., will be useful again for developing countries.

We feel that field programmes and livestock sectors need to be strengthened. Continued emphasis on conservation of animal genetic resources and support to breeding programmes of indigenous breeds are areas where FAO needs to strengthen support to Member Nations.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

Je voudrais une fois de plus m'exprimer au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres. Comme le rappelle le Directeur général dans son avant-propos, la Conférence générale de novembre 1999 a approuvé le *Cadre stratégique 2000-2015* et le Conseil, à l'occasion de cette session, doit se prononcer sur l'adoption du *Plan à moyen terme 2000-2007*.

Toutefois dans notre opinion, il eut été préférable d'associer ce point de l'Ordre du jour avec le point 7 que nous venons de discuter après avoir considéré les rapports du Comité du programme et du Comité financier. Ces rapports comprennent des remarques importantes pour ces deux sujets et les points 7 et 8 auraient sans doute été mieux traités si le Conseil avait discuté de ces rapports en premier.

Je propose que cette question de l'organisation de l'Ordre du jour soit revue soigneusement quand les Ordres du jour des prochaines réunions du Conseil seront préparés.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document qui est soumis à notre examen. Celui-ci définit avec précision et clarté, en déclinant le Cadre stratégique, les grands axes d'activités du Programme régulier pour les années à venir en relation avec des prévisions de ressources et selon une approche interdisciplinaire. Sa forme et son contenu sont intéressants et bienvenus même si l'établissement de priorités pourrait être plus approfondi et si des indicateurs de résultats et d'impacts seraient souhaitables.

Permettez-moi de formuler maintenant des commentaires sur quelques points particulièrement importants. Dans la présentation du Plan, le Directeur général formule l'espoir que le budget de l'exercice biennal puisse passer du chiffre actuel de 650 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis à 744 millions. Ce point mérite d'être envisagé dans le contexte du rapport sur les gains d'efficience 1994-2000 rassemblés dans le document CL 119/INF/12 à la demande de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme de septembre. Le paragraphe 30 conclut que les économies identifiées sont de l'ordre de 50 à 60 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis pour chacun des trois budgets biennaux précédents, soit 120 millions pour le biennium. Nous comprenons que les montants figurant dans le Plan à moyen terme sont purement indicatifs et qu'ils ne sont donnés qu'à titre d'information et non pour faire l'objet d'une décision.

Si le Conseil doit se prononcer en connaissance de cause sur la question des ressources financières, nous pensons qu'il est important d'avoir d'autres scénarios à examiner. La discussion sur les niveaux de financement ne peut se faire que dans le cadre de la préparation du Programme

de travail et du budget. Nous souhaiterions voir, faisant partie intégrante du processus, la présentation d'un autre scénario fondé sur une croissance nominale de zéro avec le financement correspondant. Ceci est fondamental pour permettre une planification aussi souple que possible.

Ceci permettrait de pouvoir profiter ainsi des gains d'efficacité et d'éventuelles rentrées exceptionnelles ainsi que de variations dans les taux de change et de faire face à des difficultés, par exemple la mise en œuvre d'Oracle.

Pour ce qui concerne le Plan à moyen terme, les programmes et les priorités sont soumis à la discussion et susceptibles d'être modifiés. Pour comprendre et évaluer le *Plan à moyen terme*, il faut pouvoir comparer les montants actuels et les montants prévus. Le tableau 2 établit cette comparaison mais il est impossible d'y faire la différence entre une réelle location consécutive à un changement de priorité et les modifications résultant d'une augmentation globale du budget. Parmi les innovations qui sont bienvenues dans ce *Plan à moyen terme*, il faut citer la répartition claire du budget entre les cinq principales stratégies de l'Organisation de A à E telles qu'elles sont décrites dans le Cadre stratégique. Cette répartition est résumée dans le graphique 2 et les tableaux 3 et 4 du *Plan à moyen terme*. Le tableau trois montre le lien qui existe entre les ressources financières allouées aux différents éléments du Cadre stratégique et les activités de base de l'Organisation telles qu'elles sont définies dans le Programme de travail et budget. Cette allocation ne couvre que les financements destinés aux activités techniques telles qu'elles sont définies dans les sections 2 et 3.1 du Programme de travail et budget.

Une fois encore, il est nécessaire d'établir une comparaison avec la situation actuelle et ensuite avec tous les financements prévus. Lors des discussions qu'ils ont tenues précédemment sur le Programme de travail et budget de la FAO, la Communauté européenne et ses États Membres ont souligné l'importance que revêtait la complémentarité entre les activités normatives et opérationnelles.

A cette fin, il faudrait définir avec précision les activités dans le cadre du Programme de coopération technique et rendre celui-ci plus transparent. Sous sa forme actuelle, le document ne fournit pas de définition des activités du Programme de coopération technique en général, ni de celles qui devraient être mises en œuvre grâce à l'augmentation de budget proposée. Dans ces conditions, nous ne pouvons approuver l'augmentation proposée sans une justification en bonne et due forme de la part du Secrétariat.

En outre, en ce qui concerne les ressources extrabudgétaires, le document comporte une liste de domaines dans lesquels ces ressources pourraient être utilisées. Il nous semble, quant à nous, que des activités prioritaires ne devraient pas dépendre de ressources additionnelles.

Comme déjà indiqué dans ma déclaration précédente pour le point 7 de l'Ordre du jour, une des tâches de la FAO dans le secteur des forêts sera de mettre en œuvre le Partenariat de collaboration sur les forêts et d'engager des initiatives préparatoires pour son établissement et son fonctionnement.

Dans la nouvelle conception de l'Organisation que l'on perçoit en filigrane dans la définition des domaines prioritaires pour une action interdisciplinaire, le *Cadre stratégique* présuppose l'existence de programmes interdisciplinaires dans les activités de l'Organisation. Comme le montre le *Plan à moyen terme*, le premier pas a déjà été franchi par la désignation de 16 domaines prioritaires pour une action interdisciplinaire. Il reste encore à concrétiser chacun de ceux-ci en les gérant et en les mettant en œuvre selon ce qu'il est convenu d'appeler l'approche interdisciplinaire.

Le tableau 4 précise comment les fonds sont destinés aux objectifs stratégiques tant en termes absolus qu'en termes relatifs. Il donne donc un aperçu des allocations de fonds proposés et fournit à ceux que cela intéresse une bonne vue d'ensemble des activités de la FAO. Ce genre de présentation aura une utilité croissante à l'avenir lorsqu'on examinera les changements entre deux exercices biennaux. Dans le Plan à moyen terme qui nous est soumis, le tableau 4 aurait été plus utile encore s'il avait présenté également la répartition de fonds actuels pour les mêmes rubriques.

Nous nous félicitons de la présence dans la Partie III du *Plan* du chapitre consacré à l'élargissement des partenariats et des alliances. On y trouve des informations utiles sur la manière dont la FAO entend assurer et élargir la coopération avec les partenaires du Système des Nations Unies ainsi qu'avec les OSC et les ONG. Nous tenons à souligner combien toutes les mesures de partenariats devraient être guidées par les cadres en matière de politique et de stratégie du pays partenaire.

Quant au partenariat avec les institutions financières internationales, les points 114-116, le document ne fait pas mention des processus liés au Cadre du développement intégré ou au Cadre stratégique de lutte contre la pauvreté. Le Plan à moyen terme devrait reconnaître les processus de réformes en cours lancés par la Banque mondiale et tracer les grandes lignes de l'approche que la FAO entend adopter dans sa participation à ceux-ci.

Nous sommes d'avis que la FAO peut apporter une contribution importante en expliquant pourquoi les efforts visant à réduire la pauvreté devraient s'attacher au secteur productif et en précisant quels investissements publics dans les domaines de l'agriculture et du développement rural sont les plus efficaces pour faire reculer la pauvreté.

Enfin, en prévision du prochain départ à la retraite d'un grand nombre d'experts, nous souhaiterions aussi que le Secrétariat développe plus intensivement des programmes visant à accroître l'excellence; il s'agit là en effet d'un point capital si l'on veut que l'Organisation garde sa raison d'être qui est justement de constituer un Centre d'excellence.

Mrs Sigridur Ásdís SNAEVAR (Iceland)

Iceland is giving this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.

The Nordic countries welcome the new format of the *Medium-Term Plan 2002-2007*, which has major improvements over previous versions, namely the link that has been established between the corporate strategies and the objectives in the *Strategic Framework 2000-2015*; the resource projections; and the description of the new approach to inter-disciplinary work, as called for in the Strategic Framework. We commend the Secretariat for the work on this Plan.

In the introduction to the *Medium-Term Plan*, the Director-General analyses the consequences of the zero nominal growth decision. The Nordic countries do not want to go into a discussion about the analysis and the conclusions in the Director-General's introduction. They want to note that the resource projections for the time being are solely the responsibility of the Secretariat and that these projections cannot be interpreted as indicative of the will of the Council. The Nordic Countries are open to discuss the previous decision on zero nominal growth but, before we can give any guidance to the Secretariat for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003, we need to see scenarios with alternative budget levels.

Looking at the *Medium-Term Plan* itself, and the resource projections in particular, it is our understanding that the figures are merely indicative, and here for information only, not for decision. In contrast, the programmes and priorities are put forward for discussion and possible modification. In order to understand and evaluate the MTP, current and predicted figures need to be compared. In Table 2, such a comparison is made, but it is impossible to distinguish between reallocation due to changed priorities and changes resulting from an overall increased budget. Regarding programmes and priorities, we would like to reiterate our firm opinion that increased priority within FAO should be given to programmes in the fisheries and forestry sector. In relation to this, it is unacceptable to see many of the core activities of the Organization, among them fisheries and forestry projects, being vastly funded by extra budgetary resources, instead of through the regular budget.

As we noted in our introduction, a welcome innovation in this *Medium-Term Plan* is the clear division of budget among the five (A) to (E) principle corporate strategies of the Organization, as described in this *Strategic Framework*. This is summarized in Chart 2 and in Tables 3 and 4 in the *Medium-Term Plan*. Table 3, which is excellently graphic, indicates how financial resources are

located to specific elements of the *Strategic Framework*, relate to the primary activities of the Organization, as defined in the Programme of Work and Budget. This allocation covers only those funds destined for substantive activities as defined in PWB, sections 2 and 3.1. Here again, a comparison with the current situation is needed, and then with all funds included.

Table 4 shows in more detail how funds are destined for strategic objectives, in both absolute, dollar and relative percentage terms, thus giving a basic view of the proposed fund allocations; providing a good overview for those curious about FAO's activities. Such a formulation will be increasingly useful in the future when considering changes between biennia. In this *Medium-Term Plan*, Table 4 would have been more useful had it included the equivalent current distribution of funds.

In the new view of the Organization, implicit in the definition of the so-called Priority Areas or Inter-disciplinary Action, PAIAs, the Strategic Framework presumes inter-disciplinary programmes in the activities of the Organization. By designating, as shown in the MTP, 16 PAIAs, the first step has been taken. There still remains the task of putting each PAIA into effect, through managing and implementing each in the manner generally understood by the term "inter-disciplinary approach".

We would also like to see the Secretariat expand more on plans to enhance excellency in view of the expected high turnover rate of Professionals, a point which is vital in preserving the Organization's *raison d'être*. The Nordic countries propose that the methodology used in elaborating this document be approved. However, transparency can be greatly improved. We would like to see additional scenarios, as an addendum to the *Medium-Term Plan*, to be discussed in an extraordinary meeting of the Finance Committee that should be convened in January 2001.

Finally, we propose that the Secretariat provide a document on the potential for effective introduction of an inter-disciplinary approach in the Organization's work and a more in-depth analysis of coming Professional recruitment.

E. Michael SOUTHWICK (United States of America)

Planning is the roadmap to success, that is why FAO's *Medium-Term Plan* is an extremely important document. When finalized, it will guide the Organization's efforts worldwide.

I commend the Secretariat for preparing such a comprehensive and well organized report. Ensuring food for all sounds simple, yet we know it is a diverse mission touching on many issues from conservation to rural development. To carry out this mission, the Organization relies on partnerships with many entities from relief organizations to international governing bodies. Effective planning benefits us all, without it chaos ensues. This *Medium-Term Plan* is very useful in that each Section outlines why programmes were established, what they intend to do, what should be accomplished and how accomplishments will be measured.

The Programme and Finance Committee's view of the Plan was extremely helpful to our deliberations. We agree with their recommendation that clear non-technical language be used and that more precise and measurable goals be set. We also feel that input from the Council's technical committees is essential. While the Council must give overall direction and guidance, our technical experts dealing with food security, commodities, agriculture, forestry and fisheries must provide sectoral guidance. The Hundred and Twentieth Session of the Council, in its meeting in June 2001, should have the opportunity to review the *Medium-Term Plan* again, with the benefit of reviews by each of the technical committees.

We support having indicative resource projections as part of the Medium-Term Plan but we believe that the inclusion of a Zero Nominal Growth option is also needed. The actual resource level will be determined when the biennial Programme of Work and Budget is agreed upon by the FAO Conference in November 2001.

Given the budget constraints facing all governments and international organizations today, it is important that realism be included in any range of resource allocations. We note in this regard the

important efficiency savings described in report CL 119/INF/12. These savings constitute a remarkable achievement.

On arrears, it is our view that planning for their use is premature. Once arrears payments are received, the Director-General should make specific proposals for their use, consistent with the 1999 FAO Conference Resolution on use of arrears.

We generally support the 16 priority areas of interdisciplinary action. They are logical extensions of the corporate strategies agreed upon during the last FAO Conference. We were, however, surprised at the magnitude of some of the changes proposed. The reports from the Programme and Finance Committees suggest that the United States of America is not alone in its concerns. We hope the Secretariat can further explain the rationale behind these changes.

It appears that significant increases are projected for FAO Country Representatives and for the Technical Cooperation Programme, but the reasons are not fully explained.

On multifunctionality, we agree with Australia's statement regarding the question of governance of the use of extra-budgetary resources.

We strongly support, however, certain priority areas enumerated in the *Medium-Term Plan*. Some priorities will be especially critical in the future as we strive to provide food for all.

Under the biosecurity section, we applaud FAO's expanded work on food safety, genetically-modified organisms and the development of plant quarantine standards. Many of the same areas, as well as work on commodities and technical assistance, will contribute to the on-going agricultural trade negotiations.

We commend the Director-General for orienting the *Plan* towards initiatives aimed at reducing global food insecurity. Biotechnology can play a pivotal role in this effort. A coordinated approach that cuts across the scientific developmental and policy dimensions would be useful. A greater focus on novel technologies in emerging crops, identifying alternative crops and establishing comparative advantage would also enhance food security goals.

We further believe that FAO's mission should have a strong science-based orientation. We commend the Director-General for suggesting an Organizational website on biotechnology. We do have a concern, however, about Members asking the Organization to address broader ethical considerations on biotechnology. There is a place for that dialogue but we are uncertain whether FAO should be in the forefront of such discussions. Perhaps FAO should consider having a science policy advisory mechanism as well.

The role of partnerships in this *Plan* is something we find very helpful. We support the continuing FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme, which gives FAO a prominent role in interacting with the World Bank, as well as other international financial institutions.

FAO's partnerships with civil society groups, non-governmental organizations, local communities and private enterprises are also welcome. We agree with the large number of programmes that contribute to a more sustainable agriculture.

There are other parts of the *Plan* that sound promising but we need more information on the sections on livestock and poverty reduction and enhancing small farmer livelihoods.

We feel that other sections deserve special consideration, such as the urban food initiatives and providing enhanced opportunities for women, particularly in food and fibre marketing.

In Africa, women are expected to do much of the daily management of livestock but ownership for them is rare. They grow, gather, buy and prepare the food. We need to find means to empower them through selling their goods as well.

In looking at the overall resource allocation of the *Medium-Term Plan*, we believe that the proposals are generally consistent with the guidance given at recent governing body meetings. Again we congratulate the Food and Agriculture Organization on this comprehensive and important document and look forward to working together to put it into action.

Suthiporn CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

The Thai delegation would like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the *Medium-Term Plan*, and also to the Programme and Finance Committees for having thoroughly scrutinized the contents of the *Plan* itself. However, I would like to draw your attention to three points for consideration by the Council.

Firstly, despite the time consuming debate in the Council on food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition, nearly a third of the total resources required by the *Medium-Term Plan* is devoted to the Corporate Strategy on Knowledge and Assessment, while less than a fifth is allocated to food insecurity and rural poverty. This does not truly reflect the setting of priorities in a context of limited budgetary resources. Besides, under the Corporate Strategy on Knowledge and Assessment, efforts have been made and are still being undertaken to collect and analyse statistical data for cross country comparison. It is surprising to find some of the data published inaccurate and misrepresented. Under these circumstances, I would like to call upon the Secretariat to conduct more efficient on-going assessment of those programmes now under implementation.

Secondly, we have spread ourselves too thinly across a wide spectrum of activities. For example, we specifically deal in a *Medium-Term Plan* with food for the cities, climate change in agriculture, organic agriculture, conservation agriculture and the like. It is not that these topics are not important but rather that they do not require special attention at the same level as sustainable agricultural development and alleviation of rural poverty. I urge, in the course of implementation of the *Plan*, that some activities be downsized and integrated into something more relevant to the FAO mandate.

My final point: it seems that a large sum of financial resources is put aside to provide technical support services to Member Nations under various major programmes. For instance, the budget earmarked for promotion and strengthening of regional fishery bodies under item No. 234 S1 in the document CL 119/17 is US\$ 16 million. Another example is the technical support services to Member Nations, to field programmes and other related activities under Programme 2.5.1, Research, Natural Resources Management and Technology Transfer. In this case, the budget set aside is US\$ 11.7 million. There is no apparent justification in the *Plan* and the detail is not given in the document.

May I call upon the Secretariat to make clarifications on this point.

Masato ITO (Japan)

My delegation welcomes many improvements which appeared in the new *Medium-Term Plan*. We believe that it is a big step towards the right direction to successfully and clearly illustrate how each programme is intended to address its objectives identified in the *Strategic Framework*. In particular, it is clearly commendable that the FAO Secretariat has endeavoured to obtain such improvement by applying the interdisciplinary approach consistent with the Strategic Framework.

My delegation also appreciates the full application of the new programme model by which the transparency of the Plan has been substantially improved. Especially, it introduces the targeted outcome for achieving the indicators and its result-oriented approach will substantially motivate FAO's work. In this connection, we would like to ask the reason why the implementation period of all Technical Programmes (TP) is from 2002-2006, while most of them are designed as six-year programmes starting in the year 2000 in the current PWB.

With regard to indicative resource projections over the next three biennia, my delegation has to express its strong concern. Although the Director-General mentions in his introduction that resource projections are to be considered indicative and not binding on the Members, Japan is not in a position to approve the *Medium-Term Plan* with only the current budget estimate, which may mislead fair examination of the future activities of the Organization.

My delegation would like to ask FAO to establish several scenarios on resource projection, including that of the ZNG basis. Furthermore, this should be reflected in the formulation of the next PWB.

In doing so, my delegation requests the Secretariat to take into account at least the following points.

Firstly, in the regular budget, it is important to allocate necessary resources to both operational activities and normative ones. In this sense, when we think about the budget allocation to TCP, we should be careful so that the technical and the economic programme of Chapter 2 is also adequately resourced.

Secondly, with regard to the improvement of FAO presence at country level, my delegation considers it not appropriate if the proposal implies any inevitable cost increase in the future. In addressing this issue, the Plan should pursue a resource neutral approach.

Thirdly, FAO has not yet taken its accountability to Members about the necessity of the Oracle project and its financial requirement. We may come back to this specific point under another agenda item.

Let me briefly touch upon several fields of FAO activities to which Japan attaches one of the highest priorities in the *Medium-Term Plan*. In the food and agriculture sector, Japan expects FAO to actively assist developing countries in the implementation of WTO agreement and preparation for the on-going negotiation.

Japan also regards biotechnology and its related activities as crucial. While biotechnology is expected to be the key technology for the solution of the world's undernourishment, it is important to ensure food and environmental safety based on scientific knowledge and appropriately address consumer concerns. In this connection, Japan considers activities of the *Codex Alimentarius Commission*, as well as IPPC, to be of great importance.

In the Fishery sector, Japan considers it appropriate to continuously promote the activities indicated in the *Rome Declaration on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, adopted at the Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries held in March 1999. Especially, in order to contribute to the world food security, FAO should further promote more appropriate fishery management through its highly technical activities, such as comprehensive analysis of factors undermining sustainable fisheries.

In the Forestry sector, we appreciate FAO's effort in improving global forest and forestry information, such as the forest resource assessment referred to in the *Medium-Term Plan*. Programmes in the *Medium-Term Plan*, including a national forestry programme and community forestry, are appropriate activities for FAO. We expect that, through the implementation of these programmes, FAO will support the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposal for action, especially in developing countries. FAO should pay due attention to avoiding duplication among the programmes planned in the *Medium-Term Plan* and with activities of other international organizations, for the efficient and effective use of limited financial resources.

Because of the highly technical nature of FAO activities described in the *Medium-Term Plan*, my delegation considers it necessary to review fully the *Medium-Term Plan* in respective technical committees before forwarding it to the Conference next year.

With respect to the project feature mentioned by the Australian colleague: we have decided our contribution to the mentioned project, taking into consideration that this project is useful in achieving SARD in developing countries, in conformity with the FAO mandate. Agriculture carries out various roles in addition to its own role of agriculture production, among which are income generation, employment, preservation and conservation, rural community and environment, and so on. FAO has accumulated knowledge and expertise of agriculture and rural development, in particular in developing countries. Therefore, FAO is well placed to conduct socio-economic analyses on the role of agriculture in developing countries. With respect to extra-budgetary contributions, it is an honour and the duty of donor countries to make extra-budgetary

contributions in order to support FAO activities and it is very important under current budgetary constraints.

We have made extra-budgetary contributions to SOFA and we pledge to continue our support to FAO activities, both in regular budget activities and extra-budgetary activities.

Bandar AL-SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)

I would like you to give the floor to Ambassador Nuri Brahim, the Ambassador of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Head of the Near East Group, so that he can speak on behalf of the Near East Group regarding this agenda item.

Nuri HASAN (Observer for Libya) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, I would like to express on behalf of the Near East Group our congratulations and appreciation. I would like to thank you, as well as your Vice-Chairpersons, for the wise manner in which you are conducting our deliberations.

I would like to say that the steps already taken since yesterday is proof of your wise leadership, your wisdom and your qualities, and the way you are leading the proceedings of this Council. I think we will achieve excellent results.

I would also like to thank you for giving me the floor in order to make some observations regarding this important matter, the *Medium-Term Plan 2002-2007*. What I would like to say now is on behalf of the countries of the Near East Group.

I would like as a general comment to say that the countries of the Near East appreciate the structure and the content of the *Medium-Term Plan 2002-2007*. It is an improvement on the previous versions. I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for these improvements. It is quite clear from the document at hand that the *Medium-Term Plan* represents a collective effort made by all the Member Nations of this Organization and this, of course, is a positive and encouraging development.

Allow me to speak briefly and quickly on some of the important aspects of the *Medium-Term Plan*.

The linkage of the *Medium-Term Plan* with the *Strategic Framework 2000-2015* is succinctly presented and, in our opinion, this makes good sense. The approach to operationalize the *Strategic Framework* in terms of successive *Medium-Term Plans* is appreciated and we urge the Secretariat to introduce further refinements in this important and variable approach. In this connection, the reconvening of the Inter-Departmental corporate strategy groups is welcome.

We very much appreciate the indicative resource projections over the three biennia as given in page 3 of the document. Although we can live with the word "projections", our preference would be the word "proposals". This is because we consider the contributions of the Member Nations to the Regular Programme of FAO as a legal obligation and the term "projections" does not reflect this obligatory responsibility.

We are very pleased that, over the three biennia, there are small increases in resource allocations at constant prices for FAO's technical and economic programmes. In the Near East and North Africa, we are facing serious water problems and look forward to additional resources to be earmarked for improved water management techniques, drought resistance and crop improvement technologies. An interregional approach in tackling these problems is highly essential.

The developing countries as a group are benefiting from the TCP and the 10 and 8 percent increases under this Programme are appropriate and highly appreciated.

We are disappointed with the consistency of resources for FAO Representations, especially as the size of membership has increased. In this connection, we wish to emphasize the need for FAO Representations in the countries of Central Asia which we consider to be part of our region, which, on the eve of their independence, inherited a host of agricultural problems that call for urgent remedies with the active support of FAO. Even one representation servicing all the five

countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), will be a good sign. We consider the distribution of technical programmes by strategic objectives – Table 3, page 9 – to be extremely useful.

Sixteen priority areas for inter-disciplinary action are mentioned on pages 19 to 40 and, in each priority area, three features are highlighted, namely: rationale, scope of joint work, and the supervisory mechanism by the breakdown of activities and the unit concerned. This section appears to be somewhat tedious, especially when one examines the relevant activities under each priority area for inter-disciplinary action. The activities shown are difficult to relate to Part II of the Medium-Term Plan, where major programmes are discussed. One way of streamlining this section could be to show the relevant output rather than the relevant activities, and make sure that the output so identified corresponds with the output under each programme in Part II.

Part II, pages 41 to 56, is well presented. Each programme is briefly described by its rationale, objectives, measure outputs and indicators. The component entities are identified and the indication of resource allocation is shown by strategic objectives. This would greatly facilitate the preparation of the biennium Programme of Work and Budget. However, more work is needed in sharpening the indicators.

We agree with the substance of Part III, pages 99-217, and in our view it is a good and convincing final dressing for the *Medium-Term Plan*.

The opinion of the countries of the Near East and North Africa is that there are two lacunae with the Medium-Term Plan. One is the lack of indication of priorities and indicative resource allocations by regions. We do not question the thesis that FAO's *Medium-Term Plan* objectives and programmes must have coherence which would cut across regional boundaries. However, there has to be indication of how the global coherence takes account of regional factors and priorities. This should not be very difficult to accomplish, as the Regional Conferences do address common regional problems and remedies.

The second lacuna is the absence of field programme information strategies and priorities. Even the TCP field activities are not presented. The discussion in paragraphs 15 to 19 and paragraphs 137 to 143 is neither adequate nor convincing. We recommend that this serious gap be bridged. What is needed is to show, in a convincing manner, the inter-relationships and organic linkages between the normative activities of FAO and field programme development. What needs to be done is to enhance these linkages and then translate them in terms of project generation, in line with the *Medium-Term Plan* priorities. The generation investment project by the FAO Investment Centre should be integrated into this analysis.

The field programme is the operational arm of the Organization and it deserves to be given due attention in the *Medium-Term Plan*.

Mrs M. MOLUMELI (Lesotho)

We take note that the *Medium-Term Plan* is one of the main policy documents for FAO, and that the Plan is based on the *FAO Strategic Framework 2002-2015* which was approved at the last Conference.

We are also aware that the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming year 2002-2003 will be derived from this *Medium-Term Plan*.

Lesotho supports the programmes in the *Medium-Term Plan* and welcomes the indicative resource projections that have been included in the Plan. We feel matching programmes to resources as in the *Medium-Term Plan* enables full implementation of programmes.

We also feel that the decline in resources currently experienced by FAO should be reversed in order for FAO to assist members in implementing the World Food Summit Commitments.

Lesotho would like to emphasize the importance of maintaining a balance between normative and field level activities so as to meet the diverse needs.

Food Security is a high priority for Lesotho and of course Southern African Members, and improving agricultural performance is the key to increasing household incomes in the sub-Region. We therefore support programmes in the *Medium-Term Plan* that assists members to increase food production, especially for staple foods. The sub-Region also needs support for programmes that enhance disaster management approaches, given the experience of the sub-Region with cyclone Eline this year.

We also support programmes in the *Medium-Term Plan* that support and emphasize the role of women in agriculture and food security. In Africa, women contribute to more than 60 percent of rural farmers.

We further support the Integrated Production and Pest Management Programmes, the SPFS, the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, especially land and water management, irrigation and transfer of technology and food safety programmes that are highlighted in the Plan.

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

Allow me to thank Mr Wade for presenting the *Medium-Term Plan 2002-2007* in a comprehensive manner. We would first like to associate ourselves with the statement issued by Bangladesh earlier and by the Chairman of the Near East Group. We also join with the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in commending the quality of the planned document and its objectivity in responding to the demands placed by the Membership through various FAO fora.

We acknowledge that the *Medium-Term Plan* is based upon the *Strategic Framework 2000-2015*, which was approved by the Conference last year subsequent to substantial debate on it in several stages and several fora. The format of the current document clearly establishes linkages between the *Strategic Framework* and the *Plan*. We therefore concur with the observations of the Programme Committee as given in para 4 of CL 119/11.

We appreciate the enhanced focus on multidisciplinary in the Plan which was essentially the spirit of the *Strategic Framework*. We note the 16 priority areas in this regard, but agree with the Programme Committee that further refinement is possible in order to sharpen their focus. We also share the need for appropriate monitoring arrangements in implementation of the PAIAs.

Let me focus a bit on the issue of resources. We note the acknowledgement of the Secretariat that the numbers at this stage can at best be tentative in nature, to be defined and concretized in the context of the biennial Programme of Work and Budget. We, however, wish to point out that many great plans have drawn a knot on account of inadequate resources. We view the issue of resources from the following perspectives: 1) the strategic vision for resources; 2) the proposed size and strategy in the *Medium-Term Plan*; and 3) the allocation to the priority areas.

While discussing the strategic framework, our delegation proposed a simultaneous discussion on resourcing the *Strategic Framework*. We continued to hold this view point and note the absence of any understanding between Member Governments on a strategic vision for resourcing FAO.

In terms of the proposed size and strategy we note the Secretariat's proposal of a 9.6 percent overall increase in the next biennium and smaller increases in the subsequent biennium. We recognize that the overall increase is linked to the Secretariat's perception of the required individual programme allocations. Though we are not in a position to judge the adequacy of the increase proposed, we can say at this stage that front loading a major portion of the overall increase is essential to send correct signals regarding the seriousness with which the international community views matters related to agriculture, food and hunger.

On individual allocations to programmes, and again without committing to the adequacy of the numbers proposed, we endorse the basic strategy behind the figures, as generally summarized in paragraph 8 of the document, particularly the major increase in TCP resources.

We believe that these priorities must be maintained in all scenarios of the PWB that may be developed in future, with by and large the same allocation for TCP.

We note that all areas identified as possible areas of interest for extra-budgetary resources are priority areas for us. While all extra-budgetary resources would be a welcome addition, we would be much more satisfied by seeing enhanced allocations from assured resources.

Aziz MEKOUAR (Maroc)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'adresser au Secrétariat mes félicitations pour la préparation de cet excellent document sur le *Plan à moyen terme (PMT) 2002-2007*.

Le Groupe africain, au nom duquel je fais cette intervention, souhaite apporter la contribution suivante au débat. Considérant tout d'abord que le rôle de ce PMT dans le processus de programmation et de budget est un rôle central, en relation très étroite avec le *Cadre stratégique 2000-2015* et que les États Membres sont en droit légitime d'attendre que l'Organisation participe pleinement à la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde. La baisse des ressources financières enregistrée depuis 1993 constitue un sérieux handicap à la réalisation des objectifs de l'Organisation en général et celui fixé par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996, à savoir, la réduction de moitié du nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim en 2015. Pour cette raison l'augmentation des ressources nécessaires à l'exécution de ce PMT d'environ 10 pour cent nous semble raisonnable, ainsi que la mise en place d'indicateurs et de critères pour faciliter le suivi de la réalisation des activités susceptibles d'augmenter l'efficacité des interventions de la FAO.

Nous accueillons favorablement l'approche multidisciplinaire et nous soutenons les 16 priorités pour l'opération interdisciplinaire du Programme. Les stratégies qui répondent aux exigences des Membres de notre région devront s'articuler en priorité autour du fléau de la désertification, de la lutte anti-acridienne, de l'appui à la production agricole, forestière et halieutique, entre autre la formation, la recherche et le transfert de technologies et le renforcement des capacités institutionnelles. En conclusion, le Groupe africain apporte tout son appui au *PMT 2002-2007*.

Mengistu HULLUKA (Ethiopia)

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to all who have contributed to the development of the *Strategic Framework* on which the *Medium-Term Plan* is build.

We commend the Secretariat for a job well done in preparing the *Medium-Term Plan*, taking into account the views and the recommendations of Member Nations.

In this respect, it is gratifying to mention that the formulation of the *Medium-Term Plan* has given consideration to the following important issues.

Firstly, an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving was followed. For the interdisciplinary areas, priorities have been identified on the basis of comparative advantages. From the Strategic Framework, corporate strategies and strategic objectives were established. While we appreciate the interdisciplinary action to problem solving, we are afraid that the involvement of different units might compromise the effective discharging of tasks.

Secondly, since the allocation of resources is mainly on strategic objectives and the same strategic objectives fall under many units, we wish to see a coordinated action in the allocation of resources commensurate to outputs generated by the respective units. While we recognize that the *Medium-Term Plan* has a wealth of data, in our view, to make it more palatable, it needs more refinement.

The other aspect of the *Medium-Term Plan* is that it takes a full account of the Summit goals of halving the number of the undernourished by the year 2015 and the fulfilment of the global goal of Members as defined in the *Strategic Framework*. In this connection, we wish to indicate the following observations.

We appreciate that Members, from both the developed and developing world, agreed on the strategic objectives that have regional dimensions based on priority. Having agreed over the objectives and priorities, it is logical that our perspective plan be resourced to translate it into actions. Besides, having pledged our political commitment in the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action to at least reduce the number of the undernourished by half their present level by the year 2015, an organization like FAO with a lead role in assisting countries in the implementation of the

World Food Summit Plan of Action must get the necessary budget to effect the *Medium-Term Plan*.

Moreover, in the face of clear advantage of having a zero real growth indicative budget of the *Medium-Term Plan* document before the Council, addressing many of our concerns in the areas of food insecurity, it must be our guiding principle that the Programme of Work should dictate the budget rather than a Programme of Work already in place which falls under the mercy of a fixed budget.

In connection with the budget level, we are convinced that efficiency savings gained by managers should not go to the reduction of assessed contributions of Member Nations. Rather, they have to be reploughed back to productive activities.

We are convinced that arrears to be settled gradually should go to the technical areas. We have also noted that a shift from one system to another, specially in the face of rapid technological changes, is unduly claiming the Organization's budget, no matter how desirable it might be. It is a very costly practice unless done with the utmost care and we recommend that the Organization stick to a dependable system and develop the experience and expertise to make it cost effective.

Finally, my delegation would not like to conclude without duly emphasizing the importance of food security as being a collective security. Today, the global world is so close and the movement of people is so rapid. The lack of access to basic productive resources for decent life and livelihood on one hand, and unprecedented economic growth in many developed countries on the other hand, is creating a chasm rather than bridging the gap.

We have to continue supporting countries in the developing world to be self-sustaining and striving to bring better life to their people. Providing adequate resources to an international organization like FAO is one of the means where the international community can demonstrate its solidarity. Hence, the percentage increase in the budget of the first biennium of the *Medium-Term Plan* is not very ambitious compared to the scourge of hunger and malnourishment exhibited in many parts of the developing world. We have promised to effectively assist in the eradication of hunger and undernourishment from our planet. We have to live up to our promises to have a millennium without hunger.

Mrs Nihal HEGAZY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

My country subscribes to the statement read out by the Ambassador of Libya on behalf of the Near East Group, and also that of the Representative of Morocco on behalf of the African Group, with respect to the *Medium-Term Plan*. Here, we see a combination of the Strategic Framework which foresees a multidisciplinary approach to ensure food security in all regions of the world.

One of the first steps to be taken in order to ensure that this plan be implemented correctly so as to help the poorest regions, is obviously to increase the amount of resources assigned to these regions, especially in the light of the reduction in resources in recent years and in the face of the growing need to tackle natural phenomena like a drought. The international community's efforts to provide help to these regions to help them to achieve food security implies additional resources to the programmes in the Plan otherwise our efforts towards a millennium free of hunger are doomed to failure.

Recent statistics agree that it is vital to increase efforts and resources to achieve an adequate level so that we can be sure that we will achieve our objectives and put an end to the suffering of these people and help them overcome poverty and undernourishment, all of which are objectives of the Medium-Term Plan.

CHAN-Joon SOHN (Korea, Republic of)

Before commenting on this agenda item, I would first like to commend the Secretariat for the efforts made to prepare this excellent document in a new format of embodying significant improvements over previous versions.

We note with satisfaction that the proposed *Medium-Term Plan* largely meets Members' expectations as expressed in the Strategic Framework 2000-2015. Especially, it is commendable that the proposed Medium-Term Plan duly reflects close links established between the corporate strategies and strategic objectives in the Strategic Framework.

On the other hand, we would like to mention that the wording of this document needs to be modified to ensure that technical terms are more easily understood. Although the Zero Nominal Growth of the FAO biennial budgets has been continued, this in turn implies that FAO should also follow the trend of overall restructuring of the UN Agencies. Therefore, it needs to be noted that FAO's efforts towards more cost-effective programme implementation and further efficiency gains should be continued in the longer term. In this context, we think that FAO's efforts in such a direction should be further reflected in the biennial budget estimates made in the proposed *Medium-Term Plan*.

We believe that the proposed *Medium-Term Plan* could be further developed to facilitate more effective deliberations on the resource requirements. We hope in this regard that a separate document on efficiency gains will be prepared for the next Session of the Council.

Regarding the multifunctional character of agriculture, we would like to voice our concern over the Australian delegate's position that FAO should not discuss nor apply the multifunctional character of agriculture. With due respect to the delegate attending from Australia, we can hardly find any reasonable justification for Australia's argument that FAO should not be involved or, at least, discuss the multifunctional character of agriculture. The Australian position is based on reasons that there has not been a consensus on the concept that FAO had no role concerning the multifunctional character of agriculture, during the last Conference.

We are willing to refute the Australian argument based on paragraph 76 of the *Strategic Framework*. It states: "support the consideration, improvement and sustainable use of natural resources for food and agriculture, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture". As you are well aware, the *FAO Strategic Framework* is the reflection of the discussion made at the 1999 FAO Conference.

It is my presumption that the Australian delegates are referring to the *Strategic Framework* in making such an argument. It states that "FAO Members have noted that there is currently no consensus on the meaning of the concept of multifunctional character, a reference to the subject of the multifunctional character nor on the role of FAO with respect to work on it".

However, we must keep in mind that this is only stated in reference to the 1999 FAO Conference - and the 1999 FAO Conference only. Moreover, this sentence neither denies the importance of the multifunctional character of agriculture, nor the need to discuss issues regarding the multifunctional character of agriculture.

We would also like to hold in our support that the 1999 Conference report that states: "Organization should pursue and further develop its work on sustainable agriculture and rural development". This implies that Members have agreed that FAO should carry out its programmes and activities to consider the multifunctional character of agriculture in the context of sustainable agriculture and rural development, despite the different views. This part is highlighted in the 1992 Agenda 21 and the 1996 World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Considering these things, with due respect to the Australian delegate, we do not see reasonable justification for their argument. Rather, we believe that the last Conference encourages relevant FAO subsidiary bodies to begin active discussions and studies on the concept of the multifunctional character of agriculture and role of the FAO concerning it.

We recognize that agriculture itself has diverse roles, such as economic externalities, food security and social cultural conservation. We believe these diverse roles deserve to be studied and researched in a more scientific way.

In this context, my delegation has a different perception with what the distinguished delegate of Australia had mentioned earlier.

Ms Malgorzata PIOTROWSKA (Poland)

We do appreciate this document for its excellent presentation of the Organization's goals for the five years beyond the current biennium. The *Plan* appears to be a take-off from the *Strategic Framework* which we have dealt with earlier and gives us a clear vision of where the Organization is headed, given sufficient resources. What we feel most interesting in this Document is the listing of priority areas for interdisciplinary action.

First of all, we are very supportive for an interdisciplinary approach in FAO's programmes.

Secondly, we highly support the selection of the priority areas which include many topics which should be of special importance to all Member Nations. We could mention areas like biosecurity of foods, the WTO trade negotiations, climate changes, biotechnology and biodiversity.

However, there are other areas not listed which we feel FAO must pay close attention to. We are primarily thinking of protection of agricultural environment, especially for our soil and water resources. Soil erosion is one of the most serious threats to sustainable crop production and could ruin our most important resource base. Water for consumption and irrigation is an ever-increasing concern. The destruction of forests is not only a threat to biodiversity but also a major cause of the increasing incidents of disastrous floods around the world. We also feel that the fight against insect pests and crop and animal diseases would deserve a place among priority areas to be dealt with on an interdisciplinary basis. We do note, however, that these subjects are being dealt with to some extent in the various normative programmes.

Finally, my delegation would like to compliment the Director-General and the Secretariat for a very clear and well presented Document which clearly shows an ambitious plan for FAO's Programme of Work until 2007.

TANG SHENGYAO (China) (Original language Chinese)

We wish to thank the Secretariat for introducing the *Medium-Term Plan* with a new presentation and layout, and we would like to thank Mr Wade on the clear introduction he has given us to the subject.

This plan is very clear and it shows the necessary flexibility and we feel that it does reflect the debates that have taken place here in the House amongst Member Nations. We fully support the new presentation, the new model, the new pattern, of this *Medium-Term Plan* presentation. I would, however, like to offer some comments on the main aspect of this *Medium-Term Plan*.

First of all, I would like to say that our delegation is very much concerned about the problems resulting from budgetary cuts, budgetary restraints, because it is very difficult for the Organization to carry out its normative operational activities if it is not given sufficient resources to do so.

We note that the food situation in the world is extremely serious, extremely urgent, and as everybody agrees, urgent action is absolutely necessary. In some countries things are even getting worse rather than better, so obviously we need to do something important and do it quickly. We urge all governments to do their best, we must all do our best, to meet the target set at the World Food Summit and to cut down by half, at least, the numbers of people suffering from hunger in the world by the target date set.

We are also very much in support of the points made by the Secretariat as regards the need for further resources and their possible distribution by corporate strategy and strategic objectives but obviously we need more resources to be able to do justice to these strategies and objectives.

Our delegation agrees with the figures that we have and we do appreciate that they are only indicative figures. This being the case, we feel that we should really add further zero-growth based projects because this is not realistic enough and we would like to stress the conclusions reached by the Programme and Finance Committees last September. We must stick to those points. We must submit something concrete and positive to the next Conference session, for the next biennium, in addition to whatever we may agree upon in the *Medium-Term Plan*.

As regards to Part I of the *Medium-Term Plan*, we certainly agree with the points made there, the strategies proposed, the objectives and the priorities indicated there. We feel that these priorities will help the Organization achieve the targets that have been set.

As regards to the distribution of resources, we would suggest that priorities should be further refined but that we should concentrate on operational aspects rather than normative ones, on operational activities. On listening to other speakers we feel that this is what everyone would agree upon. Certainly FAO must help developing countries more strongly than has done so far and this means operational activities, rather than normative ones. Obviously, this is our primary aim and purpose to help developing countries. Our delegation notes, with pleasure, that this *Medium-Term Plan* responds to Part II that is a concentration on the strategies. We need to address Members' needs and we would support the points and proposals made in that Part. We feel that FAO should allocate further resources to technical and operational activities rather than the normative ones, whilst, of course, trying to get x amount of resources for this purpose.

The potential Technical Cooperation Programmes have proved themselves to be most effective in the past and we hope that they will go on being effective in the future. We would like to remind everybody of the fact that we are far from achieving our targets. This is why we must concentrate on solving the problem of hunger and malnourishment that affects such a large proportion of the world population. Therefore, we insist again that FAO must increase the resources allocated to operational activities and Technical Cooperation Projects, in particular, in the Asian region we feel should be promoted rather more strongly.

We certainly find that Part III, strategies to address cross-organizational issues, is an appropriate scenario for the *Medium-Term Plan* response and in particular sustainable activities must be supported and further developed.

In the light of this new presentation we have before us, we should be able to reduce the numbers of people suffering from hunger and malnourish and this surely is the yardstick by which we should measure the efficiency of our work, the efficiency of the work that the Organization is doing. We certainly agree that we should have the Five-Year Later follow-up to the World Food Summit in 2001, at the beginning of a new millennium.

To sum up, we feel that efficiency must be at least promoted. As regards to funding, obviously FAO must make every effort to obtain extra-budgetary resources from Governments, from civil society, even from NGOs.

Leo MAIER (European Community)

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to clarify the position of the European Community and its Member States, as well as the other European Group countries regarding the role of the FAO with respect to work on the multiple functions of agriculture.

Let me stress from the outset, that my intention is not to reopen the debate which we had last year when the *FAO Strategic Framework* was discussed. However, it seems important to recall that in the European region the recognition of the multiple functions of agriculture constitutes an integral part of sustainable agricultural and rural development as set out in several important texts at international levels since 1992. This notion, which by the way, is merely a new way of expressing an old concept, provides a framework for agricultural policy aimed at promoting harmonious, economic, social and territorial development while, at the same time, respecting the integrity of the environment. This is entirely consistent with the objectives and the logic of sustainable development.

Since this issue is of the utmost importance for the European Region, FAO was asked to include it in the Agenda of the Regional Conference for Europe. For us, the goal was not to circumvent the text agreed in the *Strategic Framework* of the Organization, but, and let me emphasize this, to discuss the various roles of agriculture in society in accordance with this text. It is exactly for this reason that, in its conclusions, the Conference noted that any further work in this area should take place within FAO's activity on sustainable agriculture and rural development. Moreover, the

Conference also recognized the importance of the multiple functions of agriculture for developing countries in achieving sustainable development.

The countries of the European Region wish that in the future this issue should no longer provoke passionate debates each time it is raised but that it will be the subject of frank and fruitful discussion when the appropriate occasion arises as is the case in other international fora.

CHAIRMAN

We agree with the European Commission that we should not reopen debate on the multifunctional nature of agriculture.

Percy W. MISIKA (Namibia)

First let me express my delegations appreciation, and indeed commend the Secretariat for the hard work and great amount of effort that has gone into preparing this document. From our own experience, as we have been involved in formulating our own development plan, we know what this involves and what it took for them to have this document.

We would like to just give a few comments on the document before us.

Firstly, paragraph 47. We feel that the word “advising” which is intended in the second line, implies a passive role of Member Nations. Therefore, we suggest that the sentence reflect, in explicit terms, the need for FAO not only to advise Member Nations on what appropriate technology is available and suitable. But that FAO, in addition to this, reflects that it works with Member Nations to adopt and disseminate improved technologies and production methods. In that way, FAO would acquire, hence on experience, that would strengthen its ability to actively influence the international research agenda and close the gap between research and extension.

In looking at the priority areas on pages 17 and 18, we appreciate the emphasize given to building institutional capacity for coordinated design and implementation of activities. We also noted with appreciation the priority given to assisting Member Nations with developmental policies and strategies, and with monitoring and assessing their impacts. However, in all this, we feel that an important element of capacity building has been overlooked, or if not overlooked, it has not been given the prominence we feel it deserves in this section. That is the crucial need for local specialized skills development to enhance local expertise and thereby enable Member Nations themselves to undertake policy design, formulation, implementation, monitoring and assessment of the impacts of the trade agreements and the liberalization implementation measures.

We also take note of the training workshops that are indicated here, which could be used for this purpose but from our experience, training workshops are often not the most effective way for local technical competencies and skills development. They are a very good platform for sharing experiences and information but do not provide the requisite basic competencies and skills to apply knowledge gained from such workshops. We, therefore, strongly ask the Council to allow the Secretariat to make budgetary provisions under programmes related to policy development in general and to trade policy in particular, and for the development of a core of local specialized expertise in the fields we have referred to.

We are requesting this, because we know from our experience, that where coordination and collaboration institutions and mechanism have been put in place, the actual programmes normally fail when it comes to implementation because of lack of specialized skills and technical competencies.

With regard to strategies to address Members' needs and the major programmes as indicated from page 42 onwards, would like to refer especially to paragraph 72. In this regard we would like to have clarity on the meaning of the last sentence which has been referred to by the Member Nations who have spoken before me, namely Australia and other Member Nations. If it is a real difference the concept of multifunctionality and here would not excite, Namibia would like to suggest that for fairness to all it is much better to use the text that was agreed upon during the

previous Council and Conference meeting here so that we all have the same understanding of what we are referring to.

Paragraph 73, the first sentence refers to “promoting technical technology to sustainably intensify agricultural production”. We do not explicitly know what is implied in the word 'intensify' but assuming that it means, increasing agricultural production. Then the sentence seems to be open and prone to multiple and diverse interpretations. Developing countries are the ones experiencing major constraints to increasing agricultural productivity.

On the other hand, developed countries are having problems getting rid of their surplus production. This is an important distinction that this document should make explicit. This distinction calls for different, and a completely separate set of strategies to deal with these separate and distinct problems. Therefore, we would like to see in this document separate and clear strategies and programmes that address: (1) the challenges and constraints to increasing agricultural production that developing countries are faced with; and (2), strategies and constraints that ensure that developed countries with problems of agricultural surpluses produce at a level that the surplus could sustainably be disposed of. We are saying sustainably because of the wider implications these surpluses might have on the world production and world trade.

Coming to the organization of components under the sub-programmes, it is our understanding that the indicators are directly linked to the objectives and not to the outputs and if that is correct we would like to see them following directly the objectives' section for each sub-programme.

However, if they are linked to the output we would like to point out the following by making use of sub-programme 210A1 on page 43 as an example. All these indicators say, by implication, that if there is no evidence of these mentioned fields as indicators, then by implication no output, or no activity would have taken place. However, this would be a misrepresentation of the text. The fact is that some activity would have taken place, money would be expended and would have led to some output but the evidence would just not reflect that. It is not impossible for one to go out in the field and when you get to the field where a project has been implemented for a period of months or years, one finds no evidence. Would that then suggest that there is not activity in that area or, are there other reasons? It is for that reason, that we feel the indicators should be linked to the objectives that are normally used as evidence to measure the extent to which objectives are achieved. If, however, they are linked to the output, then they need to be reviewed and expressed as such. On the outputs, we note that there is no consistence with regard to the outputs. Some of the outputs are expressed as activities while others are expressed as outputs, e.g. some would start with supported to or development of while others expressed as strategies and technologies for. We sincerely propose that the Secretariat review this section to ensure that outputs are reflected as outputs and not as activities.

With regard to programmes, if our understanding of the tables, such as the one on page 43, is that the list in these boxes or table refers to programmes, then we have the following comment. Secretariat, Commission, Committees and technical services as reflected under title are not programmes. These are means of addressing and /or implementing core programmes. We therefore advise that these items be removed from the boxes of programmes and be treated as a means to implement the core programmes. Committees, Secretariat, Commission are mechanism to implement certain aspects for achieving core programmes and objectives. Therefore, it is the core programmes to which the Committees and Secretariat contribute that must be listed here while the Commission and Secretariat should appear as resources or means required to implement the programme and be costed as such.

As it now stands, there is a possibility of underestimation of financial implications of the core programmes to which these strategies contribute.

Lastly, Namibia would like to express its support for the Secretariat's appeal for more budget allocations to FAO for it to be able to serve its Member Nations better.

Bill DOERING (Canada)

The Canadian delegation commends the Secretariat on a very good document. As you transition to more results-based planning, the *Medium Term Plan* is a good attempt at delivering on what was promised in the *Strategic Framework*. This *Plan* addresses each of the strategic objectives in the Framework, and includes information on planned results, outputs and indicators.

We would like to both confirm and reinforce the view expressed by the last Programme Committee meeting, namely that financial projections are indicative only, and do not necessarily commit Members to achieve the level of contributions projected in Table 1.

As well, when the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is tabled in the spring of 2001, we request that one scenario be premised on ZNG, along with the list of programmes and/or activities that would be affected in that option.

I would also like to express some concerns and request clarification on the following issues.

Table 2 provides some indicative projections for the next three biennia. As the FAO is the primary agency for forests within the United Nations System, we wish to repeat our concern that, despite repeated recommendations from the Committee on Forestry to FAO Conferences, resource levels allocated to forestry remain disproportionately low, in light of growing demands. Given the establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests, there is every reason to believe that pressure will continue to mount to increase FAO's involvement in global forest policy issues, and provide more technical assistance to developing countries, and countries in transition. Again, we ask that FAO activities be better prioritised and the programmes adjusted to accommodate demands in this sector.

We also note that a number of areas are targeted for increasing contributions. We would ask the Secretariat, prior to the Programme of Work and Budget, to provide the rationale for those increases. And in those areas where the increases are largest, we would like independent evaluations. As well, it was difficult, such as in the case of the SPFS, to determine total costs due to its integration with other programmes, and we would like to see these be more clearly shown.

We have noted a significant cost increase for FAO Reps, and are recommending that the FAO elaborate a clear policy that includes rigorous criteria to be applied before agreeing to requests. We will return to this issue under agenda Item 9.

We also find it difficult to understand who is accountable for the priority areas and interdisciplinary action, and this needs to be further elaborated.

We would like further details on progress to date on the planned full evaluation of the SPFS. You noted in your opening remarks that it will definitely take place in 2001. Do you have a detailed timetable for this evaluation, and will we have the results of the evaluation before approving the next Programme on Work and Budget?

And if I may, I would like to suggest two additional improvements for the next *Plan*.

One, that an executive summary or précis would be appreciated, and the performance indicators be further developed, linking outputs to results.

And finally, we listened with great interest to Australia's comments regarding a particular project, funded unilaterally, from extra-budgetary sources on issues related, it would appear, to the so-called multifunctional character of agriculture. We share the concerns identified by Australia related to the use of extra-budgetary funds to support projects, not only of general interest to the whole membership, but also dealing with highly charged policy and even political issues. We believe that this technique of funding policy work raises important issues of governance, which warrant careful consideration by Member Nations. We intend to return to this matter later.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Lamento tener que volver a intervenir en este tema, pero lo hago por expreso mandato de los Países Miembros de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe, visto que se ha abordado aquí una cuestión que es muy sensible para nuestra región. En este sentido el GRULAC hace suyo lo manifestado por las Delegaciones de Australia y de Estados Unidos acerca del carácter multifuncional de la agricultura así como de cualquier otra formulación que engloban distintos elementos que se refieren en definitiva al mismo concepto.

La Conferencia Regional de mi región, en el párrafo 30 de su informe dice: "La Conferencia recalcó que existe el riesgo de que el tema de la multifuncionalidad de la agricultura se convierta en un mecanismo de distorsión del comercio, justificando nuevas normas de subsidios o de protección". Para el GRULAC la preocupación sobre el concepto de multifuncionalidad de la agricultura no es nueva, ya lo ha expresado claramente por medio de distintas acciones, entre ellas entrevistas de representantes de nuestra área geográfica con la más alta autoridad de esta Organización, y el envío de una carta expresando las preocupaciones sobre esta materia. Usted es testigo presencial que cuán difícil fue alcanzar una solución de consenso en este tema en la última Conferencia de la FAO, con motivo de la aprobación del *Marco Estratégico 2000-2015*. En consecuencia, no estamos hablando de un tema menor ni mucho menos informativo, sino del análisis de una materia que puede afectar seriamente el presupuesto y la orientación de las labores de esta Organización.

Pero lo más importante es que se está vulnerando una decisión de la instancia máxima de este organismo. Y yo coincido con usted en que no se debe reabrir un debate, pero no me parece inútil que yo le robe unos pocos minutos más para recordar que la Conferencia, en su 30º período de sesiones resolvió, y así lo refleja en su informe, específicamente en el párrafo 117, dice: "Además de estas enmiendas, hubo un debate considerable sobre la frase 'considerando el carácter multifuncional de la agricultura' en el párrafo 76 que reflejaba las divergencias análogas observadas en las opiniones expresadas en el 117º período de sesiones del Consejo y en la última reunión conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas"; y en su párrafo 118 dice: "Se examinaron varias opciones y se acordó añadir la siguiente frase al final del párrafo 76: Sin embargo, puesto que los Miembros de la FAO han constatado que actualmente no hay consenso sobre el significado del concepto de carácter multifuncional de la agricultura, ni sobre la función de la FAO con respecto al trabajo que ello entraña, acuerdan que la Organización prosiga y desarrolle ulteriormente su labor sobre la agricultura y el desarrollo rural sostenibles".

Insisto, y me uno a su comentario de que no reabramos un debate que ya fue cerrado.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany)

My delegation fully endorses the statement by France on behalf of the European Community and its Member States and the more recent intervention of the European Commission.

I would like to make specific reference to one of the Priority Areas for Inter-Disciplinary Action – PAIAs – which constitute a remarkable new planning approach linking the Corporate Strategies of FAO with the Strategic Objectives and ensuring cooperation across departments.

My point is to emphasize the relevance of work on the PAIA "Climate Change Issues in Agriculture" which, in turn, has relation with the PAIA "Organic Agriculture".

I think, we are all aware that adequate and safe food for the now 6 billion people on Earth, later on in this century 7 and 8 billion, and feeding those still too poor to afford or grow the food required for a decent and productive life, calls for the sustainable and environmentally friendly management of the agricultural resource base which is finite. Intelligent, science-based and knowledge-intensive production practices are needed. The stronger use of modern inputs in those areas where the actual yield potential has not yet been fully tapped, is a generally undisputed approach to higher output of food and other agricultural commodities. Organic agriculture, in the view of many experts, will not be able to cope with the rising demand. Intensification of crop and

livestock farming implies more energy spent in terms of fuel, fertilizers and animal feed. As more fertilizers are applied to boost yields, more paddy rice is planted, more ruminants, especially cattle, are kept, more greenhouse gases, e.g. methane, will be released. So, the climate change affecting agriculture does not originate alone from factors outside farming.

Therefore, inter-disciplinary research must be promoted to try to harmonize these contradictory developments for the sake of food security and climate protection. The current Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the complex issues under discussion there should remind us of this specific concern. Maybe the forthcoming Session of the Committee on Agriculture could take up this aspect with a view to incorporate it into the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Guatemala respalda lo expresado por Australia, Estados Unidos, Canadá, y la representación de la República Argentina en representación del GRULAC como posición regional. No existe concepto ni definición alguna en la FAO, así lo reconoció y expresó la Conferencia con respecto a la frase "multifuncionalidad de la agricultura" y por ende, no puede haber recurso alguno para algo en lo que no nos hemos puesto de acuerdo, ni siquiera en qué es y qué significa. Si no nos hemos puesto de acuerdo en cuanto a definición o concepto, en cuanto a lo que significa no puede haber recurso alguno asignado para aquello que no es. Para algunos podría ser una cosa, y otra cosa para otros. La posición de Guatemala es atenerse a lo decidido por la Conferencia. No hay definición ni concepto aceptados.

Señalo además el peligro de que algunos piensen que a través del concepto de multifuncionalidad como entienden la frase, otros podríamos entenderla de otra forma, queden justificados los subsidios a la producción con otro nombre y su pretexto que no se favorece la producción sino a otras funciones. El concepto así percibido, como lo perciben algunos para justificar subsidios, no tiene cabida y por eso para abordar el tema, para poder dedicarle recurso alguno, lo primero será ponernos de acuerdo sobre definición y concepto. Hasta hoy no existe en el seno de esta Organización. Así lo decidió la Conferencia, y donde la Conferencia decidió no cabe al Consejo decidir. Hoy por hoy es un tema eminentemente jurídico. No puede el Consejo decidir donde la Conferencia ya decidió. No caben atajos. Sólo la Conferencia podría tomar decisión sobre esto. No es éste lugar para debate alguno sobre lo sustantivo en este asunto. La Comunidad Económica Europea lo ha dicho bien y el señor Presidente con suma sabiduría así lo ha expresado también.

El asunto casi podría ser de orden, sin definición ni concepto, es palabra, es frase que no puede aparecer oficialmente y menos aún recibir recursos. Donde decidió el mayor, la Conferencia, no deben pretender la Administración, la Secretaría, ni siquiera el Consejo, decidir. Al mencionar la palabra, la frase, todos podemos pensar en cosas distintas y pensamos, sin duda alguna, en cosas distintas. Por eso, al asignar un recurso no sabríamos a qué se lo estamos asignando.

Insisto, Australia, Estados Unidos y Canadá tienen razón y nos adherimos a la exposición de estos, respaldamos lo expresado por la Representación Argentina como Presidente del GRULAC, posición regional.

Si queremos evitar debate, evitemos el uso de palabras o frases que no tienen significado en la Organización y que hasta hoy significan, o pueden significar, cosas distintas para unos y para otros.

Mrs Neela GANGADHARAN (India)

For the record, India would like to make one observation. In supporting the Medium-Term Plan, we find no utility in having different scenarios for the Medium-Term Plan, considering that it is just a six-year perspective for the Organization. We see the Plan as a medium term vision, which, of course, will be trimmed and improved, depending on resources available every biennium.

This morning, we discussed FAO planning a Summit for a real Council of international and national commitment of world leaders to reduce poverty. The main constraint we know is in poverty revision as a resource flow. In this context, we feel that this Council, advising the

Secretariat to prepare a negative growth plan for six-years, can give contradictory significance to the outside world.

Lothar CAVIEZEL (Observateur de la Suisse)

Comme les autres délégués qui m'ont déjà précédé la Suisse aussi voudrait vivement remercier le Secrétariat pour l'excellent rapport sur le *Plan à moyen terme* qui nous a été soumis. C'est le premier rapport qui intègre le Cadre stratégique de la FAO et c'est à partir de notre propre expérience dans le cadre de la coopération suisse que nous reconnaissons que ce processus d'élaboration et d'utilisation de cet outil de pilotage à la FAO est aussi important que le Plan lui-même. Nous sommes impressionnés par la cohérence du *Plan à moyen terme* obtenue grâce à l'action multidisciplinaire sous forme de 16 domaines prioritaires pour une action interdisciplinaire. Nous sommes satisfaits avec la planification qui doit être mise en œuvre par les entités de programme et dont la méthode consiste en: l'identification de la raison-d'être de l'activité proposée; la formulation des objectifs aux résultats recherchés; la fixation des produits à obtenir et l'élaboration des indicateurs de performance. Nous souhaitons que globalement la même méthode de planification soit maintenue par le Programme de travail et budget à partir de 2002-2003.

Bien que les indicateurs de performance nous semblent suffisants pour le *Plan à moyen terme*, nous sommes d'avis que pour le Programme de travail et budget un effort particulier devra être fait en vue d'élaborer des indicateurs plus précis et plus facilement mesurables, en particulier dans le cas des projets techniques. Ces derniers devront bien entendu être à la base du suivi et évaluation des activités entreprises. Et mon dernier point est très bref: la Suisse soutient, comme d'autres pays l'ont déjà fait, l'intégration d'un scénario supplémentaire concernant un taux de croissance annuelle zéro et les raisons ont été suffisamment données par d'autres collègues.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Observer for Bulgaria)

I take this opportunity to express Bulgaria's high appreciation for the efforts of the Secretariat to prepare this *Medium-Term Plan* which, when approved and during the future reviews, revisions and improvements, will be a clear and readable road map for us to carry out *FAO's Strategic Framework*.

I would humbly express the hope that in that future more perfect form of the *Plan*, there would be a proportionate measure of attention attributed to the needs and contributions of the countries in transition, one of which I have the honour to represent.

And finally, I would like to make one very specific proposal to the Secretariat, as far as possible improvement of the *Medium-Term Plan*. I suggest that the Secretariat envisages in the Plan, as well as in the future Programmes of Work and Budget, a single, I would call it 'duty' line of financing for, let us say 50 minutes, at every session of an FAO body, to satisfy the will of those members who feel obliged to verbally express themselves against the concept of the multifunctional character of agriculture. I am sure that this would satisfy these members' needs, while doing no harm to the concept, which is quite alive and kicking in our part of the world, against all odds.

Ms Carmela BASILI MASTROPASQUA (Observer for Soroptimist International)

Thank you for giving us the floor as Representative of the Soroptimist International, a service organization which has recently obtained a liaison status with FAO.

Soroptimist International is proud of this recognition which adds to those already granted, for a long time, by the United Nations, ECOSOC, and other United Nations Agencies.

Soroptimist International is involved in many issues of concern to FAO, especially those related to women in general, and to problems of food security. We look forward to starting active cooperation with FAO, especially at field level, where Soroptimist International has underway projects in developing countries.

Mrs Francesca RONCHI (Observer for the International Federation of Home Economics)

The International Federation for Home Economics has noted with satisfaction the actions proposed in pages 163-164 for enhanced cooperation with NGOs.

We are at present participating at FAO Headquarters in the planning of the FAO/NGO/CSO website, together with 30 colleague members of the INGO group in Rome at FAO.

The International Federation was represented at the FAO/NGO/CSO Regional consultation for Europe in Porto in July 2000. We think that these consultations represent very useful fora for NGOs to meet, know each other and exchange experiences and ideas. We trust that this initiative will continue in the future, even though shortage of funds may limit participation in certain regions.

We are interested in participating in the Advisory Committee planned at a global level, and ready to cooperate in it.

We would like to inform the Council that the XIX World Congress of the International Federation, held in Accra, Ghana, in July 2000, passed two resolutions which are of interest to FAO, concerning the expanding role of Home Economics in the new century.

I wish to draw attention particularly to one of them which includes a proposal to the United Nations for an International Year of Food Security. The Federation is processing the proposal through official channels and procedures at the United Nations in New York, and is seeking the support of other NGOs, Governments and partners concerned.

Finally, the Federation wishes to acknowledge the technical support received from FAO Headquarters and the Regional Office in Accra, through the participation of the Director of the Women and Population Division, and the Regional Office staff at the International Federation for Home Economics Congress.

To end, I wish to raise a question concerning the resources implications which are reported as being included under field programmes for this item, NGO/CSO. The food programme budget is very general and not detailed. We assume that a detailed budget, with more specific references to this chapter, will be included in the Programme of Work and Budget which is being prepared for the Conference next year.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you for your contributions to the debate and I think the Council welcomes the format of the revamped *Medium-Term Plan* and its solid links with the Strategic Framework. The Plan should provide a useful basis for the Secretariat to proceed with the preparation of proposals for the next Programme of Work and Budget, taking into consideration the debate and, no less, the points raised by Australia, Canada, Argentina, Korea and the European Commission.

I now offer the floor to Mr Wade to answer questions raised and make any additional comments in the light of the discussion.

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

There are really a very large number of issues, and I am a little bit worried about time, but I will try my best. First of all, talking about the *Medium-Term Plan* process to put this all in context, you are looking at the Medium-Term Plan for 2002-2007, which will go to the Technical Committees in the first quarter of next year. The reports of the Technical Committees will come back to the Council for their consideration, but it is not planned at this stage to have a separate item on the *Medium-Term Plan*.

Now, then the *Medium-Term Plan* goes on and the process starts again in November 2001 internally, because that is when we commence work on the *Medium-Term Plan for 2004-2009* and that will then take into account the sorts of comments that have been made here today, and also the Programme and Finance Committee.

Let me superimpose on top of that, the Programme of Work and Budget process. At the same time as you review the output of the Technical Committees, COAG, COFI and COFO, you will also have before you the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 2002-2003 which will be translating the *Medium-Term Plan* into a Biennial Budget, taking into account your various comments. That goes to the May Programme and Finance Committees, and to the June Council and then gets converted into the full Programme of Work and Budget for the Programme and Finance Committees in September 2001, and the November Council and Conference. It is not the Secretariat's intention, at this stage, to revise the *Medium Term Plan 2002-2007*. Firstly because it would be very expensive to reproduce the document again. Secondly, because it will be revised anyway in the rolling process. Then thirdly, you would be having to consider both the *Medium-Term Plan* and the SPWB at the same Council Session, which really will put a load on the agenda.

I would like to turn now to the question of the budget level. It has been expressed by different delegates in different ways. Some delegates are referring to the level of the *Medium-Term Plan*, some are referring to the level of the Programme of Work and Budget, and India's last intervention was interesting on this point. I think I need to explain a little bit, the Director-General's perspective on the *Medium-Term Plan* and why he proposed what he proposed. He made certain remarks at the Programme and Finance Committee, and I think that they are worth repeating here. His starting point are known facts, such as that there are 1.2 billion people who earn less than a dollar a day; that each night 790 million people go to bed hungry. That we know, that unless something changes, we will not meet any of the objectives of the great summits of the 1990s.

So, the question, therefore, is: what is our capacity as Member Nations? And when we talk about our capacity when it comes to resources, we have to talk about the wealthy Member Nations. We know that government spending has risen significantly in just about every developed country. If I take 1993 as a starting point for an index, and call that 100, Australia is now 122 in 1998; France is at 113 in 1997; Germany at 107 in 1998; Italy at 115 in 1998; Switzerland at 109; UK at 114; USA at 122. We also know that it was an extraordinary period of growth in wealth. I will just give you a few of the stock market indexes: 100 in 1993; Dow Jones 328; NASDAQ 545; DAX 440; the French Bourse 368; the UK Financial Times Index 227.

So, how has the international community responded to the facts I stated at the beginning; that is, the matters you addressed this morning in the Report of the Committee of World Food Security. Combined with the growth in government spending in most developed countries, if not all, and the growth in wealth, the same index for FAO (100 in 1993), has now fallen to 88, whereas external assistance to agriculture has fallen to 85. I think that you have to see the Director-General's point of view: how could he possibly propose to you a *Medium-Term Plan*, which proposes a decline in resources? In all conscience, what do you expect of him? He would be abrogating his responsibility to the membership at large.

I think it is fair to say, that to agree with what has been said, which is that the resources shown in the *Medium-Term Plan* are the Secretariat's perspective of what is required to implement the Strategic Framework. I therefore put it to you that there is little point in coming up with another *Medium-Term Plan* scenario, because it is not going to be the instrument of your formal financial commitment to the institution; it is always going to be the Secretariat's perspective.

Which leads us, then, to the Programme of Work and Budget, where of course the question of scenarios becomes much more critical, because you are dealing with the appropriation in the Conference in November 2001; what you, Member Nations, are prepared to commit to this institution? I imagine in the end, we will have to produce scenarios, but I would ask you to, very carefully, consider what you are asking for. If you are serious about ZNG, do you really know what you are asking for? ZNG actually is larger than zero real growth at the moment, because of the exchange rate, and if that is what you want us to do, I am sure the Director-General will seriously consider it.

One Member, on behalf of a Group, suggested that there should be a January meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee, to discuss an addendum to the *Medium-Term Plan*. I think in

my response, I have already indicated that that would not be appropriate, but I would say that a January Programme and Finance Committee does present other problems. I recall the fact that at the Conference in November 1997, by Resolution C 97/9, eliminated the words in General Rule XXVIII such that the budget was to be considered by the Programme and Finance Committees early in the Conference year. So, if we are just going to meet to do that, I think that we have a little bit of a problem with the intent of the Conference. At this stage, I would recommend that we address the issue at the May meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, when they will receive the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

May I now turn to the question of priorities. I will not try and go through all of the comments made regarding priorities. The Secretariat has taken note, there is the Verbatim, and we will, of course, take all of these comments into account in both our work on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and on the next version of the *Medium-Term Plan*.

But it is worth addressing two comments. I think the first one is the Technical Cooperation Programme, where the indication was given that the increase was not justified. I think I have to say that the Director-General is responding to a Conference Resolution. Therefore, I am not sure that he is required to give any justification when he is instructed by Conference to increase the allocation to the Technical Cooperation Programme. I would add, however, that it has always been recognized as being an unprogrammed resource, so therefore, to ask us to programme an unprogrammed resource seems a little bit illogical. Of course, there is extensive *post-facto* reporting on the Technical Cooperation Programme, and if you wish to have further information, you should let us know, but there are details in the Programme of Work and Budget, there are details in the *Programme Implementation Report* and there are details in the Financial Accounts of the Organization, by country.

For the FAO Representatives, I think I will pass on that, and leave it to the item on FAO's presence at country level, except to say that the requirement for additional resources for FAORs is the correct way to resolve the problem that that paper is trying to resolve. You have a call from a number of members who, generally speaking, joined the Organization later and therefore were too late to get into the list of FAORs because there is a ceiling on the number that we can have. The paper on FAO presence at country level, tries to provide an answer within the constraints of no increase in the Budget, but that is not an ideal answer. There is no pretence or claim being made by the Secretariat that this is the best way to do that. The best way to do it is to create FAORs where they are required. And so this budget proposal within the MTP allows for that to happen.

I cannot remember who asked, but they felt that they could not see what resources are allocated to the Special Programme for Food Security. May I refer you to page 147 of the English version, where Programme 256 is separately identified. And, if you need any further information, please let me know. The Evaluation is currently in the planning stage, and it is under the auspices of my office. I have seen the initial timetable, and I am afraid it does run into December 2001. You will recall that this is an evaluation of the SPFS as it completes the cropping seasons in different parts of the world. It will really be very difficult to get a report to the Conference, but I take note of the request. Bear in mind that this Evaluation will be carried out in five regions, so it really is quite extensive.

On the *Medium-Term Plan* itself, on data, there were various requests made, and I wish briefly to address them. Extra-budgetary data: yes, it is true that *Medium-Term Plan* only mentions priorities for extra-budgetary resources, it does not provide forecasts for the next six years. I have to say, I do not think it ever will provide realistic forecasts for a six-year period. Extra-budgetary resources are dependent on donors making their own commitments to us, and it is rather imaginative to come up with the sorts of commitments they are likely to be able to make. So I do not think it is really possible to prepare a six-year forecast which has any real value. I would add, however, that we do make a two-year forecast in the Programme of Work and Budget, and will continue to do that.

Regional dimensions was raised, both in this Council and the Programme and Finance Committees. We will bring regional dimensions also into the Programme of Work and Budget, as

we have in the past, and we will examine the possibility of trying to bring the regional dimensions into future versions of the *Medium-Term Plan*.

Two delegates raised suggestions about comparison with the current situation, when looking at the resources allocated to strategic objectives and corporate strategies. That is something which, of course, we would expect to do in future *Medium-Term Plans*, but was very difficult to do in this Plan. Remember, the base is developed on a completely different structure, it is developed against the sub-programmes, which themselves were not related to the *Strategic Framework*, as it would have been a rather artificial exercise to create the base information. I hope you will accept that this is, in fact, the base for future comparisons.

One Member asked why all entities were for 2002 to 2007, when in fact some of them start in the current biennium. You are quite right, we had to make a decision about whether we took any entities back in history. Some of our programmes started with the new programme model earlier, in particular 211, and so we could have done that, but we thought it would confuse the readers of the document and therefore decided to start at 2002 and move on from there.

Efficiency gains. First of all, one delegate asked for a document. I am pleased to be able to respond very efficiently: there is one, it is CL 119/INF/12 and that is available now to Members of Council. The argument was made, that because we have had efficiency gains of 50 or 60 million dollars, that therefore there was no real problem to absorb all the budget cuts we have had since 1994. That, of course, is an argument that one would expect, but can I say that there is the alternative argument which is that these efficiency gains were made by managers and were removed from them, taking away all incentive to make savings, to increase allocations to programmes, to improve programmes. And I also add that the efficiency gains went to reduce assessed contributions, and as mentioned in the Director-General's foreword, 87 percent of those gains went to OECD countries. Now, again, as OECD are the major contributors, one can see their point of view. But, there is a case for saying that some of those efficiency gains should have been ploughed back into the programmes, which you claim are all important.

On the question of the *Medium-Term Plan* format, indicators, what they relate to, whether they relate to outcomes, or objectives, as is the term in the document, or to outputs. I have to be frank, the indicators we gave you were a combination, or a précis of indicators we had received on both of those. We recognize they need sharpening up, and we will take note of that, and you will see an improvement in the future.

Outputs versus activities. That is a hard one. Outputs are products or services in our definition. We run into problems when we get to things like advisory services and support to things. The product of the service is not quite so easy to define, and hence sometimes you will find words like "support to". If there are suggestions for improving that, we would appreciate them.

Finally, there was the suggestion that certain programmes were not really programmes and the examples given were under 210, P1 and S1, where you have the Commission for Genetic Resources on Food and Agriculture, and you also have COAG. The point here is that we have three entity types. We have the continuing programme activities, we have the technical projects and we have the technical service agreements. And in the model that was approved by, in fact, the Programme Committee and the Council, technical service agreements are there to cover such services as servicing major meetings. So, we feel that it is a legitimate approach and perhaps the problem is in trying to see these as programmes.

There were a lot of comments on supporting the increased attention to inter-disciplinarity and the PAIAs, but there were also some questions. Who is accountable? The Deputy Director-General has now appointed Coordinator/Chairpersons for each PAIA and requires those Chairpersons to report to him in writing once per annum, on the annual work plan for the next year, and on the report of implementation for the previous year, so that is how the accountability monitoring chain will be maintained. It also gives the Chairperson the capacity to be able to raise issues, for example, where there may not have been sufficient cooperation from contributing divisions, etc.

Others raised the idea that there should be more positive forms of management for PAIAs, such as joint programming, etc. Can I say that we have looked at the ideas of matrix management and we have, on the whole, at this stage decided that we must keep our sectoral structure; we cannot be a centre of excellence in forestry, for example, unless we do. So therefore we have a sectoral structure, which has to be able to handle interdisciplinary activities. Therefore, we have established these PAIAs with their coordinators and their Inter-departmental Working Groups. So, that is our solution for the present. I am not saying it is the only solution, it clearly is not, but we are going to try and make sure it works.

Enhancing excellence, yes, it is a gap in the current *Medium-Term Plan*, as it is the only one of the strategies to address cross-organizational issues which we did not include. We really felt we were not ready to discuss it further. We wanted to address the one on enhancing interdisciplinary action and on improving the management process, and in particular the human resource side of that before we addressed it. But it is not forgotten and it will be in the next *Medium-Term Plan*.

I have rushed my response, but I do hope the interpreters managed to get sufficient through to Members who do not speak my language. I would now ask you permission to pass the floor to Mr De Haen to address the issue of the multifunctional character of agriculture.

Hartwig DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

Certainly I will refrain from that, but I would have been pleased to wait until tomorrow with my reply, and keep you all thrilled with what I would have to say.

I want to address the question raised by the distinguished delegate of Australia, who referred to the project entitled "Socio-Economic Analysis and Policy Implications of the Role of Agriculture in Developing Countries". Several of you have referred to that as well. I will be very brief. I will say at the outset that the project became operational in September 2000. Its objective is to document the economic, social and environmental roles of agricultural, in the diverse conditions of developing countries, and to help clarify the impact of policies on these roles, of various policies.

The main approach for this purpose is through comparative studies in different countries. Several of these roles' contribution to economic growth, food security, employment and poverty alleviation are generally well documented, though we must agree that they are not as well documented, they are not always as specific to developing country situations as we would wish, and as some of us believe. There is a gap in research.

Other functions, in particular environmental or social cultural functions, have been researched only very sparsely or not systematically, yet the relevance of these roles for the viability of rural communities and for sustainable agriculture and rural development cannot be underestimated. Therefore, we believe that assembling information and analysing the roles in a systematic and comparative approach is a necessary step in improving the capacity of developing countries to optimize the contribution of agriculture to sustainable development. This is the aim of this normative project.

This work is seen by the Secretariat as in conformity with the mandate it has received to pursue work on sustainable agriculture and rural development. The distinguished delegate of Australia referred to the *Medium-Term Plan*, and the transparency of the *Medium-Term Plan* in this respect is found in entity 224 P.2. Let me read to you the objective of this entity. It says: "To enhance Members' capacity to maximise the contribution of agriculture to rural development, food security and poverty alleviation (especially rural poverty)", and major output number one of this entity says that the output is to produce reports and technical publications providing comparative analysis of the economic and other roles of agriculture for equitable development.

I would submit, therefore, that it is not quite true to say that this project has no reference in its objectives in the *Medium-Term Plan*.

Now regarding the other question raised by the distinguished delegate of Australia, and that was why there is no specific PAIA for this type of work. Let me say that the inter-disciplinary

cooperation we undertake in FAO goes, I would say, far beyond the priority areas mentioned in the *Medium-Term Plan*. Inter-Departmental cooperation on sustainable agriculture and rural development is done, I would say, on a routine basis between, and among, several Departments. In the case of this project here, there is and will be a close interaction in particular between the entity that I just presented to you, and the entire Programme 253, Rural Development. But there is also interaction with other entities, and the purpose of the Inter-Departmental Task Force that the delegate referred to is exactly to ensure this type of cooperation.

I would like to add that the project does not, and I say does not, make reference to the multifunctional role of agriculture, which many of you have responded to and made comments on, during your debate. We are aware that the multi-functional role of agriculture has been a concept on which Conference could not agree, neither on the meaning of this concept nor on the role of FAO working on it. However, we submit that this does not detract from the existence of economic, social and environmental consequences of, and objectives for, agriculture and rural development.

May I finally quote from the *Guidelines for the Integration of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development into Agricultural Policies* that we have published in 1997, but the quote is just a quote of the Council, I mean this Body, which determined in 1998 that sustainable agriculture and rural development is a type of development which is such that it is sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors, which conserves land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, is environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable. It is this concept under which this project in question is operating.

The delegate of Australia, when referring to the Japanese Trust Fund also raised the issue of whether Trust Funds can be used to assist FAO's normative work and how members are kept informed. I would submit that this question goes far beyond the example of the project under discussion here, and therefore I would hope that you will understand that I cannot, in response to this question, go into that under this agenda Item.

The meeting rose at 20.10 hrs

La séance est levée à 20h10

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.10 horas.

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Nineteenth Session Cent dix-neuvième session 119º período de sesiones
Rome, 20-25 November 2000 Rome, 20-25 novembre 2000 Roma, 20-25 de noviembre de 2000
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
22 November 2000

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN

I understand that Australia has asked on the floor for a Point of Order.

**IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (CONTINUED)**
**IV. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET,
AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (SUITE)**
**IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS
PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS
(CONTINUACIÓN)**

8. MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2002-2007 (CL 119/17) (CONTINUED)
8. PLAN À MOYEN TERME 2000-2007 (CL 119/17) (SUITE)
8. PLAN A PLAZO MEDIO 2000-2007 (CL 119/17) (CONTINUACIÓN)

Point of Order

Point d'ordre

Punto de Orden

Paul ROSS (Australia)

Thank you for at last allowing me the opportunity to speak. I had raised my flag before the conclusion of the debate last evening on the Medium-Term Plan, but my request to speak was ignored. When you proceeded to conclude the debate, I raised a Point of Order, and yet my right to speak was still refused. I am surprised to be telling you, Mr Chairman, that the Basic Texts require that a Point of Order be dealt with immediately, but it was ignored.

Australia's concern was with your conclusion that Mr de Haen had answered the queries raised in the debate in a complete and comprehensive way. This was not the case. Mr de Haen actually chose not to address the serious governance question that had been raised by a number of delegates, and you did not ask Mr de Haen, or any of the Secretariat, when and how this matter would be taken up.

If you had allowed Australia the opportunity to speak last night, we would have been brief. We were very conscious of the time constraint, and that all too often we impose on the goodwill of the interpreters in cribbing extra time. But it is standard practice, exercised regularly in this Council and other FAO meetings, to give delegates the opportunity to seek clarification of the responses provided by the Secretariat. This opportunity was not accorded to Australia last night.

As those who heard Australia's statement yesterday would know, we had expressed concerns about a project being funded by Japan and implemented by FAO on the Socio-Economic Analysis and Policy Implications of the Roles of Agriculture in Developing Countries. There may well be very worthwhile aspects to this project and it may well produce some interesting results, but Australia remains suspicious.

As we said yesterday, this project first came to our notice at an OECD meeting on multifunctionality, where the meeting was told by an FAO Representative that this work is relevant to and could contribute to the OECD's work on multifunctionality. The project is being funded by a strong proponent of multifunctionality, and the project is being developed and is being implemented without any reference to the FAO Membership.

We heard yesterday from the distinguished delegate of Korea that they see no reason, despite the Conference outcome last year, why FAO should not be doing work on multifunctionality, and in that same context they gave strong support to the Japanese project.

So we were very interested to hear what Mr de Haen would tell us that could allay our fears. We were told that there is reference in the Medium-Term Plan to justify priority being given to this work. We were also told that this project falls squarely within the mandate of FAO's work on SARD, and we have been told previously that the project has nothing to do with trade. So we were quite surprised when we looked at the programme entity in the Medium-Term Plan that Mr de Haen had quoted to us as justifying FAO's work on the diverse roles of agriculture.

Programme entity 224P2 is entitled "Contribution of Agriculture to Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development and Food Security". So there is no mention of the diverse roles of agriculture in this title, nor in the rationale described for this activity. The only reference is under "Outputs", where it states that reports and technical publications are to be produced providing a comparative analysis of the economic and other roles of agriculture. So this is hardly strong justification for the Programme of Work set out in the Japan project.

But what we find difficult to reconcile is that having heard the Japanese project was centred on SARD and not about trade, is that the Programme 2.2.4, under which 224P2 appears, is entitled "Agriculture, Food Security and Trade Policy". So we are not satisfied with the advice provided by the Secretariat, and having not been given the opportunity to obtain clarification last night, we will continue to pursue the matter.

As we have said, there may well be worthwhile aspects to the project, but we have not heard anything to allay our suspicions that this work is circumventing the outcome of the last FAO Conference. And we intend to return later to the governance question that was raised by a number of delegations concerning the transparency of the development of FAO's extra-budgetary activities.

Finally, it occurs to us that Australia is the only Member of this Council to have formerly received a copy of the Japan project document. In the interests of transparency, and to help Members' understanding, we would recommend that this document be distributed to the Council Members today.

I thank the Members of the Council for their patience.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much, Australia, and I understand that you are going to take up the matter again in a later item on the agenda. I think we should, indeed, be able to make available all documents to all Members of the Council.

I would like to ask Mr de Haen if he would like to respond on this Point of Order.

Hartwig DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

Thank you, Mr Ross, for the further questions. I do not think I am going to reply to your question regarding governance and transparency and reporting about extra-budgetary funded projects. You said you would raise that under another item or on another occasion. I also heard the Chairman already give you a reply concerning the availability of the project document for other interested parties.

May I then only reply to one substantive question that you raised, and that was that you are surprised to see the entity which I quoted as the relevant entity in the Medium-Term Plan to be an entity under a programme that has "trade" in the title. It is true that Programme 2.2.4 is entitled "Agriculture, Food Security and Trade Policy", but may I point to the fact that this Programme is composed of quite a number of entities, including those falling plainly into the area of trade, commodity analysis and support to Member Nations in commodity and trade development matters. But this is not to say that all the entities under this overall Programme have to do with trade, and in fact, if you look at the organizational structure, you will see that entity 224P2, which does not mention trade and does not deal with trade, is under the leadership of the Agriculture Economics Division, whereas the others are under the leadership of the Commodities and Trade Division of FAO.

So we do have a broadly-based Programme here that is including trade, but it deals with many rather independent matters. This is not to say that somehow there are not interrelationships between the entities, but as the Medium-Term Plan is structured, the programmes tend to be relatively broadly defined and therefore you find "Agriculture, Food Security and Trade Policy" in the same Programme. But I want to assure you again that the project under question itself is with Aspects of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and not, at least not directly, with trade.

The conclusions that those who will read the outcome of that project will draw, of course, is left to those who will read them, and will make use of them, but we do not intend to link to trade.

CHAIRMAN

We will move on to Item 9 of our Agenda, namely reports of the Joint Meetings of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee held in Rome, May and September, 2000, as set out in documents CL 119/8 and CL 119/9.

9. REPORTS OF THE JOINT MEETINGS OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (MAY 2000 AND SEPTEMBER 2000) (CL 119/8; CL 119/9)

9. RAPPORTS DES RÉUNIONS CONJOINTES DU COMITÉ DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITÉ FINANCIER (MAI ET SEPTEMBRE 2000) (CL 119/8; CL 119/9)

9. INFORMES DE LAS REUNIONES CONJUNTAS DEL COMITÉ DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS (MAYO Y SEPTIEMBRE DE 2000) (CL 119/8; CL 119/9)

9.1 Savings and Efficiencies in Governance

9.1 Économies et gains d'efficience en matière de gouvernance

9.1 Economías y eficacia en el ejercicio del gobierno

9.2 FAO Presence at the Country Level

9.2 Présence de la FAO dans les pays

9.2 Presencia de la FAO en los países

9.3 Proposals for the Use of Arrears (CL 119/19)

9.3 Propositions relatives à l'utilisation des arriérés (CL 119/19)

9.3 Propuestas de utilización de los atrasos (CL 119/19)

9.4 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports

9.4 Autres questions découlant des rapports

9.4 Otros asuntos planteados en los informes

Ronald ROSE (Chairman, Programme Committee)

I believe that as many of the items that we discussed in the May meeting of the Joint Committees, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Mekouar, were then carried on into the September meeting, we had agreed that we would cover them both under the same topic.

This is the first opportunity for me to report to Council since my election during the Hundred and Eighteenth session. Before I begin with the Reports of the Joint Committees, please allow me to express my thanks to the Members of the Council for the trust and for the confidence which they have shown by electing me to the position of Chairman of the Programme Committee.

I also wish to express my appreciation for the excellent cooperation I have received from the Members of the Programme Committee, from the Secretariat, in particular Ms Adnan Quereshi, the Secretary of the Programme Committee, and from Bonaria Casu, for her continued assistance. I would also like to pay tribute to Micaela Laurelli, who has served the Programme Committee diligently and skilfully for many years, and who took a well-deserved retirement from the Organization just last month.

As I mentioned before, many of the issues that were raised at the May Joint Meeting were continued on in September, and so we have decided to treat both Reports together. I will, of course, respond to any questions on the Reports of the individual meetings if questions are raised.

Many of the topics which we discussed have resulted in specific requests for decision by this Council. I propose to review quickly all of the major issues discussed, and then we turn to a more detailed discussion of each item that does require your decision, with the assistance of the Secretariat, where required.

One of the first items that we turned to in the spring Joint Meeting was the question of FAO Presence at Country Level. Those of you who were present during the Thirtieth Conference last November recall the large number of requests for the creation of distinct and separate FAO Representations for their countries. In the conclusion of the debate, the Chairman of the Conference requested the Director-General to review this matter and to submit proposals for decision to the Council, and to its relevant Committees, on how best to respond to these requests.

Consequently, the Director-General presented a paper to the May 2000 Joint Meeting, in which he recognized that he had on one hand this very clear demand for additional representations, but on the other hand he had a Zero Nominal Growth budget.

You have before you a recommendation that the proposal made by the Director-General should be implemented with caution, paying due attention to a number of issues recorded in paragraph 24 of the document CL 119/9. The Joint Committee also requested that a progress report be produced based on an evaluation of the procedures that the Director-General has proposed.

I will cover the Director-General's specific proposal and the Committee's concern in more detail under agenda Item 9.2.

The next item we took up, at the request of Conference, was the question of the Use of Arrears. Members will recall Conference Resolution 99/3, which charged the Council to approve a list of items which would be funded from the receipt of any arrears which might come in surplus to specific statutory requirements, and that the Council would review these proposals on the basis of advice from the Joint Committees. Consequently, the Joint Committees considered a list of possible expenditures, matching the criteria specified in Resolution C 99/3. Essentially those criteria stated that these must be one-time expenditures.

In discussing the twelve proposals made by the Secretariat, the Members of the Committees made a number of observations, and our advice to the Council, along with our observations are conveyed in paragraphs 36 to 38 of document CL 119/9, and again, we will return to this item in greater detail under agenda Item 9.3.

The next item we addressed was the question of the Proposed Reform of the General Debate at Conference, which we discussed under a standing item that appears on the agenda of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, entitled Savings and Efficiencies in Governance.

The topic of reform of the General Debate first arose at the Joint Meeting of the Committees in May of 1998 and has been discussed, on and off, most recently in September of 1999 when we agreed to defer discussion again until 2000. During our meeting in May 2000, we noted that the Regional Conferences would be experimenting with a half-day round-table discussion among Ministers. We then requested the Secretariat to prepare a document for our September 2000 Meeting, which took account of this experiment.

In our meeting in September of 2000, we reviewed the paper which the Secretariat had prepared and we also heard about the format which had been adopted at the United Nations General Assembly Millennium Summit in New York, which featured four separate regionally-representative round-table discussions of selected topics by Heads of State and Government.

With these two separate options on the table, the Committees requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper for the consideration of Council on the options available, including their financial and

their time requirements, and one Member of the Joint Committee offered financial assistance to the Secretariat to prepare this item. This paper, which is Council document CL 119/15, will be discussed under agenda Item 9.1.

In requesting the Secretariat to produce this paper, the Committees recognized that there was insufficient time to produce a document and circulate it within the normal time requirements for a Council document. Hence, you would have received the document CL 119/15 very recently. Nevertheless, as the request was made by the Joint Committees, which include elected representation of all FAO Regions, and all FAO languages, I hope that Members will agree to give this document their full consideration at this meeting.

The Joint Committee in May also considered the preparation of the *Medium-Term Plan*, which you have discussed fully already. We particularly looked at the *Medium-Term Plan*, and its importance as a follow-up document to the *Strategic Framework*. We recognized the intensive efforts, on behalf of the Secretariat, to produce a *Medium-Term Plan* in the time that was required. However, the Committees recalled the process of developing the *Strategic Framework* itself had benefited from regular briefings of the membership, and during our May meeting, we requested the Secretariat specifically to brief the Permanent Representatives on the preparation of the *Medium-Term Plan*, and that this briefing should take place preferably before the discussion by the Joint Committees. This briefing did take place here in Rome on 15 September.

We also had extensive discussions of the *Medium-Term Plan* during our meeting on September 27. I am pleased to note that many of the points raised by Council Members yesterday were also raised by our two Committees.

While you have already debated the *Medium-Term Plan*, I would like to report that one of the documents, which did inform your debate yesterday, document CL INF/12 on Efficiency Gains, was produced at the request of the Joint Committees during our Meeting in September.

The Joint Meeting also devoted considerable time in both the May meeting and the September meeting, to the severe financial shortfall facing the Organization in the implementation of the first phase of the new financial systems and procedure, also referred to as the Oracle Project. While the ultimate recommendations for dealing with the financial shortfall rests mainly with the Finance Committee, there were possible repercussions throughout the Organization, touching both financial and programme aspects, which justified consideration by the Joint Committee.

During our May meeting, we were advised the cost of implementing the new financial systems had increased from US\$ 10 million to a figure of US\$ 20 million, at a time when there were no additional resources available to the Organization to implement this. Members were concerned about the impact of these problems on the Organization's ability to produce valid accounts, which could be audited, to produce accurate reports for donors, but also the impact of this delay on the ongoing process of decentralization. While the matter initially had been brought to our attention as an information matter, we agreed that action was required. We requested the Organization to immediately appeal for voluntary contributions to help offset this shortfall. Consequently, during the early summer, letters were sent to donors by the Director-General, requesting voluntary contributions to address this shortfall.

We also requested the Secretariat to present a full report to our September Meeting on the nature and extent of the work to be done; the cost, the time-scale and possible sources of funding.

In September, we were advised that there had not been a positive response to the Director-General's appeal for voluntary contributions. Nevertheless, the Secretariat did report to us that considerable progress had been made in addressing this financial crisis. The Secretariat had decided to delay the implementation of Phase 2 of the project, and to allocate the funds thus released to address the shortfall in Phase 1.

Members were assured that this would not delay the decentralization of work to country offices. Nevertheless, even though these funds had been allocated to this shortfall, there remained a shortfall of US\$ 5.9 million.

The Finance Committee, in its Report, may wish to report in detail on their deliberations of the Director-General's proposed solution, and to the specific concerns raised by the Members of the Finance Committee. I should report to you, on behalf of the Joint Meeting, that Members of the Joint Committee agreed strenuously that any budget reallocation should spare the substantive programmes of the Organization, those being those programmes covered under Chapter 2, as much as possible.

A number of additional themes ran through our debates in the Joint Committee. One of those was the ongoing work of decentralization within the Organization.

Members of the Joint Committee discussed the ongoing process of decentralization of resources and of authority to the FAO Representative Offices at the country level. We were advised in May that a new phase in decentralization was under way. A process which will shift much of the decision-making responsibility away from Rome, and from the Regional Offices, to the Country Office. This will transform the function of the FAO Representative, giving less emphasis on the representational role and greater stress on an operational and management function by the FAO Representative.

Many of the questions and concerns raised by Members during these discussions are reflected in our debate on the increased FAO Representation at country level, which is coming up under agenda Item 9.2.

Finally, I wish to draw to your attention the four Reports of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit, which were reviewed by the Joint Committees. I am not asking Council Members to pull out these four Reports now, and read through them, because they were reviewed by the Joint Committees, and have been passed on to you for information. But I just want to report to you that in our consideration of these four Joint Inspection Unit reports, the FAO has been shown to be among the leaders in the UN System, and has cooperated fully with the Joint Inspection Unit. Indeed, one of the more important reports, the one dealing with Cooperation with the Private Sector, was done at the request of the FAO, and that we had requested the Joint Inspection Unit to, in fact, prepare a follow-up report on this particular topic.

That covers the scope of the items that were discussed by the Joint Committees at both our May and September Meetings. With your concurrence, I will now turn to the specific topics, which require decision of the Council, and I suggest that we start with agenda Item 9.1, Savings and Efficiencies in Governance, which deals with the Reform of the General Debate at Conference.

As I mentioned previously, Members have recognized the need to make the general debate at Conference more interesting and more interactive. The Secretariat has produced a Report, CL 119/15, at the request of the Joint Committees, outlining the options for a change in the format of the debate at Conference in 2001. The document proposes two alternatives to the present situation. These options are contained in paragraph 7 of CL 119/15.

I am not sure if all of the Members have had the opportunity to review this document. One option might be that I could take five minutes and read through the options in paragraph 7, if that is agreeable? Under paragraph 7 of CL 119/15, the first option would be to have the General Debate focused on the State of Food and Agriculture. This option is essentially, the way I read it, the *status quo*. The second option is to have a half-day Round table discussion. This half day would be scheduled at the beginning of the Conference, and would be held instead of the General Debate. In this scenario, the overall availability of speaking time would naturally be reduced, and Ministers who expected to deliver their statements to Plenary early in the Conference proceedings might not be in a position to intervene at a later stage. Alternatively, the half day could be scheduled earlier in the Conference if there was agreement that this was to be done in parallel with the General Debate. In this case, the meeting of one of the Commissions would need to be suspended for the selected half day, given the limited number of meeting rooms in FAO, large enough to accommodate the full Membership. The paper also notes that under this option, the size of the Organization's Membership would *per se* constitute a limit to an open exchange and interaction among Ministers.

The third option is for four separate half-day Round table discussions. One way of maintaining the level of participation at Round Table meetings, at levels that allow interactivity, would be to schedule multiple discussions and limit the attendance to no more than 50 participants. Such an option would have other practical implications, such as a delay to the start of substantive work in the Conference, to allow for the additional meetings to take place. The Secretariat also reports to us there will be cost increases due to servicing of such meetings.

The Council has asked the Programme and Finance Committees to look at ways of reforming the General Debate at Conference. We now have a paper which outlines two options for this changed debate. The Council is invited to decide which of the options outlined above it would recommend. The selection option would then be incorporated in the document on arrangements for the Thirty-first Session of the Conference which will be submitted to your meeting in June of 2001.

It also has to be borne in mind that we had a debate under the Committee on World Food Security, on the possibility of the 2001 Conference being used as a forum for the World Food Summit: five years later, and, depending on how we feel that debate will take place, *ad hoc* arrangements will need to be made.

We seek the guidance of Council on which of these proposals would be preferable.

I then wish to turn to Item 9.2, FAO Presence at Country Level. As I mentioned earlier, there were a number of requests for additional FAO Country Representatives made at the Conference. The Director-General, in responding to these requests, has proposed a system and here I certainly request any members of the Secretariat who may be more familiar with the nuts and bolts of the proposal to chime in and augment my description. But, our understanding of his proposal was that the Director-General would allocate a Senior Technical Officer serving currently either in Headquarters or in a Regional Office, and post that Senior Technical Officer to the capital of one of the countries which had requested and had agreed to host an FAO Representative. That new FAO Representative would continue to carry out his or her technical duties frequently by the use of the electronic mechanisms now available to the FAO, and at the same time would undertake the more liaison-related functions of the FAO Representational Office.

The majority of the Members of the Joint Committees confirmed their support for the proposals by the Director-General, and the majority recommended their approval by Council. Some Members, however, expressed a number of concerns, particularly on the financial implication of their proposals. They also felt the criteria for the establishment of Country Offices needed further refinement. In addition, some members expressed concern that the option being proposed by the Director-General to locate FAO Representatives in the offices or in the premises of Ministries of Agriculture, could be viewed as inhibiting the independence of the FAO Representative.

I think it is safe to say that everyone on the Joint Committees recognized that the proposal of the Director-General would not provide the ideal conditions under which the officers concerned could effectively assume both the FAO Representative and the Technical Officer Duties. Nevertheless, we did recognize that it was one way that the Director-General could respond under the context of no additional resources for these requests.

Following our debate in September on the Director-General's proposal, the Committees agreed that the Director-General's proposals should be implemented and our recommendation to Council is that they be implemented, with caution, paying due attention to a number of factors which are outlined in paragraph 26 of CL 119/9, specifically the need to appoint to these new positions fully qualified staff members, which both technical and managerial expertise. Secondly, the application of existing mechanisms for regular performance appraisal of these new FAO Representatives should be made. Thirdly, due attention should be paid to the need to ensure that FAO Representatives continue discharge their functions independently. Fourthly, we should pay due attention to the capacity of recipient countries to fulfil their obligations which will accrue from the implementation of these proposals. The Committees also suggested that at some future date, they should receive a Progress Report, based on an evaluation of the new arrangements.

Therefore, with those concerns and with those observations, the Joint Committee agreed to propose to Council acceptance of the Director-General's proposal.

The third item which requires your consideration is the Use of Arrears. Resolution C 99/3 (I am just checking to make sure that I have the right spot in my notes) directed the Joint Committees to advise Council on a series of proposals which might be funded, should there be any surplus of arrears received. The Director-General and the Secretariat has calculated that if the major donor to the Organization does pay its arrears during the current biennium, there may be approximately US\$ 50 million available over and above what is required to pay off statutory debts and loans.

The Director-General, and here I am looking for my document on the use of arrears in document CL 119/19, The Use of Arrears, the Director-General has proposed 12 separate one-time expenditures. These are outlined in paragraph 15 of the document, and these include expenditures all the way from an additional US\$ 1.9 million up to one item which would cost an additional US\$ 11 million. The specific proposals are outlined, as I said, in paragraph 15. I should also point out that Resolution 99/3 does recognize that the Financial Rules of the Organization would initially stipulate that any funds surplus to requirements would be returned to contributors, i.e., to the membership and so this particular resolution says, in essence, notwithstanding that regulation, we are to look at proposals for one-time expenditures. These proposals have been looked at, and the Joint Committees did agree to these proposals with a number of observations. We also agreed with the Director-General's suggested priority that funds should be allocated initially to the item dealing with the new financial systems.

The observations, or the concerns, that Members wished passed on to the Council are the following. Some Members suggested that a one-time effort to provide additional technical support to Member Nations for strengthening their national sanitary and phytosanitary systems, and for developing a network of plant biotechnology in Asia, be added to the priorities. Some Members also emphasized the need to channel a substantial portion of surplus funds to Technical Assistance, while other Members commended the balance and distribution of resources between administrative and technical matters in the Director-General's proposal. The Committees, therefore, agreed to forward the proposal to Council with the above observations.

Lastly, while not directly related to the use of arrears, under the terms of this above Resolution, the Committees also wished to draw to the attention of Council the still-unresolved issue of accrued liabilities under the After-Service Medical Care Scheme, and we requested that the Finance Committee review this outstanding liability as a matter of urgency.

We are suggesting that the proposals, the twelve proposals by the Director-General, be approved by the Council

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Mi intervención es en nombre de los países miembros del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, con referencia al punto 9.2.

La FAO continúa sin Representante Residente en tres países del GRULAC que han presentado su solicitud expresa a la Organización: Guatemala, Panamá y Paraguay. El Director General propuso, congruente con las limitaciones del presupuesto aprobado del Crecimiento Nominal Cero, el establecimiento de oficinas de la FAO en los países con el concurso de los propios requeridores.

El Director-General de la FAO, a petición de la Conferencia en noviembre de 1999, formuló una propuesta por medio de la cual la Organización buscaba responder a las peticiones pendientes de los países de contar con oficinas en el marco de la Descentralización. En el mes de mayo de este año, la dirección general señaló la propuesta a la atención de la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas en el 83° período de sesiones y 94° período de sesiones respectivamente, y en esa oportunidad, como lo dijo el señor Rose, la mayoría de los Miembros de los Comités se mostraron dispuestos a sugerir al Consejo que la misma fuera aprobada. Algunos Miembros, sin embargo, expresaban el deseo de recibir más información, la cual se

podía examinar durante la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en su 84° período de sesiones y 95° período de sesiones, respectivamente, de septiembre del mes pasado. En dicha Reunión Conjunta se examinó la propuesta con la información ampliada requerida, y la mayoría de los Miembros de los comités confirmaron su apoyo a las propuestas contenidas en el documento JM 2000/1 y recomendaron su aprobación por el Consejo.

El GRULAC desea recordar que, aun cuando algunos miembros de los Comités expresaron ciertas dudas y preocupaciones, en su mayoría compartieron la opinión de la Secretaría de que las propuestas representaban la única forma viable en que la Organización podía responder positivamente a las peticiones de los Estados Miembros en desarrollo, para mejorar su enlace con la FAO en el contexto de un presupuesto Nominal Cero. La Secretaría subrayó también que las nuevas disposiciones habían recibido el visto bueno, en principio, de una serie de países que deseaban hospedar una Representación de la FAO, a pesar de los costos que entrañaban para ellos, tal es el caso que los Países Miembros del GRULAC: Guatemala, Panamá y Paraguay.

Las limitaciones señaladas sólo pueden superarse con un presupuesto mayor de la FAO previsible, específicamente, para el 2002-2003, de conformidad con el Plan a Plazo Medio 2002-2007. Las opciones, son pues: esperar la perfección, sólo posible con un mayor presupuesto de la Organización; o aceptar, en vista de las limitaciones financieras actuales, la propuesta del Director- General que, a pesar de las dudas o preocupaciones señaladas, es la única vía para hacer posible las Representaciones de la FAO en los Países que las han solicitado.

Los Países de la Región del GRULAC han reiterado, de manera permanente en las Conferencias Regionales, la importancia que tienen las Oficinas Nacionales de la FAO; Guatemala, Panamá y Paraguay han expresado formalmente al Director-General de esta Organización que se encuentran en condiciones de hospedar dicha Representación de la FAO a principios del año 2001, asumiendo los compromisos pertinentes para su operatividad. El Director-General comunicó a estos Países que la FAO ha iniciado acciones para identificar a las personas idóneas y proponerlas a la aprobación de los respectivos Gobiernos, instándoles a continuar con los preparativos para la posible apertura de las Representaciones, sin perjuicio de la decisión que tome el Consejo. Estimamos que, en consecuencia, deben aprobarse por este Consejo las oficinas de la FAO en Guatemala, Panamá y Paraguay en los términos propuestos por el Director-General.

Sra. Lilia ROMERO PEREIRA (Paraguay)

Quiero iniciar mi intervención parafraseando a un gran político muy querido y recordado por todos: *Last night I had a dream*, "Anoche tuve un sueño". Contemplaba maravillada la inauguración de la Oficina de la FAO en Asunción y oía, por el boletín de noticias, que también Guatemala y Panamá hacían lo propio en sus respectivos países.

Deseo expresar mis disculpas a los Señores Representantes por esta forma poco ortodoxa de mi intervención, pero las circunstancias así me lo exigen. Porque me es imposible comprender que estemos, por un lado hablando de descentralización, y al mismo tiempo ofreciendo sufragar los gastos que demanden la presencia de un funcionario que trabaje en las oficinas de la Regional de Santiago de Chile o en otro país de la misma Región. Increíblemente, sin embargo, se nos sigue negando la posibilidad, a pesar de que dicha Representación FAO estará operando con oficina propia y fuera del contexto del Ministerio de Agricultura. Además, no estamos creando nuevos puestos de trabajo, estamos exigiendo tan sólo poner en práctica la famosa política de la descentralización que tanto se pregona en los documentos de la FAO.

El Paraguay es uno de los países de mayor ruralidad en la Región (49 por ciento); su sector agropecuario genera más del 90 por ciento de las exportaciones. El 37 por ciento de la Población Económicamente Activa (PEA) trabaja en el sector agropecuario. La productividad sufre un continuo deterioro, producto de la reducción de las masas boscosas, como consecuencia de la sobre-exportación y el mal manejo de los suelos. Salta a la vista que se requiere una asistencia permanente de un organismo técnico de reconocido prestigio para un trabajo sistemático de mediano y largo plazo que pueda atender, de manera integral, nuestros problemas agrarios. Y ese organismo es la FAO.

Mi delegación comparte plenamente lo expresado por la Representante de la República Argentina, en nombre del GRULAC. Sin embargo, queremos hacer oír nuestros argumentos en este Consejo.

Ya ha pasado bastante tiempo y seguimos esperando materializar las recomendaciones emanadas de las Conferencias Regionales para América Latina y el Caribe; desde aquella celebrada en Asunción en 1996 hasta la de Mérida (México) del corriente año.

Necesitamos visualizar las áreas de cooperación, y para ello es imperioso fortalecer nuestra capacidad de formulación de una política agraria, que nos conduzca a hacer frente a la problemática nacional.

Requerimos una orientación clara, precisa, instrumentos técnicos y políticos para la modernización agraria, que pueda elevarse en forma de "Proyectos" luego de recorrer los lugares y palpar *in situ* cada palmo de nuestra geografía. Necesitamos un hombre en el campo de trabajo. Y esto le permitiría, al residente de la FAO, sugerir la incorporación de nuevas tecnologías con una capacidad de respuesta inmediata, en caso necesario, porque dispone del conocimiento y la vivencia del terreno. No es lo mismo diseñar recetas a miles de kilómetros de distancia.

Por todo esto mi delegación insta a los Señores Representantes, y muy especialmente de aquellas regiones ricas que no sufren las carencias de nuestra Región, a darnos el visto bueno para tener finalmente una Oficina de la FAO en Guatemala, Panamá y Paraguay y cumplir así mi sueño de anoche.

Ahmed AFAILAL (Maroc) (Langue originale arabe)

Je remercie M. Rose pour son excellente présentation du Rapport de la réunion conjointe à l'examen ce matin. Mes remerciements s'adressent au Secrétariat pour son excellente préparation du document. L'ouverture des bureaux de la FAO dans les Pays membres apporterait beaucoup de bénéfices, soit pour les pays qui l'ont désiré, soit pour les Régions et ceci est une évidence même. L'ouverture de nouveaux bureaux dans les pays, en particulier pour les pays qui le demandent, faciliterait la communication entre ces pays et l'Organisation et contribuerait à la présence d'experts et de fonctionnaires techniques sur le terrain, ce qui servirait les intérêts et les activités des ministères compétents dans les pays concernés pour la bonne préparation des projets en particulier et pour assurer un suivi continu de ceux-ci.

Comme vous le savez, la présence des fonctionnaires est une chose et la communication et la correspondance en est une autre. Par conséquent, au nom du Groupe africain et au nom de ma propre délégation, je ne peux qu'exprimer une fois de plus notre demande à l'Organisation pour que celle-ci ouvre des bureaux d'autant plus que ces pays sont prêts à défrayer une partie des coûts y relatifs.

Mostafa JAFARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

First of all, I would like to thank the Members of the Programme and Finance Committees and Mr Rose for a comprehensive representation of the report of the Joint Meeting of the Committees.

Regarding Item 9.2, FAO's Presence at Country Level: based on our experiences achieved by working with FAO, my delegation believes that before implementing FAO Medium- and Long-Term Plans, as well as better understanding of country real situations, it is necessary for FAO to have representations in those countries that have put in a request to this effect.

These representations could establish a bridge between the FAO working bodies and governmental and private-related organizations in the country. My delegation would like to support the Director-General's proposal in this regard.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

Je voudrais faire une déclaration au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses États Membres et cette déclaration est à mettre en facteur commun en fait avec le point 9, le point 10 et le point 11. Ce sera assez bref.

Au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses États Membres, je tiens à saluer le travail du Secrétariat et la qualité générale des documents présentés à notre examen. S'agissant des économies et des gains d'efficacité, j'aborderai la question de l'optimisation des travaux de la Commission européenne d'agriculture et de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe.

Lors de la dernière Conférence régionale pour l'Europe qui s'est déroulée à Porto en juillet de cette année, il a été demandé au Secrétariat de fournir une note d'orientation concernant la Commission européenne d'agriculture et ses liens avec la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe. Il faut féliciter le Bureau régional pour l'Europe pour la qualité et la clarté des propositions faites dans le "non-papier" qu'il nous a présenté à ce sujet. Sans négliger l'importante question de l'intérêt de maintenir cette Commission régionale et de la portée des sujets qui sont discutés, ce document prend en effet en compte, non seulement les aspects liés à l'Organisation, mais également aux coûts financiers.

La Communauté et ses États Membres proposent que:

- les sessions de la Commission européenne d'agriculture soient à caractère technique et traitent des questions d'intérêt spécifique pour la région Europe;
- que ses activités soient étroitement liées aux travaux de la Conférence régionale et que, de fait;
- la Commission européenne d'agriculture soit considérée comme un organe technique qui contribue, en tant que de besoin, à la préparation de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe et que la date de la prochaine session de la Commission européenne d'agriculture soit rapprochée de celle de la prochaine Conférence régionale programmée du 27 au 31 mai 2002.

Par ailleurs, nous avons pris note des inquiétudes exprimées au paragraphe 23 dans le Rapport de la session du mois de mai du Comité financier. Il apparaît que des dépenses qui ne sont pas financées dans le Programme de travail et budget continuent à être imputées sur le Compte de réserve spécial et sur le Fonds général de dépenses. Il y a lieu également de s'inquiéter de l'augmentation notable des engagements non liquidés depuis ces dernières années.

En outre, en ce qui concerne la question très importante de la présence de la FAO en dehors de Rome, je me réfère au document CL 119/9 paragraphes 20 à 28, des antennes très petites ne peuvent pas fournir une aide substantielle aux États Membres ni maintenir des réseaux au niveau régional. La FAO a renforcé ses Bureaux régionaux qui sont beaucoup mieux à même de servir d'avant-postes au centre d'excellence de Rome. Nous souhaitons apporter notre soutien au système des coordinateurs nationaux qui, à partir du ministère compétent du pays concerné, se tiennent en rapport avec les centres régionaux de la FAO et avec le Siège de Rome.

Nous voudrions également soulever ici un point concernant le document CL 119/INF/7 dans lequel la réponse du Secrétariat aux incitations formulées précédemment par le Conseil en vue d'une rationalisation plus poussée est la suivante, je cite: "Il s'agit d'un effort continu, sous réserve du maintien des systèmes et services administratifs adéquats". Cette observation ne permet pas au Conseil de juger de l'ampleur des mesures prises ni de leur efficacité. Les futurs rapports devraient être beaucoup plus clairs et plus transparents.

Nous nous joignons enfin à la Cour des Comptes pour regretter que les états financiers, non encore certifiés, ne soient pas disponibles plus tôt, ce qui empêche le Conseil de faire les recommandations appropriées au Secrétariat.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Permettez-moi de remercier M. Rose du Canada, Président du Comité du programme pour son rapport exhaustif qui n'a laissé aucun point dans l'ombre.

Je voudrais aborder les points, 9.1 et 9.2. En ce qui concerne le point 9.2, le Représentant du Maroc a présenté la position du Groupe africain, position avec laquelle je m'associe vivement. Je pense que le fait qu'une dizaine de pays souhaitant accueillir une représentation de la FAO, aient déjà donné leur accord de principe, en dépit des frais énormes que cela peut impliquer, devrait

nous pousser à adopter la recommandation concernant la proposition du Directeur général, proposition qui est la seule manière possible pour la FAO de répondre positivement, dans le contexte d'un budget à Croissance nominale zéro, aux demandes des États Membres en développement.

Dans la mesure où cette proposition ne concerne que le budget 2000-2001, on espère une augmentation des budgets futurs et notamment du budget 2002-2003 pour permettre la création de véritables représentations de pays dans les États Membres concernés en développement, afin de réaliser pleinement la décentralisation initiée par la FAO depuis 1994 avec les réformes fondamentales que l'on connaît.

En effet, ces réformes ne peuvent être poursuivies dans le contexte de budgets à Croissance nominale zéro que nous connaissons depuis 1993.

En ce qui concerne le point 9.1: la réforme proposée du débat général, le document du Secrétariat CL 119/15 reconnaît lui-même que l'option B "Table ronde d'une demi-journée" comporterait une réduction du temps d'intervention global des Ministres et qu'il faudrait donc renoncer à la séance d'une Commission pour toute une demi-journée.

Par conséquent, le nombre de Membres que compte la FAO limiterait de fait les possibilités d'échanges et d'interaction entre Ministres. Le Secrétariat mentionne également que la possibilité d'organiser quatre tables rondes d'une demi-journée envisagées dans l'option 6 semble, je cite, assez faible.

Nous voudrions ajouter que nous avons déjà eu un précédent et ce qui m'étonne c'est que le Secrétariat n'ait pas pris en compte celui-ci, sur lequel je souhaiterais d'ailleurs qu'il revienne. Ce précédent est la réunion des Ministres des pêches qui s'est tenue en mars 1999 ici même, au Siège de la FAO. Au cours de cette réunion, cette fameuse réforme de table ronde avait été envisagée et ce fut un exemple fâcheux, et cette interaction tant souhaitée n'a malheureusement pas eu lieu. Je crois qu'avant de proposer que cela ne se répète, il faudrait tenir compte du fait que cela a été un demi-échec, du moins pas été réussite.

Je fais ici appel au Secrétariat car on devrait également revenir sur le fait que si, et je crois que cela sera reflété dans le rapport, ce Conseil décide de créer un Forum Rome + 5, il sera impossible d'y arriver avec une réforme quelconque de ce débat général que l'on nous propose.

Enfin, je souhaiterais avoir le point de vue du Secrétariat sur la possibilité d'organiser cette réforme dans le cadre d'une Conférence d'élection d'un Directeur général. Je crois que ce serait difficilement conciliable.

Autant de limites et d'interrogations qui font qu'il nous semble qu'à l'heure actuelle, le *status quo*, qui constitue une des options réelles, nous semble la meilleure solution possible en attendant de pouvoir examiner davantage dans le futur une réforme souhaitée du débat général. Je crois que le ciblage du débat général qu'on appelle *status quo*, ciblage de la situation de l'alimentation et l'agriculture, a montré des progrès au cours de toutes ces récentes années.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

En estos días hemos oído reiteradamente que es fundamental que la FAO profundice sus acciones a favor de la seguridad alimentaria. Creemos que también sea necesario ampliar su presencia en los países, si ello no implica gastos adicionales, como es el caso de la solicitud de Guatemala, Panamá y Paraguay.

Por ello, la Delegación de México comparte plenamente lo expresado por Argentina en nombre del GRULAC y pide al Consejo que apoye las aspiraciones de estos tres países para que cuente, cada uno, con una Representación de la FAO, conforme a la opción propuesta por el Director General.

En particular, sobre el documento CL 119/9 hemos tomado nota del párrafo 7 en el que se expresa que, cuando se trate el Programa Bienal de Labores y Presupuesto, se abordarán con mayor relieve los aspectos regionales.

También hemos tomado nota del párrafo 16 en el que se manifiesta que, los Comités reconocieron que la cooperación del sistema de las Naciones Unidas con el sector privado, si bien era prometedora en cuanto a sus efectos mutuamente beneficiosos, tenía aspectos delicados que requerían un enfoque prudente. Este es un tema importante que merece una particular atención y que debe ser tratado no sólo en dichos Comités, sino entre las Representaciones Regionales y Nacionales de la FAO con las instituciones nacionales y sectoriales que coordinan la cooperación internacional en los Estados Miembros de esta Organización.

En el párrafo 23 del documento, en el que se hace referencia a la propuesta para que los recursos destinados a los Representantes de la FAO se aumentaran considerablemente en 2000-2003, se plantea además que algunos Miembros de los Comités expresaron preocupación por la opción de que los Representantes de la FAO se instalaran en los locales de los Ministerios de Agricultura, ya que eso podría interpretarse como una traba a su independencia.

Sobre este punto comento que el día 31 de julio de este año la Secretaría de Agricultura de México dispuso un inmueble de su propiedad para uso de la Representación de la FAO. Queremos puntualizar que eso no afecta en lo más mínimo la independencia de la FAO. Se hizo al amparo del Acuerdo que México subscribió con esta Organización en octubre de 1977 para apoyar el establecimiento y el funcionamiento de la Representación, con la más firme convicción de apoyar a la Representación y con absoluto respeto a ella.

Los párrafos 39 y 40 son particularmente interesantes. Se refieren a la modificación propuesta del debate general de la Conferencia. Al introducir el tema, cabe destacar la relevancia del mismo. Estamos hablando de una vertiente fundamental de la vida de la Organización, como foro de encuentro y debate. Es un tema sobre la Conferencia, órgano supremo de la FAO.

El documento CL 119/15 ha estado redactado de tal forma que induce a pensar que el *status quo* es la mejor opción. Sin embargo, mi Delegación ve con interés la propuesta de reservar medio día al comienzo de la Conferencia para que los jefes de las delegaciones mantengan debates en mesa redonda a efecto de promover una mayor interacción de los Ministros.

Cabe destacar la importancia de que los temas deberían relacionarse o derivar del documento sobre el *Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación*, lo que permitiría sustanciar el tratamiento temático.

Mohamed Abd El Hamid KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

At the outset I would like to thank Mr Rose for his excellent presentation on this subject and my thanks also go to the Secretariat for its good preparation of this item. I should like to thank the Director-General of this Organization for his approval regarding opening Country Offices in those countries that so wish.

You know that FAO plays an important role in field of agriculture and food at the international level, and especially in the developing countries. This Organization is the Specialized Agency that bears primary responsibility for food agriculture in the UN System. When Member Nations of the Organization ask for its presence in them, then this is their prerogative. They need the assistance of the Organization to promote agricultural activities and projects in helping their people ensure food security and alleviate poverty and famine. If the countries will bear the costs of opening the Country Offices, then we support the proposal of the Director-General, so as to allow the Organization to open Country Offices to achieve the goals of its mandate.

Bhaskar BARUA (India)

We are very happy to received the comprehensive documentation from the Secretariat. I also complement the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Mr Rose on the presentation and clarification so well made by him.

For some time now we have been considering the reform of the General Debate. During the Conference, this was also done. We welcome the suggestions made for a greater interaction between Ministers during the Conference by way of discussions.

We were expecting some suggestions on a number of thematic issues which could be taken up for interaction. We realize that practical problems and cost factors need to be kept in mind while making any suggestions for alternatives. One way out, could be that there could be two thematic issues available to the countries to choose from, decided in a previous Council, and these could be held over half a day each or even one day, in which some delegates could participate. The question is, what happens to a General Debate? Does it need to take place at all? This is a question we would like to raise.

With regard to the proposal of the Director-General for creating ten FAO Country Offices, we appreciate that the proposals have been made as directed by the Conference to satisfy the expert needs of some Member Nations. We also see that the Host Governments in question have agreed to meet part of the established running costs, though the specific details are not available at this moment. We support the initiative of the Director-General for responding to the genuine needs of the Members, despite the constraints imposed by Zero Nominal Growth budget.

We have a few comments on the FAO's new financial systems and procedures. We note with regret that the Oracle Project which was started in 1999 has made some progress, but not to the desired extent. This has resulted in considerable problems and cost over-runs, in the financial management system for the Organization. In the interests of the Organization, the project needs to be speeded up and completed in a timely manner to prevent further escalation of costs to the Organization. Unfortunately, there has been piecemeal budgeting and this is, perhaps, the cause of the poor progress.

The complexity of implementing such a project needs to be appreciated and support extended by all. The piecemeal approach has necessitated reappropriations, from time to time, within the budget by reallocations - taking money from important chapters such as Chapter 2 of the budget, that is, Technical Economic Programmes. Unless, there is substantial increase in the budget or areas of payment by the major donors, this may continue in the future, we note with regret.

We understand the substantial extra-budgetary contribution has been provided to the World Food Programme for the Financial Management Improvement Programme of that Organization. We feel, therefore, that in the absence of the substantial increase in budget, there must be strong extra-budgetary support for this Programme.

On the arrear area, we would like to inform very happily that India has been making its contribution regularly and well in time, and has also been availing of the benefit under the Incentive Scheme. We support the appeal of FAO to all Member Nations with contributions outstanding, to pay their contribution and outstanding arrears as soon as possible. We feel that additionalities should not be attached to contributions which will dilute the multilateral nature of this Organization. We also support the Secretariat's proposal for using the arrears as proposed, a one-time expenditure in the event the amount is received. We realize that the Director-General has undertaken this as a follow-up of the the Conference Resolution.

We would like to suggest or rather emphasize, that the importance of assisting Member States, particularly in developing countries to be better prepared for full participation in international trade in the liberalized trade regime. For this purpose, the Members could be provided additional technical support for the implementation of Codex Food Quality and Safety Standards and expertise for the current round of multilateral trade negotiations for agricultural products. We would also like FAO to take up the strengthening of technical support - as already mentioned by Mr Rose - and support Member Countries for capacity-building in national phytosanitary systems. An assistance to develop a network for plant biotechnology in Asia.

We would also be interested in knowing the present position regarding the prospects of arrears being paid.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Antes que nada, mis felicitaciones al Presidente del Comité del Programa, Sr. Rose, por el informe presentado. Voy a referirme específica y preferentemente a los puntos 9 y 2. Quiero

resaltar la capacidad de síntesis que ha tenido el Informe, la exposición del Sr. Rose, lo que ha dejado expedito el camino para avanzar en el fortalecimiento de la descentralización de nuestra Organización y, concretamente, para la apertura de nuevas Oficinas Nacionales acordes al mandato de no incremento presupuestario o Incremento Nominal Cero.

Quisiera concretar, muy especialmente, la moción para este Consejo de aprobar la instalación de las Oficinas Nacionales en Guatemala, Panamá y Paraguay, en los términos propuestos por el Director-General, para las cuales los respectivos países ya han asumido los pertinentes compromisos y donde se encuentra todo preparado para su puesta en marcha en enero próximo.

Como complemento a la moción quisiera agregar que, en los términos de la propuesta del Director-General quede aprobada cualquier instalación de la Oficina Nacional sin necesidad de ulterior declaración de este Consejo. Me refiero a aquellos países que, habiéndolo solicitado, aún no han asumido los pertinentes compromisos, de tal forma que no sea necesaria una revisión específica de cada caso concreto; siempre y cuando sea dentro del contexto de la propuesta realizada por el Director-General.

Finalmente, una reflexión: han habido Países Miembros que, haciendo un gran esfuerzo, han logrado asumir los compromisos, entre otros casos, realizando graves esfuerzos, podrán también actuarlos en el futuro; pero habrá varios que no podrán proceder. En ese sentido, se recomienda al Director-General el estudio de una propuesta para el caso de aquellos Países Miembros que no puedan asumir todos los compromisos, o para lograr continuar avanzando en el proceso de descentralización de la Institución.

Quisiera compartir con todos ustedes que Guatemala, se congratula del tono que ha mantenido la discusión de este tema. Felicito al Director-General por su propuesta sumamente imaginativa y que, dentro del principio de incremento presupuestario Nominal Cero, permite la apertura de oficinas nacionales. Se congratula también, y felicita el esfuerzo realizado por los Comités de Finanzas y de Programa en sus dos reuniones inmediatas anteriores, donde, con un debate sumamente franco y transparente, enriquecieron el tema y allanaron el camino para que esto fuese posible y, reitera su felicitación al Sr. Rose por su labor de síntesis que ha puesto el punto final, esperemos, a este tema.

Mme Ivone ALVES DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

La délégation gabonaise tient à remercier Monsieur Rose pour l'excellente présentation du document qui nous est soumis, ainsi que le Comité des finances et son Président, et le Comité du programme pour le travail accompli. Notre délégation fait sienne l'intervention faite par la délégation du Maroc au nom du Groupe africain.

En ce qui concerne le point 9.1, nous préférons la première option proposée au paragraphe 7 du document CL 119/15 qui nous apparaît la plus cohérente avec la tenue du Forum pour le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation cinq ans après dans le cadre de la Conférence que ma délégation a déjà approuvée.

Pour les conférences générales suivantes, nous ne serions pas opposés à la deuxième option sous réserve qu'elle n'engendre pas une augmentation des coûts de la Conférence, à moins qu'elle ne bénéficie de l'allocation de ressources extrabudgétaires volontaires.

En ce qui concerne le point 9.2, nous appuyons le renforcement de la présence de la FAO dans les pays à travers la création de nouveaux bureaux. Nous espérons également que lors de l'établissement du prochain Programme de travail et budget, la proposition contenue dans le Plan à moyen terme 2002-2007 tendant à augmenter les ressources allouées aux Représentants de la FAO pourra être approuvée.

En ce qui concerne le point 9.3, nous appuyons la proposition des comités y compris les suggestions qui se trouvent au paragraphe 36.

Bill DOERING (Canada)

Canada wishes to thank Mr Rose and the Committee for the work that they have done. We support this Report which we feel has arrived at many valuable conclusions.

Let me start by indicating that we agree that funding for the new Oracle system should be a priority and be approved as well the substantive programmes in Chapter 2 should be protected as much as possible. Regarding Savings and Efficiencies in Governance, we again want to thank the Secretariat for providing this summary document on efficiencies over the last six years.

We are pleased to note that those savings are rather significant between US\$ 50 and US\$ 60 million. For the next Council meeting, we would appreciate knowing both what those gains are and what you anticipate doing in the future to build on that work to-date. We consider it important to monitor and measure the impact of these changes as improved business practices are adopted by the FAO.

On the use of arrears, we would like to see the proposals prioritized. In general, the projects shown should follow the criteria outlined in paragraph 154 of the *Strategic Framework*. It may be preferable to postpone decisions on this item until next year when we will have a better appreciation of whether or not the arrears in fact will be received.

With respect to the *Presence of FAO at Country Level* we have indicated our position on that yesterday, and will not mention it further now.

Finally, Canada supports the idea of having a Ministerial Round-Table at the next FAO Conference which will make the proceedings both more interesting and relevant for all.

Katsuhiko TAKAHASHI (Japan)

Japan commends FAO Secretariat for its efforts to make the best use of available resources under the budgetary constraints, and strongly hopes that such efforts will continue. Japan also appreciates content of reports submitted by the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as Reports of the Joint Meeting of the two Committees. And we also value highly two documents CL 119/15 and CL 119/19, which would facilitate our discussion for these important issues.

I would like to make a few comments on the issues covered by this agenda Item 9.

Firstly, concerning the proposed reform of the general debate at Conference, Japan is of the view that we should further discuss this issue in tandem with the discussion on how the World Food Summit: five years later would be dealt with in the next Conference. However, after preliminary examination of the document CL 119/15, our preference is to choose a realistic option to start with and for the sake of further discussion, Japan regards option b) in this document appropriate at this stage.

Secondly, on FAO's Presence at the Country Level, my delegation fully understands the strong desire expressed by a number of developing countries for establishing full FAO Representation in their countries. However, as the severe budgetary situation will continue toward the foreseeable future, my delegation would like to reiterate its concern over the fact that in the Medium-Term Plan the establishment of additional country office is regarded to be one of the major factors causing the increase of the total cost.

Japan believes that the cost for the establishment of additional country Representations should be replenished with reallocation of financial resources such as currently summed-up Headquarter's resources or resources to be raised through rationalization of existing regional and country offices.

Japan also believes that FAO should carefully examine the feasibility, possible impacts on other activities and financial implications in realizing the Director-General's proposal to enhance FAO's presence at the country level through the outpost of senior technical officers. Japan also thinks that further promoting burden sharing with host countries or other United Nations Agencies will be one of the options to reduce the cost of existing regional and country offices

Thirdly, use of arrears. Japan wishes to draw attention of the distinguished delegates of Member States that we should be careful in handling this agenda item since this only deals with possible payments, on which we cannot predict the timing and the amount.

Therefore, Japan believes it indispensable for Council to be informed on the prospect of the arrears payment before entering into the detailed discussion on the use of arrears.

Having said that, please allow me to say in advance that Japan considers the proposed prioritization by the FAO Secretariat in document CL 119/19 seems quite reasonable. Japan believes it appropriate to put the highest priority to the "Corporate Administrative Systems" in order to rectify the stagnated situation of the current financial system.

We also support what the delegation of India mentioned on the Network of Plant Biotechnology in Asia, and we hope that this will be taken into consideration.

In the context of arrears and the context of Corporate Administrative Systems Japan has several concerns on the arrangements which the FAO Secretariat proposed. We have not received enough clarification from the Secretariat such as to why the Oracle programmes were chosen and justification for not calling for tender. But at the same time, Japan is fully aware that the current stagnated financial system may well cause further stagnation in FAO's administration including the delays in field operations and failures in decentralization.

Therefore, Japan concurs, with reluctance, with the proposal by the FAO Secretariat to reallocate US\$ 5.9 million with the current budget on the condition that the FAO Secretariat would prepare sufficient and appropriate additional information and explanations on the implementation of the Oracle project, including possible financial implications, in a transparent manner.

In addition, Japan would like to be informed, from the Secretariat, the total cost of this project as we understand costs to be covered by reallocation of the current budget, as well as by arrears are only a partial one. As Japan puts the highest priority in finalizing the improvement of financial systems, as soon as possible, it may be an option to cover the total cost of this project by arrears in one time, when arrears become available.

LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, on behalf of the Asia Group, we would like to support paragraph 36 of the report of the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees; that is, strengthening national sanitary and phytosanitary systems and developing a network of plant biotechnology in Asia should be added to the priorities.

I would now like to speak in the name of the Chinese delegation. First, for FAO presence at the country level, the joint session has conducted deliberations twice, in May and in September, and has clarified some questions and doubts. The Chinese delegation believes that FAO Country Offices have played an active role as communicator, coordinator and as a window. Therefore, China welcomes the Director-General's proposal of increasing the number of FAO Representations at the country level and supports the proposal he has made to this end. We think that the principle and criteria for the establishment of FAO Country Offices should be in conformity with what is described in document GM/2001. At the same time, this should not affect technical activities, the Regular Programme and TCP projects.

Concerning the use of arrears, the Chinese delegation agrees that the priorities should be further refined, and should reflect the requests of developing countries and, in general, the Member Nations. To improve efficiency, China supports the first option of the three options. That is, the general statement should focus on FAO's *State of Food and Agriculture*.

Mrs Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

As a representative of the United States of America I would like to commend and express my support for the statements that have been made by several of the Members here this morning, but particularly Canada and also Japan. The United States of America also believes that it is extremely important for the Organization to complete the Oracle project, the implementation of

which has encountered many difficulties and has required the transfer of funds from Chapter 2, the regular activities, the technical activities of the Organization which the United States concurred in with the greatest reluctance. We would also like to, as Canada noted, in the future protect the activities under Chapter 2 as much as possible from further transfers, although we recognize the priority for the Oracle project.

In the matter of arrears, the situation remains unclear and therefore we also would like to see a little more detail regarding the priorities of the projects that have been proposed, and also whether they conform with the guidance that was contained in the Resolution adopted in 1999 as to one-time expenditures. It appears that some of the activities that are outlined in the proposal would supplement or boost existing programmes but might, therefore, not meet the criteria outlined in the guidance that was provided for these activities. It may be, because of the situation, the unclarity of the situation as to when arrears might be paid, advisable to take this matter up at the future Council meeting and possibly at the Conference next year, when we have additional details regarding the proposals and their impact.

We also would like to have more information regarding the savings and efficiencies and the source of those savings and efficiencies, because of the implications for the Medium-Term Plan and the priorities that are outlined there.

Finally, on the issue of FAO presence at the country level, we believe that it is commendable that many countries welcome the excellence, the advice, the counsel that is offered by FAO in their countries to the extent that they are willing to fund many of the overhead costs of the Organization's presence in their countries. However, we also note that it is currently approximately 10 percent of the budget of the Organization, and therefore a significant expenditure, and one which, in the Medium-Term Plan, it is proposed to increase, so we believe it is worthy of continued discussion by the Organization.

We would like to thank the Members of the Organization for the excellent work that was done by the Committees, somewhat perhaps immodest to say that since I participated in that work, but we do appreciate the efforts of our colleagues and of the Secretariat in preparing the documentation that supports the work of the Committees.

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

Allow me to compliment Mr Rose who, in his very familiar style, has very succinctly placed the issues for discussion and debate before us.

I wish to take the floor only on two issues, 9.2, Country Offices and 9.3, Proposals for the Use of Arrears.

With regard to country offices, in principle we are not in favour of the proposal of the Director-General to arrange Country Representations on a cost-sharing basis. We believe that this proposal militates against principles of equity. However, given the budgetary constraints, we can support the opening of new offices as an interim arrangement only, to be fully funded in the next PWB.

In the context of arrears and the use thereof, I would like to remind the Council of the debate in Commission II of the Conference, and in discussions to fixing the size of the PWB and the centrality of payment of arrears therein. We are one year into the Programme and, by several statements made, it seems that receiving arrears is still some distance away. We have examined the Secretariat's proposal on the use of arrears and find it to be by and large in line with the priorities we identified during the Conference. We continue to insist on those priorities, with actual allocations assigned only once there is concrete information on receipt of arrears.

Percy W. MISIKA (Namibia)

My delegation welcomes the report of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, as contained in documents CL 119/8 and CL 119/9.

With regard to 9.2, Namibia echoes the words of Morocco and of all those who spoke before us, in calling for a more visible presence of FAO at the country level. Although we recognize that this

will have financial implications, we submit that even the current non-presence of FAO at the country level does have financial implications for both Member Nations and FAO. The fact is that the costs need to be weighed against the benefits and it is our strong belief that if this is done, and done objectively, the benefits, especially for the concerned Member Nations, which this institution is meant to serve, will far outweigh the costs.

We also support the criteria outlined in paragraph 26 of document CL 119/9, but wish to caution that the last bullet criteria should not be rigidly used to exclude potential recipient countries on the basis of their inability to fulfil their obligations which accrue from the implementation of the proposals, especially if such inability is due to legitimate socio-economic reasons. Such an approach will ensure that Least Developed Countries, Net-Food Import Developing Countries and Small-Island Developing States will also benefit from the scheme.

Namibia also supports the Director-General's proposal for the use of arrears especially for the purposes outlined in paragraphs 36 and 37 of document CL 119/9.

Namibia is concerned about the problems FAO is encountering with regard to its financial system. Corporate governance is key to institutions of excellence such as FAO. However, corporate governance cannot be achieved without a fully functional financial system. We, therefore, urge FAO to spare no time and effort in remedying this anomaly.

II-Ho CHO (Korea, Republic of)

Commenting on this as in Item, I would like to retouch upon the issues of FAO presence at country level and use of arrears.

In our view, it would be effective to increase FAO presence at country level in terms of continued decentralization while it was also a regular budget burden. In this regard, we consider that the Director-General's proposal to enhance FAO's presence at country level through the outposting of Senior Technical Officers could be a positive and effective initiative. If the proposed enhancement of FAO's presence at the country level is to materialize, we think it should not bring about any further increase in budgetary expenditure.

Concerning use of arrears, we support the petition of the distinguished delegates of China, India and Japan, suggesting the provision of a one-time effort, including the development of a network of plant biotechnology in Asia, described in paragraph 36 of CL 119/9.

Georges RUPHIN (Madagascar)

Je tiens tout d'abord à remercier Monsieur Rose pour la clarté de son rapport. Je voudrais prendre la parole sur les points 1 et 2 du Programme.

En ce qui concerne la présence de la FAO dans les pays, il s'agit là d'une politique constante de la FAO qui consiste à réaliser la décentralisation actuellement bien comprise par bon nombre de pays de l'Organisation. Cette décentralisation devient une nécessité ressentie par beaucoup de pays, et cela pour diverses raisons. En ce qui concerne en particulier l'Afrique, il y a des difficultés de communication. Il y a une volonté d'encadrement des responsables des projets dans les pays et également une volonté de la FAO d'assurer le suivi permanent des projets.

Nous devons donc appuyer les propositions d'ouverture de bureaux de la FAO, car cela aboutirait à l'efficacité des interventions de la FAO et répondrait également à la volonté des pays d'avoir un représentant, un interlocuteur permanent avec les responsables de ce pays.

En ce qui concerne le point 1, concernant l'économie et les gains d'efficacité en matière de gouvernance, en examinant les conclusions du rapport pour la réforme proposée, loin de nous de vouloir camper sur des situations statiques, ou de refuser une évolution dans la gouvernance de la FAO, cependant, les réformes proposées ne nous donnent pas pour le moment l'assurance d'obtenir des résultats positifs dans le déroulement de la prochaine Conférence, en ce sens que nous manquons d'éléments suffisants et d'expériences solides pour l'appliquer dès la prochaine Conférence. De plus, étant donné notre attachement pour que la Conférence de 2001 puisse

donner les résultats de réussite attendus, nous nous trouvons dans l'obligation de nous en tenir à la situation actuelle qui a déjà fait ses preuves.

Armando CASADO (Cuba)

La delegación cubana apoya en toda su extensión la declaración del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe. Así mismo, deseamos felicitar al Sr. Rose por su notable trabajo frente al Comité del Programa y su presentación sintética de tan medulares temas.

Quisiera referirme a la propuesta de modificación general del debate en la Conferencia de la Organización. Estamos en presencia de tres alternativas, que en realidad son dos: el *status-quo* y la alternativa número dos, la tercera por el costo y espacio, prácticamente nos parece ya excluida. El intercambio frontal, con mayor interacción, entre los ministros, sería una forma de optimizar los objetivos de la Conferencia, pues se lograrían discusiones menos impersonales, en las que los ministros necesariamente deberían prepararse más para los temas de debate con la consiguiente interiorización y personalización de los mismos.

Por lo tanto, la aplicación experimental de la alternativa número dos, resultaría viable, pero en forma adicional al Debate General. Es decir, dirigida a temas seleccionados que, por su relevancia, demandaran el análisis interactivo; mientras que la presentación formal de cada país, sobre el tema central que se señalara o escogiera quedaría para el debate general en Plenaria. La alternativa sería, entonces, un debate en mesa redonda que, no necesariamente, tendría que ser al inicio de la Conferencia, sino que se ubicaría dentro de las primeras sesiones, donde resultara más conveniente. Así mismo, como se sugiere en el documento y han señalado algunos delegados, la 31ª sesión de la Conferencia del año 2001 no sería el ámbito propicio para este ensayo.

Permítame ahora presentar al Consejo otra apreciación: la utilización de los atrasos. Esta delegación desea encomiar el trabajo de asistencia técnica de la FAO con estos fondos, para la preparación de los países menos desarrollados con vistas a la actual Ronda de Negociaciones Multilaterales Comerciales, principalmente, para productos agrícolas. En este sentido, la asignación de 2 600 000 dólares EE. UU. ha sido una excelente decisión de la FAO y este concepto debe continuar recibiendo respaldo de la Organización para llevar a los países en desarrollo a elevar su capacidad de negociación, especialmente en el seno de la Organización Mundial de Comercio.

Júlio Cesar GOMEZ DOS SANTOS (Brasil)

En primer lugar, mi delegación desea congratularse con el trabajo de los Comités donde estamos discutiendo. Deseo referirme especialmente a la presencia del señor Ron Rose manifestando nuestra alegría de tenerlo entre nosotros, y si, para que esto ocurra, es necesario mantenerlo donde está, creo que no cabe la menor duda que lo elegiremos para siempre.

En segundo lugar, quería referirme a la intención de Paraguay de tener un representante de la FAO en su país. Nosotros conocemos muy bien el Paraguay, país limítrofe al nuestro, y confirmamos nuestra alegría de que así sea; aunque para ellos, a veces, pueda resultar difícil estar a nuestro lado y de Argentina, dos países que reciben atenciones especiales de parte de organismos internacionales como la FAO. Sin embargo, Paraguay es un país eminentemente agrícola; con un aprovechamiento enorme de su territorio para culturas especiales, dado su clima y cultura de especies de gran valor para la agroindustria e industrias farmacéuticas y cosméticas en los países más desarrollados.

Paraguay tiene un potencial de desarrollo ya existente, por lo que merece una atención especial por parte de la FAO y, principalmente, de los países importadores de alimentos para la agroindustria y para otras industrias que usen el producto del agro. De modo que Brasil apoya firmemente el nombramiento y la creación de una oficina de la FAO en este país.

En cuanto a las mudanzas sugeridas para la Conferencia, creemos que la tercera opción estaría totalmente descartada, por los motivos que ya fueron presentados por otras delegaciones. Podría haber una simbiosis entre lo que ya existe y lo que fue propuesto como segunda alternativa; estamos de acuerdo porque no podemos eludir el problema y tenemos que hablar claro. Los

ministros vienen a la Conferencia para exponer a los demás su labor; será muy difícil convencer a un ministro político que no haga su discurso; entonces, pido a todos que seamos realistas. Los ministros raramente son técnicos. Tenemos entre nosotros, como Representante Permanente de Chile, un ex-ministro de Agricultura que, era y sigue siendo un técnico; pero no nos engañemos. Los ministros quieren hablar, quieren hacer discursos y no somos nosotros que les impediremos de hacerlo. La segunda sugerencia de la Mesa de Debate Abierto sobre uno o varios temas específicos, de importancia internacional, seleccionados por el Consejo en junio, Brasil la apoyaría completamente.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

Let me join the other delegates in congratulating the Committee for a job well done. Having said that, it is nice that I am coming immediately after Brazil, because I thought he had already touched on some of the issues that I wanted to speak on.

Let me start from 9.3 and go backwards. Regarding the issue of the Conference arrangements, I share the views expressed by Brazil, in that I find it a little bit difficult to see how political Heads will come to Rome only to sit there in a small Conference and then go back home. They would like to be reported as having addressed an FAO Conference. If there is a way we can, therefore, marry option "B" with what is currently existing, Nigeria would rather go for that.

On the establishment of FAO presence in these countries that do not have any representation at present, I hold the view that the arrangement being proposed by the Director-General stops slightly short of some demonstration of elements of equity. What is happening today in some of the countries that already have these offices, it does not give me any comfort to say the ones coming later should have less. I would want it, therefore, to be recorded that Nigeria holds the view that whatever arrangement proposed by the Secretariat in this paper can only be interim, with the hope that we will go full blast and replicate what is already happening in the other offices in the new ones that are about to be established.

With respect to the use of arrears, I had an opportunity of browsing what they call the *Strategic Framework*, only a few days back. I tried to reconcile that with what is being proposed here. My general impression is that the proposal appears to be in line with the priority rating put in this document. We therefore support it in principle. However, I have some worry in the sense that, from the comments from other delegates who appear not to be 100 percent sure of what it will look like in the next few months in terms of redemption of these arrears, what happens to these proposals in the event that our expectations are not met? This is the area that I am a bit worried about.

With respect to the savings and efficiencies in governance, I have very little to say other than to congratulate the Director-General and his team for a job well done. I do sympathize with the FAO Secretariat with respect to the position they have now found themselves, being asked to open up offices elsewhere and at the same time being asked to operate a Zero Nominal Growth budget. One therefore praises them, but as to the future direction of this arrangement, one would like to see how it will be reflected if and when the budgetary position of the Organization improves. I expect that what we are in now, is a very tight situation. One would not want to hope that it will continue.

With these few comments, once again, I would like to congratulate the Finance Committee for a job well done.

Hachem Badr AL SADA (Qatar) (Original language Arabic)

Could you please give the floor to the Representative of Libya, who would like to make a statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

Nuri Ibrahim HASAN (Observer for Libya) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to address the Council on behalf of the Near East Group, which it is my honour to preside.

I would like to refer to the national offices which are about to be opened in developing countries that have addressed such a request to the Director-General.

The challenges posed by the World Food Summit are such that Member Nations require FAO services more and more so that they may implement their own strategies and benefit from the necessary technology to increase agricultural production and production of natural resources, as well as to develop human resources' capacity and make the best use possible of natural resources, which need to confront certain environment problems such as drought and desertification which have such a negative impact on the efforts deployed by countries to develop their agricultural sector.

We are convinced that the request of Member Nations to open offices in their countries are legitimate requests, especially in the context of decentralization. This is why our Near East Group would like to endorse the request made by countries of the Region to receive Country or National Officers. To this end, of course, it is necessary to increase the resources available to FAO so that it may assure its presence in the field and allow Member Nations to play their role to the full.

Yesterday evening, when I took the floor under the *Medium-Term Plan* item, I said that some of our countries, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and others, belong to our Region and, after independence, these countries have an urgent need for FAO assistance to maintain the development of their agricultural systems and achieve food self-sufficiency. So the first initiative that FAO should adopt would be to open offices in the five countries that have now joined our Group.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

Très brièvement je voudrais m'exprimer au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses États Membres. Nous avons disposé de trop peu de temps pour étudier les propositions qui sont contenues dans le document CL 119/15 sur la réforme proposée du Débat général à la Conférence. Nous souhaiterions que le Secrétariat puisse apporter des précisions et des informations supplémentaires sur cet important sujet qui touche à la gouvernance et à l'organisation de nos travaux. Le Secrétariat pourrait peut être nous faire rapport lors d'un prochain Conseil, en particulier sur les points suivants, qui pourraient être ainsi étudiés de manière plus approfondie. Il s'agirait des aspects relatifs à l'organisation et à leur répercussion budgétaire et des aspects relatifs au gain d'efficacité du débat à la Conférence.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

Eritrea commends the Report made by the Programme and Finance Committees and appreciates the Report presented by Mr Rose, business as usual. I support the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the African Group.

On items of general debate during the Conference, Eritrea regards option "B". To have the Round Table discussion seems reasonable and, since it has been partly tested and shows some success, I feel that it is reasonable enough.

On the item of FAO's representation at country level, Eritrea supports the Director-General's proposal. As to any financial increment, Eritrea is of the view that resources should be substantially increased in 2002-2003. As to the premises of the FAO Representatives, from our experience in my country, all the United Nations organizations are located in one premises, so FAO is there. It depends on other countries, but we found it appropriate for all UN Organizations to be in one premises, including FAO. It is much better and more dignified, as well. But if you put FAO in the Ministry Building or premises, we are sure it undermines its independence and its dignity, as well. So it should be that, if all UN Organizations are not in one premises, FAO should be independent out of the Ministry of Agriculture's premises.

As to the item on the use of arrears, Eritrea supports paragraph 36 and paragraph 37 in document CL 119/9: that is, additional technical support for strengthening national sanitary and phytosanitary systems. Developing a network of plant biotechnology in Asia is also supported.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Australia would just like to make a couple of brief comments on three issues: FAO Regional Representatives, arrears, and reform to the Ministerial Conference debate.

In relation to the proposal on FAO Regional Representatives, Australia understands the desire of countries for the establishment of country FAO Representatives. However, Australia considers that, while the Secretariat has clarified a number of issues, we still need to consider the feasibility of the proposal further, particularly with regard to the criteria for selection of FAORs and the financial implications involved.

On the use of arrears, Australia considers that, given that the timeframe for receipt of such arrears remains uncertain, and that the relative priorities could change over this time, that it would be appropriate to postpone a decision on this until next year, when more will be known. We would also support comments made by Canada and the United States of America regarding the need for the prioritization and the need for more detail on the proposals.

Finally, regarding the reform to the Ministerial Conference debate, Australia would wish to indicate our support for the Ministerial Round Table option, as we believe this would provide a more stimulating, more focused and beneficial format for Ministers.

Hachem Badr AL SADA (Qatar) (Original language Arabic)

We looked with a great deal of interest and attention at the document we were given, and we would like to comment on paragraph 29, concerning the opening of Country Offices.

We believe that the presence of FAO in the field in future is necessary, so that it can provide assistance to developing countries and help them implement their plans and strategy at the national level, and thus strengthen their agricultural sectors.

Within this context, we would like to reiterate what the Chairman of the Near East Group said. We feel that offices should open, since they are an ideal link between the Organization and its Member Nations. This is in line with the criteria expressed by the Director-General.

Chao Tiantong (Thailand)

I congratulate the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for his valuable and comprehensive presentation of the Report.

I would like to make a couple of comments on this agenda. The first is concerned with FAO's presence at country level. The decentralization policy, as adopted, is desirable and indeed appropriate. However, decentralization has to be seriously considered in the light of budgetary constraints, especially under the zero nominal growth regime. Selection of Country Offices will have to be based on the severity of the problems of food and agriculture facing them.

I would also like to urge FAO to more carefully recruit qualified staff to handle Country Offices.

Regarding the three proposed alternatives on the reform of General Debate in the Conference, we are of the opinion that the general debate in Plenary should continue, and delegation heads concentrate their statements on the state of food and agriculture, in the context of thematic issues of interest to all Members.

We would also like to have a half-day Round-Table discussion meeting in parallel with the general debate. In this case, the Secretariat may have to come up with issues of great importance, which attract the participation of heads of delegations. This round table discussion should be attended only by those delegation heads who wish to participate.

Jón E. Jónasson (Iceland)

Iceland would like to support what has been recommended by France, having further information on the possible reforms of the General Debate in Conference. This is not only because I did not understand possible option "B" – which was not very well described – it is also in the light of our next Conference and the WFS: five years later meeting, which we should have more time to

prepare. So the next Conference could have a different set up from what we would like to have in the future.

So I fully support France in their recommendation.

Sra. Lilia ROMERO PEREIRA (Paraguay)

He atendido muy cuidadosamente a los delegados que me han precedido y creo que algunos de ellos no están de acuerdo con la creación de estas nuevas oficinas de la FAO.

En lo que se refiere a mi país, quisiera indicar que el costo de esta oficina es cero, absolutamente cero; el salario de este funcionario de la FAO ya se paga en Chile, pues es la misma persona que vendrá a Paraguay. No entiendo, entonces, por qué están en desacuerdo y me gustaría saberlo. Los gastos de esta oficina en mi país serán: de infraestructura, transporte, oficinas, teléfono, secretaría, etc., y la sede funcionará en las oficinas del PNUD, (el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo) separado del Ministerio de Agricultura y del Ministerio de Acuicultura, con costo cero para la FAO. No comprendo, por lo tanto, el desacuerdo de algunos representantes de países del primer mundo.

Ahmed HACHEMI (Observateur d'Algérie)

Je remercie le Président du Comité du programmes pour l'introduction exhaustive qu'il nous a faite de ce point de l'Ordre du jour. Il me plaît au nom de mon pays de joindre ma voix à celle des autres délégations qui m'ont précédé pour apporter notre ferme soutien à la mise en place par la FAO de nouveaux bureaux dans les Pays Membres. Par delà la consécration des impératifs visés par la décentralisation prônée par notre Organisation, nous sommes convaincus que la création des ces bureaux est à même de donner plus de corps à la coopération mutuellement bénéfique pour la FAO et ses Etats Membres. Mon pays, l'Algérie, croit fermement qu'à travers ses représentations l'Organisation contribuera d'avantage à la promotion du développement agricole de ses Pays Membres. C'est pour cette raison et pour les raisons qui ont été développées par l'ensemble des délégations qui m'ont précédé, que notre délégation lance un appel au Conseil à travers ses Membres pour l'adoption des propositions du Directeur général à ce sujet.

Pedro ADÁN GORDÓN (Observador de Panamá)

Por lo que he podido escuchar a través de las intervenciones del Consejo, creo que la mayoría de los miembros del Comité han ofrecido su apoyo a la propuesta 9.2 en la cual el GRULAC, representado por la delegación de Argentina, propone la creación de oficinas locales en Guatemala, Panamá y Paraguay y, además, se prevé que el resto del Consejo apoye la apertura de estas oficinas en otros 14 países.

Panamá es un país que cuenta con 2.7 millones de habitantes de acuerdo al último censo nacional; de ellos, el 37 por ciento se encuentra en situación de pobreza, y alrededor de medio millón de habitantes están en pobreza extrema. Estamos empeñados en confeccionar, realizar y poner a funcionar un Programa de Orientaciones Estratégicas para el Desarrollo del Sector Agropecuario y del Medio Rural. Hemos podido contar con la presencia permanente de otros organismos internacionales, principalmente de financiamiento como el BID, el Banco Mundial y el FIDA, y pensamos, es más, estamos totalmente convencidos, de que la asistencia en capacitación y en capacidad humana con que cuenta la FAO, ayudará a efectivizar mucho más el desarrollo de estas orientaciones estratégicas 2000-2004, con proyecciones hasta el 2015, si contamos con una oficina local.

Si nuestros países están dispuestos, y así lo han demostrado en su presupuesto para el 2001, a poner todos los recursos necesarios para que la parte operativa de estas oficinas cuente con el concurso económico local, estamos completamente convencidos de que el aporte financiero de la FAO será mínimo, porque su ayuda, su valor educativo en capacitación y en estrategia será mucho más beneficiosa con relación a su aporte económico. Además, estamos ubicando las oficinas de FAO, a partir de enero, en un sector muy especial de nuestra república, la capital, conocida como la Ciudad del Saber; en ella ya se encuentran otros organismos internacionales, así como universidades extranjeras que nos han solicitado su estadía como Estados Unidos, México, Costa

Rica y otros, lo cual volverá ese sector extremadamente importante para el saber nacional, regional y mundial.

En otras palabras, esta oficina estará totalmente descentralizada, separada del Ministerio de Agricultura. Nuestra experiencia de 40 años de vida profesional, 10 años en el sector público, en las actividades del sector agrícola, y 30 años en el sector privado en actividades de producción y administración, con la preparación académica de ingenieros agrónomos con maestría en extensión, nos hace pensar y recomendar que la descentralización es una de las mejores armas que tenemos para hacer efectivos nuestros programas.

Basado en esos principios de descentralización, pensamos ¿qué haría un productor marginado en una comunidad lejana a la capital si cuenta con un problema, si requiere recursos, conocimientos, ayuda en general, y tenga que viajar a esta capital muy distante de la comunidad donde vive? Seguramente sucederá que cuando llegue a la ciudad o cuando reciba los recursos, terminará por no necesitarlos. Por eso, en las actividades de extensión, tenemos oficinas rurales, centros de producción, con el propósito de evitar estas situaciones.

Para finalizar, quisiera confirmar que esas oficinas locales funcionan con el mismo principio que ha manifestado el Representante de Francia, cuando dice que: "su importancia se basa en dar acceso a los centros de conocimiento regional, y vehicularlos hacia las oficinas centrales.

Por esa razón, estoy completamente convencido que el Consejo dará su voto afirmativo y que, en enero del 2001, contaremos con oficinas locales en los 17 Países Miembros que las han solicitado.

Patrick SAINT-HILAIRE (Observateur d'Haïti)

Mon intervention sera très brève car la déléguée de l'Argentine a clairement exprimé les vues du Groupe Amérique Latine et Caraïbes sur l'ensemble des questions figurant au point 9 du programme. Ma délégation partage pleinement sa déclaration. Ma délégation souhaite se référer spécifiquement à la section du document CL 119/9 traitant de la présence de la FAO dans les pays. Elle a noté avec satisfaction l'intérêt apporté par certains pays en développement au renforcement de leur lien avec la FAO. C'est le cas du Guatemala, du Panama et du Paraguay pour ne citer que ces pays. Ces pays souhaitent vivement accueillir une représentation de la FAO et, compte tenu des limites budgétaires de l'Organisation, se sont engagés à assumer les frais supplémentaires qu'impliquerait la création de ces bureaux. Ces propositions sont à la fois claires, réalistes et louables et témoignent de la confiance que ces pays placent dans notre Organisation. Ma délégation tient à faire remarquer que cette question a été analysée à maintes reprises dans le cadre des conférences régionales. L'appréciation des États Membres a toujours été positive en ce qu'ils n'ont relevé aucun problème majeur à l'installation de ces bureaux suivant les modalités définies avec le Directeur général.

Ma délégation profite de cette occasion pour féliciter les Membres de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité financier, qui dans leur majorité, ont appuyé la proposition du Directeur général sur la manière d'accéder pour l'instant aux demandes légitimes de ces pays. Ma délégation estime finalement que la proposition du Directeur général mérite d'être appuyée par le Conseil.

Rolf GERBER (Observateur de Suisse)

En tant que membre du Comité financier et sans appartenance au Conseil, je me permets quand même de faire quelques remarques au nom de la Suisse.

Mon pays est préoccupé par le fait qu'au 16 novembre 2000, 61 pays n'ont pas encore payé de contributions pour l'an 2000. Je me réfère au document CL119/13 LIM 1, ce qui représente 33 pour cent des pays membres. D'autre part, une partie de ces pays réclament des bureaux de la FAO. Il y a là une contradiction et un manque de solidarité vis-à-vis de l'Organisation. En anglais, on dit *You can't have your cake and eat it too*. Mon pays est en faveur d'une décentralisation, à condition que les pays bénéficiant de la décentralisation n'aient plus d'arriérés vis-à-vis de l'Organisation. Si cette condition n'est pas respectée, les arriérés vont augmenter. La santé financière de l'Organisation tient à cœur de ma délégation.

Sra. Victoria GUARDIA ALVARADO de HERNÁNDEZ (Observador de Costa Rica)

Deseamos felicitar al señor Rose por el excelente documento que nos ha presentado.

Apoyamos la apertura de las oficinas en Guatemala, Panamá y Paraguay. Sus representantes se han referido ampliamente a estas oficinas y han ofrecido todas las facilidades. Creo que es una gran ayuda para esos países. Nosotros como latinoamericanos y como centroamericanos, estamos convencidos de esta importancia y la recomendamos ampliamente.

También apoyamos todo lo que se refiere a las modificaciones del debate de la Conferencia. Estamos de acuerdo con Brasil en que los discursos son necesarios e importantes para nuestros ministros, y nos parece muy conveniente la opción dos de la Mesa Redonda.

CHAIRMAN

I think we have given the opportunity to everyone who has asked for the floor to speak and I thank you very much for the very good debate.

We must conclude that we appreciate what has been reported by the Committees. There is also widespread support and endorsement on the FAO Presence at Country Level as proposed by the Director-General, and on proposals for the use of arrears.

Although there are many matters that have to be addressed later on, on the Savings and Efficiencies in Governance, especially on the format of the next Conference, I do think that much work must still be done because I think there is no agreement on how we should go about the next Conference, if we only look at the three alternatives as proposed by the Joint Meeting.

The other thing is that we have yesterday agreed, in principle, the high-level nature of the WFS: five years later initiative of the Director-General for the next Conference in 2001.

With this, I think I would like to ask Mr Rose again to address some of the concerns and questions raised by the floor.

Ronald ROSE (Chairman, Programme Committee)

I think you have accurately summed up the feeling of the Council. We have taken a very clear direction on agenda Item 9.2 and Item 9.3, and agree that more work needs to be done on the format for Conference Debate. As I noted earlier, the paper that we used in this discussion, just recently received, has not been reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees. Many reasonable questions have been asked. I have some sympathy for the delegate from Iceland who indicated that he really needed additional information, as did a number of other delegates.

I think the report of the Joint Meeting in September indicated that this decision could be taken by a later meeting of the Council and the Programme and Finance Committees. Perhaps we can return to this in the spring in the June Council meeting.

There were a number of questions asked in terms of the arrears and the possibility of obtaining arrears. I do not think I am qualified to respond to those, so perhaps you could ask the Secretariat to address some of the questions that were raised, particularly on agenda Item 9.3.

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

There were two areas on which there were questions: one on efficiency savings and the other on use of arrears.

On the efficiency savings, I was at a little bit of a loss concerning the questions of Canada and the United States of America. Canada's question, if I heard it correctly, was what are the gains, and the USA wanted more information on the efficiency savings and their source. I am not sure if that was said in the context of CL 119/INF/12, which is a six-page document on efficiency savings. That document analyses the savings between those which result from input orientated measures, that is reducing the cost of inputs, those that resulted from process orientated measures, that is, streamlining reducing the cost of processes within the institution, and then the third area, increased reimbursements for certain types of services. Under each of those headings, we

provided detail of the savings, how they arose, how we calculated them and, where possible, we gave you an estimate. All the figures refer to savings against the regular Programme Programme of Work, if that is what was meant by source of savings. I hope that responds to the question.

On the use of arrears, there was a request from some Members for priorities. That is a little bit difficult. The current document gives you proposals for US\$ 50 million expenditure against US\$ 50 million anticipated income, actually US\$ 48 million dollars, but there is a match there. So the priorities are established and they are all going to be met if everything is paid. The difficulty is offering you priorities on a different figure when we do not know what the different figure is. There is a need for further prioritization once we know the amount that is actually going to be paid.

I would note that the original Resolution actually authorizes the use of arrears, so therefore the issue is just one of priorities and, given the absence of information on the payment of an amount at this stage, it is actually not critical that an approval be given today. We can refer this matter to the next Council if you so wish. I would, however, like to recognize that there was general support for the changes in priorities proposed by a number of Members and, in particular, that covers the need for the biotechnology network in Asia, capacity-building for national systems for sanitary and phytosanitary standards, and further technical support for the implementation of Codex standards. The one-time aspects of that work would be drawn into the revised list for the next Council.

I was a little bit concerned about the United States of America's remarks concerning their worry that the items listed did not meet the criteria. The criteria in the Resolution relate to one-time costs of two types; one-time costs of technical programmes and one-time costs of a capital nature to reinforce the infrastructure. We tried to design this work so that it was all one-time, even those aspects that may seem to be on-going such as training for national capacity-building. We were proposing a one-time boost to that particular area of training and that is the end of it. The Regular Programme will go on with its normal work before, during and after the period of arrears but there would be a boost to, for example, capacity building in the area of phytosanitary standards. We feel that that meets the criteria and, if there are doubts about that, it should be clarified.

That is all I think that needs to be said in response to those questions and, if I can, I will leave it at that.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Nineteenth Session Cent dix-neuvième session 119º período de sesiones
Rome, 20-25 November 2000 Rome, 20-25 novembre 2000 Roma, 20-25 de noviembre de 2000
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
22 November 2000

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours

Mr Bhaskar Barua,

Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40

sous la présidence de M. Bhaskar Barua,

Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Bhaskar Barua,

Vicepresidente del Consejo

**IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
**IV. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET,
AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION**
**IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS
PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS**

**10. REPORTS OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD (ROME, MAY 2000) AND EIGHTY-
FOURTH (ROME, SEPTEMBER 2000) SESSIONS OF THE PROGRAMME
COMMITTEE (CL 119/10; CL 119/11)**

**10. RAPPORTS DES QUATRE-VINGT TROISIÈME ET QUATRE-VINGT-
QUATRIÈME SESSIONS DU COMITÉ DU PROGRAMME (MAI ET
SEPTEMBRE 2000) (CL 119/10; CL 119/11)**

**10. INFORMES DEL 83° (ROMA, MAYO DE 2000) Y 84° (ROMA, SEPTIEMBRE
DE 2000) PERÍODOS DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DEL PROGRAMA
(CL 119/10; CL 119/11)**

CHAIRMAN

I would like to call the Sixth Meeting of the Hundred and Nineteenth Council to order. We now move on to Item 10, *Report of the Eighty-Third Session of May 2000 and the Eighty-Fourth Session, September 2000, of the Programme Committee*, and I now give the floor to the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Mr Rose.

Ronald ROSE (Chairman, Programme Committee)

I should be able to be brief because many of the matters that are discussed in the Programme Committee eventually wind their way to the Joint Meetings have been discussed this morning.

There are a few points that I want to draw to the attention of the Council. Starting first with the Programme Committee in May as recorded in CL 119/10. For those of you unfamiliar with the Programme Committee, one of our traditional roles is to undertake a periodic review of the FAO Programmes. This usually takes place in the off Conference year when workload, according to those who drafted the basic text, thought workload would be somewhat less in the off Conference year.

This year, in May, we reviewed the programmes falling under Chapter 3 of the Programme of Work and Budget, specifically Cooperation and Partnerships. We reviewed the chapters covering the programme on policy assistance, Support to Investment, Field Operations, FAO Representatives, and Cooperation with External Partners. The results of these deliberations are included in the report that I cited concluding with paragraph 30.

There are perhaps two or three themes that came out of our review that I wanted to bring to the attention of Council. The first one was, as we were looking at field operations, we noted with great concern the declining trend in extra-budgetary resources for non-emergency field programme activities. In particular, the rapid erosion in UNDP-funded activities which had, in fact, decreased by half in terms of delivery between 1997 and 1999. The Committee recommended to the Secretariat a proactive approach in the search for additional resources for non-emergency activities. We suggested that multi-donor meetings and briefings be organized, in order to increase the synergies among both traditional and new potential donors and to enhance their interest in supporting FAO's agricultural development projects.

I mentioned this morning that the Organization's continued evolution in decentralization was the theme that ran through our deliberations this year. When we looked at Major Programme 3.4 on the FAO Representatives, the Committee continued to express an interest in the intended

progressive decentralization of operational work to FAO Representatives, stressing that the necessary resources should be made available and the relevant authority effectively delegated to the FAORs to meet the additional workload. I must say here that the Secretariat has provided a great deal of additional information to the Joint Committees on this process of decentralization. Those documents are cited in our reports and I certainly urge those of you who are interested in the process of decentralization to take a close look at them.

I mentioned this morning the Joint Inspection Unit report on Cooperation with the Private Sector when we look at Major Programme 3.5 Cooperation with External Partners. We noted, in particular, that the FAO has released this year two strategy documents. One, the *FAO Policy and Strategy for Cooperation with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations* and secondly, the *Principles and Guidelines for FAO Cooperation with the Private Sector*. These we viewed as major positive developments.

Another one of our roles is to look at programme evaluations, and at the Spring meeting we looked at two separate evaluations. One, an Evaluation of Food and Agricultural Policy which is Programme 2.2.4. The Programme Committee felt that this particular programme played a useful role by providing analytical frameworks in information for policy formulation, as well as supporting debate among the Membership. Especially at the Committees on Commodity Problems and Committee on Food Security. In this regard we particularly recommended that in view of this relevance to these two committees, our Programme Committee recommended that this particular evaluation, together with our comments, be proposed to the relevant bureau of these two committees for inclusion on the Agenda of their next sessions. I was not here for the Committee on Food Security but there is another one coming up, so hopefully, this can be taken care of then.

The second report that we look at was, in fact, a synthesis of recent field project evaluations which had been carried out some by FAO, some by their partners. When we looked at the synthesis of field project evaluation, we were particularly concerned that while there had been some improvements in some areas, project design remained the weakest aspect. A number of members recalled that this was rather a recurring comment about field projects that we had heard this phrase a number of times. We expressed concern that weaknesses in project design had been persistently highlighted in similar evaluations synthesis over a number of years.

We stressed the urgent need for concerted action in order ensure the quality of project formulation, particularly in the context of changing procedures and new arrangements for the field programme. We noted a number of changes and proposals that the Secretariat was proposing to introduce. We requested the progress being made in implementing these recommendations are reported to the Committee at its Session in May 2001.

One of the innovations that recently happened within the Programme Committee has been a request to the Secretariat to provide to the Programme Committee a report on developments following the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget which might have implications on the Organization's ability to carry out this programme, new tasks and new obligations being undertaken, being accepted, etc. We do receive annually reports on Major Programme Developments.

I wish to draw to your attention that we noted the concrete actions that had been taken by the Director-General to respond to the calls made at the last Conference to re-establish the post of Secretary to the Desert Locust Commission for the Central Region.

We also noted the Director-General's moves to augment resources for work on the Prior Informed Consent procedure in follow-up to the Adoption of the Rotterdam Convention. Both of these were things that were major concerns of Members at Conference. We felt it was worth bringing these positive developments to your attention.

Another event that is in the planning stage that will possibly happen is a proposed FAO Iceland Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Ecosystem which is scheduled to be held in the late biennium. The Committee in reviewing this proposal stressed the importance of ensuring a balanced regional participation at this particular conference. We also noted the assurances given

by the Secretariat that substantive aspects of the preparatory process could be accommodated within planned activities of the Fisheries Department without major disruption.

The next thing we looked at was a review of FAO's Fellowships Programme. This was a review that the Committee itself had requested, following an examination of the Joint Inspection Unit report on fellowships in the UN System. We asked the Secretariat to tell us more about FAO's activities in this area. We noted a number of problems such as regional imbalance, apparent inappropriate choice of institutions to send fellows to for further learning and agenda imbalance. We were advised however, that in carrying out these fellowship activities that FAO is not the major donor, that these are sometime unilateral trust funds, sometimes funds that have been given to countries', and that FAO acts as a coordinator and does not have any say over the institutions that these people are sent to.

Under Any Other Business in last May's meeting, the Committee observed with regret a number of instances in the recent past of insufficient coverage of food and agricultural concerns in global policy documents. Last spring there had been a number of major global policy documents and pronouncements dealing with various sectors but we had noticed that agriculture and food was not given the prominence it deserves, particularly following the Declarations of the World Food Summit. In spite of the fact that the intended scope of these Declarations implied that new prominence should be given to issues falling under FAO's mandate such as bettering the condition of the world's population.

We encourage the continuing efforts of the Secretariat to sensitizing partner organizations on the need for them to address food and agricultural matters when examining global issues and strategies to address those issues.

Turning to the report of the Programme Committee in September, the Eighty-Fourth Session of the Committee which is reported in CL 119/11. I think we spent most of our time at this particular meeting looking at the *Medium-Term Plan* and you have also spent a great deal of time looking at the Medium-Term Plans. My report will not necessarily cover all the work that we did but I did want to bring a few points to your attention that were noted by the Programme Committee that may not have been picked up in your own debate.

One thing that we noticed was we observed several instances of what we have called convoluted language--I am not sure how that translates--lets say difficult language or the use of expressions which far too technical and too intricate. The Committee emphasized that the *Medium-Term Plan* also served as a source of reference for a broad audience. Therefore, we recommended that more simple non technical language be employed in future versions.

We also noted some difficulties, perhaps teething problems since this was the first attempt at the *Medium-Term Plan* that was based on the *Strategic Framework*. Some problems in terms of definitions of what should be a technical project, what should be a continuing programme activity also some lack of focus or some lack of clarity in the selection of indicators that would be used to determine whether an objective had been achieved or not. You, in your discussion, also raised these points so we will not go further there.

The Committee welcomed when we looked at Part One of the *Strategic Framework*, as you will welcome the accent on multidisciplinary, and particularly in looking at the 16 PAIAs. While being in general agreement with these PAIAs highlighted in the Plan, the Committee did encourage the Secretariat to undertake further refinement in order to sharpen the focus of these PAIAs.

We also noted that the second to last one, which deals with gender mainstreaming or gender integration within the work of the programme, was not dealt with in great detail in this *Medium-Term Plan*. However, it is going to be the subject of a discussion at Conference next year, following a decision by the previous Conference to look at a new action plan for gender issues in development. Those of you who feel that the issue of gender was given inadequate attention in the *Medium-Term Plan* can take heart.

We stressed the importance of including these PAIAs in the arrangements for regular *post facto* reporting to the Governing Bodies such as through the *Programme Implementation Report* and through evaluation reporting whenever possible.

When we looked at Part II: Strategies to Address Members Needs, one thing I felt we should draw to your attention to and that was when we looked at food and agricultural policy and development, particularly the programme dealing with nutrition. The Committee was pleased to note that the GH Summit had highlighted the key role of *Codex* in achieving consensus on matters related to quality control and safety, including genetically modified organisms. The Committee recommended that promotion of *Codex*, as the internationally recognized body and collaboration with external partners, be given more prominence in the *Medium-Term Plan*.

We also looked at the *Programme Implementation Report* which you discussed yesterday. Again, one of our major observations was the decline in the non-emergency field programme delivery experienced in the 1998-99 biennium. We were informed that the Secretariat was working on initiatives to address this decline.

We looked at a document which was a review of the Associate Professional Officer Programme, the APO programme. There have been sharp declines in the number of new entrants to the APO programme in recent years. The document that we reviewed revealed that serious weakness existed in the Programme administration and support, particularly in monitoring, supervision and training of APOs. I called it a document because it started out being an evaluation and when we looked at it in the Committee, we felt that it fell far short of the standards for an evaluation and ended up calling it a review. What it did was provide some very useful guidance for management of the APO Programme which has taken a number of these comments on board, has made changes to the Programme.

The Programme Committee does spend a lot of time and effort on the evaluation process within FAO. We wanted to report to you our stress on the importance of maintaining the quality of evaluation work consistently at high standards and we felt that this particular review fell short of the expected standards for evaluations, particularly with respect to analytical rigour in addressing the cost-effectiveness issues. But, as I say, it was an extremely useful exercise for management and has been put to very good use.

The only other thing to report is that with the approval of Council tomorrow our next meeting will be held in Rome, from May 7 to 11, 2001.

CHAIRMAN

The floor is open. I see no flags up. Very good. Appreciation of the presentation of Mr Rose is it? No comments therefore. If there are no comments at this stage I don't think you need to comment again do you?

Ronald ROSE (Chairman, Programme Committee)

If I may, it is only to point out that we have not asked for any decisions or discussion from Council. This was merely to inform the Members of Council as to the sort of debate we do undertake in the Programme Committee so we were not actually expecting questions or discussions.

CHAIRMAN

We now move on to Item 11, that is *Reports of the Ninety-Fourth and Ninety-Fifth Sessions in May 2000 and September 2000, respectively, of the Finance Committee*. The relative documents are CL 119/12 and CL 119/13.

I would like to draw your attention to matters requiring attention by the Council, which are listed in the table at the front of the Report.

11. REPORTS OF THE NINETY-FOURTH (ROME, MAY 2000), AND NINETY-FIFTH (ROME, SEPTEMBER 2000) SESSIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (CL 119/12; CL 119/13)

11. RAPPORTS DES QUATRE-VINGT-QUATORZIÈME ET QUATRE-VINGT-QUINZIÈME SESSIONS DU COMITÉ FINANCIER (ROME, MAI ET SEPTEMBRE 2000) (CL 119/12; CL 119/13)

11. INFORMES DEL 94º (ROMA, MAYO DE 2000) Y 95º (ROMA, SEPTIEMBRE DE 2000) PERÍODOS DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE FINANZAS (CL 119/12; CL 119/13)

11.1 Status of Contributions 2000 (CL 119/LIM/1)

11.1 Situation des contributions en 2000 (CL 119/LIM/1)

11.1 Estado de las cuotas de 2000 (CL 119/LIM/1)

11.2 Budgetary Performance 1998-99

11.2 Exécution du budget 1998-99

11.2 Ejecución del presupuesto de 1998-99

11.3 Support Costs

11.3 Dépenses d'appui

11.3 Gastos de apoyo

11.4 Change in Staff Regulation 301.0344 – Flexible Use of Education Grant Travel

11.4 Modification de l'Article 301.0344 du Statut du personnel – Assouplissement des conditions du remboursement des frais de voyage au titre des études

11.4 Cambio del párrafo 301.0344 del Estatuto del personal – Utilización flexible de los viajes relacionados con el subsidio de educación

11.5 Proposal for Split Assessments as a Means to Protect the Programme of Work and Budget from Currency Fluctuations

11.5 Protection du Programme de travail de l'Organisation contre les fluctuations des taux de change – proposition tendant à instaurer un système de mise en recouvrement des contributions fondé sur l'utilisation de deux monnaies

11.5 Propuesta de asignación de cuotas en dos monedas como forma de proteger el Programa de Trabajo de la Organización contra las fluctuaciones en los tipos de cambio

11.6 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports

11.6 Autres questions découlant des rapports

11.6 Otras cuestiones planteadas en los informes

Aziz MEKOUAR (Président du Comité financier)

J'ai l'honneur de vous présenter les rapports des 94e et 95e sessions du Comité financier contenus dans les documents CL 119/12 et CL 119/13, qui ont eu lieu respectivement en mai et en septembre de cette année.

Lors de sa session de mai, le Comité a élu à l'unanimité M. Anthony Beattie, Représentant du Royaume-Uni en tant que Vice-Président pour l'an 2000. L'Ordre du jour de ces réunions couvrait toute une série de questions budgétaires, financières et administratives concernant et affectant la situation générale de l'Organisation. Outre l'examen de la situation financière de l'Organisation, le Comité a également abordé des questions de contrôle, y compris le Rapport annuel de l'Inspecteur général, le Programme de travail du Commissaire aux comptes et les Recommandations du Corps commun d'inspection.

Comme d'habitude, ces sessions prévoyaient également des réunions conjointes avec le Comité du programme. Je voudrais dans la présente introduction mettre en évidence les questions qui présentent à mon sens un intérêt pour le Conseil ou qui exigent une suite à donner.

Le point 11.1 "L'état des contributions 2000". Le Comité lors de ses deux sessions a examiné la situation financière de l'Organisation et a noté que le taux de recouvrement des contributions était fondamentalement conforme à celui des quatre dernières années à la même date. La dernière mise à jour figure dans le document CL 119/LIM/1. Toutefois, en septembre, 56,26 pour cent des contributions mises en recouvrement avaient été reçues et 89 Etats Membres n'avaient fait aucun versement au titre de leur contribution de l'an 2000. En conséquence, le Comité a lancé un nouvel appel à tous les États Membres pour qu'ils règlent intégralement et dès que possible leurs contributions ordinaires et leurs arriérés.

De plus, le Comité s'est inquiété du nombre d'États Membres ayant des arriérés, notamment du nombre de pays risquant de perdre leur droit de vote lors de la Conférence. Le Comité a demandé au Secrétariat de préparer un document pour sa prochaine session décrivant les options possibles pour permettre au Comité financier de jouer un rôle plus actif dans la gestion des arriérés.

Le Comité fera des recommandations appropriées au Conseil à sa session de juin 2001 sur la meilleure façon de régler les problèmes de perte de droit de vote. Le Comité, en fonction des vues exprimées par le Conseil, examinera la question de façon approfondie et fera des recommandations appropriées avant la Conférence de novembre 2001. A cet égard, le Comité a également décidé d'examiner l'efficacité du Programme d'incitation au paiement rapide des contributions.

Point 11.2. "Exécution du budget 1998-1999". Le Comité a passé en revue le 33e Rapport annuel du Directeur général aux Etats Membres sur l'exécution du budget. Ce rapport qui contient des informations sur les résultats budgétaires d'ensemble du Programme ordinaire pour 1998-1999 est reproduit à l'annexe 1 du document CL 119/13. Le Comité a noté avec satisfaction que le Directeur général a géré les crédits du Programme ordinaire conformément aux dispositions du Règlement financier. Plus précisément, il a noté que les dépenses nettes de 1998-99 étaient inférieures de 1,2 million de dollars des États-Unis au crédit budgétaire et que les virements budgétaires effectués et réalisés se situaient dans les limites déjà approuvées par le Comité financier à sa session de septembre 1999.

Le Comité a regretté qu'il ait fallu prélever un montant de 6,6 millions de dollars dans les programmes techniques et économiques en 1998-99, mais il a reconnu les raisons de ce virement entre chapitres budgétaires dont le montant était d'ailleurs inférieur à la limite approuvée de 11 millions de dollars. Le Comité a approuvé le rapport qui est soumis au Conseil.

Point 11.3 "Dépenses d'appui". Le Comité a examiné la question des dépenses d'appui de façon approfondie lors de ses deux sessions et a approuvé la politique proposée par le Secrétariat pour les taux de remboursements. Cette politique est synthétisée à l'annexe 2 du document CL 119/13 et soumise au Conseil pour information. Le nouveau régime proposé s'inspire des principes ci-après: approche cohérente et défendable du remboursement des dépenses d'appui; simplicité de l'approche; équivalence raisonnable entre les redevances perçues et les coûts effectifs, transparence.

Point 11.4 "Assouplissement des conditions du remboursement des frais de voyage au titre des études" – Modification de l'Article 301.0334. Ce point de l'Ordre du jour est présenté en détail dans le document CL 119/LIM/5. En bref, il est proposé d'assouplir les conditions régissant le paiement de cette indemnité comme cela a déjà été fait dans d'autres organisations du Système des Nations-Unies. Il est proposé d'autoriser l'un ou les deux parents à voyager au lieu de l'enfant pour qu'ils puissent rendre visite à leurs enfants là où se trouve l'établissement d'enseignement ou ailleurs. La FAO n'aurait pas supporté de coûts supplémentaires par rapport à ceux déjà engagés en vertu des dispositions actuelles dans la mesure où la responsabilité financière de l'Organisation ne pourrait pas dépasser le coût d'un voyage aller-retour entre le pays d'origine du fonctionnaire et son lieu d'affectation. Le Conseil devra approuver cette proposition.

Le Comité financier a examiné cette proposition à sa 94e session en mai 2000, l'a approuvée et a décidé de la soumettre au Conseil. Le Conseil est invité à examiner la proposition et à l'approuver conformément aux dispositions du Règlement général de l'Organisation.

Point 11.5 "Protection du Programme de travail de l'Organisation contre les fluctuations du taux de change". Proposition tendant à instaurer un système de mise en recouvrement des contributions fondé sur l'utilisation de deux monnaies. Le Comité a examiné le problème, la méthode suivie actuellement par l'Organisation et les améliorations qui seraient possibles d'y apporter à l'avenir. Après une présentation du Secrétariat, le Comité a eu des discussions préliminaires utiles sur les principes généraux et sur les options présentées. Il a noté que cette question devait être examinée ultérieurement par les Membres du Comité, les experts des capitaux et les groupes régionaux et convenu d'inscrire cette question à l'Ordre du jour de sa prochaine session en 2001. J'attire l'attention sur le document CL 119/13, aux paragraphes 30 et 33, il y a un rapport précis de nos débats à ce sujet.

Point 11.6 "Autres questions découlant des rapports". 94e session du Comité financier. Virement budgétaire dans le Programme de travail et budget 2000-2001 résultant de l'approbation par la Conférence d'un budget au taux de change de 1 875 livres pour un dollar. Le Comité a rappelé que l'adoption du budget 2000-2001 à un taux de change lire-dollar Etats-Unis plus faible que le scénario publié de croissance nominale zéro du PTB 2000-2001, document C99/3, permettait de reprogrammer des ressources et d'apporter des ajustements correspondants dans la répartition des crédits par chapitre. Conformément à l'Article 4.5 du Règlement financier, le Comité a souscrit à la demande d'approbation de virement budgétaire entre chapitres formulée par le Directeur général. Il a également reconnu que l'ouverture de crédits révisés constituerait la base des rapports sur la situation financière et budgétaire en 2000-2001 ainsi que le budget de base pour le Programme de travail et budget 2002-2003.

Programme de travail du Commissaire aux comptes, exercice 2000-2001. Le Directeur de la vérification extérieure des comptes a décrit le Programme de travail du Commissaire aux comptes pour l'exercice biennal 2000-2001. Il a noté que ce Programme doit être mis en oeuvre conformément aux principes énoncés dans les articles 12.3 et 12.6 du Règlement financier. Le Comité a accueilli favorablement cette initiative. Il a souligné l'importance du travail du Commissaire aux comptes et s'est félicité de sa contribution utile à l'évaluation de la gestion de l'Organisation.

Quatre-vingt quinzième session du Comité financier. *Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 1998-1999*. Le Comité s'est félicité du Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme dont la présentation a été améliorée. Ce rapport a été considéré comme un document de gestion important. Le Comité a approuvé le Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme qui sera soumis au Conseil et à la Conférence.

Plan à moyen terme 2002-2007. Le Comité a apprécié la nouvelle présentation du *Plan à moyen terme* et félicité le Secrétariat d'avoir réussi à traduire dans les faits le nouveau modèle de programmation et le Cadre stratégique. Le Comité a débattu du principe consistant à inclure les ressources dans le Plan à moyen terme, comme demandé par la Conférence dans le Cadre stratégique et a confirmé qu'il s'agissait à son avis d'une pratique utile. Il a noté que les chiffres devaient être considérés comme purement indicatifs et non contraignants pour les Membres. En conclusion, le Comité a décidé de faire part de ses observations lors de la réunion conjointe entre Comité de programme et Comité financier.

Nouveau système et protocole financier de la FAO. La réunion conjointe a examiné les propositions du Programme de travail et budget pour l'achèvement de la phase 1 du projet Oracle. Un large consensus s'est dégagé sur le fait que la FAO n'a guère d'autre choix que d'entreprendre les activités nécessaires, mais la réunion conjointe a précisé qu'il fallait demander des avis complémentaires au Comité financier concernant les sources de financement recommandées. Le Comité financier a signalé à la réunion conjointe qu'un consensus s'est dégagé pour appuyer la proposition du Directeur général visant à réaffecter un montant pouvant atteindre 5,9 millions de dollars États-Unis dans le cadre du Budget 2000-2001. Le Comité a regretté que l'on ait dû

renouer pour ce projet avec les pratiques de virement budgétaire. Le Comité a en outre exprimé l'opinion, qu'à l'avenir, le coût des projets de ce type devraient être budgétisés de façon à inclure des provisions raisonnables pour imprévus en fonction des risques et incertitudes liés au projet.

En conclusion, dans l'ensemble, ces sessions du Comité financier ont été très fructueuses et je crois notamment que le Comité a pu examiner un certain nombre de questions financières et budgétaires importantes pour l'Organisation.

Au nom des Membres du Comité, je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat pour son assistance et exprimer notre gratitude aux États Membres de la FAO qui nous ont donné la possibilité d'appuyer les activités importantes réalisées par l'Organisation. Je me ferais un plaisir de fournir toute explication complémentaire qui pourrait être requise à propos de nos rapports.

Armando CASADO (Cuba)

Una breve reflexión a la consideración del Consejo. Quisiera referirme a la sugerencia de celebrar una reunión adicional del Comité de Finanzas en el mes de enero del año 2001, con el argumento de reducir la carga de trabajo de la sesión del mes de mayo de dicho Comité.

En primer lugar, esta delegación tiene entendido que ya se han adoptado decisiones que no hacen posible realizar este encuentro adicional. El 110º período de sesiones del Consejo del mes de noviembre del año 1995, en su análisis acordó en el párrafo 15 la reducción de las reuniones, en particular a través de la programación de reuniones menos frecuentes y más cortas. Concluyó además que se lograrían ahorros mayores si se orientaran mejor los órganos estatutarios y se redujera la duración de las sesiones de los órganos rectores. Esta decisión fue repetida por la Sesión Conjunta de los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa del mes de mayo del año 1996, párrafo 1.26, en la cual se señala que los Comités habían acordado que habría espacio para mayores ahorros en la mejor orientación de los órganos estatutarios y la reducción de la duración de las sesiones de los órganos rectores. La Conferencia, en su 28º período de sesiones, párrafo 1.25, señala: "Este trabajo se basaría en las medidas ya tomadas por el Director General de reducir el volumen de los documentos y reuniones más cortas". Por último, el 29º período de sesiones de la Conferencia en 1997, canceló la reunión conjunta de los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa.

Estamos seguros que a pesar del volumen de trabajo que este importante Comité tendrá, sus miembros sabrán darse un mejor esfuerzo para contribuir al ahorro de la importante erogación que significa para la Organización la celebración de un encuentro previo de este tipo.

Katsuhiko TAKAHASHI (Japan)

My delegation appreciates the efforts made by the Secretariat, as well as by the Finance Committee, to review the Support-Costs Reimbursement Scheme and reach a tentative conclusion on the new scheme, which is in Annex 2 of document CL 119/13.

My delegation recognizes that basically there will be no substantial change in the application of the support-cost rate to donor contributions, including Trust Funds to FAO. Considering the complexity of this scheme, I hope, that the Secretariat will further elaborate the details of this new scheme.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

I would like to take up the point raised a moment ago by my colleague from Cuba. As the Council will have noticed, paragraph 62 of the Finance Committee for September, foreshadows the possibility of a third meeting of the Finance Committee, in order to enable the Committee to discharge its business effectively. It has not so far proved possible to reach an agreement on whether or not a third session should be held. Discussions continue, but I think I owe it to the Council to tell them that, in my personal considered judgement, the Finance Committee is having difficulty in discharging the responsibilities which it owes to the Council. I think that during the course of 2001, it will have some problems in dealing with the business which the Council remits, to it if it lacks a third meeting.

The Agenda for the May meeting already includes twenty-one items, some of them of considerable weight, notably the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. It also includes the Audited Accounts for FAO, which are late. They should have been presented to the Finance Committee in September this year. That was not done because of problems with the Oracle project which prevented the External Auditor from concluding his work.

If there is no third meeting of the Finance Committee in January, the Audited Accounts for the 1998-99 biennium will not be presented to the Finance Committee until next May and to the Council, until the middle of next year. That, I suggest, is something upon which the Council would wish to ponder.

I come back to my point. Clearly the issue of efficiency and costs is of very considerable importance, but at the same time, it is vital that the business, which is entrusted to the Finance Committee by the Council, is properly dealt with. I, therefore, take this opportunity to put on record my reservations whether the Finance Committee in two meetings a year can discharge its business effectively.

Issa KARGOUGOU (Burkina Faso)

La délégation du Burkina Faso voudrait remercier et féliciter le Secrétariat pour la clarté et la simplicité du document CL 119/LIM/1.

La mise à jour au 16 novembre 2000 du recouvrement des contributions ordinaires, des contributions restant dues et des arriérés de contribution ne suscite pas de commentaire, mais plutôt une réflexion de la part des pays membres.

Si j'interviens à ce stade c'est pour apporter une précision en ce qui concerne l'état et le niveau des contributions ordinaires de mon pays. Selon le tableau présenté, le Burkina Faso reste redevable de sa contribution au titre de l'année 2000. S'il est vrai que nous avons reçu une lettre du Trésorier datée de septembre 2000, il est aussi vrai que le Burkina Faso a voulu attendre le Conseil pour se rassurer sur ce qui lui a été communiqué comme information. De notre point de vue, il y a eu une incompréhension entre la Représentation de la FAO à Ouagadougou et le Siège. Le point est que le Burkina Faso a payé sa contribution 2000, nous en sommes sûrs au point que nous pouvons même avancer qu'il y avait un trop perçu qui devrait être retourné à l'État burkinabé. Les circonstances qui ont engendré cette incompréhension découlent du fait que le Représentant de la FAO au Burkina a été remplacé au moment où ce paiement a été fait. Aujourd'hui, le Burkina n'a pas de Représentant officiel de la FAO dans le pays. Si j'ai attiré votre attention c'est parce que j'espère que lorsque le nouveau Représentant prendra ses fonctions les corrections adéquates seront apportées à votre document.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je voudrais, au nom de ma délégation, exprimer notre appréciation pour le travail remarquable accompli par le Comité financier et le Comité du programme, et les féliciter entre autres de la clarté du rapport en l'appuyant dans ses grandes lignes, mais en soulignant quelques traits particuliers en accord avec mon collègue de Cuba,

L'Afrique 61, malgré les explications qu'on nous donne, n'a pas une consistance à notre niveau parce que ce Conseil se réunit du 20 au 25 avec un nombre incalculable de points aussi importants que complexes à traiter. Pourtant nous avons la volonté, dans ce cadre et dans ce temps déterminé par des contraintes budgétaires, d'arriver à des discussions constructives, de respecter notre calendrier de travail et arriver à des résultats.

Il est assez étonnant que parfois lorsque des questions si sensibles se posent et que des délégations souhaitent la tenue de réunions supplémentaires ou la constitution de groupes de travail cette requête soit refusée au prétexte que cela n'était pas prévu dans le calendrier approuvé auparavant, alors qu'aujourd'hui l'on choisisse de nous proposer une session supplémentaire du comité financier au moment où la rationalité budgétaire commande la limitation des réunions et des groupes de travail.

Un organe aussi limité que le Comité financier en termes numériques a la possibilité d'examiner un Ordre du jour chargé pendant cette période si la volonté de parvenir à des discussions saines et à des conclusions plus précises est présente.

C'est pourquoi nous pensons que l'on ne peut pas vouloir quelque chose et son contraire: faire travailler tout le monde, tous les groupes régionaux pour rationaliser le travail des organes, réduire le nombre de certaines réunions, réduire la durée de celles qui sont maintenues. Je ne sais pas pourquoi une réunion additionnelle est nécessaire, à moins que l'on s'accorde sur le fait que ce serait un précédent qui ne pourrait être accepté et que toutes les autres délégations ou groupes de travail puissent se prévaloir de ce droit si une question les intéresse, pour prétendre prolonger la durée d'une réunion préalablement fixée. Pour cette raison, nous croyons avec fermeté que le Comité financier doit s'en tenir à sa réunion du mois de mai, à son ordre du jour aussi long, aussi compliqué qu'il soit et nous donner la preuve qu'il est constitué de membres compétents, et je suis sûr qu'ils le sont, et déterminés à nous donner les solutions que nous attendons d'eux. Autrement dit, si on s'amuse à allonger ou à donner la possibilité à chaque Comité qui pense que son travail sera difficile, de prolonger ses réunions on n'en finirait pas et ce travail de rationalité, d'efficacité que nous recherchons ne serait pas atteint. Nous sommes donc d'accord avec Cuba et nous nous opposons fermement à une éventuelle possibilité d'avoir une réunion au mois de janvier 2001.

Mme Ivone Alves DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

La délégation gabonaise tient à remercier le Comité financier pour le travail accompli et son Président, M. l'Ambassadeur Mekouar, pour l'exposé très clair qu'il vient de nous faire. Je voudrais faire part de notre préoccupation quant à l'éventualité de tenir une troisième session du Comité financier pour l'année 2001 et je voudrais faire nôtres les interventions faites à ce sujet par les délégations de Cuba et du Sénégal.

Michel THIBIER (France)

La France souhaite s'associer aux réserves formulées par le délégué du Royaume-Uni au sujet de la charge de travail du Comité financier en 2001. La France souhaite donc apporter son appui à sa demande d'une troisième réunion en janvier 2001.

Mrs Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

The United States of America also supports the suggestion by the United Kingdom that the workload of the Finance Committee is such that it would be difficult to do an adequate job to prepare for the next Council meeting. I would remind delegates that next year is a Conference year, and we are discussing various modalities for the Conference, which would not leave a lot of time to look into some of the work that is done by the Technical Committees.

I would suggest that an additional session of the Finance Committee would be an investment in the proper oversight and management of the Organization. I do not think it necessarily creates a precedent that would have to be followed slavishly but, certainly, if there is justification for meetings, this can always be brought to the body. As it was pointed out, the Membership of the Finance Committee is relatively small, so this would not be the same kind of investment as extending the sessions of the Conference or of the Council.

Jón E. JÓNASSON (Iceland)

Bulgaria has reminded us, and I just want to reiterate what Iceland said yesterday on behalf of the Nordic Countries, that we would like to see an extra meeting of the Finance Committee in January.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

While I appreciate the apprehension of some delegates with respect to the cost implication of another meeting for this Committee, I think we must also admit that the Finance Committee is one of the key Committees of this Organization. It is even reflected in how you get into the Committee in the first place.

Therefore, if the Committee has, in its wisdom, considered it, taking all factors into consideration, and come to the conclusion that we need an extra meeting - I was comparing notes with the members of my delegation and we are of the view that these recommendations should have some sympathy - we should go with them.

Mrs Mariann KÓVACS (Hungary)

I would like to support the proposal of the delegation of the United Kingdom, supported by France and others. It seems that this is an issue that we ought to discuss thoroughly at our Regional Group meeting. My delegation would like to add its voice to this proposal, which is to have an additional meeting of the Finance Committee next year.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA (México)

Nuestra delegación solamente quiere marcar una situación. De decidirse favorablemente en este caso, estaríamos causando un precedente que podría ser bien utilizado en otros comités para actuar en igual sentido y pedir períodos de sesiones extraordinarios. Queremos hacer hincapié en este caso porque nos está creando la pauta para que cuando tengamos intereses en otros temas actuemos igual.

Zacharie PEREVET (Cameroun)

Ma délégation s'étonne sur le point que l'on est en train d'évoquer. Depuis hier nous parlons de Programme, de Plan d'action à long terme à la FAO et beaucoup de délégations sont intervenues pour dire que vraiment c'est trop vaste, vraiment il n'y a pas d'argent pour tout cela. Maintenant que les moyens financent les programmes, maintenant qu'il s'agit vraiment d'examiner l'aspect financier, on dit qu'il faut tenir d'autres réunions, mais pour des actions qui semblaient pour nous intéressantes, notamment la décentralisation, tout le monde criait en disant qu'il n'y a pas d'argent. Maintenant pour une réunion qui n'était pas prévue et je ne sais pas si c'est réglementaire, il faut tenir une troisième réunion. Nous sommes bien étonnés. Ce n'est pas parce que ce n'est pas juste, c'est même bien, mais quand même, il faut surtout être cohérent, surtout sur certains aspects. C'est l'impression de ma délégation.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

As Nigeria said, the Finance Committee is a key and a most important Committee in the Organization.

The reason why I am late in making my statement is because I was wondering whether it was Council who approves as to the need to have other meetings, or if it is enough to have the support of the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and the Director-General. If this is the case, the meeting of the Council should not be delayed.

An important meeting should not await approval of the Council. I support it, but I believe it should be approved by the Director-General and the Chair of the Finance Committee, following preparation by the Secretariat of the necessary documents for that meeting. They should handle the matter among themselves and not wait for the approval of the Council.

But for now, I support it for the general session, but I need some clarification. Should it need approval of the Council when the cost required is so little and the importance of the work is so large ? I need some clarification on that aspect.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je m'excuse de reprendre la parole parce qu'en réalité il est dit que cela ne devrait pas être un précédent. J'aimerais bien qu'on me dise comment. Si cette décision était prise, ce à quoi, je le répète, nous nous opposons pour des raisons que nous avons développées, il est certain qu'il faudrait qu'il soit clair pour tout autre organe, parce qu'il n'y a pas d'organe important et non important. Le Comité financier a beau être important mais s'il était tout seul dans cette organisation il n'aurait aucune raison d'être. Le Comité du programmes l'est, le Comité de l'agriculture l'est, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire l'est encore plus. Je crois donc que c'est un

faux débat. Il s'agit d'experts compétents. J'ai été à la Cinquième Commission pendant cinq ans aux Nations Unies et tous ceux qui ont participé à cette Commission savent que c'est une Commission qui travaille jusqu'à 04h00 du matin. Je suis pour la prolongation des séances, des séances de nuit peut-être si cela est nécessaire, mais je ne vois pas pourquoi simplement on préjuge déjà des difficultés de résoudre des questions dans un délai. Pourquoi? Cela veut dire qu'il y a quelque chose qui n'est pas dit, ce n'est pas clair et si l'on parle de transparence il faut le faire dans le suivi et à la lettre de ce que l'on dit. Aucun argument dans ce rapport n'est pertinent pour nous prouver qu'on devrait s'acheminer vers cela sinon on créerait un précédent et il faut le souligner fermement ou alors on passerait toute notre vie à prolonger ou à créer de nouvelles sessions pour d'autres comités qui nous paraissent également importants.

Ignacio TRUEBA JAINAGA (España)

La Delegación de España apoya la declaración que ha hecho el Reino Unido y que ha sido apoyada también por los representantes de otros países.

Ms Rosa Anna CONIGLIO PAPALIA (Italy)

My delegation also, like the delegation of Spain, supports the proposal made by the British delegation.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Guatemala adhiere al planteamiento realizado por la delegación de Cuba, que, de forma tan reflexiva, han recogido con alguna variante las delegaciones de Camerún, Argelia y Angola. Respalda, pues, este planteamiento con respecto a la celebración de este período de sesiones no contemplado desde hace tanto tiempo.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

I have listened to the interventions of fellow Members of the Council with great interest. Let me first of all say that I did not come to this Session of the Council expecting to debate this issue. As the report of the Finance Committee says, discussions were to be held on this subject and, as far as I was concerned, the discussions were on-going. But since my colleague from Cuba raised the point, I felt it right to say to the Council what were my views on the subject.

I think the first thing I would like to say in response to the points that have been made is that no competent Finance Committee would propose a course of action which did not, in its judgement, represent value for money. If it did that, or those Members did that, they would be disqualifying themselves. So I hope that the integrity of the Finance Committee, in terms of its judgements about the use of this Organization's resources, are not going to be called into question.

The second point is that there would be no reason why any precedence should be established. There are three possible options in front of the Organization. One is to leave the position as it is currently programmed, and not to have a Third meeting. The second is to have a third meeting on an exceptional basis in 2001, which indeed is the view I favour. The third would be to reinstate, on a permanent basis, a Third Meeting of the Finance Committee. That is not what is being proposed. It is, of course, true that if we were to have a third meeting of the Finance Committee next year, some sort of precedent could subsequently be cited by other Governing Bodies which felt they needed more time, or more meetings. I have no doubt at all that the Governing Bodies have sufficient maturity to be able to deal with those propositions on their merits.

A number of speakers have asked for clarification of the additional costs of a third meeting and, indeed, I think there is a degree of misapprehension about the nature of those costs. I do not have the costs immediately available to me, but on an *a priori* basis, I believe them to be minimal.

Can I suggest that in order to try to bring this unexpected, but nevertheless important, debate to a conclusion, that we should seek Secretariat information on two points. One is what the additional costs of the meeting would be and, secondly, may we please have an explanation, or be reminded, of the legal texts that cover two issues. One is the right of the Finance Committee to call for additional meetings, a point enshrined in the Basic Texts, and the other is the decision of

Conference in, I believe, 1997, which abolished the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in January. I believe that that latter decision is irrelevant to this point, because the latter decision was a decision about the joint meetings, rather than about the Finance Committee as such. But I am open to correction on that.

I suggest that the best way to handle those two further pieces of information might be to return to this subject tomorrow, in order to give the Secretariat and the Legal Counsel an opportunity to research the background. So my proposal is that discussion of this particular point should be adjourned until a later point in the Council.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Me parece inteligente la propuesta del Reino Unido y quisiera adherirme a ella. Creo que sería positivo poder continuar con el tema mañana, con más elementos de juicio. Quiero advertirles que nadie pone en duda la integridad del Comité de Finanzas, pero hay un dicho sumamente popular en cualquier idioma y es que "juez y parte toma la mejor parte"; así pues, obviamente el Comité de Finanzas se ve a sí misma con un cariño un tanto especial y es bueno que siempre exista fiscalización y es la fiscalización que el Consejo debe ejercer.

En cuanto al no precedente, yo creería que no hay coherencia, es decir si algo se hace en este aspecto, es algo que debe estar abriendo el camino para los restantes comités en cuanto a sus reuniones. Estamos de acuerdo que al final de cuentas deberíamos decidir sobre : no reunión, una reunión tercera permanente, o una reunión tercera excepcional. Pero en tal caso debería quedar eso abierto a cualquier otro comité en cuanto a la excepcionalidad de períodos de sesiones cuando lo considere oportuno.

En cuanto a que los costos puedan ser mínimos como la apreciación del Reino Unido, creo que si son mínimos para este Comité, no tienen porqué ser menos mínimos para otros. Por eso es que lo que se decida sí tiene características de llegar a ser precedente.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec la proposition du Royaume-Uni qui est très sensée mais je ne comprends pas qu'il y ait un conseiller juridique auquel a été donné un délai jusqu'à demain, tandis qu'on ne sait même pas s'il est en mesure de nous dire tout de suite s'il peut répondre.

Je ne comprends donc pas pourquoi. S'il est en mesure de répondre à ces questions pertinentes, j'aimerais qu'il le fasse. Mais pourquoi lui demande t-on de répondre et on lui dit d'attendre demain pour répondre. Peut-il répondre oui ou non. S'il ne peut pas, d'accord. C'est à lui de décider quand il doit nous dire sa réponse.

CHAIRMAN

I think we have come to the end of the debate unless I see any other flags up.

The suggestion at the end of the debate has been that we should find out two things; one is the cost involved, and one is the legal position. Whether Council is prepared to give an answer now, or would like time until tomorrow, we will ask the Council just now. The other question is the question of the costs, which might need some time to work out.

First, of course, we will put the question to Legal Counsel, and then we will ask the Secretariat about the cost aspect.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I will try to respond to the questions raised by the United Kingdom.

The first question relates to the session which we had before on the Basic Texts early in the second year of the biennium. This session was introduced in 1991 by the Conference, and it concerned a Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. This Joint Meeting had the main function of examining the Outline Programme of Work and Budget. The Outline Programme of Work and Budget was then abolished in 1997 and, consequently, the Conference also abolished the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. This was mainly

linked with the abolition of the Outline Programme of Work and Budget; however, it has also been regarded as a part of the process mentioned by many delegations here which is aimed at streamlining procedures, shortening the meetings, and reducing the number of the meetings.

I would like to point out to the Council another requirement, which is in our Financial Regulations, and is linked to your request for information on costs. It is Financial Regulation 13.1, which provides that "Before taking any decision involving expenditures, the Council or any Commission or Committee appointed by the Council or the Conference, shall have before it a Report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implication of the proposals." Thus, before the Council may take any decision on this issue, such a Report should be prepared by the Director-General and considered by the Council.

There was also the question whether the Finance Committee can itself ask for an additional session. The question is now before the Council and it has, as parent body of the Finance Committee, the authority to decide.

This being said, the Basic Texts provide in General Rule XXVII.8(a) that "The Finance Committee shall hold sessions as often as necessary, either on the call of its Chairman, acting on his own initiative, or in pursuance of the decision of the Committee, or of a request submitted in writing to the Chairman by three Members of the Committee."

As far as I recall, we have some precedents of extraordinary sessions of the Finance Committee. We had two occasions as I can recall, where the World Food Programme requested the Finance Committee to meet on an urgent basis to examine certain issues which could not be postponed. In view of the fact that our Basic Texts do not allow for any sort of consultation by correspondence, WFP requested an additional session. So the precedents that we have are based exclusively on the urgency of the issues to be considered. In these two instances, all costs involved were met by WFP.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

The costs of the Session would obviously depend on the duration of the meeting, the number of items on the agenda and the documentation to be translated. So, with your permission, Mr Chairman, we would like to come back with this information tomorrow.

Rolf GERBER (Observateur de la Suisse)

En tant que Membre du Comité financier la Suisse partage les propos et préoccupations de la délégation britannique, française et des États-Unis. Si le Comité financier se réunissait avant le mois de mai, et j'appuie cette idée, il deviendrait encore plus efficace, avec la conséquence que la FAO deviendrait elle aussi plus efficace et plus transparente. Je voudrais surtout avoir suffisamment de temps pour examiner des sujets aussi importants que le prochain budget. En définitive, c'est l'efficacité et la transparence de l'Organisation qui compte et c'est notre Organisation.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Observer for Bulgaria)

I would like to take this opportunity to say a word of praise to the FAO Secretariat for providing us with a most interesting document, reforming FAO in the new Millennium.

This document, which was presented to us in the time elapse since the Hundred and Eighteenth Session of the Council, presents the principles followed, the measures taken and the results achieved to date. It also clearly indicates the way ahead in continuing the process of reform.

The document indicates that one of the strongest sides of FAO reform has been, and will continue to be, the enhancing of efficiency and transparency of the overall management process in the Organization. We note that this understanding of the Secretariat is in full compliance with Corporate Strategy E of the FAO Strategic Framework, adopted almost exactly a year ago, which mainly envisions improving decision-making through provision of information. It further states the need to realign authority, responsibility and accountability.

It is in this context that Bulgaria would like to align itself with the statements made by the United Kingdom, France, United States of America and Switzerland, and an earlier statement made by Iceland on behalf of the Nordic Countries, as far as the organization of work of the Finance Committee is concerned in the context of the preparation of the next FAO Conference.

As a Member Nation that is not represented either on the Finance Committee or on the Council, we are looking forward to constructively and efficiently participating in the Conference, and that is why we fully share a major statement in the *Strategic Framework*, which mainly points out that knowledge management is vital for effective decision-making.

Ahmed HACHEMI (Observateur d'Algérie)

Ma délégation a quelques difficultés à accepter cette proposition. Ma délégation fait siens les arguments qui ont été développés par, notamment, les délégations africaines qui vont à l'encontre de cette proposition. Tout ce qui a été avancé dans le cadre de nos travaux, que ce soit de cette session ou bien d'autres réunions des organes délibérants de notre Organisation s'insère et s'inspire de cette aspiration qui nous anime tous vers la rationalisation des activités de l'Organisation. Il nous est difficile d'accepter cette proposition tendant à convoquer une troisième réunion du Comité financier. Nous voudrions simplement nous interroger et interroger le Secrétariat sur les coûts et les retombées financières de la mise en œuvre de cette proposition si elle était acceptée par le Conseil.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Observateur d'Angola)

Je ne voulais pas intervenir, bien que je ne sois pas dans une position inférieure, mais comme observateur. Pour une question aussi importante comme celle qui vient d'être soulevée, je me vois dans l'obligation de dire mon opinion qui est celle de ma délégation.

J'ai écouté avec intérêt les interventions des uns et des autres et je voudrais me rallier à la proposition présentée par l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal, celle du Ministre du Cameroun, et à mes côtés la délégation algérienne. Si le Secrétariat pouvait nous donner quelques éclaircissements sur les coûts additionnels et autres, parce que, qu'on le veuille ou non, c'est un précédent que l'on crée. L'année prochaine sera l'année de la Conférence, donc toutes les sessions seront importantes, les différents comités vont affirmer que pour être prêt à la Conférence, une session supplémentaire est nécessaire et il faudrait donc que le Secrétariat puisse nous éclaircir sur ce point, mais au départ j'ai déclaré que je me rallie à ceux qui refusent la troisième session.

CHAIRMAN

The Secretariat would like some time to come back on the question of costs. The Legal Counsel has given us the legal position. The Secretariat requires time to come back on the question of costs, therefore, this question is adjourned until tomorrow for taking a final view on the matter.

I think this concludes Item 11.

Now we go on to Item 12, *Report of the Seventy-First Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, CCLM, October 2000*, which is contained in document CL 119/5.

This Report gives the details of recommendations made by the Committee regarding an Agreement for the Establishment of a Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, and contains a draft resolution for Council approval.

I would like to ask Mr Ly, the Chairman of the CCLM, to introduce the Report.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS

**12. REPORT OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST (SEPTEMBER 2000) SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (CL 119/5)**

**12. RAPPORT DE LA SOIXANTE ET ONZIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DES
QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (OCTOBRE 2000)
(CL 119/5)**

**12. INFORME DEL 71º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE ASUNTOS
CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS (OCTUBRE DE 2000) (CL 119/5)**

Moussa Bocar LY (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

J'avais l'habitude de présenter le rapport en tant que Vice-Président du Comité. Vous m'avez fait l'honneur maintenant de m'élire comme Président de ce Comité et je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour remercier tout d'abord tous les Membres du Conseil pour leur confiance et espérer être à la hauteur de cette tâche.

Le rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques à sa 71e session figure sous la cote CL 119/5. Deux questions ont été examinées quant au fond. D'abord la Note révisée sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil. Le Comité a rappelé qu'en 1971, le Conseil a mis en place un Comité intergouvernemental *ad hoc* sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil. Les propositions de ce Comité ont été examinées par le Conseil en 1972 et la Note sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil a été adoptée par le Conseil à sa 60e session en 1973. Depuis lors, il n'y a pas eu de nouvelles révisions.

Le Comité a examiné la Note révisée sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil présentée dans le document CL 119/5 qui tient compte de l'évolution la plus récente et des décisions découlant en particulier des résultats de l'examen des questions de gouvernance par la réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier dans le cadre du point permanent de l'Ordre du jour intitulé "Economies et gains d'efficacité en matière de gouvernance".

Le Comité, après son examen, a estimé que la Note révisée sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil est en bonne et due forme et conforme aux Textes fondamentaux de la FAO et il recommande qu'elle soit approuvée par le Conseil à sa présente session.

Deuxième question: l'Accord portant création de la Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale, en vertu de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO. A sa vingt-neuvième session de novembre 1997, la Conférence de la FAO a recommandé aux pays de l'aire du criquet pèlerin de réévaluer leur structure régionale actuelle de lutte anti-acridienne, afin de réaliser une couverture géographique appropriée et de calculer de façon réaliste les ressources financières qui permettront aux États Membres de prendre des mesures communes.

Les neuf pays concernés, à savoir: l'Algérie, la Libye, le Mali, le Maroc, la Mauritanie, le Niger, le Sénégal, le Tchad et la Tunisie, ainsi que les Secrétariats des deux organisations régionales concernées, à savoir: la Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin en Afrique du nord-ouest et l'Organisation commune de lutte anti-acridienne et anti-aviers (OCCALAV) ont participé à deux réunions consacrées à cette question en février et mai. Les participants à ces réunions ont unanimement convenu qu'un nouvel organe commun de coopération régionale regroupant les neuf pays concernés par la lutte anti-acridienne dans la région occidentale devrait être créé dans le cadre de la FAO au titre de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif.

Après examen de ce projet d'accord, le Comité qui a également examiné le projet correspondant de résolution a estimé que ces deux textes sont en bonne et due forme du point de vue juridique et conformes aux Textes fondamentaux de la FAO. Le Comité recommande donc que le projet d'accord soit formellement approuvé par le Conseil à sa présente session. Après cette approbation,

l'Accord sera distribué aux Membres de la FAO ayant qualité pour devenir Membres de la Commission et entrera en vigueur à compter de la date du dépôt du cinquième instrument d'acceptation. Voilà en substance ce que le Comité des questions juridiques attend de votre Conseil.

Permettez-moi, avant de passer la parole au Secrétariat du Comité de remercier le Secrétaire du Comité, Monsieur Luis Bombín, le Conseiller juridique, Monsieur Giuliano Pucci, les Secrétaires du Comité qui ont permis à nos travaux d'aboutir, ainsi que tous les Membres du Comité qui ont fait preuve de coopération et d'esprit de consensus. Je crois savoir qu'à l'Annexe, page 22, il y aurait des erreurs d'ordre typographiques parce que certaines parties ont été reproduites deux fois et tout à l'heure, le Secrétariat pourra vous préciser ces erreurs.

Ahmed AFAILAL (Maroc)

Je souhaiterais intervenir sur le second volet du point 12, relatif à la création de la Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale. La délégation du Royaume du Maroc, au nom du Groupe africain, souhaite insister sur l'intérêt que présente la création de la Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale.

En effet, le regroupement au sein d'une Commission unique des pays de l'Afrique de l'ouest et de l'Afrique du nord-ouest qui abritent les zones grégarigènes et de première multiplication de l'aire occidentale d'invasion du criquet pèlerin est de nature à assurer l'étroite collaboration indispensable à une lutte efficace contre ce ravageur.

Cette commission permettra aussi certainement de promouvoir sur le plan national, régional et international les actions de recherche et de formation, en vue d'assurer la lutte préventive et permettre ainsi d'éviter la résurgence de nouvelles et dramatiques invasions acridiennes.

Le Groupe africain approuve donc le projet de résolution présenté à ce sujet et annexé au document CL 119/5.

Zacharie PEREVET (Cameroun)

La délégation du Cameroun apprécie à sa juste valeur la création d'un tel Comité, parce que le Cameroun est traversé par les acridiens et il serait souhaitable que des dispositions soient prises pour que le Cameroun fasse partie également de ce Comité. Il y deux ans à peine, vous avez tous été informés que le Cameroun avait été attaqué par les acridiens. J'ai même pensé qu'on pourrait parler de Comité africain de lutte contre les acridiens. C'est peut-être un début. Nous pourrions alors penser à d'autres pays africains qui sont également affectés par ce fléau.

Issa KARGOUGOU (Burkina Faso)

La délégation du Burkina Faso vous remercie pour lui avoir donné la parole sur ce point précis et souhaite relever que, pour la zone subsaharienne, la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin présente un intérêt majeur dans la mesure où les dégâts causés par ces insectes ont des impacts négatifs importants sur les productions agricoles. La délégation du Burkina Faso ne voudrait pas demander expressément à ce que le Burkina fasse partie des neuf pays concernés, mais tient à faire noter tout simplement qu'il est aussi de temps à autre l'objet d'attaques importantes de ces criquets pèlerins.

En tout état de cause, la délégation du Burkina Faso appuie les propos tenus par le Maroc, Président du Groupe africain, et voudrait par ma voix demander au Conseil d'apporter un soutien positif pour la création effective de cette Commission de lutte.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je ne ferai pas preuve de fausse modestie pour souligner la qualité du rapport du Comité à l'étude, d'abord parce c'est le Sénégal qui a l'honneur de le présider, puisqu'il s'agit d'un Président qui est un collaborateur très compétent et un éminent juriste, je ne me gêne pas pour le féliciter de ce rapport.

Au contraire, je m'en réjouis et je suis d'accord avec lui que nous témoignons toute notre reconnaissance au Conseil et aux Etats Membres pour avoir fait l'honneur au Sénégal de prendre part aux travaux de ce Comité, en la personne du Ministre Conseiller Moussa Bocar Ly.

Je me félicite beaucoup de la déclaration de notre Président de groupe, le Représentant du Maroc, et des appuis attendus pour cette Commission. Je crois que cette Commission repose sur une longue histoire de lutte contre un phénomène qui, il faut le dire, a été à l'origine beaucoup plus ressenti dans cette partie qui a initié ce mouvement et je me souviens qu'à l'époque on disait que ces pays étaient la frontière, le dernier rempart, et que si jamais on n'y prenait garde, et si les criquets avalaient ce rempart, tous les autres pays qui, à l'époque, n'étaient pas du tout concernés, se verraient envahis comme le fait le désert au demeurant. Pour dire qu'il y a des phénomènes qui, bien que commençant par un point sont une menace pour toute l'humanité.

C'est pourquoi je pense que la Commission sur le projet d'accord que nous souhaitons voir adopté n'est pas limitatif, au contraire, mais est une invitation à tous les états qui le souhaiteraient d'y adhérer et nous souhaiterons que ce sera le cas, parce qu'il s'agit d'un phénomène qui risque même d'atteindre des pays qui ne se trouvent pas dans notre zone.

Je crois que ce qu'il convenait de souligner pour que l'on sache qu'il s'agit d'un début, qu'il fallait bien commencer et que nous souhaitons, c'est que tous les états s'associent le moment venu à cet Accord.

Moussa Bocar LY (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

L'éminent Représentant du Cameroun, et celui du Burkina Faso, ont posé une question. Sur le plan juridique, je peux répondre et laisser la parole au Secrétariat pour répondre sur le plan technique.

Sur le plan juridique, au niveau de l'Article V de l'Accord, la question est déjà traitée, la question des membres, il nous est dit, premier alinéa: que les membres de la Commission sont ceux des Etats Membres de l'Organisation constituant la région définie à l'Article III qui acceptent le présent Accord dans les conditions prévues à l'Article XVII ci-après. L'alinéa 2 poursuit: "La Commission peut à la majorité des deux-tiers de ses Membres admettre en la qualité de Membre tout autre Etat Membre de l'Organisation ou tout Etat qui fait partie de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, de l'une de ses instances spécialisées ou de l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique et qui dépose une demande à cet effet en l'accompagnant d'un document par lequel il déclare accepter l'Accord tel qu'en vigueur au moment de son admission".

Comme je l'ai dit, le Secrétariat a la réponse technique concernant l'aire du criquet pèlerin et également le Secrétariat pourra en profiter pour indiquer les corrections à apporter à la page 22 dans la mesure où il y a une répétition.

A. HAFRAOUI (Personnel de la FAO)

Je voudrais dans la mesure du possible apporter quelques clarifications sur le bien-fondé de la lutte antiacridienne. Chacun de nous se rappelle parfaitement des grandes catastrophes et des grandes invasions, que ce soit au niveau du Continent africain que dans d'autres régions limitrophes, où nous avons tous subi, je dirais, presque devant un fait accompli, ce fléau qui a engendré des dégâts et qui a engendré également des sommes faramineuses sur le budget de chaque état et également sur les contributions de la Communauté internationale.

Pour éviter ce genre de situations d'urgence qui nuisent à l'environnement, aux aspects socio-économiques des Etats, il a fallu réfléchir à une stratégie préventive, c'est-à-dire agir à l'amont du problème. Comment gérer le problème acridien au niveau des zones de reproduction que nous avons étudiées depuis des années sur les aspects écologiques et également sur les aspects d'échanges de ces populations acridiennes entre les différents pays concernés. Il a donc fallu asseoir une stratégie préventive. Cette stratégie préventive sera basée dans les Etats qui abritent au départ les aires de reproduction.

Pour la région centrale, pour votre information, c'est le pays du pourtour de la Mer rouge. Nous avons constitué une Commission qui a mis sur pied une stratégie et nous n'avons plus cette invasion et ce fléau au niveau de la région centrale qui est le pourtour de la Mer rouge.

Nous voulons faire la même chose au niveau des zones de reproduction dans la région occidentale. Les pays concernés sont cités dans la Convention qui vous est proposée pour approbation.

Nous parlons du criquet pèlerin, c'est-à-dire l'insecte majeur migrateur qui se déplace à partir de ces zones de reproduction vers d'autres continents. Il faut donc agir à l'amont.

La deuxième phase, j'espère que nous n'y arriverons pas, c'est les pays en seconde ligne qui pourraient peut-être recevoir des essaims si le mandat que les Etats donnent à cette Commission ne sera pas rempli. Nous pourrions être donc dans une situation effectivement d'invasion généralisée qui pourrait toucher le Burkina, comme également le nord du Cameroun. Mais nous n'en sommes pas là.

Naturellement, le Cameroun est périodiquement, je dirais annuellement infesté par une espèce autre que le criquet pèlerin qui est le criquet migrateur et pour lequel les Etats ont constitué une Organisation qu'on appelait OICMA "Organisation internationale de lutte contre le criquet migrateur". Il y a douze ans que ces mêmes Etats ont aboli cette Organisation. Le problème du criquet migrateur n'est plus un problème d'invasion généralisée. Ils ont donc confié le problème du criquet migrateur aux Services nationaux de protection des végétaux. C'est un problème sédentaire qui n'a pas, ce que j'appellerais cette dimension internationale. Il y a l'Organisation commune de lutte antiacridienne et antiavière, l'OCLAA, qui a été citée dans le préambule de la Convention qui vous est soumise. Elle s'occupe de la coordination aussi bien du criquet pèlerin que des oiseaux migrants, mais elle n'agit plus sur le terrain, n'est plus opérationnelle sur le terrain, et les Etats qui sont concernés par les invasions ou la recrudescence permanentes du criquet pèlerin ont décidé d'agir à l'amont. C'est pour cela que cette Commission a été initiée par les Etats eux-mêmes concernés par le problème et l'Accord a été obtenu tant sur le plan écologique que sur le plan géographique également et l'échange des populations qui se fait entre les pays nord-Sahara et les pays sud-Sahara.

Naturellement, le texte n'exclut pas que tout pays peut être membre ou observateur, s'il adresse une demande aux Etats Membres de la Commission qui ont constitué cette Commission.

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Observateur de l'Algérie)

Je joins ma voix à celle du Représentant du Maroc qui a tracé un tableau très exhaustif sur notre Commission et sur le rôle qu'elle joue actuellement pour la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin. Au nom de ma délégation, je peux dire qu'il m'est agréable de faire part de notre satisfaction de voir d'autres pays africains touchés par le fléau acridien se joindre à notre Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin en Afrique du nord-ouest.

Cet élargissement ne peut, j'en suis persuadé, que renforcer l'expérience, l'engagement et le dynamisme de notre Commission. Avec la mobilisation et la coopération de tous, nous parviendrons à des résultats qui seront, nous en sommes certains, à la hauteur des espoirs que nous plaçons en elle.

Je veux porter à la connaissance de cette honorable Assemblée que l'Algérie, qui abrite actuellement le Siège de la CLCPRO, est disposée à mettre tous les moyens nécessaires à la disposition de la nouvelle Commission, la CLCPRO allant dans le sens d'un renforcement de son efficacité ou permanence.

A cet effet, des mesures ont déjà été prises afin que la nouvelle Commission soit installée dans des locaux plus appropriés pour lui permettre ainsi qu'à son Secrétaire, de mener à bien ses activités dans un cadre satisfaisant.

Je tiens à rappeler que, lors de la réunion des ministres de l'agriculture, en marge des travaux de la dernière Conférence tenue en novembre 1999, il a été convenu que cette Commission prenne corps sur les assises et les structures de l'actuelle Commission, la CLCPRO.

The meeting rose at 16.30 hrs

La séance est levée à 16 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Nineteenth Session Cent dix-neuvième session 119º período de sesiones
Rome, 20-25 November 2000 Rome, 20-25 novembre 2000 Roma, 20-25 de noviembre de 2000
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
23 November 2000

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours

Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA

6. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME 6. PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL 6. PROGRAMA MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS

6.1 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 1999 (CL 119/3)

*6.1 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 1999
(CL 119/3)*

*6.1 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 1999
(CL 119/3)*

CHAIRMAN

I declare open the seventh meeting of the Hundred and Nineteenth Session of the Council.

We may now begin the items on our agenda for today, starting with Item 6, *World Food Programme*. I would like to welcome Mr Ngongi, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme, who will kindly introduce sub-Item 6.1, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 1999*. The relevant document is CL 119/3.

A. Namanga NGONGI (World Food Programme)

It is an honour and pleasure for me, on behalf of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, to present to the Council the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board for the year 1999.

As you and Members of the Council will recollect, in the past, a report of the Executive Board to ECOSOC and to the FAO Council was prepared as a separate document from the Annual Report of the Executive Director. However, that Annual Report, together with the Annual Report of the Executive Director, were in many ways duplicated, and we used to forward that report to you with the Executive Director's Annual Report, and the recommendations and decisions of the Executive Board which, in many instances, maybe led to some confusion. The Executive Board therefore decided that we should have just a combination of the Annual Report of the Executive Director and the recommendations and decisions of the Executive Board to be submitted to both the FAO Council and the ECOSOC, and that is the document that we have before you today.

As you may have seen, the document that was presented to you shows that the World Food Programme remained very, very active during 1999. In fact, the Programme was able to reach and provide assistance to some 89 million people in all parts of the world, with some 3.4 million tonnes of food at a total cost of approximately US\$ 1.4. That really was a very high-level of operation.

Of the total operations, some 19 million beneficiaries of the World Food Programme's assistance were under the category called "development". Some 29 million were persons who are refugees and displaced persons, displaced persons who were in their own countries but who also badly needed assistance, and we had an exceptionally high number – 41 million people – who were affected by natural disasters.

The World Food Programme continues to be very pleased, and blessed, to have received last year US\$1.550 billion dollars in resources. It is a very large amount of money, but I regret to say there were many needs which still went unmet. Particularly worrying, of course, was the continuing decline of the resources going on our development activities. But we are most grateful to the donors, both large and small, and to the Membership as a whole, for the strong support in

providing such resources to the World Food Programme. We pledge to continue to use them for the best interest of the Membership and the beneficiaries.

During the year, the Executive Board brought to completion a number of issues that had been under discussion for quite some time. Among these, I can cite just a few: at the First Regular Session in the year of 1999, the Board concluded its work on the resource and long-term financing policies, and it adopted its own Rules of Procedure. Recognizing also that a lot of work is still needed to be done to strengthen the other governance structure of the World Food Programme, the Board created a Working Group on Governance that met many times in 1999 and, I am pleased to say, completed its work during the year 2000. Of course, the details of that will be reported in the future session of the Council.

The governance work has clarified, in many ways, the balance in relationships between the various parties involved in the management, administration and policy guidance of the Programme. I think that is something that will help the Programme in its work in the future.

At the Annual Session of the Board, the Board concluded its year-long consultation process concerning food aid for development. As many Members of the Council – we recognize, in fact, many of them – also participated in those open consultations which took place at the World Food Programme's Headquarters, clear and, I would say, much more logical conclusions were reached in the areas in which food aid, as food aid, could contribute to the development process; of course, always bearing in mind that there should be a lot of room for partnerships, and especially partnerships between WFP and FAO and IFAD, and all the other partners of the United Nations System. However, it is clear that food aid by itself cannot be a development instrument; rather the technical assistance of organizations such as FAO, and financial resources of organizations such as IFAD, should be sought. The Secretariat pledged to review some 75 percent of its development programmes to fit the new food aid for development criteria before the end of 2001. I am pleased to say that at least somewhere close to 60 percent of that review has been done.

In spite of much progress that has been made in many areas, of course many challenges still remain. There are still many programmes, especially in the development area, which go unfunded. Also, the PRRO category of programmes is facing some difficulties and, recently, the Board requested that there should be a review of this category of the Programme activities. Above all, there are many emergencies in many countries which do not get sufficient funding for one reason or the other, not because of the needs of the people who are affected by the emergencies, but may be the way in which the countries are perceived by the international community. I think that we, as the World Food Programme, have the obligation to bring to the attention of the international communities the needs of every person in the world, in countries in which the World Food Programme should operate. It is regrettable that, in many instances, it is not the needs of people that are put first, it is more the acceptability or popularity of countries.

One area which is of great concern, not only to the World Food Programme, although we have been badly hit, but many of the organizations of the United Nations, and especially recently also FAO, is the area of staff security. Inasmuch as we shall be working more in the interests of the beneficiaries that we are servicing, rather than the interest of the staff of the Programme, we cannot continue to do our work if staff are exposed needlessly to security problems around the world. Therefore, we were pleased, especially when we had this tragic aircraft incident last year, with four staff members being killed, to get the solidarity of the Conference of FAO of November 1999. It was during that FAO Conference that we had this terrible incident in Pristina. But that was a tragic accident. What is more painful is the deliberate killing of humanitarian workers. Although any death is painful, an accident can be understood; deliberate killing or murder cannot be understood. But what is particularly troubling to the World Food Programme, and the United Nations humanitarian agencies in particular, is that very few, and I know only of two instances, in which people who have perpetrated such crimes against humanitarian workers have been pursued in justice, and that is really sad. WFP has already lost more than 57 of their people.

It should be highlighted that achieving the success with which we are proud to be associated, is not in any way separated from the support and concerns of all the members of the international communities, including the recipient countries. We do wish to place on record our firm gratitude and we look forward to continued support in the future.

Mohammad Saeed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Everything has been explained in the Report and I would like to appreciate Mr Ngongi's excellent introduction to it. I am not going to talk about lots of good things which are happening, has happened, in the WFP, but I would like to bring to the attention of Council two main points; one is the unfunded projects, be they development projects or emergencies or PRROs.

Unfortunately, lots of ratified projects have been approved by the WFP Executive Board, but, due to insufficient resources, WFP cannot carry them out. We would like the Council to take a position on that and ask the generous donors to pay enough attention to these kinds of projects to help WFP in carrying out its mandate, especially the unfunded projects.

The second one is staff security. This issue has received lots of attention by the Executive Board of WFP, but I think it is very timely for the Council to register its sympathy with the families of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, and also regret such events, and we hope that we shall not witness any more. We have to do everything in our power to prevent that.

Finally, as President of the Executive Board of WFP, I am very familiar with the activities of WFP and I would like to register my great appreciation for the excellent management of WFP, together with the excellent programmes which are on-going in that organization.

Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan highly appreciates the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for submitting the Annual Report.

By this Annual Report, we understand that WFP elaborately worked for better management and for efficient operations under the various difficult situations. We do not want to repeat the comments we made during the Executive Board of WFP. However, with this opportunity, we would like to make one comment and that is, as the representative of Iran just stated, the security of the staff.

The biggest tragedy in the last year was, as the Deputy Executive Director just mentioned, the WFP-chartered aeroplane crash in Kosovo. It happened on the first day of the FAO Conference of last year and we clearly remember the sorrowful atmosphere of this room on that day.

Other than that, there were several misfortunes throughout the year and we would like to express our sincere condolences again, to the families, friends and colleagues of the victims who are struck by grief.

Although we acknowledge the Executive Director's significant effort for ensuring the staff's security, we encourage the Secretariat of WFP to continue its efforts until such tragedies never appear again in the Annual Report.

Finally, we would like to add that Japan will actively participate in the discussion in the United Nations on the security of United Nations staff.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

La délégation française se félicite tout d'abord de l'adoption définitive par le récent Conseil d'administration du PAM du document relatif à la gouvernance et des bonnes orientations prises à cette occasion. Nous ne doutons pas en effet que les recommandations adoptées en mai et octobre dernier amélioreront sensiblement la qualité, la transparence des travaux et des actions de l'Organisation.

Nous avons accueilli avec satisfaction les efforts qui ont permis que soit pleinement assuré le respect des compétences du Conseil d'administration, qu'il s'agisse des orientations politiques qu'il

donne ou de son rôle décisionnel et de contrôle sur les projets et les programmes et jusqu'aux opérations de secours et de redressement.

Nous attendons avec un très grand intérêt la mise en œuvre par le Secrétariat de ces recommandations dans le cadre des prochains Conseils d'administration. S'agissant par ailleurs, de l'initiative pour un Programme mondial d'alimentation dans les écoles, ce domaine d'action est assurément l'un de ceux où l'aide alimentaire trouve sa pleine signification et pourrait témoigner de son efficacité. La distribution de nourriture dans les écoles fait partie des programmes liés au développement sur lesquels un consensus peut exister autour d'objectifs communs et de besoins concrets. Nous estimons cependant nécessaire de clarifier quels sont les enjeux d'une telle initiative, en termes de lutte contre la sous alimentation chez les enfants comme en matière de politique d'accès à l'éducation. La mise en œuvre d'un tel programme devrait dès lors s'organiser en relation étroite et constante avec les réalités et les politiques agricoles et éducatives nationales. Il conviendrait en outre de s'assurer que les envois d'aide alimentaire prévus au titre de cette initiative respectent les procédures définies dans le cadre du Protocole de Carthagène au cas où ils pourraient contenir des OGM.

Ma délégation souhaite rappeler que le maître d'œuvre de ce projet devrait être le PAM dont l'expertise en la matière est unanimement reconnue. Le document fourni à titre d'information lors du dernier Conseil d'administration est à cet égard une première étape dont il faut se féliciter. Il serait cependant souhaitable d'être plus amplement informé des actions déjà entreprises par le Programme dans ce domaine. Les prochains Conseils d'administration devraient dès lors être pleinement saisis de ce sujet et en débattre dans la plus grande transparence. Chaque état intéressé devrait notamment pouvoir indiquer clairement quels sont les projets et les pays ou les régions qu'il souhaite cibler dans la mise en œuvre de ce programme. C'étaient les commentaires que la délégation française souhaitait vous présenter.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentine)

Quisiera hacer algunos comentarios en nombre del GRULAC. Al aprobar el informe de la Directora Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos 1999, nuestra región aprovecha la oportunidad para recordar que, conforme a los Artículos II y II de sus Estatutos, la actuación del PMA está sometida a las decisiones y recomendaciones que surjan del ECOSOC y del Consejo de la FAO, y que su principal propósito o cometido es utilizar la ayuda alimentaria para apoyar el desarrollo económico y social, así como para promover la seguridad alimentaria mundial de conformidad con las recomendaciones que al respecto formulan las Naciones Unidas y la FAO.

Dicho esto, el GRULAC desea subrayar la destacada labor realizada durante 1999 por el PMA, al brindar ayuda alimentaria a 89 millones de beneficiarios, lo que, comparado con las cifras del año anterior, implica un incremento de aproximadamente 17 por ciento. Esto no obstante, que el nivel de recursos obtenidos de 1,555 millones de dólares EE. UU., fue inferior al alcanzado en 1998. Como se recordará, esta ecuación se debió a la caída de los precios de algunos productos básicos en el mercado mundial, lo que coadyuvó a aumentar el volumen de alimentos otorgados. Tal como puede apreciarse en el informe, la mayoría de los recursos obtenidos se concentraron en actividades de urgencia y operaciones prolongadas de socorros y recuperación, mientras que los recursos a favor de los programas de desarrollo, lamentablemente, continuaron reduciéndose, como ha sido la tendencia en los últimos años. Esto, a pesar de que las actividades a favor del desarrollo deberían ser el motor fundamental de la ayuda que otorga el PMA, como lo fue años atrás.

El desarrollo es, precisamente, la única herramienta a través de la cual los países más pobres y de menos ingresos podrían estar mejor preparados para prevenir y enfrentar las catástrofes naturales, o disminuir el nivel de conflictos que los aquejan. De hecho, y como quedó establecido en las nuevas directrices que norman las acciones de la ayuda alimentaria a favor del desarrollo, la prevención es uno de los cinco aspectos básicos que, en adelante, deberá tener en cuenta el PMA al elaborar los proyectos de esta naturaleza. No obstante esto último, comprobamos con pesar, al revisar las actividades del Programa y las cifras, que en la práctica se trata de un principio que no es del todo captado, comprendido y aceptado por todos los donantes, por lo cual el GRULAC los

convoca a realizar esfuerzos superiores y a dar muestras claras de voluntad política, aumentando sus contribuciones a favor de este tipo de programas; de lo contrario, en un futuro no lejano, veremos amenazado el doble mandato del PMA.

Asimismo, deseamos destacar nuestra preocupación frente a la tendencia, cada vez mayor, a concentrar las donaciones a través de la ventanilla multilateral dirigida en detrimento de las contribuciones netamente multilaterales. Si bien apreciamos y reconocemos el esfuerzo realizado por las partes durante el tercer período de sesiones de la Junta Ejecutiva de este año, a fin de poder aprobar las recomendaciones sobre una Estrategia para la Movilización de Recursos, consideramos que el acuerdo alcanzado no será suficiente si no existe una verdadera convicción y voluntad de cambio que permita mejorar, de manera sustantiva, el manejo de los recursos en el corto plazo. Bajo la actual modalidad de contribuciones, se encuentra seriamente amenazada la multilateralidad del PMA, así como su capacidad de gestión y acción; pues, como pudo constatarse a lo largo del año que abarca el presente informe, en algunos casos el Programa contó con la totalidad de los recursos solicitados, mientras que en otros no logró obtener ni siquiera los mínimos suficientes para comenzar proyectos aprobados por la propia Junta Ejecutiva. Sentimos esta situación como muy delicada ya que le resta credibilidad a la Institución, así como a quienes la sostienen.

Bajo esta perspectiva, nuestro Grupo Regional hace patente su alta preocupación pues, de no verificarse en el corto plazo un verdadero cambio en las posiciones, en un futuro no lejano estaremos enfrentando una potencial amenaza en contra del carácter universal y multilateral de las instituciones, cuyos efectos podrían ser sumamente dañinos y quizás irreparables.

En otro orden de ideas, el GRULAC ve con beneplácito los esfuerzos que lleva a cabo el PMA en materia de coordinación con otros asociados, especialmente por lo que se refiere a otros organismos y agencias de Naciones Unidas; pero al mismo tiempo desea destacar que tales esfuerzos no serán suficientes si sus contrapartes no asumen una voluntad similar. Por lo tanto, instamos aquí a la FAO a redoblar sus esfuerzos en este sentido, particularmente cuando ambos organismos se encuentran asociados en el terreno.

Por otra parte, estimamos oportuno subrayar la importancia que nuestra región le da a las cuestiones de género. Como se ha podido constatar, el PMA ha tenido un avance sustantivo en este sentido, lo que nos llena de satisfacción, pues la mujer tiene y debe adquirir un papel cada vez más relevante en las acciones y funciones que realiza el Programa, así como en todas las actividades que se realizan en los países. Al destacar lo anterior, el GRULAC convoca a la FAO para que siga el ejemplo del PMA.

En relación con la contratación de personal, reconocemos los esfuerzos que realiza el Programa para tratar de mantener un equilibrio adecuado entre los funcionarios provenientes de países desarrollados y aquellos en desarrollo. No obstante ello, nos preocupa que tales esfuerzos no se concentren en la búsqueda de equilibrios adecuados entre las distintas regiones y al interior de las mismas, pues muchos países, incluidos algunos de nuestra región, están subrepresentados o simplemente no cuentan con ninguna representatividad.

Finalmente, permítame hacer referencia a un asunto que no está contemplado dentro del informe de la Directora Ejecutiva, pero que nuestro grupo regional estima de suma importancia. Me refiero a las visitas de observación que realizan los miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva desde hace dos años a los países donde actúa el PMA. Tales actividades han dado un nuevo sentido a la función que desempeñan los integrantes de la Junta al aprobar los proyectos, especialmente en el caso de los dirigidos hacia actividades de desarrollo pues, como han podido constatar con sus propios ojos, la asistencia alimentaria de este tipo crea una enorme diferencia en la calidad de vida de las comunidades beneficiarias, permitiéndole salir de la extrema pobreza y alcanzar su seguridad alimentaria de manera sostenible, al mismo tiempo que están mejor preparados para prevenir desastres naturales o evitar conflictos. Todas estas metas coinciden plenamente con los propósitos fundamentales de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, y forman parte de los objetivos con que fueron creados el PMA, la FAO y el FIDA.

Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARRÚE (Cuba)

Agradecemos la presentación realizada por el señor Ngongi que da cuenta de la amplia actividad del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en 1999. Antes de realizar algunos comentarios sobre el informe presentado, mi Delegación desea apoyar la información realizada por la distinguida Representante de Argentina a nombre del GRULAC.

Como bien expresa la Directora Ejecutiva en el prefacio de este informe, 1999 fue especialmente exigente para el PMA. Dice ella: "Diversas crisis en distintas partes del mundo presentaron también importantes desafíos, a pesar de que no recibieron, de manera sensacional, la misma atención de parte de los medios informativos". No creo necesario repetir las elocuentes cifras que este informe plantea con relación a las personas asistidas por el PMA durante 1999, que constituye la más elevada cifra en un sólo año. De igual manera, el documento nos ilustra el total de alimentos, los gastos operacionales y las contribuciones. Creo oportuno referirme a un aspecto, y es que, dentro de esta amplísima actividad desplegada por el PMA, como ya han dicho otros colegas que me han precedido, murieron siete funcionarios en circunstancias diversas. Entre ellos, recordamos la tragedia del avión que se estrelló cerca de Prístina, en el vuelo entre Roma y Kosovo. Permítame no seguir adelante sin antes enviar nuestra más profunda condolencia para los familiares de estos trabajadores del PMA, y aprovecho la oportunidad para reafirmar, de manera positiva, la calidad y sensibilidad humana de los funcionarios de este Programa, repartidos por todo el mundo, que desarrollan su labor cotidiana, con profesionalidad, dedicación y no exentos de peligros.

En esta etapa el PMA ha realizado importantes medidas, entre ellas, la discusión y aprobación de la nueva política Habilidad para el Desarrollo. Otros temas han sido igualmente atendidos durante el pasado año, como la descentralización, la distribución de puestos de la Junta Ejecutiva, la colaboración con la UNDP, Grupo de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas, la resolución de los nuevos estatutos, la gestión de información, el nuevo sistema de gobierno, la movilización de recursos y la estrategia de la misma. Proceso de especial importancia para los países en desarrollo, que en todo momento abogan por el fortalecimiento del multilateralismo, por el aumento de los recursos destinados para el desarrollo, y por evitar condicionamientos en las contribuciones al PMA.

Apoyamos este informe, que ya fue discutido por nosotros en el seno de la Junta Ejecutiva, creyendo oportuno, no obstante, monitorar algunos comentarios que han sido puestos a consideración por nuestra Delegación anteriormente, y ya expresados también por el GRULAC, y que tienen que ver con la cartera de desarrollo del PMA y la tendencia al abandono de las contribuciones multilaterales con la preferencia al apoyo multilateral dirigido específicamente.

Nuestra preocupación es justa, si se tiene en cuenta de que esta práctica reduce la capacidad de respuesta del Programa a los cambios de las necesidades que surgen en el mundo entero. Teniendo en cuenta otros aspectos del Programa, es oportuno destacar la importancia de las respuestas rápidas y el incremento de sus recursos, ya que al menos su evolución le permite al PMA reaccionar con rapidez y atender a las necesidades creadas por nuevas situaciones de urgencia, o para evitar interrupciones en los envíos de alimentos a los países a cargo de las operaciones en marcha.

Llamo la atención a la reducción del perfil de la ayuda alimentaria mundial del PMA desde el 1994 hasta 1999 en la región de América Latina. Esta ha sufrido un descenso significativo. En 1994 fue de un 10,2 y en 1999 sólo un 6,9. Estas cifras son elocuentes, y esperamos, muy sinceramente, que las operaciones en favor del desarrollo se puedan ir acomodando a las nuevas tendencias propuestas en el documento *Habilidad para el Desarrollo*, pero también confiamos que estos aspectos reciban una mayor atención de parte de los donantes. Estamos seguros que de ser así el PMA podrá contar con un volumen disponible para estas actividades imprescindibles y de mucha importancia para nuestros países. Aquellos donde la muerte silenciosa de la extrema pobreza no es noticia para las primeras planas de la prensa internacional, pero acecha lenta y cotidianamente contra la vida de millones de hombres, mujeres, niños y ancianos en nuestro continente.

Me complace informarles que Cuba, país beneficiario del PMA, pero habitual pequeño donante del Programa, afirmó su contribución anual de azúcar en la reciente Reunión de Promesas celebrada en Nueva York.

Apoyamos el despliegue de actividades del PMA y su cooperación con otras agencias del sistema, su colaboración con las Organizaciones no-Gubernamentales, el fortalecimiento de su capacidad institucional, el fortalecimiento de la capacidad de su personal, sus métodos en la creación de capacidades en las comunidades, el despliegue del PMA en los países y sobre todo el esfuerzo en la integración de las cuestiones relativas al género.

Hemos analizado también la atención que el PMA le confía al seguimiento y complementación de las conferencias internacionales y, entre ellas, podemos destacar el papel jugado por el seguimiento de los acuerdos de la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer de Beijing y la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

Mi Delegación apoya la capacidad indiscutible del PMA en la asistencia del socorro humanitario y en caso de catástrofe y la mitigación de sus efectos; en su capacidad de intervención de urgencia en situaciones complejas. Muestra de eso, fue el reconocimiento que el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas le hiciera recientemente a la Directora Ejecutiva del PMA, al nombrarla su Representante Especial en el Cuerno de África. Deseo aprovechar esta oportunidad para extenderle a la Señora Catherine Bertini nuestra felicitación por los resultados obtenidos donde el PMA y la comunidad internacional han tenido que realizar una importante y rápida acción.

Finalmente, quisiera compartir con los Miembros del Consejo una experiencia; todavía nuestro informe final no ha sido entregado a la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA, pero aprovecho esta oportunidad para adelantarle algunos comentarios. Del 1º al 12 de noviembre tuve el privilegio, junto a colegas de España, México, Alemania, Pakistán, Egipto, Hungría, Swazilandia y la Secretaria de la Junta, Señora Susana Rico, de formar parte de una delegación de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA que visitó los proyectos de desarrollo de Perú y Bolivia. *In situ* pudimos constatar la silenciosa extrema pobreza de la que hablaba anteriormente. Pudimos constatar cuánto nos queda por hacer, a cuánta gente tenemos todavía que llegar; constatamos la lucha del esfuerzo de sus moradores contra el subdesarrollo, en medio de una diversa y adversa geografía dentro de un mismo país; constatamos que la presencia del PMA en esos lejanos parajes del altiplano es una realidad incuestionable; pudimos constatar la importancia que ha tenido para esas poblaciones la acción del PMA a través de diversos proyectos de desarrollo; proyectos con distintas modalidades, donde se ha combinado la monetización, "alimentos por trabajo", y otras. A la vez, pudimos conocer, de primera mano, distintas experiencias de proyectos que han logrado sostenibilidad, tales como proyectos de micro-empresas gestionadas por mujeres, micro-cuentas hidrográficas para el mejoramiento y recuperación de suelos, la construcción de caminos, recuperación del medio ambiente, programas para niños de educación inicial y escolares; así como los programas de saneamiento y de salud, vivienda y educación, contra el terrible "mal de chagas", producido por la picadura de un vector llamado "vinchuca"; mal desconocido por muchos, pero que donde están presentes todos los factores que caracterizan la extrema pobreza, infecta a un porcentaje impresionante de la población, haciendo que la mortalidad, en algunos de esos parajes, sea de un 80 por ciento.

Pienso y creo que mis compañeros de viaje estarán de acuerdo conmigo al afirmar que, ante estas realidades y otras que se observan en los países en vía de desarrollo, el PMA no puede pensar solamente en su retirada. Opino que se necesita una mayor flexibilidad ante las distintas realidades que nos presentan los distintos países del continente. Es pertinente que nos detengamos ante la creciente amenaza que tienen nuestros países, de ser descalificados como beneficiarios de la ayuda alimentaria del PMA, pues así se nos mide a través de fríos indicadores.

Por último, pienso que nuestro deber es ayudar a esas poblaciones a erradicar el flagelo de la pobreza.

En nombre de esos millones de seres silenciosos que mueren día a día, permítame encomiar el trabajo del PMA en esos lugares, abogar por su universalidad y por el fortalecimiento del multilateralismo, y solicitar a la comunidad internacional que siga apoyando con sus

contribuciones a este Programa, para que la ayuda alimentaria del PMA, junto con otros necesarios factores, contribuyan a que el hambre desaparezca en el mundo y, entre todos, podamos arribar con la frente alta a conseguir las metas que la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación nos pidiera para el 2015.

Nahi AL SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

First of all we would like to thank Mr Ngongi for the good introduction of the Item. We have listened to him with attention. We should also like to thank the Executive Director of the Programme, as well as the Executive Board for the considerable efforts made by the Programme with a view to addressing the crisis resulting from food shortages.

The activities of the Programme this year were remarkable. Since the Programme provided food aid to about 89 million people as mentioned in the report. This is a record figure. We would be remiss at this juncture if we did not thank all the donor countries for their contributions.

Everyone knows that food aid is necessary and it is not a substitute for the efforts of the States to achieve development, for example, Syria for two consecutive years has been affected by drought. We did not see, the natural grassland, as we used to see, on which 15 million head of cattle feed.

Many irrigated and rainfed cultures would not harvest for those two years. Therefore, a large number of farmers had no income during that period.

Finally, I would like to stress that Syria is extremely concerned for the safety of the employees of the Programme. They are messengers of good deeds to all needy peoples, therefore we have to exert all efforts, national and international, to safeguard their security and safety against natural disasters and accidents.

Abdoukarim DIOUF (Sénégal)

Le Sénégal accueille favorablement le rapport du Directeur exécutif sur les activités du PAM au cours de l'année 1999, publié sous la cote CL 119/3 et brièvement présenté par Monsieur Ngongi, Directeur exécutif comme il a l'habitude de le faire.

Après un mandat de trois ans comme Membre du Conseil d'administration du PAM et ayant pris part à ses délibérations à une période charnière de la vie de l'Organisation, c'est-à-dire au moment des travaux sur les ressources et financements à long terme, la révision des textes détaillés du PAM, nous avons pu prendre connaissance de l'importance des activités du PAM, tant dans les situations d'urgence que pour les activités destinées à promouvoir le développement socio-économique des populations les plus vulnérables.

Aussi est-ce avec un intérêt certain que nous continuons de suivre les travaux de l'Organe directeur mais également les activités qui sont déployées sur le terrain pour venir en aide aux personnes se trouvant dans une situation précaire.

C'est pourquoi nous déplorons, comme l'a souligné M. Ngongi, la réduction des ressources allouées au développement et autres activités d'urgence, et nous soutenons l'appel du Directeur exécutif adjoint pour que la Communauté internationale mette à disposition du Programme les ressources nécessaires lui permettant de s'acquitter avec efficacité de sa tâche si importante dans les programmes de réduction de la pauvreté.

S'agissant de la sécurité du personnel, nous voudrions, une fois de plus, déplorer les pertes de vies humaines que le Programme n'a cessé d'enregistrer et nous rendons hommage à la mémoire de celles et ceux qui ont payé de leur vie pour sauver d'autres vies humaines. Nous sollicitons donc tous les gouvernements à prendre les mesures adéquates pour mettre en place un bon système de protection des collaborateurs du PAM dans les pays où cette Organisation mène des activités.

Je voudrais également exprimer notre satisfaction pour les activités menées par le PAM en vue de promouvoir l'éducation des filles, en particulier, car nous sommes convaincus que l'éducation est la clé de voûte de tout programme de développement.

Nous réitérons ici notre attachement aux achats locaux et opérations triangulaires du PAM chaque fois que cela est possible afin de permettre à l'Institution, non seulement de réaliser des économies, mais aussi de contribuer au développement de la production agricole locale.

Ma délégation voudrait également mettre l'accent, pour s'en féliciter, sur la collaboration renforcée qui existe entre les trois organisations romaines à vocation agricole et alimentaire, preuve que les responsables de ces organisations ont la volonté sincère de mettre pleinement en œuvre les recommandations des États Membres.

Au moment où les ressources consacrées aux politiques de réduction de la pauvreté ne cessent de décliner, il importe plus que jamais de maximiser les synergies entre toutes les organisations basées à Rome, pour pouvoir répondre au maximum aux attentes des millions de personnes victimes de la faim, de la malnutrition et des catastrophes dans le monde.

Enfin, ma délégation voudrait s'associer à celle de Cuba pour adresser ses vives félicitations à Mme Catherine Bertini, Directeur exécutif du PAM, pour le choix porté sur elle, par le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, M. Kofi Anan, d'en faire son envoyé spécial dans la Corne de l'Afrique, preuve, s'il en était encore besoin, de l'engagement de Mme C. Bertini, un engagement constant et sans faille, en faveur des personnes les plus pauvres et les plus démunies à travers le monde.

Ignacio TRUEBA JAINAGA (España)

La delegación española quiere agradecer muy sinceramente la presentación del Sr. Ngongi. La claridad, competencia profesional y calidad humana del Sr. Ngongi merecen el reconocimiento de nuestra delegación. Particularmente, en los aspectos que ha destacado relacionados con la ayuda alimentaria como factor de desarrollo. Efectivamente, una coordinación importante entre las tres agencias de Roma para realizar el desarrollo y, centrando el papel estratégico de la ayuda alimentaria, se considera de primer orden. En este sentido, animamos la colaboración de los programas del VAM y del FIVIMS (VAM del PMA y FIVIMS de la FAO) para que puedan continuar su colaboración conjunta.

Por otra parte, quiero destacar también la labor que, como ha dicho la distinguida delegada de Cuba, realiza el personal del PMA sobre todo en sus actividades en el campo. Es un personal profesional, bien preparado, con dedicación a su trabajo, yo diría con mística de trabajo, que es realmente encomiable y, desde ese punto de vista, también deseo que la seguridad de este personal se incremente. Lamento profundamente las víctimas que ha tenido este personal y, en concreto, el accidente del Kosovo, donde también fallecieron tres funcionarios españoles que prestaban sus servicios. Mi reconocimiento para todos ellos y para todas las personas que dan su vida por una cosa tan noble como es la felicidad del mundo, y sobre todo, la lucha contra la pobreza y la malnutrición.

Quisiera indicar algunos aspectos en el documento del *Informe Anual de la Directora Ejecutiva: 1999* presentado en esta sesión. La versión española tiene algunas inconsistencias, particularmente en la página 2, donde se habla de que la ayuda alimentaria es de 3 424 000 000 toneladas. Como muy bien ha dicho el Sr. Ngongi al empezar su intervención, la ayuda asciende a 3,4 millones de toneladas. La Delegación de España se ofrece a revisar este documento, en su versión española, para que estas cifras no le quiten un ápice del gran mérito que tiene este documento y, particularmente, la publicación hecha al efecto en su versión española.

Quiero referirme, tal viaje que los miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva hemos hecho a Perú y a Bolivia durante los pasados quince días. Nos hemos encontrado, como ha dicho la Delegada de Cuba, con un cuadro realmente dramático. Hemos visto directamente el hambre, la pobreza, una situación del medio ambiente muy degradada, unos déficits importantes de educación, capacitación, salud, suministro de agua potable, accesibilidad por carreteras, tecnologías de producción agraria. Es decir, son muchos los problemas y muchas las necesidades y, entiendo que debe realizarse un esfuerzo importante por parte del PMA y la comunidad internacional para atender las tareas de desarrollo, porque son muchos los factores que afectan al desarrollo y a la calidad de la vida en esta zona.

Quiero reiterar mi agradecimiento por toda esta labor y por lo que está haciendo por la comunidad internacional.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Ante todo deseo manifestar nuestro pleno respaldo a la declaración efectuada por Argentina a nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, así como a las elocuentes y oportunas declaraciones efectuadas por la delegación de Cuba y por la delegación de España, las cuales compartimos plenamente.

Al aprobar el *Informe Anual de la Directora Ejecutiva: 1999*, deseo destacar que desde la perspectiva de México, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos realiza una función estratégica con el fin de alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y erradicar el hambre y la pobreza extrema del mundo. En este sentido, la ayuda alimentaria al desarrollo es una pieza clave. Es por ello que nos sentimos muy complacidos por los positivos resultados alcanzados, al probarse en el período anual de sesiones de 1999 las nuevas directrices de la ayuda alimentaria al desarrollo.

No obstante lo anterior, nos preocupa el poco interés que los donantes demuestran en este sentido al continuar marginando sus contribuciones a este tipo de actividades. Por lo que hacemos un llamado para que muestren, en la práctica, una mayor congruencia entre lo que aprueban en documentos y lo que respaldan en la práctica.

Si bien hoy día las emergencias han aumentado y no podemos desatenderlas, es cierto también que la prevención y la mitigación de sus efectos están fuertemente ligados a los niveles de desarrollo, aspecto que deberíamos tener muy presentes. Bajo esta perspectiva, expresamos nuestros mejores votos porque la reciente aprobación de las recomendaciones sobre movilización de recursos permitan una mayor flexibilidad en el uso y manejo de los mismos. Asimismo, esperamos que su aprobación coadyuve a aumentar el nivel de contribuciones multilaterales no dirigidas, ya que bajo el actual nivel se está amenazando seriamente el carácter universal y multilateral del PMA, tal como ya lo han señalado Argentina y Cuba.

Por último, permítanme rendir a nombre de México un reconocimiento y un homenaje a los siete funcionarios del PMA que perdieron su vida en 1999 en el cumplimiento de una de las labores más nobles que puede realizar la comunidad internacional, así como cualquier ser humano a la que nosotros le otorgamos gran importancia.

I. Nyoman ARDHA (Indonesia)

Indonesia would also like to thank Mr Ngongi, the Deputy Director of WFP for a very clear and comprehensive presentation of the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board 1999.

As our delegation is also represented in the WFP Executive Board, we would like to inform the Council that our delegation already adopted this report and supported its presentation to the Council.

We also commend the Executive Director, as well as all the staff members of WFP for their very efficient work during the year of the reporting, especially as the work involved very difficult and dangerous situations. We also support WFP's intention as to improving the development assistance in addition to emergency, as well as humanitarian assistance.

Our delegation would also like to propose to the Council to look at WFP's intention to forge closer cooperation among the three United Nations agricultural agencies based in Rome, namely WFP, FAO and IFAD. The cooperation should especially be involved in activities concerning the follow-up of the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit 1996 with regard to reducing the malnourished people around the world. This is our main task ahead of us, at the moment.

Mohamed Abd El Hamid KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

My delegation would like to thank Mr Gongi, the Deputy Director for the excellent presentation of this Report. I read this report very carefully and I noted the activities and the noble objectives of WFP. The proof of the excellent work we have seen during our recent visit, as representative of

the Council in order to evaluate the activities of the programme in Latin America. I would like to say that I agree with Ambassador Nouri Naeeni of the Islamic Republic of Iran who urged all that we should support WFP so as to be able to achieve its objectives in the fields of development, food aid and emergencies.

I take this opportunity to express our sympathy and condolences to the WFP staff members who lost their lives while carrying out their noble objectives in helping the poor. I would like to ask the Council to approve this Report while thanking the Executive Director and all the staff members of WFP.

WANG ZHANLU (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, regarding the contribution of support to the poor and hungry and to strengthen the mobilization of resources for this fund, in the adjustment relevant policies should be recommended as well as in improving the governance, and efficiency. For all the excellent efforts and good achievements that have been made, we wish to express our great appreciation.

Secondly, this delegation believes that the content of this report provided by the Executive Board is quite rich in content. We support Council to adopt this report.

Thirdly, we are worried about the continuing decline of the amount of funds. This is of great concern to us.

Ariel FERNÁNDEZ (Argentina)

Muy brevemente, solicito se conceda la palabra a Sri Lanka para realizar una declaración en nombre del Grupo de los 77.

Ranamukalage Deeptha KULATILLEKE (Observer for Sri Lanka)

On behalf of the Group of 77, I wish to thank the Deputy Executive Director of WFP for his presentation of the Annual Report to this Council meeting.

G 77 wishes to join others in expressing its appreciation of the good work being done by WFP. At the same time, WFP had to face tremendous challenges in recent years.

As you are aware, increased incidence of natural and man-made disasters and related emergencies still absorbs the bulk of WFP resources. Amidst all the difficulties and constraints, the Executive Director, Madame Bertini, Mr Ngongi, Deputy Executive-Director, and the staff of the WFP Board at Headquarters and in the field, and also the Executive Board led by Ambassador Nouri, have continued to perform their functions and responsibilities with the utmost dedication.

While the Group of 77 takes this opportunity to thank the donor countries for their valuable contribution to WFP resources, the G77, in equal terms, requests the donor countries to increase their contribution to enable WFP to plan and carry out their programmes and field operations without facing resources constraints.

The Group of 77, which comprises the beneficiary countries, as you know, maintains a very close dialogue and cooperation with the WFP management. It also wishes to reaffirm its commitment to work closely with WFP, especially in mitigating the effects of the emergency situations faced throughout the world today.

E. Michael SOUTHWICK (United States of America)

The United States of America wishes to express its appreciation to the Deputy Executive Director and to WFP for their fine report.

The report and the discussion here today underline the critical importance of the work of WFP in addressing the problem of global hunger. The United States of America is a strong supporter of WFP. We continue to look for innovative ways to address unmet needs, as demonstrated by the *Global Food for Education* initiative, described to the Executive Board last month by Ambassador McGovern.

With others, we express our sympathy to the families and colleagues of the WFP staff who have tragically lost their lives this past year.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Quisiera agradecer el informe presentado por el Sr. Ngongi y subrayar su excelencia. Asimismo, deseo destacar que el mismo refleja la mística y la transparencia de la Organización que bajo la conducción de la Directora Ejecutiva Sra. Catherine Bertini hará posible la propuesta surgida originalmente del Embajador McGovern de los Estados Unidos de América, pero que ya es de todos, cuyo éxito, en efecto, depende del multilateralismo del PMA y que, ejecutada transparentemente, llevará a un cambio verdadero en el curso de la historia.

Respaldamos plenamente la declaración de la República Argentina, que lo es de toda nuestra región, así como los comentarios de Cuba, España y los Estados Unidos Mexicanos. De poco pueden servir que nuestras palabras, pero que llegue la voz de Guatemala a las familias de los fallecidos en el ejercicio de la noble misión puesta en sus manos; nuestra más profunda gratitud a estas familias. Al aprobar este informe, Guatemala insiste en la necesidad de que la asistencia se fortalezca en el ámbito de la más absoluta multilateralidad. Esta transparencia habrá de sostener la mística y el éxito del PMA.

Zacharie PEREVET (Cameroun)

Je voudrais, au même titre que les autres délégations, féliciter le Directeur général adjoint du PAM pour avoir bien présenté le rapport. Nous voudrions aussi apporter toutes nos félicitations au PAM pour toutes les réalisations obtenues sur le terrain, notamment pour les 89 millions de victimes dans le monde, et en particulier, les 19 millions de bénéficiaires de l'aide au développement. Nous apprécions et souhaitons que le processus de décentralisation engagé se poursuive pour lui permettre de consolider et de rationaliser ses interventions sur le terrain.

La délégation lui rend hommage en particulier pour toute l'attention qu'il accorde au Cameroun, notamment dans l'opération d'urgence en faveur des populations victimes des catastrophes dans les provinces du nord, de l'extrême nord, et récemment dans la province du sud-ouest, suite à l'éruption volcanique, comme vous vous en rappelez. Egalement, dans le cadre de l'opération de développement concernant l'alimentation dans les écoles primaires, dans la province de l'extrême-nord de l'Adamawa, la délégation souhaite que des moyens subséquents lui soient accordés pour lui permettre d'accomplir efficacement ses missions sur le terrain.

La délégation lui adresse ses sincères condoléances suite aux décès survenus dans l'équipe du PAM.

Sra. María Soledad PAREJA DELOS (Observadora de Bolivia)

Inicio mi participación apoyando la declaración realizada por la Delegada de la República Argentina en representación del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

Acogemos con mucha satisfacción el documento presentado por el Director Ejecutivo Adjunto del PMA sobre las actividades realizadas durante 1999. Queremos agradecer especialmente a la Directora Ejecutiva del PMA, Sra. Catherine Bertini y a la Junta Ejecutiva de esa Organización, por los esfuerzos que realizan en mi país para llevar adelante proyectos de desarrollo en favor de los sectores más pobres y olvidados de nuestra sociedad; en especial, aquellos en favor de la mujer rural, de los niños de la calle y los del sector de la sanidad.

Consideramos la ayuda humanitaria que presta el PMA en mi país, esencial e indispensable; por ello nos preocupa profundamente los criterios de graduación que se están utilizando para con los países, que toman en consideración variables aisladas y analizadas fuera del contexto de la realidad global de los mismos.

Agradecemos al grupo de delegados que visitaron mi país los primeros días de noviembre, constatando personalmente la situación real de las zonas rurales de Bolivia. Creemos que su testimonio servirá para sensibilizar a los países donantes a que sigan apoyando los programas del

PMA. Agradecemos, especialmente, a la delegación de Cuba por su intervención odierna, ya que ha dado cuenta de lo que es nuestra realidad en esa zona.

Nos preocupa también la sistemática reducción de recursos dirigidos a nuestra región, y solicitamos a la comunidad internacional, especialmente a los países desarrollados, su apoyo a los programas del PMA.

CHAIRMAN

It is clear from our debate that there is our strong and continuing support to WFP, its staff and its workers in the field. We also express our sympathy to those workers who have been unnecessary victims in their noble line of work. We hope that measures will be taken by all parties in order that such sad happenings will be avoided in the future.

Mr Ngongi, you have the floor, if you would like to respond to the debate.

A. Namanga NGONGI (World Food Programme)

First of all, through you, I wish thank the members of the Council for this strong support that we have received. I think it is clearly, as you have said yourself, a testimony of the strong support the Members feel for the work of the Programme and we also appreciate very much the expression of sympathy and condolences to all the people who have died in-service and especially for those also who died in the catastrophic accident in Kosovo last year. Of course, we will make sure to transmit these messages to those concerned.

In terms of staff security, I should just point out that, although this was not part of the discussion, WFP has taken I would say quite energetic measures, not really sufficient, but to try to raise the awareness of its staff on security problems, so that not only staff should avoid security incidence but that they should not inadvertently lead their colleagues into security problems. We have sensitized some 5 000 staff members and associated workers of WFP in these security matters throughout the world and we have started expanding it to include our colleagues in NGOs and also other agencies with whom we work. It has been quite a successful programme and we are very appreciative to all the experts who have helped us in this programme.

One programme which has been brought up strongly here is the World School Feeding initiative, which is a new initiative so is not part of the Annual Report. We are pleased to say it is receiving wide support and that it is a good initiative from the Government of the United States of America. I think it is a new source of hope, especially to strengthen the development programme, and a large share of the hungry poor around the world are children. If we can address millions of children through a school feeding programme, clearly that is a major contribution to increase food security in the world, really, if you are taking care of a large number of children's food needs through a school programme. We are still, of course, in discussion with the United States Government on the modalities for the implementation of the programme. We do hope that a large part of the first tranche will be given to the World Food Programme. However, it is not yet settled because it has not yet been announced, but we have pledged to the Executive Board to make as much a transparent presentation of this as possible, that all of the programmes will be part of the Programme so that they will be available to the members of the Executive Board. It is not like a secret programme to be worked out between the World Food Programme and the United States Government to be implemented around the world.

The French Ambassador raised the question of GMOs. All I can say is that the World Food Programme is not a channel for distribution of GMOs. We distribute food that is consumed in the donor country, so it is food which is accepted and, given the acceptability by the authorized agency in any country that gives us resources, means we hold every country to the same standard. Of course, if a country does not wish to be a recipient of GMO food, it is that country which has to indicate this so that, if the World Food Programme cannot satisfy its request, we cannot give the food to that country. I do not think it is a matter of polemics or controversy; it is a matter of our standard operations and it is how we handle all food received by us from all donors.

We are pleased, of course, to see also the strong support for increased multilaterality. Of course, WFP is a totally voluntarily funded Programme so it would not be realistic to think that all the resources coming to WFP will be truly totally multilateral. But we do ask, and we do hope, that we will have an increased level of really truly multilateral resources, which will permit the Secretariat to use all the elements, guidance and processes that have been given to us by the Executive Board and to allocate these resources where they are truly needed. That is helpful. We do not say that we should have all the resources multilateral but we do ask for a higher degree of multilaterality.

One of the programmes that is truly multilateral was mentioned yesterday - the Immediate Response Account. That has really permitted us to take quick action in emergency operations when they arise and fortunately, this year, that account has reached its maximum level, that of \$35 million. It is really the first time that it has reached that amount and we truly thank the donors for enabling us to achieve that level.

For development resources, we can only join in the plea for more resources. We know emergency resources are very badly needed because people are at risk of losing their lives but, if we really want people to stand on their own feet in the future, we have to give them skills and assets which permit them to be able to meet their own food needs in the future, either as producers or purchasers of food. I think that is a place where we all need to put effort. I am very pleased that several Members, especially the delegate of Cuba, have made a strong presentation on the experiences they have had in the field visits that they have undertaken to show that a lot of these programmes are really reaching poor people, not only from the humanitarian point of view, but actually contributing to their development efforts. I only regret that we in the Secretariat are not able to make exactly the same eloquent presentations of development programmes so that we can get much more donor support. I do hope that all the Members of the Council who have heard this real testimony from non-Secretariat members, from Members of the Council who have visited such operations, will be able to take into greater consideration giving resources for development. It is a special challenge to us in the Secretariat to find ways to better communicate all the lessons that we learn and the progress that we make in development operations. We will do our level best in this.

Regarding the congratulations to the Executive Director, I will do my best to convey them to her, in the language that we have used, on her appointment as Special Envoy and also for the work that she has done to try to highlight the needs in the Horn of Africa and mobilization of resources. She has also been invited by the Secretary-General to join him in a visit to the Region when he goes there next time, so probably she will be able to continue in that role for a few more months.

There are some areas, of course, where we still need to do some more work, especially in the area of gender. We have made great progress but we still need to make more progress. Now some 34 or 35 percent of WFP professional staff is female, but that is not enough. Most of our programmes deal with women and children, so we should have a lot more women on the staff to be able to address their issues.

The geographic balance is also a problem issue. It is not only the Latin America Region which raises the problem. It is the problem we all have in all the Secretariats of the United Nations. We do not get enough candidates from some Regions, but we have to seek out good people who will be able to contribute to the work of the Programme. We will continue and we pledge to do that. It is not an easy task but we pledge our level best.

Thank you very much once again for the strong support that has been given by the Council to the work of the World Food Programme.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much and I would like to thank you again, Mr Ngongi, for having presented this item so very well.

We should now move on to Item 6.2, namely *Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board*. The main documents for this item are CL 119/4 and CL 119/4-Corr.1.

The item concerns the election of six members for the period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2003.

I will give the floor to the Secretary-General, who will run through the nominations.

6.2 Election of Six Members to the WFP Executive Board (CL 119/4; CL 119/4-Corr. 1; CL 119/4-Sup. 1)

6.2 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM (CL 119/4; CL 119/4-Corr. 1; CL 119/4-Sup. 1)

6.2 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA (CL 119/4; CL 119/4-Corr. 1; CL 119/4-Sup. 1)

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I refer to document CL 119/4; for List A, there is one candidate, Mali, for one vacancy.

For List B, there are two candidates, Bangladesh and Iraq, for two vacancies.

For List C, there is one candidate, El Salvador, for one vacancy.

And for List D, there are two candidates, Netherlands and the United States of America, for two vacancies.

So you have six candidates for six seats.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you for that explanation. Does the Council now agree to appoint six candidates: Mali, Bangladesh, Iraq, El Salvador, Netherlands and the United States of America to the six vacant seats by clear general consent?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

If there are no further comments, we will move on to another matter concerning the membership of the World Food Programme Executive Board, as set out in document CL 119/4-Supp.1.

I should like to ask the Legal Counsel to explain the proposals that are placed before the Council.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As indicated in document CL 119/4-Supp.1, Denmark, in its quality of Election Coordinator for the WFP List D Member Nations, has communicated to the Secretary-General of the Council that, in accordance with the rotation agreement reached among List D Members, Australia and Spain, which have been elected by the Hundred and Eighteenth session of the Council in November 1999 for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2002, will stand down on 31 December 2000.

They will be replaced by two other List D Members, in accordance with the following terms: Switzerland will replace Australia from 1 January 2001 to the end of Australia's term of office, which is to say 31 December 2002; and Portugal will replace Spain for the period 1 January - 31 December 2001.

Regarding the remaining part of Spain's term of office, that is to say from 1 January to 31 December 2002, Spain will communicate the name of List D Member which will replace it for consideration by the session of the Council during which the next election for WFP Executive

Board Members will take place. This will be the Hundred and Twenty-second session of the Council which will take place immediately after the Conference in November 2001.

Since these arrangements regard Members elected by the Council, the agreement of the Council is sought. This has always been the practice followed by the Council in respect of rotation agreements.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you for that explanation, Mr Pucci. Does Council agree that Australia be replaced by Switzerland for the years 2001 and 2002?

Does Council agree that Spain be replaced by Portugal for the year 2001?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (CONTINUED)
V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (SUITE)
V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS
(CONTINUACIÓN)

13.2 Applications for Membership in the Organization (CL 119/16)

13.2 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (CL 119/16)

13.2 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (CL 119/16)

CHAIRMAN

As you will see from the relevant document, CL 119/16 there is one application for Membership with the Organization, namely the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I would like to give the floor to the Legal Counsel, who will inform the Council of the background to this item.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I think that in view of the complexity of the past situation regarding Yugoslavia, the Council might find it useful if I recall briefly the most important events regarding the status of Yugoslavia in the United Nations System during the past eight years.

On 27 April 1992, the National Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, consisting of representatives of Serbia and Montenegro, promulgated the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and adopted a declaration stating that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would continue the international personality of the former Yugoslavia. This declaration was communicated to the United Nations and to various organizations of the United Nations System, including FAO. The claim for continuity of Membership was objected by a number of states.

On 18 September 1992, the Security Council adopted Resolution 777, which declared, *inter alia*, that the state formerly known as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had ceased to exist. It stated also that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not continue automatically the Membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and that it should apply for Membership in the United Nations, and that it should not participate in the work of the General Assembly.

In Resolution 47/1 of September 1992, the General Assembly considered that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not continue automatically the Membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and further decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for Membership in the

United Nations, and that it should not participate in the work of the General Assembly. The ban was then extended also to meetings of ECOSOC and its Subsidiary Bodies.

As you know, on matters regarding succession and recognition of states, FAO has always followed the practice of the United Nations, and this was, therefore, the case with respect to Yugoslavia.

Consequently, at its Hundred and second session in November 1992, the Council - and here I quote - "Taking note of the United Nations precedent, decided that henceforward the Federal Republic Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should not participate in the work of the Council or its Subsidiary Bodies".

The situation remained unchanged until last October. By letter of 27 October 2000 from its President to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia applied for Membership in the United Nations – and I quote what was written in the letter from the President – "In light of Security Council Resolution 777 (1992)".

By Resolution 1326 of 31 October 2000, the Security Council recommended to the General Assembly that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia be admitted to Membership in the United Nations.

The following day, on 1 November 2000, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 55/12 admitting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a new Member of the United Nations.

As concerns FAO, only the Conference has the authority to admit new Members. Therefore the application for Membership cannot be considered until November 2001. However, as indicated in document CL 119/16, pending a decision by the Conference on this application, and pursuant to Rule XXV.11 of the General Rules of the Organization, and paragraphs B 1, 2 and 5 of Part L of the Basic Texts, the Council is requested to authorize the Director-General to invite the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to participate, in an observer capacity, in appropriate Council meetings as well as regional and technical meetings of the Organization of interest to it.

This is the practice followed by the Organization with respect to any application for Membership, pending the decision by the Conference.

CHAIRMAN

The Council is thus requested to authorize the Director-General to invite the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to participate in an Observer capacity in appropriate Council meetings, as well as regional and technical meetings of the Organization, which may be of interest to the country.

Does Council agree to this?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

The meeting was suspended from 11.25 hours to 11.50 hours

La séance est suspendue de 11 h 25 à 11 h 50

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.25 horas a las 11.50 horas

**VI. OTHER MATTERS
VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES
VI. OTROS ASUNTOS**

**14. CALENDAR OF FAO GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER MAIN SESSIONS
2001-2002 (CL 119/6)**

**14. CALENDRIER DES SESSIONS DES ORGANES DIRECTEURS ET DES
AUTRES RÉUNIONS IMPORTANTES DE LA FAO, 2001-2002 (CL 119/6)**

**14. CALENDARIO PARA 2001-2002 DE LOS PERÍODOS DE SESIONES DE LOS
ÓRGANOS RECTORES Y OTRAS REUNIONES IMPORTANTES DE LA FAO
(CL 119/6)**

CHAIRMAN

CL 119/6, I am informed, has been prepared avoiding overlaps with the dates of IFAD and WFP Governing Bodies sessions.

I should like to point out a typographical error in the dates of the Committee and Commodity Problems, which are given as the 5 to 9 March 2001 on the calendar but which should read 6 to 9 March 2001.

Is the calendar approved?

The provisional calendar is thus adopted.

Having approved the calendar in CL 119/6, the Council agreed that the date of its next session, the Hundred and Twentieth Council, will be from 18 to 23 June 2001.

*It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Así se acuerda*

**15. ANY OTHER MATTERS
15. AUTRES QUESTIONS
15. OTROS ASUNTOS**

*15.1 Appointment of the Chairperson and the First Alternate Chairperson of the Appeals
Committee (CL 119/LIM/4)*

*15.1 Nomination du Président et du Premier Président suppléant du Comité de recours
(CL 119/LIM/4)*

*15.1 Nombramiento del Presidente y del primer Presidente Suplente del Comité de
Apelaciones (CL 119/LIM/4)*

CHAIRMAN

The Council is now requested to consider the appointment of the Chairpersons to the Appeals Committee in accordance with Staff Regulation 301.111. Document CL 119/LIM/4 outlines the present status of the chairmanship.

I would like us to recall that in 1999, the Council appointed as Chairman of the Appeals Committee His Excellency Siméon Aké, Ambassador of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to the Holy See. The Council also appointed His Excellency Felipe H. Paolillo, Ambassador of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to the Holy See, and Permanent Representative to FAO, as first Alternative Chairman of the Appeals Committee, and His Excellency Francis Montanaro Mifsud, Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to FAO, as Second Alternate Chairman.

Both Ambassador Siméon Aké and Ambassador Filipe Paolillo resigned from their duties as Chairman and Alternate Chairman in July 2000, upon completion of their assignments in Rome.

I would like to ask the distinguished Members of the Council if they have any nominations for the post of Chairman of the Appeals Committee and the Alternate Chairman.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Comme vous venez de le rappeler, l'Ambassadeur Simon Aké a quitté son poste de Président du Comité de recours, ainsi que l'Ambassadeur d'Uruguay le poste de Premier Vice-Président. Notre pays qui avait eu l'honneur de présenter ces candidatures, doit aujourd'hui à nouveau s'acquitter de ce privilège en proposant humblement au Conseil de nommer l'Ambassadeur Francis Montanaro Mifsud, le Représentant permanent de Malte au poste de Président de cet important Comité.

L'Ambassadeur Mifsud n'a pas besoin d'être présenté puisque c'est un juriste confirmé, un diplomate très habile et qui bénéficie d'une solide formation. C'est ainsi d'ailleurs, qu'il appuie avec beaucoup d'efficacité le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques que le Sénégal a l'honneur de présider en la personne du Ministre Conseiller M. Ly. De ce fait, je vois que le document CL 119/LIM/4 ne prévoit pas la situation qui va découler de cette proposition, parce que M. Mifsud, qui était le deuxième Premier Vice-Président, s'il était élu Président, laisserait *de facto* le poste de deuxième Premier Vice-Président.

Voilà la proposition que je vous fais, étant entendu que l'Ambassadeur d'Uruguay auprès du Saint-Siège, Son Excellence M. Julio Cesar Lupinacci, pourrait valablement, si le Conseil était d'accord, occuper le poste de Premier Vice-Président.

Si vous me donniez l'ordre de vous faire une proposition pour le deuxième poste de Premier Vice-Président, je vous présente la candidature de Monsieur Denis Cangy (Observateur de l'Ile Maurice). Monsieur Denis Cangy, Représentant de son pays, l'Ile Maurice, auprès de la FAO. M. Denis Cangy est diplômé en sciences politiques et sociales, c'est un diplomate également très expérimenté, surtout dans le domaine de l'action humanitaire.

C'est pourquoi le Groupe africain, pour lequel je n'ai pas le droit de m'exprimer mais puisque j'en fait la proposition, est fier de proposer sa candidature.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

La délégation française appuie la proposition de la délégation du Sénégal.

CHAIRMAN

I propose that His Excellency Francis Montanaro Mifsud be elected by acclamation.

I also propose that His Excellency Dr Julio Cesar Lupinacci and Mr Denis Cangy be elected by acclamation.

*It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Así se acuerda*

*Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos*

Tribute to Ambassador Hannelore A.H. Benjamin of Dominica
Hommage à l'Ambassadrice Hannelore A.H. Benjamin de Dominique
Homenaje a la Embajadora Hannelore A.H. Benjamin de Dominica

*Tribute to Mr E. Wayne Denney, Director, International Organization Affairs Division,
 US Department of Agriculture*
*Hommage à M. E. Wayne Denney, Directeur, Division des organisations internationales,
 Département de l'agriculture des États-Unis*
*Homenaje al Sr. E. Wayne Denney, Director, División Relativos a las Organizaciones
 Internacionales, Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos*

CHAIRMAN

I would now like to take a few minutes to say farewell to two delegates who have, over the years, assumed a key role as wise and reliable colleagues. They are participating in the work of this Council for the last time before their retirement. I will now take the principle of ladies first.

Her Excellency Angela Benjamin, Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Dominica to Italy and Permanent Representative to FAO, has been an active colleague during her fifteen years in her ambassordial position. We all know how committed she has been, and I am sure you all join me in extending our very best wishes to her for a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

I would also like to say farewell to Mr E. Wayne Denney, who has ably guided the work of Senior United States International Relations Advisor, in the United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service since 1984. He has consistently built up effective working relations between the United States Department of Agriculture and Senior FAO Officials, heading over twenty delegations at the FAO Regional Conferences and FAO Technical Consultations, and having participated in some forty FAO meetings over the past 15 years.

I am sure I speak in the name of all those present in the room when I wish Mr Denney every happiness in his well-deserved retirement. I am certain that a man with such experience and commitment will find a way to continue his service to others in his future life as a retiree.

Mr Denney, may this new chapter in your life be a long and happy one.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Permítame una breve intervención en nombre del GRULAC, con relación a la despedida de la distinguida Embajadora Ángela Benjamín, del hermano pueblo caribeño de Dominica, destacada y activa representante de nuestra Región, América Latina y el Caribe, pero ante todo una amiga. Hoy se despide de este predio, después de 15 años de trabajo; la conocimos en vida de su esposo, que también sentó cátedras aquí. Su trabajo como Embajadora de su país ha sido destacado; entre muchos, es necesario señalar un aspecto: cuando presidió nuestro grupo regional en un momento complejo, ante una Conferencia de la FAO frente a lógicas aspiraciones regionales, logró unidad y consenso, en un trabajo muy personal y con gran tacto, hecho que siempre recordaremos así como lo hará nuestra Región. ¿Quién podrá olvidar su constante participación, una especie de liderazgo en cuanto al tema de los pequeños estados insulares?

El GRULAC, en particular, y todos los aquí reunidos en este Consejo, en general, podemos expresar a la distinguida Embajadora, que donde se encuentre en el desempeño de sus funciones que le asigne su Gobierno, la recordaremos con el cariño y estimación que supo ganarse.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

J'en profite, je ne parle naturellement pas au nom d'un Groupe africain, mais Mme Angela Benjamin est une amie personnelle. Nous avons eu d'excellentes relations lorsque nous présidions tous les deux, elle le Groupe d'Amérique latine, et moi celui d'Afrique. Nous avons tissé des relations personnelles si étroites et amicales que vous comprendrez le regret que j'éprouve à la voir partir, mais je suis sûr qu'elle sera toujours à nos côtés avec son dynamisme. Les mêmes considérations vont naturellement à M. Denney des États-Unis à qui nous rendons un hommage tout à fait marqué.

Ms Hannelore A. H. BENJAMIN (Observer for Dominica)

I would like to thank everybody for their kind words and for the good wishes that were extended to my family and myself. It has been, and it is, for me a great pleasure to work for the Government of Dominica and its people. Reflecting on the last 15 years of my professional life, I feel they have been filled with outstanding challenges and great worldwide opportunities that gave me a wealth of learning, of experience and, hopefully, of some wisdom. For that, I thank the Government of Dominica and its people, and my role model, my late husband, Ambassador Benjamin, who was a Dominican national.

Dominica's philosophy is people before power, people before politics and people before privilege. We like to serve our people and the nation, through our education that gives us knowledge, improves our skills and helps us to fight for their economical rights and for a better life for all, so that they too can live a proper economical and stable life, and that they will have the same access to the sustainable development as our donor countries had when they started long, long ago, and have it even better off today.

It has been a privilege to have worked with FAO, an Organization with so many talented professionals, and it has been an honour for me to serve with all three United Nations Agencies here in Rome, in the fight against hunger, poverty and malnutrition among the least privileged population in the world community.

I was able to build friendships and developed a fine working relationship with so many of my colleagues, and I know this will continue even after I leave Rome. I am very grateful to these friends and colleagues for the time spent together, for their cooperation and support that helped us to build a good partnership among our nations and our people.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay a warm tribute to the Director-General and his staff, to WFP and to IFAD, for their constant battling in trying to erase hunger and poverty world-wide and, through it, bring hope and challenges to the people in need of a better place to live in. For Dominica and myself, the Director-General - whom I respect very, very much - is a man of courage and conviction and I sincerely hope that, under his leadership, FAO will reach all its goals in the next three years to come, and get the promises made by all Heads of State and Government at the World Food Summit and the Conference for Sustainable Development for Small Island States, implemented. We must expand our prosperity and must make an appeal at every forum. We must surpass the obstacles in our past, and implement all the outstanding goals that we are committed to.

I would like also to thank our host country for its continued support that enabled me to run a one-person three United Nations agencies here in Rome. Living in this wonderful Eternal City, with its aqueducts, its culture, its architecture, its languages and music, has been a great pleasure to my family and to myself. Whenever we travelled within the country, we were welcomed with courtesy, kindness and friendliness. What a wonderful memory for me to take along.

I want in particular to thank FAO's staff because, first of all, the loyal, competent and determined staff I have met here, but not everywhere, when I travelled all over the world for Dominica. This small core of Professional and General Service staff has, since it was established in 1945, had years to pass, years that have been tested in that crucible of continuous pressure, they have

survived moments of stress, of disappointment about their future. Yet, they have always performed without complaint. They have sacrificed with pride, they have carried out their burden with a smile. In the field of international institutions, it can well be said that FAO staff have achieved tremendously to reach its goals. They are FAO's largest single asset, because they are fully committed to the cause of FAO.

My gratitude goes to all those countries, to the Observers and to the NGOs who, over the years, have played an important part in Dominica's development for the better of our people, and who have helped, in particular, our agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector, our women in rural areas and our environment. Here, I want to thank GRULAC, the Group to which Dominica belongs, for the many years of friendship and for their support. We are a very close-knit group and we do communicate in friendship, in understanding and work well together toward our goals for the poor and hungry in our region, for them to have a better life. We work for the economical stabilization and for their trade on the international market.

My last special thanks goes to my own country, Germany, and its people. As a German representing Dominica, it has not always been that easy but it helped me to understand both sides: the privileged, developed countries and the developing states. Our good understanding would only draw us apart when we would discuss bananas in this forum; yet otherwise Germany has never failed to support me whenever support was needed. Germany was the first, with Canada and the Near East, to support me during the June Council of 1999 on the endorsement of the Revised Plan of Action on Sustainable Development for Small Island States, that led to the applause of acclamation.

Although I am leaving now, it does not mean that I will be gone for ever. No, I am not retiring. The people of Dominica still need me, and have asked me to go on. And therefore, as a non-resident Ambassador for Dominica to all three agencies here in Rome, I shall continue to remain close to GRULAC, to whom Dominica belongs, and the Members accredited to FAO, IFAD and WFP. We all do know that in our diplomatic world our roads will always cross again, and I look forward to those crossroads, and our meetings at those. May God bless you and your families until we see each other again and I thank you all for your friendship. Goodbye.

Applause

Applaudissemantes

Aplausos

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America)

I am very touched by the kind words that have been spoken about me today. They were very unexpected, so I do not have eloquent remarks to prepare, but I would like to say that FAO has been my primary focus and interest over the last sixteen years. I actually had started with an FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 1978, at a time when it was called the Far East instead of Asia and the Pacific, and have had the pleasure, in addition to my forty visits to Rome, of attending – I recently counted - sixteen FAO Regional Conferences, not all of which were in Asia and the Pacific. I have had the pleasure of visiting a few other Regions as well.

I have also, as some of you know, been quite involved in the genetic resources area. I attended the First Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in the mid-1980s, and more recently had the pleasure of attending the International Technical Conference in Leipzig, Germany, which certainly was a valuable experience for me, so I will be tending to be interested in and involved in that aspect of what FAO does.

Those of you who truly know me will have no doubt of my strong support for what FAO brings to global agriculture. It sometimes is difficult, when you have various leadership that thinks somewhat different, and you are trying to convince them that there is value here and, at the same time, you do not want them to cast you aside, so you try to convey that value in such a way that they will understand and appreciate what you have to say about FAO. So I have tried not to always have, what I would call, blind support of everything that is proposed for FAO, but I have taken every occasion I can to get my Government to understand FAO's values, not only to the

developing countries but also to our own country and to our own programmes of the United States Department of Agriculture, and of programmes of forestry, fisheries, and other programmes of other departments within the US Government. FAO's staff is not unlike that of the US Department of Agriculture, even though we have a lot more people, there is virtually every agricultural, technical expertise offered by FAO that is available, or every agricultural discipline is covered by somebody, and frequently we do not realize all of that. I have valued the friendships of FAO's staff, as well as the people around this room and the delegates who have preceded all of you here. Looking around the room, and trying to think who is sitting in the room, in terms of the delegates that I knew many years ago, and there are not very many, but when I visit FAO people, there are a lot of folks that had been a number of years when I first started, so FAO staff continuity seems to outrun that of delegates.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not pay a special tribute to both Director-General Diouf and Deputy Director-General Harcharik for their vision and leadership.

Of course, I have only known Director-General Diouf since he began his campaign for Director-General in 1992. The more you know him, the more you like him, the more you appreciate his vision and interest. He is a risk-taker, he is trying to get something done and I am trying to convince my Government that he is heading in the right direction.

For Mr Harcharik, I have known him when we were colleagues in the US Department of Agriculture and I hope that, even though I am retiring from the Government, my interaction with FAO will not cease.

Applause

Applaudissemences

Aplausos

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I do not want to prolong this but I would like to say a few words on behalf of the Secretariat.

One of the real rewards of working as an International Civil Servant is that we have an opportunity to come in contact with so many people who are truly competent, committed and who are also characterized by very warm personalities. We are saying goodbye this morning to two people who fit each one of those characteristics.

Ambassador Benjamin, we have certainly grown to appreciate your personality, your warm way of working with the Secretariat, and I would also say your true commitment and very, very hard work. In fact, maybe I should also say your tenacity because you have been tenacious in standing up for and fighting for the Small Island Nations. As you go on into the next phase of your life, please take with you our commitment to continue working for the needs and aspirations of Small Island Nations. We will certainly not forget you for the things that you have stood for here in this Organization.

Mr Denney, Wayne, I notice that the Chairman mentioned that you have participated in some forty FAO meetings. That means that for thirty-nine of them you must have registered using our antiquated old typewriters, and I am very pleased that for your last meeting we were able to register you and the other delegates with the modern Registration Facility.

As Mr Denney has mentioned, we have known each other for some twenty years. We have worked together in Washington and I can say that I have grown to know Mr. Denney as being a very highly qualified individual in a technical sense. He is trained as an Agricultural Economist, but he has fought very hard over the issues of food security, nutrition, food safety, agricultural production, sustainable development, genetic resources and the various administrative, financial, personnel and management matters that this Organization deals with. At times, he has even tried to dabble in forestry – I have had to educate him some on that!

But, Wayne, I think another thing that really is appropriate to mention is that not only have you been a very competent individual, but I think you have exhibited all the good dimensions of

diplomacy. I do not mean diplomacy in the sense of the Foreign Service where you may take formal training in it, but I mean the practical sense, the human aspects of diplomacy. You have been pro-active and certainly brought initiatives to your work. You have also been very courteous, polite, constructive and very, very patient. We wish you all the best.

In summary, on behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to thank Ambassador Benjamin and Mr Denney for their commitment to FAO, to the people whom we serve and to the ideals we stand for. All the best.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (CONTINUED)
IV. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET,
AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (SUITE)
IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS
PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS
(CONTINUACIÓN)**

11. REPORTS OF THE NINETY-FOURTH (ROME, MAY 2000), AND NINETY-FIFTH (ROME, SEPTEMBER 2000) SESSIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (CL 119/12; CL 119/13) (CONTINUED)

11. RAPPORTS DES QUATRE-VINGT-QUATORZIÈME ET QUATRE-VINGT-QUINZIÈME SESSIONS DU COMITÉ FINANCIER (ROME, MAI ET SEPTEMBRE 2000) (CL 119/12; CL 119/13) (SUITE)

11. INFORMES DEL 94º (ROMA, MAYO DE 2000) Y 95º (ROMA, SEPTIEMBRE DE 2000) PERÍODOS DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE FINANZAS (CL 119/12; CL 119/13) (CONTINUACIÓN)

CHAIRMAN

We should go back to Item 11, as we have some unfinished business left over from this Item, *Reports of the Ninety-Fourth and Ninety-Fifth Sessions of the Finance Committee* regarding the convening of a Session of the Finance Committee in January 2001.

I would like to give the floor the Secretariat, who will provide us with the information requested yesterday.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

Further to the debate yesterday, the Director-General's report for submission to the Council has been prepared. It is in for translation and will be distributed as soon as it is ready. In the meantime, I could give the information which is in this short documentation, so that the Council is given the information which it was promised yesterday.

The Director-General's report is in three parts. It gives some background information, gives the administrative implications and then deals with the financial implications. The possibility of convening a Special Session of the Finance Committee is suggested in the report of the Ninety-fifth Session of the Finance Committee under the terms: "It was suggested that given the extensive agenda already foreseen for that session, it might be preferable to hold an extraordinary session in January 2001 in order to reduce the workload of the May Session".

The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should undertake the necessary consultations with the Director-General and the Secretariat to determine whether a January Session would be feasible. In its consideration of the report of the Finance Committee it is for the Council to decide whether to

endorse this proposal. In doing so, however, the Council must take into consideration Financial Regulation 13.1 which states "Before taking any decision involving expenditures, the Council or any Commission or Committee appointed by the Council or the Conference shall have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications of the proposals.

The document I referred, to which is under translation, is the document prepared under this Financial Regulation and will be submitted as soon as the documents are ready.

The Council may wish to recall earlier decisions on sessions of the Statutory Bodies that were taken as part of a broader process to streamline procedures and reduce costs. In particular, since 1995, the Governing Bodies have requested the Organization to make systematic efforts to review the work of its Statutory Bodies in order to achieve savings in efficiency and governance and have monitored closely the Organization's response to that request.

In 1995, the Council reviewed in some detail the efforts being carried out, in particular, through the scheduling of fewer and shorter meetings. On that occasion the Council concluded that there could be scope for further savings from streamlining Statutory Bodies and reducing further the duration of Governing Body sessions.

The Conference, at its Twenty-eighth Session in 1995, endorsed the recommendations of the Council. The Conference noted that this work would build on the measures already taken by the Director-General to reduce the volume of documentation and shorten meetings.

At its Eighty-Third Session in January 1996, the Finance Committee agreed that there was both need and scope to improving the working methods of all FAO Bodies - Groups, Committees, Councils and Conference. Again at the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees of May 1996, the Committees agreed that there could be scope for further savings from streamlining Statutory Bodies and further reducing the duration of Governing Body sessions.

This is the background to some of the decisions of the Governing Bodies on the question of efficiency in governance and reduction of costs. Now I will give some administrative implications and then come to the financial implications.

It is recalled that in order to ensure the efficient and effective functioning of all Statutory Body Sessions, it is the policy and practise of the Organization to plan such sessions up to two years in advance. It is noted that in 2001, the following sessions have already been programmed: Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Fisheries, Committee on Forestry, Committee on Commodity Problems, Committee on World Food Security, two sessions of the Finance Committee, two sessions of the Programme Committee, three sessions of the Council, then the Conference, and a Ministerial Meeting on Responsible Fisheries in Iceland. At this stage, and given the short time remaining before January 2001, it would be very difficult to undertake the necessary preparations for the proposed Special Session on a timely basis. This is particularly the case for the translation and printing of any required documentation which would normally be available in the five official languages six weeks before the beginning of the Session, i.e. no later than mid-December 2000.

Now regarding the financial implications, a Special Session of the Finance Committee would involve additional expenditures for travel, interpretation and conference staff. Under the headings of travel, daily subsistence allowance, interpretation and conference staff, a five-day session would require additional direct expenditures of approximately US\$ 66 000. This is the cost of a normal standard session of the Finance Committee which is five days, however, if the session was for three days the expenditure would be in the order of US\$ 31 000.

It is also recalled, that in order to prepare for a Special Session, staff members within the Secretariat must take time from their foreseen work programme. Accordingly, in addition to the above amounts, account must also be taken of the time of the Secretariat staff spent in organizing the arrangements for such an additional session and their participation in the work of the Committee. It is estimated that the opportunity cost of this staff time is US\$ 29 000 for a five-day session and it would US\$ 20 000 for a three-day session.

Dato' ANNUAR MA'ARUF (Malaysia)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for informing the Council on the likely costs involved in holding an additional meeting of the Finance Committee in January 2001.

Based on the information given just now, it is obvious to the Malaysian delegation that the cost is rather substantial, especially given the financial situation which FAO faces currently. The proposal is also inconsistent with FAO's continuous effort to reduce costs of operation through efficient utilization of its limited resources.

Malaysia, does not therefore, support the proposal to hold such a meeting. We do, however, recognize the need for the Finance Committee to have more time to deal with the heavy burden foreseen in the scheduled May 2001 meeting. To meet this requirement we would like to suggest that the meeting scheduled in May 2001 be extended by another few more days, depending on the workload anticipated. By doing so, savings can definitely be made by cutting down costs which are quite unnecessary.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

Let me say first of all, as I said yesterday, that I regret that this issue has come to the Council at all. As we heard yesterday, because the Legal Counsel confirmed it to us, the General Rules provide for the Finance Committee to propose further sessions and indeed, discussions about a further meeting of the Finance Committee were being pursued through what is called in the United Kingdom, appropriate channels. Nevertheless, since the issue has been raised in the Council, let me deal with the substance.

In the first place, it is a fact, that the Finance Committee this year has had difficulties in coping with the business in front of it. We had to take two Sessions, rather than one, in order to deal with the issue of Support Costs, which was eventually decided in September. When we came to consider the Medium-Term Plan, arguably the most important document in front of the Governing Bodies this year, we spent a full half-day on the Medium-Term Plan but, nevertheless, were not able to deal with Part III of it which contains some extremely important material. We were not able to do the sort of job which we should have done on the Medium-Term Plan and the Committee regarded that as a large omission.

Secondly, we were presented with a paper on the Protection of the Organization Against Exchange Rate Risks in September, with which we were not able to deal. We gave it a first reading but we said that we would like to come back to the issue during the course of next year, and it is currently slated for May next year.

We have also had to spend some time in both the May and the September meetings dealing with the issue of the Oracle project and the problems which have arisen from it. That project is, in my judgement, now back on track. But I think it has to be said in part due to the vigilance and the energy of both the Programme and Finance Committees in identifying that issue, having it brought before them, having further information produced, and then coming to a conclusion about what was the best way to handle it. I think that the time invested by the Committees in that subject has paid off handsomely for the Organization and for the Membership.

As I said yesterday, the current schedule for the May meeting has 21 Items on it, 21 Items, two of them in my judgement will require the better part of a day, that is to say the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and the Appointment of the External Auditor – a day each. That leaves three days to deal with 19 Items. In practice, in my considered judgement, as someone who has spent 30 years of his career dealing largely with financial issues, is that we shall not be able to do justice to the remaining 19 Items in May. The result will be either that we deal with those issues less comprehensively and authoritatively than we would wish, and indeed if the Membership is entitled to expect, or that they will be postponed to a further session.

It is indeed true, that the Finance Committee has identified some new Items of business with which it feels it should deal. Let me instance two of them to you because I think they are useful illustrations of what a Finance Committee should be doing. We were presented in September with

an issue for decision about the Incentive Scheme that applies to Membership Contributions. And the issue with which we were asked to deal was the Discount Rate for the Scheme. We looked at that proposal and we said: is there not a larger issue here? Is there not a larger issue of whether the Incentive Scheme makes any kind of sense at all? The Organization over the last eight years has spent to the order of US\$ 8 million on this Scheme and it is not clear that that has had any effect on the behaviour of payments by Members of the Organization. We therefore said that this scheme needs to be reviewed because it is expensive. It involves what in principle could be a loss to the Organization of US\$ 8 million. And that subject has now been put on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee whenever that should take place.

Secondly, we concluded when we met in May this year that the financial data presented on FAO was hard for the Finance Committee and by extension for the Governing Bodies to understand. We asked the Secretariat to produce a simplified format dealing with the key numbers. This has become known as the Financial Highlights Paper. In practice because of pressures on the relevant parts of the Secretariat, who were themselves heavily involved, and remain heavily involved, in the issue of Oracle and its implementation, the paper was sought in May was produced only just before the September meeting of the Committee. The Committee did not have a chance to study it in-depth and therefore had to postpone consideration of it. That piece of paper, in my view, is an extremely important aid to the Membership of the Organization, understanding the finances. I believe the further work that needs to be done on it should be done as a matter of urgency and that the results should be in the hands of the Membership as soon as possible.

I hope that what I said, and I apologize for taking the time to do so, will demonstrate the key role played by the Finance Committee and the importance of allowing it adequate time to deal effectively with its business. It is certainly in the interests of the Membership that it should do so and it is also, I believe, in the interests of the Secretariat.

Coming to the costs which the Secretariat have helpfully provided for us, I have to say that I disagree with their estimates. The fact is that at the moment the Finance Committee has in front of it an agenda of business which it intends to deal with, the question is how many sessions it is going to take to deal with that agenda of business. If it is allowed too little time to handle it one or both of two things will happen, it will either postpone the business or it will deal with it less effectively. In both cases, there would be a loss. In particular, I do not accept that the costs cited here for interpretation of US\$ 56 000 is a genuine additional cost. If the Finance Committee were intending to do new business that would indeed be the case, but it is not. What we are talking about is how we cope with the list of subjects in front of us now. If we are to deal with those properly, we are going to need interpreters to help us do that whether we do it in May, or May and September, or January, May and September. The amount of time required will be common to all three scenarios. That removes US\$ 56 000 of the US\$ 66 000 that is cited in the Secretariat paper.

It is also suggested, in the final paragraph of this paper, that the opportunity costs of the Secretariat participation in the work of the Committee will be US\$ 29 000, but it follows from the argument that I have just made, that the Secretariat is going to be involved sooner or later in the work of the Committee anyway. So again, I would raise a very large question mark over that estimate.

My own judgement is that the genuine incremental costs of a further meeting of the Finance Committee are *de minimis*, they are trivial. So far as I can see, they largely consist of costs of bringing to Rome Members of the Finance Committee who are not present here. So I am sorry to say that I have considerable difficulty with the cost estimates that have been presented to us, which is one of the issues on which we needed further elucidation today in order to arrive at a decision.

I apologize for taking so much time, I have to say, in conclusion, that I would want to reserve my right to come back to this issue in the light of interventions made by others.

E. Michael SOUTHWICK (United States of America)

The United States supports the request to give the Finance Committee additional time to deal with its important work as soon as practicable. We think the case that has just been outlined by our U.K. colleague is convincing.

While we laud the commendable steps taken by the FAO, in recent years, to reduce the number and frequency of meetings the fact remains that the work of the Finance Committee lies at the heart of the Governments of this Organization. In large measure the credibility of FAO depends on the work of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee needs to do its work diligently and completely. Again, we agree that extra time be authorized and believe that the limited amounts of money involved in providing for these extra meetings are absorbable within existing resources.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je remercie le Secrétariat de nous avoir donné les informations qui avaient été demandées hier à la suite de notre débat. D'après ce rapport, il est manifeste, même si chaque délégation a le droit de questionner sur la véracité ou la pertinence de ces chiffres, il reste que ce sont les seuls dont nous disposons.

Je n'ai pas souvenance qu'en contestant un chiffre, on nous ait annoncé un chiffre contraire. Par conséquent, nous nous tenons au rapport qui nous a été fourni par le Secrétariat pour dire que, même s'il y a une question sur laquelle personne ne discute, tous les Comités, *a fortiori* celui financier, sont importants et nous souhaitons qu'ils puissent faire correctement leur travail. C'est une question que l'on ne se pose pas. Comment le faire, c'est peut-être ce qui peut créer des problèmes, et c'est ce qui nous crée des problèmes. Parce que je crois que si l'on dit que le Comité n'aurait pas dû porter la question au Conseil, c'est peut-être vrai, mais malheureusement, cela a été le cas. Il faut donc que nous en parlions. Et j'avoue que pour l'avoir portée au Conseil, j'ai passé toute ma nuit à réfléchir entre trois termes, après surtout l'intervention du Conseiller juridique durant laquelle il nous avait été dit que l'on ne pouvait pas examiner le rapport financier, ce qui était évident. C'est une règle dans tout le Système des Nations Unies.

On nous disait également que le Comité pouvait se réunir aussi souvent et quand il le souhaitait. Les trois termes étaient les suivants: sessions, séances, réunions. Parce qu'en réalité, je me demandais si ce texte-là n'avait pas créé de confusion, parce que s'il est prévu qu'un Comité peut se réunir aussi souvent qu'il le veut de manière interminable, je crois qu'il y a quelque chose que je n'arrive pas tellement à comprendre, mais finalement, j'ai préféré revenir sans trouver de réponse sur ce que l'on voulait réellement dire.

Cela pour tout simplement réitérer notre position. Je crois que le rapport nous indique, mais les paragraphes n'étant pas numérotés, je ne peux pas les citer, mais on nous a cité la programmation, en particulier pour 2001. On nous a cité des décisions de la Conférence pour dégager l'esprit d'organisation des réunions. Je crois donc que nous sommes ici face à un dilemme qui ne peut pas être levé aussi facilement, parce qu'on nous a dit que la troisième partie d'un Plan à moyen terme n'a pas été examinée. Mais les Membres du Comité ont déjà ce document, ils ont le loisir de l'étudier jusqu'au mois de mai pour se faire une philosophie. Ils ont le moyen, même compte tenu de leur nombre limité, de créer entre eux comme représentants d'Etats des groupes de contact pour essayer de lever certaines difficultés qui existeraient pour faciliter l'examen le moment venu.

On nous dit également que le document sur la protection sur les risques d'échanges n'a pas pu être approfondi. C'est vrai, c'est le même cas que pour le projet Oracle. Nous saluons l'efficacité du Comité financier et du Comité du programme qui, semble-t-il, ont permis des progrès enregistrés. J'espère également qu'ils reconnaissent que les fonctionnaires qui travaillent dans ce projet sont conscients de leurs responsabilités et de leur efficacité.

On nous dit également que d'autres documents comme le Plan d'encouragement de paiement des contributions, ce n'est pas une invention de la FAO. Cela a été efficace pour nous, il aurait fallu demander à la FAO de nous donner une évaluation. Mais même les Nations Unies ont bien cette idée mise en œuvre. Est-ce que les 8 millions de dollars payés ont été réellement en perte, je n'en suis pas sûr, tant que je n'aurai pas une évaluation sous les yeux qui me le feront voir. Mais tout cela, ce sont des documents qui existent, qui peuvent être examinés à partir de maintenant jusqu'au mois de mai et des groupes de contact pour un Comité de moins de 20 personnes, il est possible de régler ces questions. Dans tout le Système des Nations Unies, des comités similaires travaillent sur la base de contacts informels entre représentants pour échanger des points de vue et élaguer certaines difficultés.

Je pense que nous ne pourrions pas nous en sortir si déjà on conteste les coûts, il nous faudra donc demander d'autres coûts, plus fiables de la part de ceux qui les contestent pour qu'on puisse se faire une idée, mais une réunion qui nous coûterait au pire des cas, 95 200 dollars et dans le meilleur des cas 51 000 dollars, des pays comme nous qui n'avons même pas la possibilité de nous acquitter de notre contribution, encore moins de bénéficier d'une aide importante, ne pourront pas, pour faire plaisir à des experts très compétents, qui peuvent, j'en suis sûr, examiner même quarante points en trois jours, puisqu'ils travaillent depuis 30 ans dans des systèmes comme cela. Moi, personnellement, je n'ai qu'une vingtaine d'années dans les questions financières. Je pense cependant que j'aurais pu, en travaillant aux côtés de ceux qui ont 30 ou 35 ans d'expérience, faire mieux et peut-être m'acquitter d'une tâche, aussi complexe soit-elle, en cinq jours si telle est ma volonté.

En tout cas, pour toutes ces raisons, nous restons sur notre faim en attendant d'être convaincus. Nous sommes ouverts à toute solution pour que l'Organisation travaille efficacement mais aux coûts les plus amoindris. Il s'agit donc de rechercher cette voie, sans passion, mais avec objectivité et responsabilité.

Mrs Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Austria)

Austria associates itself with the statement made by the United Kingdom and the United States of America in this context.

Mrs Neela GANGADHARAN (India)

India does have very strong views on cutting down on administrative expenditures in the multinational organizations. We have always encouraged economy in administrative costs so that the fund flow for the Mandate the Organization has to deliver increases.

At the same time, we also feel that this matter that has been discussed today has come to the Council without the details which the Council has to understand before it takes a decision on it. We have a paper saying that there has been a demand for an extra meeting. However, the Council does not have details on the agenda item before the Finance Committee, or what deliberations were behind the minutes of the Finance Committee that the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman will take it up with the Director-General on the issue of having one extra meeting in January.

The distinguished delegate of United Kingdom did give us a very brief view of that issue. Our feeling is that though the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee do have certain given mandate in terms of subjects to deal with – from time to time this is a dynamic Organization and therefore, the Governing Bodies are dynamic as well.

From time to time new topics do come up, issues come up, for example the present Medium-Term Plan is not the same as it was in the past – in the past it had no resources. Today, the resources have been assigned to the Medium-Term Plan. From time to time the issues change and it should that way, there has to be a dynamic mechanism for the Governing Bodies, they cannot be statistic organizations. We some times feel the pressure of these new issues when we deal with the agenda items for the Finance Committee.

It is in that context that the Members said that we could look and see whether there is a possibility for an extra meeting in January. We have not had the opportunity to rethink about it; to examine the Chairman's proposal and the Director-General's discussion and it has come before the Council for discussion. In this context, I think it is unfortunate that it has been opened up here when the Members themselves have not had the opportunity to go through it again.

However, we are open to looking at options in this regard. In the light of the agenda items that we have and may have, and the fact that the External Auditor's Report has not been discussed by the Finance Committee, we do feel that some extra time is necessary. However, we are willing to look at options, of course, depending upon the Legal Counsel's guidance to us as to whether there is a call for any extra time that should be allowed for the Finance Committee. As the United States of America said we do think some time is necessary but we are willing to look at options which will absolutely minimize the cost to the Organization.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

This proposal which has come to us somewhat inadvertently it would seem from the Finance Committee is an important proposal. The Members of the Finance Committee have been entrusted to undertake their work in the most efficient manner available to them. The Finance Committee has been involved in the process that is outlined under Background in the document before us towards improving Efficiencies and Savings in the Governance of this Organization. Therefore, when that Committee is concerned that they do not have enough time available to do the work before them, then, I am sure, they have taken into account the need to contain costs and they are only putting forward this proposal to ensure they can continue to do their work in an efficient manner. It is not something they have lightly put forward to us.

I would also like to support my United Kingdom colleague in his interpretation of the financial implications that are put forward to us because, as he said, there is an inevitability about some of these costs if the Finance Committee is to carry out its agenda sooner or later a lot of these costs are going to be incurred. Therefore, the incremental cost of an additional session of the Finance Committee is not likely to be significant.

Also, I would just caution about this reference to these Financial Regulations which, if taken strictly, suggests: any decision involving expenditures cannot be made until there is a report on the administrative and financial implications of the proposal. I can think of decisions that have been taken by this Council about certain events without that sort of information. I would just caution about the strict application of that Financial Regulation.

In summary, clearly this is an important matter – it is important that we continue to trust in the judgement of the Finance Committee to be able to do their work in most efficient manner available to them.

Zacharie PEREVET (Cameroun)

Cette question que nous traitons depuis hier continue à nous préoccuper. Je pense que toutes les délégations sont conscientes du fait qu'il faut produire des documents sérieux et de qualité. Je voudrais quand même revenir sur l'intervention du représentant du Sénégal pour dire qu'un programme de réunions a déjà été établi, et que si on ajoute d'autres réunions, cela pourrait d'abord agir sur le temps. Il y a un aspect financier et je ne sais pas si juridiquement la tenue d'autres réunions est permise. Cet aspect financier reste. Dans ce cas, notre souci est de trouver assez de moyens pour soutenir une réunion supplémentaire. Dans de tel cas, si quelqu'un peut se porter candidat comme pour d'autres activités et proposerait le financement de cette session, à mon avis ce serait pratique. Si des délégations souhaitent la tenue de cette réunion et ont des moyens financiers pour la soutenir, que celles-ci se proposent pour nous permettre de financer cette Réunion extraordinaire.

Karl-Josef WEIERS (Germany)

There is no doubt that, we Germany, want to cut expenditure. We have a shrinking budget at home even in nominal terms. However, I want to add something to the ideas brought forward by India which I fully support.

This is definitely, as she called it a dynamic Organization and a lot of things are happening. For example, Oracle, which I always call a disaster, but may only be a problem.

I think we, here in this Council, should trust the judgement of the Members of the Finance Committee. If they feel the need – and they are the representatives of all regions of all memberships of the Organization - that it is necessary to go over the items which have come up in such a mess and (Anthony Beattie of the United Kingdom mentioned 21) then, I think we should do everything possible to give them the necessary time to discuss these items in a proper manner.

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

We find ourselves caught between two principles. In principle, we like Germany, believe we should leave to the Members of the Finance Committee to determine how best to dispose of their work. We firmly believe in that principle and therefore, we support that standpoint.

On the other hand, we also see the financial issue, the administrative issues as pointed out by the Director-General and we think that the Secretariat and the Director-General are in the best position to judge the adequacy, the timeliness of scheduling meetings. These two principles, for us, are both very important and we hold these principles in high regard.

We also see that there is hardly any consensus building on this issue at this moment in the Council. We also take note of United Kingdom's initial remark that they were pursuing this matter through proper channels and did not mean for this issue to come up for consideration of the Council.

We would propose that the Finance Committee continue exploring this proposition through those channels, rather than leaving it for the Council to take a decision on it as, obviously, we see that there is no consensus arising out of this discussion.

In short our proposal is that it first be pursued by the Finance Committee to discuss the matter with the Director-General and convene whatever is feasible under the circumstances and it not be left to the Council to take a decision on this issue.

Blair HANKEY (Canada)

I have listened with interest to this debate and I would like to associate myself with the spirit of comments made by the delegation of Germany. It seems to me that the delegations here should, in the first instance, rely on the views of the Finance Committee, which indeed has all regions represented on it, as to what kinds of time, what kinds of meetings, it requires in order to effectively carry out its work on behalf of the Organization.

We are all aware, of course, that the role of the Finance Committee is central to the whole issue of resources, what the resources of this Organization should be, and how they should be spent. Of course, the Director-General, in his statements to the Council, and Mr Wade yesterday in his comments, made it clear that the issue of resources is one to which the Secretariat attaches enormous importance. I have to say that the open opposition of the Secretariat to this request of the Finance Committee for an extra meeting cannot but have a negative effect on the confidence which contributors will have in the way that the money that they contribute to this Organization is spent, and it cannot but have a negative impact on the Director-General's request for additional resources. I do trust that, in deciding this matter, other delegations will keep that consideration in mind.

From the perspective of my delegation, we do not wish to engage in this debate as to whether the estimates made by the Secretariat are or are not accurate as to the financial implications because,

frankly, we do not think that it is an important issue. Even if the financial implications are precisely those given by the Secretariat, we feel that the not holding of such a meeting of the Finance Committee, the Committee that deals with resources, would be a false economy. It is terribly important to the efficient expenditure of resources, and to the raising of additional resources, that the Finance Committee be given every facility to carry out its work.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

En primer lugar, quisiéramos respaldar lo señalado por el delegado de Pakistán, toda vez que consideramos que dentro del Consejo no vamos a lograr un consenso.

Reconocemos como importante, tanto en el Comité de Finanzas como en cualquier otro Comité de la FAO, que los temas y los trabajos salgan adelante por el bien de la Organización y de sus Países Miembros. Sin embargo, consideramos que de llegarse a realizar alguna reunión, más allá de lo que está programado en los calendarios, ésta - de ninguna manera - deberá ser costeadada directamente por los recursos consecuentes del presupuesto de la FAO. En todo caso, de ser esa la decisión del propio Comité de Finanzas, deberá ser plenamente respaldada de manera financiera por los donantes. De otro modo, caeríamos en una situación inaceptable, pues, con el presupuesto que cuenta la Organización, no restan recursos para crear reuniones más allá de lo programado. Esta es nuestra posición; y reitero, únicamente con recursos extra-presupuestarios estaremos en condiciones de aceptar esa reunión.

Masato ITO (Japan)

Thank you to the Secretariat for the explanation about the cost of the programmes. My delegation, before entering into discussion about cost issues, would like to have clarification from the Legal Counsel with respect to the legal basis of this discussion. Of course, we are very keen to have cost-efficiency in this Organization but, having said that, I doubt whether the Council is in a position to override the General Rules, because the General Rules clearly state as follows: "The Finance Committee shall hold sessions as often as necessary, either on the call of each Chairman acting on his own initiative, or in pursuance of a decision of the Committee, or of a request submitted in writing to the Chairman by three Members of the Committee, or on the call of the Director-General acting on his own initiative, or in pursuance of a request submitted in writing to him by five or more Member Nations."

I am not a lawyer, but I doubt whether the Council can override the General Rules which clearly stipulate.

Jón E. JÓNASSON (Iceland)

I would just like to repeat what I said yesterday on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland, that we support this request for an extra meeting of the Finance Committee.

More as a personal observation for myself here, I really fail to see the lack of flexibility I am seeing here in the Council regarding this. This is maybe because I am rather young here in this fora, but I have experienced a high degree of flexibility regarding a much bigger event next year that has not been planned for a very long time. I think that countries have been flexible there, so this is more a personal reflection. I fail to see the lack of flexibility.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

Just brief information to the Council on one or two items.

On the question of the Agenda and a figure mentioned of 21 items: those 21 items remain, at the moment, as if they were a forecast because the Agenda is usually finalized by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Committee. That has not been done yet for the May Session; so it may not be 21 items at the May Session: it depends on this consultative process.

I just wanted to give information on the incentive scheme. I would not like the Council to think that the Secretariat was oblivious of the benefits, or the non-benefits, of the incentive scheme. In fact, the Secretariat had drawn this matter to the attention of a previous Finance Committee. The previous Finance Committee, I think on at least two occasions, had discussed this issue and had even taken it to the Council with some proposals which were turned down by the Council at the time, and the incentive scheme stayed. So, it is a valid item for discussion but I just wanted to point out that the Secretariat has been current with it and not oblivious of the fact that the incentive scheme was not giving much benefit.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Japan has raised a question regarding Rule XXVI.8.(a) that I mentioned yesterday. We have similar rules for almost any committee. You will find a more or less similar rule for the Programme Committee and for the Council. This cannot be interpreted as implying that each Body of the Organization can have as many sessions as it wishes. We have a list of meetings that you have just approved and they are reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget. What I mean is that whatever the rule, it should be seen in the context of other relevant actions approved by the Governing Bodies. This is the reason why Financial Regulation 13.1 requires that a Report from the Director-General be considered before taking any decision involving additional expenditures.

With respect to the authority of the Council, as I mentioned yesterday, the Council is the parent body of the Finance Committee. The matter has been raised in the Council, so I think that the Council has the authority to discuss and decide, if it so wishes. It is a matter which has been raised and it is now before you. It is up to the Council to take a decision or to provide guidance on this issue. The Council certainly has the authority to discuss and decide on this issue.

CHAIRMAN

There are several things I think that are very clear.

The only non-consensus is on when such additional work will have to be scheduled, and that the Finance Committee must work harder and there are so many things that they have to work on. I do not think there is any disagreement among us. The only disagreement is on the scheduling: January or May. I think that is the only disagreement. I think that options have also been given by several Members.

On the other hand, there is also consensus on several facts that are very important to anything we have to decide at this stage: the fact that we are very limited in finance; the fact that there is so much that is on schedule already that has to be done. I think the paper of the Director-General made it very clear so I do not think there is any difficulty in accepting what had been shown in the paper of the Director-General, even though we may, of course, agree or disagree on figures, but those are also the facts.

I think we should follow the proper way of doing this: that is to let it go back to the proper channels, with the recommendation that the proper channels should take into consideration all those points that have been brought up: the work that has to be done; the importance of the Finance Committee; the lack of finance that we are facing or the limitation of the finance that we are facing now; the amount of work that we have to do; and also take into consideration the options that can be made. Malaysia, for instance, mentioned the possibility of extending the May meeting of the Finance Committee by one or two days. There may be other options but the main thing is that it has to be done well, through the proper channels, and it has to be done with the least cost additions. I do not see that any of the Member Nations have any difficulty with the option of May. So we just send it back to the proper channels with those considerations.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Si bien, en términos generales, estamos de acuerdo con su resumen, México hace un planteamiento muy claro en cuanto a los recursos para financiar esa reunión.

Si nosotros aceptamos que se realice con recursos del presupuesto de la FAO, crearemos un precedente y estaremos en nuestro libre derecho, como Estados Miembros, de llamar a reuniones extraordinarias de los distintos Comités cuando así lo consideremos oportuno y, con el mismo derecho, a que sean aprobadas.

Por lo tanto, tomando en consideración que el presupuesto de la FAO no permite sentar ese tipo de precedentes, insistimos en que no nos oponemos a la reunión, pero sí a que sea financiada con recursos de la FAO.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

I would, with regret, accept the option of extending the May Meeting. My judgement is the May Meeting would need to be extended by three days. It seems to me that since the issue has now come, as was said earlier on, inadvertently before the Council, I think we had better try and make a decision on it.

As the Legal Counsel has said, the Council does indeed have the authority, as the parent body of the Finance Committee, to make a decision. I hope we could, therefore, decide today, what is going to happen. You said that the issue was largely an issue of time, rather than timing. I am not sure I entirely agree with that, because I think there are some urgent pieces of business which, in the interest of the Membership, should be transacted sooner rather than later, but I would accept an extension of the May Meeting by, I suggest, three days.

I do not accept the notion that this should be financed from extra-budgetary funds and I would ask those who do favour that course of action to recall what was said a few minutes ago by the distinguished representative of Canada. The fact is that FAO needs a Finance Committee financed from its own resources, which is able to do its business effectively. If it does not have a Finance Committee which has the confidence of the Membership, it will find itself in a very difficult situation.

In summary, therefore, my proposal is an extension of the May Meeting by three days, financed from the Organization's resources.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Pourquoi certains pays ne sont-ils pas d'accord? Il n'y a aucune suspicion. Je pense qu'on ne peut pas mettre la charrue avant les bœufs. On ne peut pas avoir une réunion qu'on a programmé pour cinq jours et *a priori* on prévoit ne pas pouvoir terminer en cinq jours. Ce n'est pas logique. Une question de principe.

Deuxième remarque: une initiative prévue mais on nous a dit qu'il n'y pas d'incidence budgétaire, aucune comparaison possible. Prolonger éventuellement une réunion, une session, est un principe acceptable, mais également dire précisément que ce sera pour tant de jours est inacceptable. Ce qui peut être accepté ici est en réalité d'envisager la possibilité sur la base des mécanismes de fixation de réunions, consultations entre le Président, le Comité et le Directeur général, une éventualité de prolonger une réunion en cas de nécessité. C'est la seule conclusion acceptable.

Troisième remarque: on ne peut plus renvoyer à d'autres canaux, et je termine, c'est le Conseil, il en est saisi, il en décide; aucun autre organe ne peut plus décider à sa place, sauf la Conférence.

Rolf GERBER (Observateur de la Suisse)

Merci de donner la parole à un observateur. La réponse à la question d'une éventuelle troisième réunion du Comité financier est très simple: Si le Conseil est intéressé à un travail sérieux et efficace des Membres du Comité financier, il devrait favoriser une telle réunion. Si le Conseil préfère par contre un travail superficiel il doit y renoncer. La transparence satisfaisante à la FAO n'est pas encore une réalité. Les Membres du Comité financier font beaucoup de sacrifices personnels dans l'intérêt de la FAO.

Karl-Josef WEIERS (Germany)

I think we all possibly and hopefully agree that the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee are some of the basic elements of this Organization. Therefore, I think it is a little far away from reality to call for extra-budgetary funds for these basic instruments of the Organization. If they cannot find finance by the normal budget in its efficient way, this Organization has real problems.

The minimum I can accept is that we find consensus on the extension of the meetings of the Finance Committee to a number of dates which is necessary for the appropriate work.

Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Sudan is a Member of the Finance Committee as representative of the Near East Group. We fully agree with what was said by Mr Beattie from the United Kingdom when he presented this in September, and it was responded to positively by the Member Nations. It would not set a precedent. I believe that an extraordinary meeting was held at the beginning of 1997 or 1998. Mr Mekouar can confirm that in January. Then it is not a surprise, it is not a precedent.

I hope that the Council will agree to holding this meeting.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Estamos cerca de lograr un consenso y considero que podríamos apoyar perfectamente la propuesta hecha por el Embajador de Senegal. En esta línea, estaríamos totalmente de acuerdo en prolongar los trabajos como lo decida, durante un período de sesiones, el propio Comité sin establecer el número de días.

Mme Ivone Alves DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

La délégation gabonaise qui hier était d'avis contraire à la tenue d'une troisième réunion du Comité financier et que la Note d'information du Secrétariat avait conforté dans sa position, serait prête à accepter la proposition avancée par la délégation du Sénégal, à savoir, une éventuelle prolongation en cas de nécessité.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Creo que vamos acercándonos a un consenso. La propuesta de Senegal merece nuestro respaldo y es una propuesta que puede conciliar los intereses de todos. Apoyamos a Senegal.

Blair HANKEY (Canada)

I am afraid I have not perfectly understood the proposal of Senegal. In order to join in the consensus, I would have to understand what that proposal is: that the meeting should be extended as required, but who would determine what was required? If I understand that it would be the Committee itself which would determine that, then I am fully in agreement with the delegation of Senegal.

CHAIRMAN

That is actually what the proposal of Senegal is. They have a fixed agenda, already established and, through the proper channels as usual, the agenda of the May Meeting will be discussed and also by how many days it will be extended.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Apoyamos lo que ha planteado Senegal.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

I am grateful for the efforts of colleagues in the Council to achieve a consensus on this point. I am not sure I have to say that we are quite there.

The representative of Senegal, as I understand it, spoke about envisaging the possibility of extending the May Meeting of the Finance Committee in case of need. Well, that is indeed precisely what we have been discussing yesterday and today, and there is a clear view, on the part of many of us, that that need is proved. The question is how to put it into effect.

My proposal was that the Council should take a decision now to extend the May Meeting by three days. If we are just going to take the issue back for discussion, I think we are going round in circles. What would be the further arguments that would be produced in the additional discussion?

CHAIRMAN

I think we do have to come to a conclusion. The conclusion is that Council supports an extension of the May Meeting of the Finance Committee, and the number of days needed to adequately cover the agenda item. The length of the extension and contents of the agenda are to be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Chair of the Finance Committee, which is the proper way of doing this, consistent with normal procedures.

Point of order

Point d'ordre

Punto de Orden

Paul ROSS (Australia)

I feel a sense of *dejá vu*, but I would just like to point out that we have not concluded our business. There is still the item of *Any Other Matters* and, if I draw your attention to the agenda for this Council, there is a number of information documents that have been presented to this Council, and the invitation is there for any Members that may wish to comment on those documents to do so under *Any Other Matters*.

So I would just ask, if you were intending to close this session now, when we can return to Item 15?

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Mi primera intervención es en el mismo orden que acaba de hacer el representante de Australia, cuando usted dio como terminado el Tema 15; yo había hablado con la Secretaría de que ya no Argentina, que es un País Miembro de esta Organización, sino la Región de América Latina y el Caribe querría hacer una intervención sobre otros asuntos. Me fue indicado de que volveríamos después de finalizar el tema que acaba usted de cerrar, le vuelvo a repetir que la intervención que yo estoy pidiendo hacer no es únicamente en nombre de Argentina, sino de toda la Región de América Latina y el Caribe. Estamos en sus manos, para poder terminar de expresarnos.

CHAIRMAN

We have actually reserved this afternoon for the Drafting Committee to do their intensive work.

I would propose that we hear from Argentina and the Group Saturday morning, first item that we will discuss as we open the session Saturday morning. Is that correct?

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Como dijo el representante de Australia, esto está referido a documentos que han sido presentados para ser tratados, aunque sea informativamente, durante este Consejo. No sabemos si lo que tienen que expresar, tanto la delegación de Argentina en nombre del GRULAC como el Representante de Australia, puede tener implicancias en el informe final de este Consejo. En

consecuencia no nos sería de utilidad hablar el sábado por la mañana cuando se estaría adoptando el informe.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Coincido plenamente con lo expresado por la representación de la República Argentina en nombre propio y en nombre del GRULAC. Creo que para que el Comité de Redacción realice su trabajo debe estar concluido definitivamente el período. Podría quedar algo, y entonces estaríamos nuevamente con problemas en el Comité de Redacción que presido.

The meeting rose at 13.50 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.50 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Nineteenth Session Cent dix-neuvième session 119º período de sesiones
Rome, 20-25 November 2000 Rome, 20-25 novembre 2000 Roma, 20-25 de noviembre de 2000
EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA
23 November 2000

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 15.15 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

VI. OTHER MATTERS (continued)
VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)
VI. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

15. ANY OTHER MATTERS (continued)
15. AUTRES QUESTIONS (suite)
15. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

CHAIRMAN

I declare the eighth meeting of the Hundred and Nineteenth Council open. We will continue with Item 15, *Any Other Matters*, where we left our debate this morning.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Mi región desea referirse bajo este punto a otros asuntos: el tema de las Conferencias Regionales incluido en el documento CL 119 Inf. 10. Dividiré mi exposición en dos partes: la primera, con relación a la forma en la cual se examina el tema y, la segunda, en cuanto a la naturaleza de la materia en análisis y, cómo ésta ha sido y sigue siendo tratada.

Teniendo en cuenta la gravitación de los informes de las Conferencias Regionales, mi Región considera que éstos deben ser preparados minuciosamente y, más todavía sus resúmenes, puesto que son el medio informativo para que los Miembros de este Consejo puedan comprender las decisiones y recomendaciones que se están efectuando en otras áreas geográficas y cómo pueden afectar al presupuesto global de la Organización, al cual todos los Estados Miembros aportamos conforme a nuestros niveles de riqueza. Nosotros consideramos que esta prolijidad de los resúmenes ha sido vulnerada. Efectivamente, al revisar el documento *Resumen de las Principales Recomendaciones de las Conferencias Regionales del 2000* (CL 119/INF/10) y, al compararlo con sus versiones originales, observamos notables omisiones. En el resumen de nuestra Región no se menciona un tema relevante y, comprendido en su párrafo 30, que dice: "la Conferencia recalcó que existe el riesgo de que el tema de la multifuncionalidad de la agricultura se convierta en un mecanismo de distorsión del comercio, justificando nuevas formas de subsidios o de protección". Mientras que, en otro resumen perteneciente a otra región, se dan pormenorizados detalles de esta materia en relación a los Gobiernos, sin mencionar que estos mismos le han pedido a la Organización una mayor profundización sobre esta cuestión. Sobre este mismo tema, en el informe perteneciente a otra región, no es reproducido el párrafo por el cual se expresa que no existe acuerdo sobre esta materia entre los miembros de esa región específica. Creemos que todas estas omisiones son muy importantes.

Como he ya mencionado, para el GRULAC, la preocupación sobre el concepto de la multifuncionalidad de la agricultura, que fuera omitida en el resumen de nuestro informe, no es nueva; como ya lo ha expresado claramente por medio de distintas acciones, entre ellas entrevistas de representantes de nuestra área geográfica con la más alta autoridad de la Organización y el envío de una carta, expresando las preocupaciones sobre esta materia. Repito, que no estamos hablando de un tema menor, ni menos informativo, sino del análisis de una materia que puede afectar seriamente al presupuesto y a la orientación de las labores de la Organización.

Esto me lleva a la segunda parte de mi intervención: el fondo del problema. La forma parcial con la cual se resume este tema y el modo como son citadas las decisiones de otros foros vinculados a este tema, nos llama mucho la atención. En el documento que se nos hizo llegar adjunto a la carta del Director General bajo el título "Observaciones preliminares al tema del carácter multifuncional de la agricultura y la tierra", preparado por la Secretaría, se pretende hacer una síntesis sobre el concepto y cómo ha sido considerado en diferentes foros y sus sustentos teóricos. Pero, al mismo tiempo, dice en su párrafo 2: "si bien prácticamente todas las actividades humanas son multifuncionales, no existen definiciones internacionalmente convenidas acerca del carácter multifuncional de la agricultura". Se menciona, adicionalmente, que las acciones del trabajo

técnico de la FAO están sustentadas en las decisiones tomadas en el seno de la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible, celebrada el pasado mes de abril y mayo en Nueva York, omitiéndose el párrafo 8 de estas mismas decisiones, el cual expresa textualmente: "los Gobiernos son animados a continuar estudiando aspectos económicos, sociales y medioambientales del desarrollo agrícola y rural sostenible, cuyo mayor objetivo es aumentar la producción alimentaria en un modo sostenible y aumentando la seguridad alimentaria, basado en el capítulo 14 de la Agenda 21, evitando injustificadas barreras al comercio y tomando en cuenta las discusiones de la FAO y otras organizaciones internacionales".

Como se puede ver, existen decisiones claras y acuerdos sobre el concepto de la multifuncionalidad de la agricultura que no pueden ser citados parcialmente. El mayor órgano político de esta Organización, la Conferencia, en su pasada reunión, constató la división de opiniones sobre este tema y tomándolas en cuenta, expresó que se prosiga y desarrolle el concepto del Desarrollo Rural Sostenible tal como está contenido en el Capítulo 14 de la Agenda 21, en cuyo interior es tocada marginalmente la multifuncionalidad de la agricultura. Pero ahora se invierte, tendenciosamente a nuestro parecer, el contenedor y el contenido, lo secundario pasa a convertirse en lo principal sin mediar acuerdos ni consensos. La fortaleza del foro multilateral, reside en la confianza mutua entre sus miembros y por grande que sean sus diferencias, sólo podemos avanzar juntos en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición mediante el diálogo y el genuino interés en alcanzar la meta definida por la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. Pero, lamentablemente, vemos que poco a poco y sin pausa, se nos intenta imponer un modelo de agricultura sobre el cual no existe consenso en la principal agencia especializada para la agricultura y la alimentación del sistema de Naciones Unidas y, por tanto, menos podemos dar nuestro consentimiento para que las decisiones referidas a esta materia modifiquen o influyan en el presupuesto futuro de la Organización.

Para teminar esta intervención, conviene recordar la sencillez y claridad de los objetivos buscados por esta Organización y tan sabiamente expresados en el Preámbulo de la Carta Fundamental en cuyo seno, mediante la acción individual y colectiva de los Estados Miembros se busca contribuir a la expansión de la economía mundial y a liberar del hambre a la humanidad..

Quiero agradecer que se me haya dado la oportunidad de expresar este sentimiento de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe, respecto a cómo se había reflejado el Informe de su Conferencia Regional.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

Australia would also like to refer to Council document CL 119/INF/10, in which we see a selective *Summary of the Recommendations Arising from the Various Regional Conferences of FAO* that have taken place this year.

Firstly, allow me to express appreciation for the statement by GRULAC, with which Australia is pleased to associate itself.

We wanted to draw attention to the outcomes of the European Regional Conference in which you will see, in the document before us, summaries of the recommendations arising from that Conference, which includes recommendations on the multifunctional character of agriculture and land. Australia was able to be part of that Conference as an Observer and, as we told the Conference, we had no difficulty whatsoever with the European Region wanting to discuss this topic. It is a matter for the Region to determine what they discuss at their Conference. But we did draw attention to our concern regarding the Secretariat paper prepared for the Conference, which advocated that FAO continue to work on the multifunctional character of agriculture and land. This concern was shared by a large number of other countries. We pointed out that the decision of the FAO Conference could not be circumvented.

We would just like to point out that there is a recommendation from the European Regional Conference which is not included in the Summary found in CL 119/INF/10. It is paragraph 47 of the European Regional Conference Report, which says that "the European Conference encouraged FAO to continue the work on the concept of the multifunctionality of agriculture and land".

The Regional Conferences of FAO, according to the Basic Texts, are to identify priority areas of need, and make recommendations for inclusion in the next Programme of Work and Budget and in longer-term programme objectives. We would not want to see this Council giving an endorsement to that particular recommendation from this Conference, given the clear decision of the FAO Conference last year against further work by FAO on multifunctionality.

We raised earlier this week our concerns with a project being funded by Japan and, as we said yesterday, we have not been fully convinced by what we have heard from the Secretariat, and we remain suspicious. We continue to question how this project can proceed.

As we have highlighted, the topic of multifunctionality has been the subject of some divisive debates in FAO this year. As we have said in the context of the European Regional Conference in July, there were concerns raised with the advice the Secretariat had prepared for the Conference which advocated work on multifunctionality by FAO, in clear contradiction with the FAO Conference outcome. In relation to the Japan project, Australia was told at OECD by an FAO Representative that this project is in line with OECD's work on multifunctionality. So, on the one hand, we see some keenness by FAO for multifunctionality but, on the other hand, we are being told by the Secretariat that the Japan project has nothing to do with multifunctionality.

We are seeing mixed messages, which makes us raise questions. One question is, why did the Secretariat proceed with developing this project, knowing the sensitivity associated with this area, without first informing the Membership? If they were confident the work was squarely in line with their mandate, why not inform Members at the outset and avoid the situation we now have? Adding to that situation, it appears that the Japan project document, which you said would be circulated yesterday, is not yet available to Members. We remained concerned, not only about the content of the Project, but about the process and about transparency. This governance concern has been echoed by a number of Members here, and remains to be addressed.

Extra-budgetary resources are important in helping FAO fund its activities, but those activities must be within the mandate of the Organization, including in line with the decisions of the FAO Conference, and must be open to Members' scrutiny. We are keen to ensure that the integrity of FAO is neither compromised nor given any appearance of having been compromised. It should not become a consultancy responding to the interests of the highest bidder.

In conclusion, we continue to question how the Japan project can proceed and will take this matter up further. We will also look to take up the governance issue in a future FAO forum.

Blair HANKEY (Canada)

Canada wishes to associate itself with the remarks of the delegations of Argentina on behalf of GRULAC and of Australia.

My delegation has already indicated, under another agenda item, its concern with the manner in which the project on the diverse roles of agriculture has been established. Whatever the merits of the project, and we do find much of value in the project, it is incontestable that its subject matter is one of general interest to all Members and, in particular, to those which have developing economies. Yet, it appears that this project has been designed and instituted without any opportunity for input from Members other than the donor. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to characterize this project as one conceived and born under a veil of secrecy. Given the policy and political sensitivity of the subject matter, and its history of controversy in this and other international fora, this manner of proceeding cannot but engender suspicions as to the motives underlying the project and the purposes to which its findings might be put.

Although Canada applauds the generosity of donors which make extra-budgetary funds available to FAO and other international organizations, in our view, it cannot be right that Members are able to use financial clout alone to disproportionately influence the substantive work of these organizations, particularly in subject areas known to be controversial and in which the particular donor is very much a partisan to the controversy.

Moreover, this project of a general normative character can and must be distinguished from technical assistance or other projects which concern only one or a few Members. Canada believes that this project highlights the need to establish procedures whereby projects funded from extra-budgetary sources will be open to input from all interested Members, and to scrutiny from the appropriate Governing Bodies of the Organization, such as the Programme Committee. We intend to consult with other interested delegations as to how this might be done.

In the meantime, my delegation wishes to signal its intention to follow closely the implementation of this project and our insistence that, henceforth, all its operations and documents be fully transparent.

Paul LUU (France)

La Communauté européenne et ses États Membres voudraient profiter de l'occasion de l'examen du document CL 119/INF/10 pour présenter quelques commentaires sur la Conférence régionale Europe de la FAO qui s'est tenue à Porto en juillet dernier.

Nous aimerions exprimer notre satisfaction sur le bilan de cette Conférence qui a permis d'ouvrir un débat fructueux au niveau ministériel, en particulier sur la sécurité sanitaire et la qualité des aliments dans la Région.

L'idée d'une initiative paneuropéenne de Conférence sur la sécurité sanitaire des aliments a d'ailleurs été avancée. Cette idée est actuellement à l'étude en vue de la préparation de cette Conférence.

En outre, la nouvelle structure de la Conférence régionale nous a permis d'organiser des réunions de comités techniques, afin de discuter un certain nombre de points de première importance pour les Membres du Groupe régional européen.

Nous notons que le document CL 119/INF/10 est présenté au Conseil pour information et qu'il essaie de résumer les recommandations de chacune des Conférences régionales. Nous voudrions ajouter cependant que la Commission européenne et ses États Membres continuent à attacher beaucoup d'importance à toutes les recommandations de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe, y compris celles qui pourraient ne pas apparaître dans le résumé.

Leo MAIER (European Community)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States and the other countries of the European Region.

We have already made our views known on this subject under Item 8, and these remain valid also for this discussion. Let me add only the following: the implications of agriculture for society go in many cases beyond the production of food and non-food raw materials. They involve issues that have already been mentioned in one way or the other at this Council. I am thinking of the protection of the environment, the sustainable use of water for consumption and irrigation, land conservation, the role of women in society, human development, poverty alleviation, food security and the economic vitality of rural areas. The countries of the European Region believe that it would, for both developed and developing countries, be very useful – not at least in connection with addressing their non-trade concerns – to examine these impacts and their linkages with agriculture, and to look for ways how the synergies can be increased, within the context of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Masato ITO (Japan)

I already expressed our opinion about the project funded by my Government, so I will not repeat the same thing.

My Australian colleague mentioned that the document is not available. My understanding is that, just after that meeting, we agreed to distribute to all Members, all interested Members, the project document. Therefore, my understanding is that anyone can pick it up at the Documents Desk outside of the meeting room.

As the host country of the Twenty-Fifth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific, I would like to make some comments about the background of the summary recommendations of that Conference.

There were two important agenda items of regional interest, namely, Sustainable Agriculture Development on Poverty Alleviation in the Millennium, Reflections and Lessons from the Asian Crisis and Implications of and Development of Biotechnology.

Under the first agenda item, the Regional Conference agreed that, as the Region's most important sector in terms of employment and livelihood, agriculture has a crucial role to play in alleviating poverty and ensuring food security. The Regional Conference also recognized that poverty was the core of the problem of food security. It was also recognized that, to meet the major challenges of sustaining agricultural growth in the context of resource degradation and water scarcity arising from population increase, changing demand patterns, increasing globalization in improved technology and appropriate agriculture practices, sound policies and effective institutions were important elements.

Under the second agenda item, I would like to note that, recognizing the great potential of biotechnology, the Regional Conference acknowledged that issues and concerns related to biotechnology should be addressed appropriately, particularly in the areas concerning human health and environment protection.

It is a hope of my delegation that recommendations of the Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific Region will be duly reflected in the Medium-Term Plan and PWB for the next biennium.

Japan commits itself to supporting FAO activities in this Region.

Also not referred to in the Secretariat document CL 119/INF/10, there were NGO/CSO consultations in parallel, in which more than 200 representatives participated. We hope that NGO/CSO consultations in the context of Regional Conferences will be held in the future, in order to enhance the dialogue with and among NGO/CSOs.

Finally, I would like to support the statement made by France and the European Community, which is an important issue for us.

Ms Mitzi GURGEL VALENTE da COSTA (Brazil)

I would like to take this opportunity to fully endorse and sustain what has been expressed here by the delegation of Argentina in the name of all the Latin American and Caribbean countries. I would also like to associate myself with what has been said by Australia and by Canada before me, and since they have very well expressed what our concerns are in that area, I will not repeat them, so that we may finish this Council meeting in a timely fashion.

However, I would very briefly like to say that my delegation will also keep a close watch on the follow-up of these issues. I think that whichever way we look at it, if the multifunctional character of agriculture is another way of justifying unacceptable subsidies to production and the export of agricultural products, then my delegation can only deplore that these practices are forcing more competitive countries out of the international agricultural markets. I think, in that sense, that these practices can only be detrimental to the world food security situation.

Jón E. JÓNASSON (Iceland)

I would only like to state that Iceland fully supports the statement made by the European Community on this issue.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

En primer lugar, la delegación de Guatemala desea dar pleno respaldo a la declaración de la Presidencia del GRULAC que representa las preocupaciones de nuestra región en este tema tan importante. El día de ayer, la delegación de Guatemala dio su apoyo y su respaldo a Australia, Estados Unidos y a Canadá en esta ocasión, también, en el tema de la multifuncionalidad de la agricultura y en la visión que los países de nuestra Región tienen al respecto.

Dag BRISED (Observer for Norway)

My delegation would also like to associate itself with the European Community statement read out by France and the ones read out by the Commission.

Norway would like to seize this opportunity to thank Portugal and FAO for arranging such an interesting Regional Conference in Oporto. This Regional Conference addressed very important issues within agricultural policy today, furthering work that will improve FAO's relevance as an international normative organization.

I would like to underline that Norway subscribes to all the recommendations from the Twenty-Second European Regional Conference. The countries of the Region believe that it would, for both developed and developing countries, be very useful, not at least in connection with addressing the non-trade concerns, to examine the impact of linkages with agriculture, and to look for ways of increasing these linkages within the context of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Observer for Bulgaria)

The lack of consensus cannot be a pretext to prevent FAO from tackling issues as complex as the concept of the multifunctional character of agriculture and land use. If we accept the prohibitive approach, we would set the Organization on the road that will end in an *impasse* on many issues, not only MFCAL. That is not the purpose for which we established FAO. No matter how complex or even divisive the issues can be, FAO has to be a forum for discussion and furthering our understanding of the issues important to the Members. This is also valid, in our view, with regard to the model of agriculture based on the concept of MFCAL.

You all know that Bulgaria is a country with agriculture in transition. In the ten years since we set on the road to democratic development and market economy, in agriculture specifically, we have changed the modum, which, only for the historic record I would mention, has not yet had an evaluation in the historic perspective, to an agriculture which is based on 98 percent private ownership of land and on 78 percent private ownership of the assets of the food processing industry. We have removed all price controls, tariffs, quotas and export taxes.

Nevertheless, this created a situation which, at a certain moment, caused a major grain crisis in Bulgaria in 1997 and, having an overall estimate of the situation, we joined eleven other countries in transition last week to make a statement, an official public statement, which namely underlined one specific phenomenon. I am quoting "Leaving farmers, fully exposed to the sheer play of market forces is not an option, since this would destroy the agricultural sector." I think that this is a valuable experience of ours which can be taken by FAO and by the Members, and we can share our experiences.

From this point of view, I would make use of this speaking time that you have been so kind to give to me, to inform that the Bulgarian Government has this year adopted a National Agriculture and Rural Development plan for the year 2000-2006, the main objectives of which are two-fold.

The first one is improvement of the efficiency of agricultural production and promotion of a competitive food processing sector by better market and technological infrastructure and strategic investment policies.

The second one is sustainable rural development consistent with the best environmental practices by introducing alternative employment, diversification of economic activity and establishment of the necessary infrastructure, which we expect, in turn, will improve the living conditions and standards of rural communities, and will generate fairer income and open up employment opportunities.

I would not limit myself only to this. I think that, as a Member Nation, Bulgaria is obliged to follow what our *Strategic Framework* says, that knowledge management is vital for effective decision-making. We have the feeling that either we have a lack of knowledge on some matters in this Plenary, or the available knowledge outside this hall and this Organization is not yet made available to the attention of the Membership.

From this point of view, I would take the opportunity to ask the Secretariat if you could give us information on the follow-up to what was stated in document CCP 99/12 Rev., which is called *Assessment of the Impact of the Uruguay Round on Agricultural Markets and Food Security*. In this document, it is namely mentioned that, at its Sixty-first Session, the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems recommended that a study be undertaken on the assessment of the impact of the Uruguay Round provisions as they are being implemented in practice and that it should include, *inter alia*, an assessment of the food security implications for developing countries.

At the end of the same document, the Secretariat rightfully notes that there has not been enough available data and it mentions, and I am quoting: "There will be country-case studies undertaken, 16 in number, on the impact of the Uruguay Round that should provide additional insights on the impact at the national level". I heard one Member Nation mentioning these case studies and the eventual conclusions that have been drawn on their basis. Unfortunately, we are not aware of them and we would request to be informed on these studies in order to allay any possible fears based on wrong assumptions.

One study was undertaken by the WTO Secretariat and presented before the second special session of the Committee on Agriculture of WTO in June of this year. It says that, over the period 1994-97, the growth of agricultural exports from developing countries accelerated as compared to the first half of the 1990s, i.e. prior to the implementation of the Uruguay Round recommendations regarding agriculture.

The value of exports of agricultural products in developing countries increased from US\$ 114 billion in 1990 to S\$ 167 billion in 1998.

Agricultural exports of developing countries expanded more rapidly than those of the developed countries, while all developing regions contributed to the overall growth of world agricultural exports between 1994 and 1998. Latin America and the Caribbean achieved the most dynamic performance. The overall gain in the share of developing countries in world agricultural exports between 1994 and 1998 mainly reflects their above-average performance in the world market for food. Their share in the world market increased from 43 to 45 percent.

There was a five percent increase in world direct investment, foreign direct investment flows that have surpassed US\$ 800 billion.

I wanted in this way to ask two particular concerns that were raised during this debate.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Ante todo quiero respaldar plenamente lo señalado por la Delegación de Argentina en nombre de nuestra Región en esta materia. Yo quisiera también señalar que, como ya ha resultado durante la Conferencia después de prolongados debates y reuniones, inclusive en grupos de trabajo cuando se discutía el *Marco Estratégico*, no hay un acuerdo sobre este tema; seguimos sin tener un acuerdo sobre este tema. Creo que la razón fundamental por la que nuestro grupo regional insistió en tratarlo en esta ocasión no es para reabrir un debate de si la FAO tiene un papel que cumplir en este tema o no. Fue simplemente una queja en la falta de un reflejo claro y equilibrado de lo que cada Conferencia Regional expresó en esta materia.

Regresando al tema de la multifuncionalidad, como ya lo señalara Brasil, hay fuertes dudas acerca de su nobleza y, por el contrario, hay ciertas seguridades o dudas sobre el hecho de que este tema puede encerrar políticas proteccionistas y de subvención a la agricultura.

Por lo tanto, nuestro llamado es a señalar que la razón, repito, por la que nuestra Región trajo el tema a la Mesa, es el lamento de que no se haya reflejado equilibradamente en el Informe de la Conferencia Regional nuestra la posición que tenemos frente al tema, no para traer a la FAO una reapertura del tema. Por favor pido que se respete la decisión de la Conferencia, que es un órgano supremo al Consejo, y que este tema que definitivamente fuera de la FAO y no sigamos tratando temas en donde no hay acuerdo, y la FAO se concentre en lo que es su mandato.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I appreciate the interventions of Australia throughout this debate, but I am not supporting what he has said. It gave me a chance to understand, follow and study the Japan project, whether it is under multifunctionality of agriculture or if it is a socio-economic analysis and policy implication.

When I read Japan's document, I could not find any relation to the multifunctionality of agriculture and if we see what FAO is doing, it is the multifunctionality of agriculture although it does not cover all of it. The scope of multifunctionality of agriculture is too wide to list at this moment, but let us assume we understand it.

If we have to verify what FAO is doing in Japan's project, look to the Assistant Director-General. Japan's project is a social, economic analysis and policy implications of the role of agriculture. It is very definite, clear and has nothing to do with multifunctionality but a portion of that aspect. But, how we relate to it I could not understand. I appreciate what they said; FAO should follow the instructions in the approval for guidance provided by the Council and the Conference. Any steps taken outside of that field, we do not agree with. However, I think it is within our mandate, with the Department concerned also, so we need more clarification from their understanding if this Japan project is really a multifunctionality of agriculture. FAO's mandate would include part of multifunctionality, not all of it. If the Assistant Director-General could give us an explanation on how FAO cooperates with Governments and if such funds become available should the Organization use them or just reject them. If this explanation can be given, I would be very grateful.

CHAN-Joon SOHN (Korea, Republic of)

We believe that FAO should promote sustainable agriculture and rural development by the commitment highlighted in the *Strategic Framework 2000-2005* adopted in 1999, the World Food Summit Plan of Action adopted in 1996 and Agenda 21 adopted in 1992.

In this context, we fully support Japanese and European petitions.

Patrick SAINT-HILAIRE (Observateur de Haïti)

Je serai très bref. La position du Groupe Amérique latine et Caraïbes sur cette question a été exprimée avec clarté et précision par la déléguée de l'Argentine, en qualité de Présidente de notre Groupe régional. Ma délégation s'associe pleinement à sa déclaration. Elle fait aussi siennes les paroles que la déléguée du Mexique vient de prononcer dans le même sens.

Zacharie PEREVET (Cameroun)

Vous avez probablement dû m'interpeller tout à l'heure, mais je n'étais pas là. Veuillez m'excuser.

Les questions soulevées par plusieurs délégations concernant la multifonctionnalité de l'agriculture préoccupent le Cameroun et le Continent africain. On a l'impression que durant plusieurs débats, nous ne savions pas exactement de quoi il s'agissait. Serait-il possible que chaque partie nous fasse un point clair pour que nous prenions, nous aussi, une position, parce que cela nous prend énormément de temps et nous ne comprenons pas exactement. Les gens parlent, on ne sait pas très bien de quoi il s'agit, et cela nous prend beaucoup de temps. Je voudrais quand même rappeler sur cet aspect les principales recommandations que j'ai eu à évoquer dans ma déclaration au début de notre réunion.

A Yaoundé, lors de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique tenue en février 2000, nous avons dit que pour améliorer la situation de la sécurité alimentaire, il faudrait la levée des

obstacles politiques, matériels et socio-économiques au commerce intérieur et entre les États Membres, dans l'intérêt de la sécurité alimentaire et dans la lutte contre la pauvreté.

Si nos amis, parce que nous formons peut-être le troisième Groupe, essaient de nous fournir des éléments de part et d'autre de manière officielle, pourquoi la FAO n'en ferait-elle pas autant pour nous dire: voilà les enjeux. Parce que nous ne percevons pas très bien. Pour l'Africain, l'agriculture représente la maison, la vie, tout. Essayez donc de nous préciser exactement les enjeux.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Observer for Afghanistan)

I do not wish to talk about the multifunctional nature of agriculture. This is not on the agenda of the Council. There is no paper, and the Conference has not authorized FAO to undertake this kind of work yet. All we hear is from the small paper distributed which summarizes the main recommendations of the Regional Conferences. From reading this paper, we see that in Europe this idea is being promoted, but in Latin America it is condemned. The other Regional Conferences have not discussed it.

Yesterday, the Australian delegate voiced criticism about a Japanese-funded project through the FAO Government Cooperative Programme. No one had seen that project document. He was very critical and, in fact, I was very eager to see this project document. It was in his recommendation that the project document be distributed to all Members, and I am sure many of you have read it.

After reading it, I thought that with what was raised yesterday the matter would die. Today, he again, raised the same issue, criticizing the project, in fact, criticizing FAO for taking something which it is not supposed to take. His views were also supported by Canada and some others, either directly or indirectly.

If you look at this project document and we have it now, there is not a word on the multifunctional role of agriculture in its contents. However, in the first page it clearly says the project will promote and analyze the diverse role of agriculture in society. That is a fact. Whether Australia or Latin America likes it or not, that is a fact.

If you look at the long-term objectives, it becomes very clear that the project is really a research, plus capacity-building project. It is not a project that advocates anything. It is a research-*cum* capacity-building project. On page 3, under Objective it states: "Strengthening the developing countries' national capacity to elucidate and evaluate the key economic, social and environmental roles performed by their agriculture...". If this is not a valid topic for FAO, what is?

Let us go to the Basic Texts of FAO. Article I paragraph 2, number 8, reads: "...the Organization shall promote scientific, technological, social and economic research relating to nutrition, food and agriculture..." I can see the conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agriculture production. Therefore, the project does not violate the Basic Texts.

The Medium-Term Plan, from pages 99 to 104 discusses Programme 2.2.4 - Agriculture, Food Security and Trade Policy. The Programme 224P1: Agricultural Adjustment and Policy Reform, is found on page 101.

With your permission, I would like to read what the objectives are of this programme. They clearly say "To assist Members to develop, implement and adjust policies in response to rapidly changing conditions as they affect food and agriculture sectors" - changing conditions.

For Programme 224P2: Contribution to Agriculture to Policy Alleviation, Rural Development and Food Security, the objective reads: "To enhance Members' capacity to maximize the contribution of agriculture to rural development, food security and poverty alleviation, (especially rural poverty)".

For Programme 224P3, Economic and Natural Resource Environmental Sustainability, the Objective is: "To enhance Members' capacity to analyze environmental and resource problems and the environment related benefits and cost of policies".

I hope that the Australian and Canadian delegates will reconsider what they said, because this is really not a just criticism of either the Government of Japan or FAO.

In any case, as far as I am concerned, there is no rule in the Organization whereby FAO is prohibited to undertake cooperative programmes with donor countries. Neither is there any rule that if one country agrees on a project with FAO, that that project should be seen by all other donors. There is no such rule.

CHAIRMAN

I would like to remind the Council that we are discussing this under *Other Matters*.

We are not supposed to take any position. The contributions have been very very valuable, also for our work in the future. But we are not going to take any position on this issue.

Edward X. MAKAYA (Observer for South Africa)

Our delegation fully supports the statement made by Argentina on behalf of Latin America, Australia, Canada, Mexico and Haiti.

Sra. Laura GALARZA (Observadora de Uruguay)

También había pedido la palabra anteriormente para decir que mi delegación comparte totalmente lo manifestado por Argentina, Australia, Canadá, Brasil, México, Sudáfrica, y no continúo porque llevaría cinco o diez minutos seguir enumerando la lista de países que se han expresado o han manifestado en ese sentido.

Lo que quiero dejar en claro – que es lo que recalaba México últimamente y que es la base de la Declaración del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe realizada por Argentina – es que no hay intención de reabrir un debate sobre un concepto sobre el cual la FAO ya tiene el mandato de no continuar trabajando. No era esa la intención y quiero que quede claro. Es simplemente ver que no se manifiesta el equilibrio en la Conferencia Regional de Europa y que además se utiliza el concepto de multifuncionalidad como medio, cuando ya no se logró como fin ahora es como medio, para seguir trabajando, disimulado en cierta forma, y de eso es lo que queremos que quede constancia.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Nosotros queremos hacer un llamado a no dilatar el debate porque el mismo nos está alejando de los planteamientos que se han realizado. Desde el principio, lo planteado por Argentina a nombre del GRULAC fue claro y preciso. Yo creo que ya nadie se acuerda de lo que planteó Argentina y de lo que planteó Australia, porque se ha tratado de tergiversar totalmente la cuestión central planteada por los países de América Latina y el Caribe, que es respetar lo aprobado en una instancia tan importante como la Conferencia Regional. Y aquí se está reabriendo un debate. Yo sinceramente no entiendo que se haya reabierto un debate que ya sabemos a qué conduce y las posiciones que van a tomarse. Por esta razón que apoyamos totalmente lo planteado por México, que creo fue claro y preciso y ha tenido un respaldo total a lo que en principio planteó la distinguida representación de Argentina.

Francis MONTANARO MIFSUD (Observer for Malta)

I merely wish to make it clear that the views expressed by the European Community and by the representative of France also reflect the views of all the Members of the European Region.

The meeting rose at 16.20 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.20 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Nineteenth Session Cent dix-neuvième session 119º período de sesiones
Rome, 20-25 November 2000 Rome, 20-25 novembre 2000 Roma, 20-25 de noviembre de 2000
NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA
25 November 2000

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.45 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Sjariudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 10.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT ADOPTION DU RAPPORT APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT - PARTS I – XI (CL 119/REP/1; CL 119/REP/2; CL 119/REP/3; CL 119/REP/4; CL 119/REP/5; CL 119/REP/6; CL 119/REP/7; CL 119/REP/8; CL 119/REP/9; CL 119/REP/10; CL 119/REP 10 – CORR.1; CL 119/REP/11)
LES PROJETS DE RAPPORT – PARTIES (CL 119/REP/1; CL 119/REP/2; CL 119/REP/3; CL 119/REP/4; CL 119/REP/5; CL 119/REP/6; CL 119/REP/7; CL 119/REP/8; CL 119/REP/9; CL 119/REP/10; CL 119/REP 10 – CORR.1; CL 119/REP/11)
LOS PROYECTOS DE INFORME, PARTES (CL 119/REP/1; CL 119/REP/2; CL 119/REP/3; CL 119/REP/4; CL 119/REP/5; CL 119/REP/6; CL 119/REP/7; CL 119/REP/8; CL 119/REP/9; CL 119/REP/10; CL 119/REP 10 – CORR.1; CL 119/REP/11)

CHAIRMAN

May I kindly invite all delegates to ensure that they have before them the various parts of the Report which the Council is called upon to adopt. I take it that delegates have had the opportunity to read the Reports. There are 11 parts, numbered consecutively from CL 119/REP/1 to CL 119/REP/11. I should like to ask Mr Valladares Molina, who chaired the Drafting Committee, to introduce the Draft Reports.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Presidente Comité de Redacción)

Se me permita, antes que nada, expresarles mi más profundo agradecimiento por el altísimo honor de haberme electo como Presidente del Comité de Redacción de este Consejo. Agradezco, con los demás miembros del Comité, la confianza con que se sirvieron distinguarnos. Debo felicitarles a todos ustedes por el excelente trabajo desarrollado en las plenarias. Con sus intervenciones claras, firmes y transparentes, hicieron que nuestro trabajo se facilitase de verdad y los oportunos resúmenes que el Presidente del Consejo se permitió pronunciar en materias delicadas, nos sirvieron de eficaz orientación. Gracias y felicitaciones a todos.

El Comité de Redacción celebró cuatro sesiones que totalizaron 23 horas de trabajo. Dos de estas sesiones, las de ayer, viernes, muy en el giro ordinario de cualquier jornada, las dos primeras, por el contrario, kilométricas, habiéndose superado la medianoche. Lo pasamos, eso sí, muy bien. Aprendimos mucho los unos de los otros y muchísimo de quienes integran la Secretaría de la Organización y logramos establecer una hermosísima comunión de trabajo cuyo fruto ponemos en sus manos con todo respeto.

Somos conscientes de las múltiples imperfecciones, pero creemos haber reflejado cuanto aconteció en las plenarias sin que síntesis llevase a omisión. Nos preocupamos de que el debate quedase reflejado y tratamos de dejar plasmadas con el máximo respeto, donde las hubo, las distintas posiciones expresadas. Fuimos sumamente cuidadosos entorno a los consensos, para que la voluntad del Consejo quedase reflejada con toda transparencia y con firmeza. Quiero referirme muy especialmente a la Cumbre más Cinco. Este Consejo, tras el debido debate, ha dado a la propuesta del Director General toda la firmeza requerida, y el Comité de Redacción fue sumamente cuidadoso para que, sin posibilidad de duda alguna, así quedase reflejado. Al mismo tiempo, tuvo especial cuidado para que quedasen reflejadas también todas las inquietudes y que quedasen emplazadas la Secretaría y Dirección a la luz de cuanto se dijo en las plenarias al cumplimiento de los informes que deben producir y al arduo trabajo preparatorio requerido para

que esa Cumbre, en el seno de nuestra Conferencia, rinda los frutos esperados y sea capaz de superar lo meramente declarativo y conduzca a la interacción que se requiere.

A partir de este momento, la decisión del Consejo, recogida en el Informe, no deja lugar a titubeo alguno. Lo resuelto por este Consejo, debidamente reflejado en el Informe, es el instrumento que hacía falta al Director General. Quede, pues, el Informe aprobado por ustedes, si se aprueba, en manos del Director General y quede así comprometido al más extraordinario de los esfuerzos. Sus comentarios, colegas Representantes, puntualizaciones, correcciones y observaciones, observaciones y correcciones de idioma y traducción, pueden enriquecer el Informe. Todos los miembros del Comité de Redacción estuvieron puntuales en todas las jornadas y sumamente atentos para que el Informe reflejase lo que ustedes en el debate y el consenso hicieron posible que pudiese reflejar. Existió total libertad de expresión en estas sesiones y no hubo jamás límite de tiempo alguno para las intervenciones que se dieron en el Comité de Redacción. El equilibrio interregional quedó así omnipresente en el Informe.

Ustedes, señores Representantes, podrán decidir o no sobre su aprobación en bloque. Ojalá, y hago mis mejores votos para que el esfuerzo realizado pueda conducir a esa aprobación. Queda en sus manos.

No debo finalizar sin agradecer el apoyo que los señores intérpretes prestaron a nuestra labor con tan especial solicitud, el apoyo de mensajería y el de la Secretaría de la institución en su conjunto. Trás las jornadas en sus respectivas oficinas y participación en estas plenarias, estuvieron también con nosotros, en nuestras jornadas de redacción para después, muchos de ellos, aun desarrollar trabajo ulterior de su competencia. Las de ellos, las de Secretaría, fueron en verdad, esas sí, jornadas kilométricas.

Gracias, pues entre otros, a los señores Harcharik (Director General Adjunto), De Haen, Wade, Esquinas-Alcazar, Killingsworth, Flood, Zegarra, Pucci, Fadda, Debilde.

La señora Miriam Saif, Secretaria de Redacción del Consejo, merece una mención aparte. Ojalá todos ustedes puedan tener algún día el privilegio de conocerla y de compartir con ella jornadas de trabajo. Su profesionalidad, su exactitud, su jovialidad y su buen humor permanecen en ella hasta el final de la jornada, como si acabase de empezar.

Gracias a los colegas del Comité de Redacción. Cartesianos, pragmáticos, imaginativos, firmes, tolerantes, cada cosa en su momento y a veces a la vez, congruentes todos, sumamente comprometidos, con sus respectivos estados, con su organización, en su caso, con sus regiones, y, lo más importante, profundamente humanos.

Voy a rogar a la Secretaría hacernos ver algunas correcciones en el texto para que quede totalmente reflejado lo decidido dentro del Comité de Redacción y que se somete a la aprobación de este Consejo.

Gracias, una vez más, señores Representantes.

Ms Miriam M. SAIF (Secretary, Drafting Committee)

Just for the benefit of all the Members of the Council, I would like to clarify some corrections that should be reflected in the different reports before you this morning. Please go to REP/3, paragraph 3, it is "The Council underlined the importance of a Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing." That is just the official title of this system, it does not affect the drafting of the paragraph in any way, it is just the official title. I will repeat it for the benefit of the Members of the Council: "The Council underlined the importance of a Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing."

Then if the distinguished delegates of the Council would please go to REP/4, the delegates will please note that there are two paragraphs, 7 and 8. It was agreed in the Drafting Committee that those two paragraphs would be joined, so that 8 is not a separate paragraph, it is just a continuation of 7, and the rest of the paragraphs will be renumbered accordingly.

I shall repeat that; paragraphs 7 and 8 will appear together in the final text and the rest of the paragraphs in that REP will be renumbered.

On REP/6, in the English version, seven lines down, the word "governments" appears; that is, in fact, a typographical error; it should be "governance".

The number of the paragraph does not appear on that page because it is paragraph 8, but if you just look at page 4 in the English version, it should be the equivalent of paragraph 8 in the other versions. I do not know where they appear in the different language versions. The word that is being changed is "governments" to "governance". I will read out the entire phrase, the entire sentence, so that perhaps it will make more sense to you:

"Bearing in mind the conclusions of the Report of the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference, some countries expressed the concern that in their view the manner in which this project has been established raised important issues of transparency and governance."

There was, before I give the floor back to the Chairman, another matter that I would like to clarify on a REP. that took up the bulk of negotiations in Drafting Committee, the REP. that we discussed just prior to this one – REP/4. There has been a concern expressed by a Member of the Drafting Committee that something has not been reflected in the text of paragraph 15. It was the understanding of the Secretariat and the Drafting Committee that this particular phrase was to be left out, on the condition that the English version of a particular sentence would come into line with the French version.

That was the agreement reached during the Drafting Committee but we, of course, are here to serve you so if there are any objections to this particular consensus decision, shall we say, we are perfectly willing to incorporate any other amendments that you feel are necessary in order to make this Report reflect all the different viewpoints that were expressed during the Council.

Bhaskar BARUA (India)

Just a clarification from the Secretary of the Drafting Committee. You refer to paragraph 13 – old paragraph 13 or renumbered paragraph 13?

Ms Miriam M. Saif (Secretary, Drafting Committee)

It is in REP/4 paragraph 15. The REP/4 that you have before you, the point that has been brought to the attention of the Secretariat, affects paragraph 15 of REP/4, as you have before you.

There is no amendment.

I will read out the paragraph for the benefit of the delegate of India.

"Some members considered that it was premature to proceed to a first stocktaking as from 2001, taking into consideration that the first reporting cycle would be ready in 2002."

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

I was a Member of the Drafting Committee and I should be the last person to take the floor. I am taking this floor just to request you to give the floor to Sri Lanka to make a statement on behalf of the Group of 77.

Ranamukalage Deeptha KULATILLEKE (Observer for Sri Lanka)

On behalf of the Group of 77, I wish to congratulate the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee for producing this Draft Report after long hours of patient and hard work.

We had a consultation this morning, among our Regional Groups, and there is broad consensus that the Draft Report which comprises Part 1 to 11 adequately reflects the proceedings and decisions taken at the Council meeting.

Accordingly, the Group of 77 wishes to propose that the Draft Report be adopted by the Council *en bloc*.

We wish to thank the Independent Chairman, Vice-Chairs, and the Bureau of the Council, the Secretary-General and other Members of the FAO Secretariat, Interpreters and the other staff who were associated and contributed in making this week-long deliberations of the Council a very productive one.

Masato ITO (Japan)

Japan is a Member of the Drafting Committee and we participated in the discussion. Having said that, may I ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to reconvene for a short while. The explanation given by the Secretariat is not according to my understanding. It is not the text agreed by the Drafting Committee Members. Therefore, I would like to check with the other Drafting Committee Members with respect to the issues of the second sentence of the current paragraph 15 of REP/4.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Presidente del Comité de Redacción)

Durante la reunión del Comité de Redacción fue planteada esta inquietud y Japón hizo el pertinente planteamiento recogiendo lo ocurrido durante el debate. Se convino que esto quedaba perfectamente reflejado en la versión que acaba de leer la Secretaría, o sea la inquietud evidenciada por Japón.

Yo le pediría nuevamente a la Secretaría de leer esa versión -que fue la versión final- y que se convino reflejaba lo que efectivamente se dijo en el debate, en una forma sintetizada, de tal manera que efectiva e independientemente del consenso al que se arrivó, quedasen manifiestas las distintas posiciones que se expresaron. Simplemente pediría a la Secretaría de leer una vez más esta versión, para que ustedes recapaciten sobre ella, sobretodo Japón y, recuerde que, efectivamente, ésta fue la versión que recoje en conjunto lo que era la posición que algunos Miembros tuvieron sobre este tema.

Si lo permite la Presidencia, agradecería que la Secretaría lo hiciese.

Ms Miriam M. SAIF (Secretary, Drafting Committee)

This affects paragraph 15 of REP/4 before you this morning. It is the Secretariat text before you; there are no additional amendments to what I am going to read out right now; it is the text before you. I will, however, read it out for the benefit of everyone's understanding: "Some Members considered that it was premature to proceed to a first stocktaking as from 2001, taking into consideration that the first reporting cycle would be ready in 2002. Concern was also expressed about the outcomes of other five-year reviews. The importance of ensuring coherence with other United Nations initiatives, in particular the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs and the Special Event on Financing for Development was stressed. Some Members further underlined the linkages with the Millennium Summit and the need for FAO to participate in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration to the fullest extent".

Masato ITO (Japan)

This is not the point my delegation insisted on during the Drafting Committee meeting. However, for the sake of accuracy, I would like, once more, to ask the Chairman of this Council and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to reflect on the discussion.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Presidente del Comité de Redacción)

La opinión dada por Japón y otros Miembros que se esgrimió en el debate, la conocimos en el Comité de Redacción y, es un trabajo de síntesis que el párrafo leído por la Secretaría reflejaba esa posición. Creemos que puede haber un mal entendido por parte de la representación de Japón. El resto de los delegados, entendimos que quedaba sintetizada en esta forma -sin omisión de la postura- lo que Japón había planteado y opinado. Se trata simplemente de una opinión y creo que no hubiera habido ninguna objeción en que se refleje en el Informe. Pensamos que había sido bien expuesta y eso convenimos con el resto del Comité de Redacción. Como Presidente del Comité de Redacción, estimo que como fue convenido queda reflejado lo ocurrido en el Consejo y queda claro que no todos estaban de acuerdo; hubo un amplio debate donde se plantearon importantes

puntos de vista por ambas partes. Finalmente, no afecta el consenso, que se mantiene expuesto en el documento y, repito, lo que quisimos fue que quedase notificada la opinión adversa que se manifestó; todos los demás Miembros y el Presidente del Comité de Redacción estábamos seguros que esa inquietud estaba satisfecha. Fue un simple mal entendido y no tiene una importancia tal como para reabrir el debate; nadie podría objetar que no quede plasmada puesto que se expresó.

LIANG QU (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation would like to speak on behalf of the developing countries of the Asia Region. We would like to express support for the proposal by the Group of 77 that we adopt the Report *en bloc*. At the same time, the Chinese delegation would like to speak on behalf of the Asia Group to thank the Secretariat who has made tremendous efforts for the success of this Report.

Karl-Joseph WEIERS (Germany)

I had raised the flag before, but it was a little premature, because I wanted to ask Ireland to express its support for the suggestion made by Pakistan before. However, that was a little premature because one of our Members had some questions as you have seen.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Le seul point commun que j'ai avec la délégation japonaise c'est que je pensais venir en réunion avec une détermination ferme de discuter à fond un rapport qui me semble poser problème. J'ai toutefois été arrêté par la lecture du rapport qui est excellent et je crois que le Comité de rédaction a fait un travail qui, il est vrai, ne donne pas satisfaction à quelqu'un qui souhaite discuter, mais doit se rendre à l'évidence que le travail a été bien fait et est un peu déçu.

Sincèrement je crois que ce rapport est un équilibre rarement atteint dans la perfection, et il ne serait pas bon d'essayer de le réexaminer, mais de suivre les positions sages que nous avons entendues, de l'adopter "en bloc" et de montrer que ce Conseil est responsable et sait exprimer des idées divergentes quand il le faut, mais sait aussi trouver un consensus pour faire avancer l'Organisation.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

As a Member of the Drafting Committee I am very grateful for the support that has been given for the quality of our Report. I concur with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee that the point that Japan has raised with regard to paragraph 13, is not about reflecting a consensus view, it was about reflecting the views of some Members. I have checked my notes of this paragraph and I think the concern of Japan is in the way the views of some Members were expressed on a particular point. It does not go to the substance and it does not alter it, to change it to a view shared by the whole Council. Again, it was really just to reflect the views of some Members. If you allow me, my notes show a different formulation for the second sentence of paragraph 15 of REP/4.

If you allow me to read this sentence out and if the Council is prepared to accept that as a better reflection of the concerns of some Members and if it satisfies Japan, then maybe we can accept this formulation and move on. It might help resolve this misunderstanding.

The sentence that I have recorded in my notes is: "Some Members indicated they were not in favour of holding the Summit Plus Five since similar exercises had not always led to satisfactory results". That sentence would be in place of the current second sentence. If Japan is satisfied with the formulation I have read out and the rest of the Council is, we could perhaps incorporate that and proceed to adopt the Report *en bloc*.

Masato ITO (Japan)

Thank you, for the comment made by the Australian delegation. My understanding is that the final outcome and the agreed text was exactly that which was read by the Australian delegation.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je pense qu'on obtient finalement ce que l'on veut avec l'appui et la volonté d'autres personnes.

Quel est le sens de cette proposition que nous venons d'entendre par rapport à la première phrase où l'on peut lire: "Un certain nombre de Membres ont estimé qu'il est prématuré de procéder à un premier bilan en 2001" et on explique pourquoi.

Voilà que dans une deuxième phrase, on redit presque la même chose avec d'autres termes. Et ensuite, selon moi, c'est cette première phrase que j'ai plus entendu que la deuxième. Or le Comité de rédaction n'a aucun mandat d'écrire ce qu'il veut, mais de rendre compte d'un débat.

Je crois donc très sincèrement que nous avons d'autres préoccupations dans ce Rapport, mais un équilibre, un consensus, ne s'acquiert que par des compromis.

Ce que j'ai entendu n'ajoute rien à ce que nous avons dans le texte et je suis d'accord avec le Président du Comité de rédaction que ce texte est fidèle par rapport aux débats. Nous étions ici, sinon on nous compterait le nombre de pays qui ont dit exactement ce que nous avons entendu tout à l'heure. On met en doute sur l'opportunité de le faire maintenant. C'est l'idée générale.

Mais s'il y a des pays farouchement opposés j'aimerais qu'ils s'identifient, nous les dénombrerons, je suis prêt à cette éventualité. Mais je pense que c'est un exercice inutile.

Aciselo VALLADARES MOLINA (Presidente del Comité de Redacción)

Tal como lo compartí con ustedes, el planteamiento de Japón obedece a esta divergencia o mal entendido. Japón entendía que esto había quedado incorporado al texto, y es una simple opinión. El resto, entendimos lo contrario, puesto que había una síntesis sobre esas posiciones u observaciones adversas que se habían dado y que enriquecieron, sin lugar a dudas, el debate. Lo planteado por Japón no afecta en absoluto el texto; puede estar o no, es una opinión. El resto de los miembros, el Presidente del Comité de Redacción incluso, dudó y consultó sus notas y con la Secretaría pues, efectivamente, se dijo en el debate pero no afectaba, en absoluto, las intervenciones que se produjeron en ese sentido. Quiero compartir, una vez más, que en el Comité de Redacción todos los demás Miembros, entendimos que esa frase estaba ya sintetizada y reflejada en el documento. En lo personal, cuando el Sr. representante de Japón me hizo ver esta posible omisión, recordé que lo había planteado en el Comité de Redacción, se volvió a las notas, se consultó con los demás Miembros y fue unánimemente excluida, porque estaba ya expresada en el resto del párrafo sobre este tema.

E. Michael SOUTHWICK (United States of America)

The United States of America was a Member of the Drafting Committee. We think this issue is not one of substance but of procedure. Our own notes and recollection of the discussion in the Drafting Committee on this point track with what Japan is saying and with the wording that has been suggested as an alternative by Australia, which would more accurately reflect the views of some Members.

So we would support a change of that sentence.

Masato ITO (Japan)

The reason why I took the floor is not to insist on my position, because this position was not my delegation's position, but I put the doubt about a more procedural matter in order to avoid the misunderstanding.

It is not my delegation which insists on this point in the Plenary Session and the Drafting Committee but, according to my memory and according to my notes, this is not the text agreed during the Drafting Committee Session. Just before this session, I pointed out to the Secretariat to clarify this point but, unfortunately, it was not reflected. That is why I took the floor during the Plenary Session.

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

I do not think it was such a major issue which should have consumed so much time of the Plenary. I think Japan's initial proposal to have a short meeting of the Drafting Committee and the suspension of business here in the Plenary for about 15 to 20 minutes would have solved the problem.

As Japan has indicated, Japan was not the mover of this amendment: there were other countries who probably introduced these and we need, in the Drafting Committee, to at least hear those Members whether they are satisfied or not.

I would go along with that original proposal of Japan, instead of opening up all paragraphs of the Report that the Drafting Committee made.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Nous assistons sans préjugé de ce que donnera cette suspension si telle est la volonté du Conseil. Nous assistons vraiment ici à des choses particulières qui se rencontrent rarement pendant des instances comme celles-ci. C'est-à-dire que des Membres d'un Comité de rédaction qui auraient dû se préoccuper du fait que ce soit d'autres Membres qui n'étaient pas présent ici qui remettent en question leur travail, et qui eux-mêmes nous affirment que ce n'est pas ce que nous avons dit. C'est inquiétant. Il faut donc se demander si ce rapport que j'avais précédemment trouvé excellent est réellement le produit de personnes en qui nous avons placé notre confiance pour résoudre des problèmes de manière responsable.

Il faut noter que ce sont généralement les mêmes Membres que nous retrouvons dans plusieurs organes. Et cela doit cesser. Je pense que des Membres d'un Comité de rédaction, qui se sont réunis vingt-trois heures, doivent être en mesure de se mettre d'accord et ne pas venir nous demander de suspendre des travaux afin d'examiner leur propre rapport.

En tout cas, on peut suspendre. Il faudra encore se réunir. Soyez certains que si l'équilibre n'est pas respecté, on examinera à nouveau le document paragraphe par paragraphe. Cela est une demande formelle de ma délégation parce que nous ne sommes pas du tout en mesure de tout accepter si l'on doit se pencher sur un petit point et abandonner d'autres préoccupations qui auraient pu être les nôtres.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

Je voudrais simplement aussi ajouter ma voix à ceux qui ont reconnu le bon travail fait par le Comité de rédaction en soulignant que ce genre d'exercice est toujours extrêmement difficile et compliqué et que, si on commence à reprendre l'un des points, à ce moment-là, on réexamine la totalité de l'exercice. Je voudrais inviter toutes les délégations à voir plutôt ce qu'elles peuvent trouver de positif dans le rapport qui vient d'être présenté.

Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela)

La verdad es que había solicitado la palabra antes que el Representante de Francia, pero me agrada haberlo escuchado, porque coincidimos con él. Nosotros respaldamos la labor del Comité de Redacción, respaldamos la labor del Embajador Valladares y coincidimos con el Embajador de Senegal. El Comité de Redacción no tiene mandato para negociar lo que se dijo en esta sala. Ahora bien, entendemos también que lo que han reflejado en el Informe es una síntesis y un equilibrio de lo debatido. Si comenzamos a abrir este tema, pues hay lugar para abrir otros. Confieso que en algunos casos yo estoy insatisfecho con la forma en que se ha reflejado lo que yo dije en esta sala; con seguridad otros también lo estarán, pero es mejor mantener el equilibrio tal como está en este párrafo y yo le haría un llamado, señor Presidente, para que usted pusiera en ejecución la solicitud que le hizo el Grupo de los 77 y que luego ratificó China a nombre del Grupo Asiático y que entiendo también Francia está apoyando, Irlanda y otros países, para que aprobemos el Informe *in toto* y terminemos de una vez ya con este debate, que debería haber tenido lugar en las 23 horas de trabajo y no aquí en la media hora que nos han hecho perder.

Nahi AL SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, the Secretariat did take note of the deliberations and it summed up the deliberations of the Plenary sessions in an accurate manner.

Secondly, the Drafting Committee did reach the text with approval of all of its Members and this has been stated by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. We, Syria, were a Member of this Drafting Committee and, if we resume our work again, we will repeat once again our position stated during the first deliberations of the Drafting Committee.

Marc SAMATANA (Cameroun)

En fait, c'est un jeu d'enfant. Voilà comment le Comité de rédaction travaillait: chaque fois qu'il y a eu des amendements, le Président demandait au Secrétariat de relire. Quelquefois il a fallu que le Secrétariat relise plus de dix fois la même phrase et quand on arrivait à un consensus, la Secrétaire relisait pour la dernière fois. Et c'est lorsque tout le monde était d'accord sur cette phrase qu'on passait à une autre.

Maintenant, pour des virgules, s'il faut encore examiner, on risque de tout réexaminer. Le travail du Comité a eu des négociations et des consensus, et même si certains n'étaient pas d'accord, on a quand même été obligé d'arriver à un consensus. Si on reprend la phrase, on va tout reprendre. Parce que c'était le donnant donnant.

Mohamed Abd El Hamid KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I do believe that this is a very strange position indeed. This contravenes the practices of the Council. I would like to support the logical and wise stance of France.

The Drafting Committee was entrusted with the task of drafting the Report. I believe that this Report has been drafted in a nice and good fashion and, therefore, I do not feel that we really need any further discussion of this Report unless there are specific amendments on specific paragraphs. So let us we open the floor for any amendment concerning specific paragraphs, instead of going back to the Drafting Committee.

Gebrehiwot REDAI (Ethiopia)

We subscribe to the suggestion of France and Venezuela. The task of the Drafting Committee is to capture what has transpired in the meeting and not to negotiate on the draft. Therefore, we have to follow what has been suggested by France and Venezuela.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Evidemment, le Burkina Faso étant un membre du Groupe des 77, nous appuyons la proposition de l'adoption "en bloc" du rapport qui a été également supportée par les pays en développement de l'Asie, la France et quelques autres pays. Du point de vue de la démarche, je suis un peu perdue, parce qu'en général la plénière est appelée à se prononcer sur le travail du Comité de rédaction. Nous sommes en train d'assister à un débat au sein du Comité de rédaction dans le cadre de la Plénière. Je pense que la Plénière est plus souveraine que le Comité de rédaction et qu'il y a toujours des concessions à faire. Comme l'on déjà dit quelques intervenants, si chacun, chaque pays ou chaque délégation, devait reposer un problème par-ci par-là parce qu'on n'est pas tout à fait satisfait, je pense que l'on devrait carrément convoquer le Conseil pour la semaine prochaine. Je voudrais donc adhérer à la position de ceux qui sont pour une adoption "en bloc" qui est en fait la voix de la sagesse.

CHAIRMAN

In the light of the debate of the Council, let us adopt the Report *en bloc*.

Ahmed AFAILAL (Maroc)

Je n'avais pas l'intention d'intervenir puisque nous sommes Membres du Comité de rédaction; nous avons donc participé à tous ses travaux. Toutefois, mon intervention est faite au nom du Groupe africain puisque nous avons l'honneur de présider ce Groupe. J'aimerais déclarer que le

contenu de ce Rapport reflète fidèlement les délibérations des séances plénières du Conseil et les négociations et discussions du Comité de rédaction. Toutefois, il peut être vrai que certaines phrases devraient être amendées pour répondre aux souhaits de certains Membres mais, en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 15 à l'étude maintenant, nous pensons qu'il est satisfaisant en détail et qu'il n'y a aucun besoin d'y revenir.

Masato ITO (Japan)

I do not insist on this point, if those delegations who supported this point are satisfied and if it is a consensus.

Draft Reports, Parts I – XI, approved

Les projets de rapport partie I – XI, sont approuvés

Los proyectos de informe, Parte I – XI, son aprobados

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have had a busy Session of Council, in which we have addressed a wide range of issues. I should like to thank all delegates for the collaboration and assistance provided to this Chair and also to all the Members of the Secretariat for their unveiling support. I wish those participants travelling back to their capitals a safe journey home.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL

Je vous remercie de me donner la parole. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour remercier très vivement les Membres du Conseil pour le travail extrêmement important qui a été fait ici et surtout pour les orientations que vous avez bien voulu donner et qui vont servir de base à notre travail dans les mois à venir.

Je voulais en particulier vous exprimer ma gratitude pour avoir approuvé ma proposition d'organiser à l'occasion de la prochaine Conférence une rencontre de haut niveau avec des Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement pour évaluer la situation de la mise en œuvre des décisions du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Je suis convaincu que les discussions qui ont eu lieu sur ce thème étaient essentiellement motivées par des soucis de servir l'Organisation et par des soucis de s'assurer que, dans toute entreprise de l'Organisation, nous mettions de notre côté tous les éléments nécessaires au succès. J'ai donc pris note de toutes les observations qui ont été faites pour que cette rencontre soit un succès. Je voudrais donc solliciter votre concours, puisque maintenant que la décision est prise, pour le Conseil, chacun de vous, chacun de nous est engagé pour que ceci soit un succès.

Je voudrais aussi vous prier de ne pas hésiter, même de manière informelle, à me donner des conseils et des avis. C'est la meilleure manière d'assurer le succès de cette rencontre.

Nous sommes face à une situation difficile. Nous avons réuni pour la première fois dans l'histoire de l'Organisation en 1996, les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement du monde qui ont pris des décisions. Au train où nous allons, nous n'atteindrons pas les résultats escomptés. Il faut donc que nous puissions préparer de manière objective les éléments d'appréciation pour des actions concrètes d'atteindre les objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 2015, et non en 2030.

Encore une fois je voudrais vous remercier pour votre contribution, vos conseils, vos avis et je voudrais remercier tout particulièrement le Président indépendant du Conseil qui a eu l'amabilité de me permettre de prendre la parole à la clôture de cette session du Conseil.

Je voudrais naturellement souhaiter un retour dans les meilleures conditions à tous ceux qui sont venus de leur capitale pour travailler avec nous pour nous aider atteindre à les objectifs de l'Organisation.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Director-General. The Hundred and Nineteenth Session of the Council is concluded.

The meeting rose at 11.50 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.50 horas