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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 Twentieth Session • Cent vingtième session • 120º período de sesiones

**Rome, 18-23 June 2001
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 18-23 juin 2001
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Rome, 18-23 de junio de 2001
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**

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(23 June 2001)

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
18 June 2001

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.40 hours

Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10h40
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.40 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN

I call the first meeting of the FAO Hundred and Twentieth 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 120/INF/6 which has already been distributed to all Members of the meeting. I would draw your attention to this Declaration.

Before we move to the Agenda allow me to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General as well as all Delegates and Observers. I am particularly heartened to see a number of Ministers in the room.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would first like to welcome all the delegations, including those who travelled from far away, that are participating in this important session of the Council. This Council is particularly important because it will be playing a key role in the preparation for the World Food Summit: *five years later* due to be held from 5 to 9 November.

As you know, this will be a turning point in our fight against hunger. For the first time in the history of this Organization, in 1996, we had a meeting of Heads of State and Government from 112 countries, indicating the importance of the issue of food security and the political dimensions of the problem of food security.

We had, on that occasion, the adoption of two fundamental documents. The Rome Declaration which sets the policy, and the Summit Plan of Action which indicates the actions to be taken to achieve the goals of the World Food Summit. Yes! we have made progress, the number of hungry people has been going down by eight million a year. This is a positive and encouraging development. Yet, we are far from the objective of the World Food Summit which would require that we cut the number of hungry people by 20 million a year. Even if we do so, we would not achieve the overall goal of the World Food Summit of eradicating totally hunger from the face of the world, because we would still have around 400 million people in the world going to bed hungry.

With your support it was decided that we would ask again our Heads of State and Government to come to Rome in November. We did so because we are convinced that the problems are essentially political. We have the technologies, the resources are available in the world, yet we see that there are trends that are going in the wrong direction. We are seeing the share of agriculture in ODA going down by around 37 percent between 1990 and 1999. Despite the unanimous declaration made that the focus should now be the fight against poverty and although 70 percent of the poor people are in rural areas, the resources invested in rural areas are going down, be it from bilateral assistance or from the international financing institutions, the very institutions who should be spearheading the fight against hunger.

The Ministers for Agriculture, who are on our side, cannot alone solve these issues. Their job is to defend the farmers. The issues have to be solved through political decisions at the highest level that would be translated in the position taken by the representatives of the different countries, and in particular the major countries in the boards of those financing institutions.

It is difficult to understand that from the period of around 1979 the share of agriculture in the resources of the World Bank has gone down from around 39 percent to eight percent now. Nor do we understand that the share of agriculture in the portfolio of the Inter-American Development Bank has gone down to two percent. Yet, we all agreed, in the different studies conducted, that we need an annual investment of US\$180 billion in the agriculture sector of which 75 percent would have to come from the private sector and 16 percent from multilateral financing institutions. These were considered indispensable if we have to achieve the goals of the World Food Summit.

We will not achieve the goals if we do not have a change of these trends brought about by the decision-makers of the developed world – but the responsibility does not rest only in developed countries, developing countries have their responsibilities. There again, if we look at the share of agriculture in the budgets of these countries in relation to the share of the rural population, and in relation to the important part agriculture plays in GDP, in employment, in exports and in the fight against poverty, there is again something that is not right. There again we need political decisions to correct this situation.

On the side of FAO we also have to be very frank. We have not been given the means to play our catalytic role, our budget has been cut, followed by zero nominal growth, from a budget in 1993 adopted at US\$673 dollars. The following biennium we went down to US\$650 million. Until today, we are still at US\$650 million despite the responsibilities entrusted to us by the World Food Summit in playing a catalytic role, being understood that the main responsibility rests with Member Nations.

We have had six hundred posts cut and no wonder we are having more and more difficulty to do our job. We therefore hope that you will review this situation. Not just take the standard position which is very easy to say, Zero Nominal, Zero Real, or Real Growth, but go back to the fundamental principle under which a budget is discussed – we look at what work we ask the people to do, what are the programmes, what are their costs and on the basis of the costs, what resources are needed to do them.

On the one hand we have had a Zero Nominal Growth. Yet you all know that we have had inflation; you all know of the decisions made outside this forum, in the framework of the ICSC, and to which we are bound because we are part of the UN System, on salary scales in particular. Those decisions have a consequence on our budget. Yet if we would like to act or if these did not exist, who will pay for these increases that we are obliged to apply because we are part of the UN System and the Governing Bodies approved the principle under which there is a Common System and that the decision of the common system have to be applied.

We have here technical bodies that prepare the work of the Council and the Conference – COAG, COFI, COFO, CCP, and CFS. They met with your experts and approved activities that the Organization should undertake. We have evaluated these activities; we have not proposed anything on the part of the Secretariat even though the costs lead to Real Growth budget. There again we have to be consistent. We cannot, on the one hand, set up mechanisms to identify what needs to be done for the Organization to fulfill its mandate and achieve its goal and, when this is done, we ignore it completely. We have gone through a lengthy and useful exercise of preparing a Strategic Framework for this Organization and everyone approved this. We adopted a Medium-Term Plan with financial implications, yet we seem to consider some time that this will not have a bearing on what we will be doing.

I therefore really hope that on the occasion of this Council we will take very seriously the issues involved. With regard to the World Food Summit: *five years later*, we will collectively work to arrive at a document and I hope that it will be possible to approve that document here because our only opportunity to meet again will be a few days before the Summit. I hope that we will approve a document that focuses on the two main issues of political will and resource mobilization. The Secretariat, for its part, has been very clear to indicate what it considers necessary to allow it to do its job properly.

For the political will, we have indicated that we need to clearly make the point that we cannot fight poverty without focusing first on fighting hunger, because 70 percent of the poor people are in rural areas. As a consequence, the poverty eradication programmes, which are mobilizing huge amounts of money, cannot leave aside agriculture which is what is happening now. Secondly, objectives set at the World Food Summit and endorsed by the Millennium Summit of cutting by half the number of hungry people by the year 2015 cannot be absent from the International Development Goals initiated by the OECD.

On the resource side, we have indicated two things would be important to allow us to do our job. One it is the political decision to reverse the trend of the share of agriculture in ODA and multilateral resources. Secondly, for FAO to have resources to play its catalytic role in pilot projects for increased productivity and production; in reinforcing transfer of technology, through in particular South-South Cooperation; in encouraging preventive action against transboundary pests and diseases of animals and plants; and in encouraging in particular through the Investment Centre, the preparation of feasibility studies of bankable projects. We suggest that we create a Voluntary Trust Fund; those who wish to contribute would do so, and those who may not wish to contribute would not do so. We should at least provide an opportunity to those who may wish to contribute, and the contributors should not be limited to developed countries only. Developing countries, who have the possibility and the will, should also be given the opportunity to contribute. Many of them are already contributing to other forms, through the South-South Cooperation in particular, allowing us to get experts at US\$ 600 per month instead of US\$15 000 per month. We have already arranged for two thousand of those experts – that is a very important and vital contribution. However, there are other forms of contributions from developing countries and it is only through collective efforts that I believe we will be able to achieve our goal.

I apologize for having taken so long, but I think it was important to speak about a few issues, as this session of the Council will be taking some decisions of fundamental importance, on the way to the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Director-General, on behalf of the Council.

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

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE (CL 120/1; CL 120/INF/1; CL 120/INF/6)

1. ADOPTION DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR ET DU CALENDRIER (CL 120/1; CL 120/INF/1; CL 120/INF/6)

1. APROBACIÓN DEL PROGRAMA Y EL CALENDARIO (CL 120/1; CL 120/INF/1; CL 120/INF/6)

CHAIRMAN

Our first item is the adoption of the Agenda and the timetable as set out in documents CL 120/1, CL 120/INF/1-Rev.1 and CL 120/INF/6. CL 120/1 contains the provisional Agenda as circulated to Council Members with the invitation to the Session of the Council. Does the Council wish to adopt the Agenda?

Claude CHEREAU (France)

Je voudrais simplement vous demander de bien vouloir donner la parole à la délégation suédoise qui s'exprimera au nom de l'Union européenne.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Observer for Sweden)

The European Community and its Member States have taken note of the revision in the Timetable and particularly the placing of the Programme and Finance Committees prior to the discussion on Item 12, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We would like to come back to a suggestion which we made at the Hundred and Nineteenth Session of the Council where we stated, in order to have a substantive discussion on Item 12, it would be better if this discussion could take place after the Council had had time to consider the Reports of the Technical Committees as well. We would hope that the Secretariat will keep this suggestion in mind for the next Council Agenda when this Item comes up again.

CHAIRMAN

I would like to go back to the Agenda before we go to the Timetable. If we do not have any objection, then the Agenda is adopted.

With respect to the Timetable you have in document CL 120/INF/1 Rev.1, a provisional draft, you will note that the Item 8 regarding the Committee on World Food Security and Item 11.1, which refers to the preparations for the Thirty-First Session of the FAO Conference, will be discussed this afternoon.

However, since the revised Timetable was circulated, a number of delegations have requested that the section of the CFS Report concerning the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group be considered by Council this morning, immediately before we consider Item 3, which is the Current World Food Situation. The rest of the CFS Report would be taken into consideration this afternoon under Item 8 and the rest of Item 11 on Friday afternoon, as set out in the Timetable you have before you. Does any delegate wish to take the floor on this item?

One amendment is in the Timetable. We have just heard a proposal to take into consideration Agenda Item 12, the Programme of Work and Budget. May I remind the Council that this is the introduction of the Programme of Work and Budget to the Council and I think it has been introduced this way in earlier Councils as well. If there is no objection, I would like to leave it as it is and then later on we will take up the Reports by the Programme Committee and the other committees, if it is agreeable to the Council. So the only amendment that we have is that we are going to move the section of the CFS Report concerning the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group, immediately before we consider Item 3, before the lunch break. Does the Council wish to adopt the timetable including the amendment that has just been proposed?

The Timetable, as amended, is adopted.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

**2. ELECTION OF THREE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS, AND NOMINATION OF
THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE
(CL 120/INF/9)**

**2. ÉLECTION DE TROIS VICE-PRÉSIDENTS ET NOMINATION DU
PRÉSIDENT ET DES MEMBRES DU COMITÉ DE RÉDACTION (CL 120/INF/9)**

**2. ELECCIÓN DE TRES VICEPRESIDENTES Y NOMBRAMIENTO DEL
PRESIDENTE Y LOS MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ DE REDACCIÓN
(CL 120/INF/9)**

CHAIRMAN

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, we have the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairpersons: Ambassador Angel Sartori Arellano of Chile; Ambassador Mohammad Saeed Nouri-Naeeni of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr Blair Hankey of Canada.

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

For the Members of the Drafting Committee, the following countries were proposed: Australia, Austria, Cyprus, France, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Syria, Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), United States of America and Zimbabwe.

I understand that Mrs Hedwig Wögerbauer of Austria will be the Chairperson. Are there any objections?

*It was so decided.
Il en est ainsi décidé.
Así se acuerda.*

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

**17. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
17. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
17. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS**

17.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions (CL 120/LIM/2)

*17.1 Invitations d'États non membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO
(CL 120/LIM/2)*

*17.1 Invitaciones a Estados no Miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO
(CL 120/LIM/2)*

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 22 May 2001, subject to approval by the Council. The Council approval is therefore sought to admit the Russian Federation as an Observer at the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the Council.

CHAIRMAN

Can I take it that the Council approves the request of the Russian Federation to attend the present Session as an observer?

*It was so decided.
Il en est ainsi décidé.
Así se acuerda.*

CHAIRMAN

Paragraph 5 of CL 120/LIM/2 lists for information those non-Member Nations that have participated in FAO meetings since the last Session of the Council. Unless someone wishes to speak on this subject, that concludes this Item.

**III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP
III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM
III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA**

**8. REPORT OF THE 27TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD
SECURITY (CFS)**

(ROME, MAY-JUNE 2001) (CL 120/10)

**8. RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DE LA
SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE MONDIALE (CSA) (ROME, MAI-JUIN 2001)
(CL 120/10)**

**8. INFORME DEL 27º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE SEGURIDAD
ALIMENTARIA MUNDIAL (CSA) (ROMA, MAYO-JUNIO DE 2001) (CL 120/10)**

CHAIRMAN

As decided earlier, we will now move on to consider the recommendation made by the Twenty Seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security, document CL 120/10, para 41, that a

Working Group, open to all States invited to the World Food Summit: *five years later*, be established by the Council. This Working Group should undertake negotiations on the Resolution to be adopted by the Thirty-first Session of the Conference. I wish to add my wholehearted support to this request to Council from the CFS and ask you to consider favourably the request for the establishment of the Open-Ended Working Group.

I would like to give the floor to Mr O'Driscoll to introduce this section of the CFS Report.

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

As you say, I would point you to two paragraphs in the CFS Report, as we are now specifically only discussing the arrangements for the proposal to establish an Open-Ended Working Group. Paragraph 38 of the CFS Report notes that the Committee consider that the Resolution for the World Food Summit: *five years later* should be concise, focused and concrete. It also notes that the Bureau undertook to identify the elements of a concise draft Resolution based on the views provided by Members of the Committee. The Bureau of the CFS has in fact undertaken this task and the results of its work are set out in CL 120/10-Sup.1-Rev.1. and CL 120/10-Sup.2-Rev.1.

In paragraph 41, the CFS recommended that a Working Group open to all countries invited to the World Food Summit: *five years later*, be established by the Council to undertake negotiations on the Resolution at this Session and that the elements which were identified by the Bureau, and are contained in the documents I just referred to, should be transmitted to this Open-Ended Working Group. So that is the recommendation of the CFS to Council and it is now for Council to make a decision on that matter.

CHAIRMAN

Does any delegate wish to take the floor on this proposal?

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

En primer lugar permítame felicitar a los Vicepresidentes elegidos, así como a la Presidencia y a los miembros del Comité de Redacción.

Como es conocido, los países en desarrollo, además de haber tenido una amplia participación en la Cumbre de 1996, tomaron un muy significativo y activo compromiso. Hoy reiteramos ese compromiso, razón por la cual esta convocatoria de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, constituye para el Grupo de los 77 un verdadero reto; la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación más cinco en el entendido de que este evento será una realidad y un éxito en organización como en resultados.

Dentro de esa dirección estamos abiertos al diálogo, franco y constructivo, buscando aunar, buscando coincidencias en aras de los más nobles objetivos y, entre esos objetivos, encontrar ideas dentro de nuestro Grupo Regional de los 77 con un sentido sereno y en un amplio análisis interno bajo el principio de unidad sin fisuras y, bajo el prisma del diálogo, para el logro de esos objetivos.

Teniendo como base esta introducción, y como ha manifestado el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, es saludable hablar sobre este grupo de trabajo para que sea analizado en Plenaria el primer día y que comience sus trabajos precisamente desde ahora, dentro del equilibrio geográfico y representativo. Creo necesario reiterar una vez más que debemos trabajar en la consagración necesaria para alcanzar estos propósitos.

Además del análisis hecho en el Grupo de los 77, hemos escuchado otros criterios fuera del Grupo. En primer lugar, creemos que este grupo no deba ser abierto y que debe ser representado por sus portavoces o voceros, quienes serán los representantes de nuestros grupos regionales. En el análisis se consideró que cada grupo regional debería estar compuesto por cuatro voceros, o portavoces, y su Presidente, lo que haría un total de cinco miembros por cada región.

Así ocurrió en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, y muchos de los aquí presentes lo sabemos, o sea, que estos portavoces elegidos democráticamente dentro de sus grupos regionales

sean, sencillamente, los que planteen las posiciones; pero que a su vez puedan participar todos los países que lo crean, aunque en definitiva los que hablen sean estos portavoces.

No sé si esto se entiende, si no buscaríamos la manera de hacerlo comprender, o tal vez proponer una segunda variante. La primera propuesta, que creo sea la más amplia, la más representativa, es entonces que dentro de esos grupos se elijan los verdaderos representantes que conozcan a fondo la materia, para que de aquí al viernes puedan comenzar su trabajo, pero un trabajo de consagración.

El Grupo de los 77 plantea que debemos tener una co-Presidencia: un presidente elegido por los países desarrollados y otro elegido por los países en vías de desarrollo. La cuestión de la extensión y del funcionamiento serán los propios voceros quienes la determinarán. Pero, entendemos que, si esto se aprueba en Plenaria, con el aporte de la sabiduría que hay dentro de la misma, deba comenzar a funcionar de inmediato.

Estas son nuestras observaciones que ponemos a su consideración y a la de los ilustres representantes presentes hoy en este Consejo.

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. CURRENT WORLD FOOD SITUATION (CL 120/2) 3. SITUATION ACTUELLE DE L'ALIMENTATION DANS LE MONDE (CL 120/2)

3. SITUACIÓN ACTUAL DE LA ALIMENTACIÓN EN EL MUNDO (CL 120/2)

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

It is a pleasure to introduce to you the Item dealing with the current World Food Situation and the respective document. The document attempts to integrate a broad range of information on a relatively short text, as was requested by the previous session of the Council. I emphasize this because I wish to draw your attention to more detailed information on the number of issues that are covered in other documents, in particular, the document on the *Assessment of the World Food Security Situation* prepared for the recent meeting of the Committee on World Food Security. I draw your attention also to the recent document on the *World Commodity Situation and Outlook* prepared for the CCP in March this year, as well as on regular reporting through FAO's *Food Outlook* and *Food Crops and Shortages*. For all these reasons, the document is rather concise and short.

The information on food production and markets which has become available since the finalization of this document does not significantly alter the picture that we have conveyed in the document. The purpose of my short introduction is mainly to report to you about recent developments and updates compared to the document.

I would like to mention, for example, that the increase in global food production from crops and livestock in 1999 had to be slightly revised. Compared to the document, it is now estimated at 2.8 percent growth in 1999, which is only slightly above the 2.4 percent that we had reported in the document. At the same time, the provisional estimate of the increase in production in the year 2000 has been revised marginally downward from 1.3 to 1.1 percent. So, as you will note, we are still working on figures that relate to a previous year but the information reaches us with some delay.

As regards major staple foods, the estimates for 1999-2000, as well as for 2000-2001, for cereal production, utilization and trade have seen rather marginal revisions since the finalization of the

document. On the other hand, global cassava production in 2000 is now estimated to have increased by about 1 percent, rather than 2 percent recorded in the document.

With production in Africa having suffered a slight decline rather than the increase reported in the document, we thought this was an important change that you should take note of.

For cereals, I can add the latest indications which point to an increase in global production in 2001 of 1.4 percent, which will then bring total production to 1.88 billion tonnes. However, as growth in cereal usage is anticipated to continue as well, output at this level of 1.88 billion tonnes would not be sufficient to avoid a further draw down in stocks, and that of course is an important indicator. It should be recalled that the forthcoming season is set to begin with an opening stock of cereals already at the lowest levels since 1997-98. For further updates on the situation concerning cereals and other major food crops, as I said before, I would like to refer you to the *Food Outlook* that will be issued shortly and, of course, regularly.

As document CL 120/2 indicates, despite continuous growth of the world economy, the food security situation in the developing world, as a whole, has shown little progress in recent years. The Director-General already referred to this in his introductory speech. However, there is remarkable diversity between regions and countries. The decline in the undernourished population has slowed in the 1990s and has almost come to a halt. According the latest estimates for 1996-98 for the developing countries, our estimate of the number of chronically-undernourished amounts to 792 million people.

Further reason for serious concern is obviously the large number of countries facing food emergency situations at various degrees of intensity. At mid-2001, that is, as of now, the impact of widespread disasters in the year 2000 and the first part of this year are still being felt in many parts of the world and continued food assistance is needed, according to our estimate, for about 60 million people affected by natural or man-made disasters.

So far, my short update on the figures in the document.

I would like to conclude with reference to the last paragraph of the document. It draws attention to the quite extensive, regular reporting by the Secretariat to the Conference, Council and various technical committees, in particular CFS and CCP, all addressing, in some form, the situation of food security and the world food situation, in general.

Let me just recall what I am referring to. Firstly, the Secretariat reports annually to either the Conference or the Council on the *State of Food and Agriculture*. Secondly, it provides annually a so-called, *Assessment of the World Food Security Situation* to the Committee on World Food Security. Thirdly, the Secretariat reports biannually on what is called *The World Commodity Situation and Outlook* to the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP). And finally, the Secretariat reports biannually to the Council in its June Session on *The Current World Food Situation*, which is the document that I am introducing here.

The Secretariat finds that there is a high degree of duplication and overlap in this reporting. In particular, one could reconsider, as we view it, the need for the biannual reporting to the Council, in the June Session, on the current World Food Situation. We therefore recommend for your consideration a discontinuation of this Item in your June Session. You will have an opportunity, as you have this time, in all future June Sessions of the Council, to discuss, if you wish, aspects of the World Food Security Situation when you consider the report of the Committee on World Food Security, that has in itself regularly, that is every year, the Item on the Assessment on the World Food Security Situation. By discontinuing this Item, you would still have a chance to discuss the World Food Situation, if you wish so, when you consider the report of the CFS.

Mr Chairman, I thought I should go into some detail because it concerns workload, both yours and ours, and we thought you might wish to consider this.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina)

Hemos leído con atención los documentos preparados por la Secretaría, no sólo el documento 120/2 sino los otros de referencia sobre el estado actual de la alimentación el mundo.

En realidad, nuestra primera sorpresa es que la situación actual de la alimentación no se vincula suficientemente con la situación actual de la agricultura en el mundo, y éste es un primer desvío que notamos en las actividades recientes de la Organización, que se focalizan extremadamente en la alimentación y desatiende la agricultura.

En efecto, el documento, si bien señala los preocupantes índices de personas hambrientas en el mundo, que prácticamente se han mantenido invariados en la última década, no profundiza el análisis de los factores que han llevado a esta situación y que aún persisten. En los párrafos 14 y subsiguientes del documento CL 120/2 se habla de la disponibilidad de alimentos y del acceso a ellos.

La seguridad alimentaria se define, efectivamente, aludiendo a la disponibilidad física de los alimentos y a la estabilidad de los aprovisionamientos, pero no se tiene en cuenta las posibilidades de mejorar la producción agrícola y mejorar el acceso económico a esa producción agrícola. Las dificultades de acceder a una producción agrícola en términos económicos y sostenible es lo que está ocasionando las dificultades permanentes para solucionar el problema del hambre en el mundo.

Los desalentadores indicadores respecto a la agricultura en los países en desarrollo demuestran, entre otras cosas, una dependencia elevada de las importaciones de los productos alimenticios subvencionados por parte de estos países en desarrollo. Los bajos precios que han prevalecido en los últimos años pueden considerarse como un ahorro en las importaciones de los países en desarrollo, un ahorro en las importaciones de alimentos pero también deben ser considerados como un importante desaliento a la producción propia, un importante desaliento a aumentar la producción alimentaria y a considerar la producción agrícola como un escalón fundamental para el desarrollo socioeconómico. Por ello las estrategias desarrolladas hasta ahora y enfatizadas en los últimos años no nos permiten ser optimistas con respecto a la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Creemos que los estudios y las actividades de la Organización deben extraer las conclusiones que se imponen de sus mismas observaciones. La pronunciada desaceleración del crecimiento de la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo mencionada en los párrafos 22 y 23 del documento es extremadamente preocupante. Efectivamente, no vemos en el horizonte estímulos, facilidades, que puedan revertir esta tendencia de la producción agrícola en el mundo en desarrollo; por el contrario, los países desarrollados siguen aumentando su producción agrícola, pero en base a subsidios altamente distorsionadores. En realidad, consideramos que los subsidios distorsionantes están constituyendo un verdadero trato especial y privilegiado en favor de los países desarrollados y en contra de los países en desarrollo.

En el Compromiso IV de la Declaración y Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, el comercio de productos agrícolas y el comercio en general tuvo su lugar. Sin embargo, este Compromiso IV y las actividades que debió originar no se han verificado en los documentos recientes de la Organización. A eso nos referiremos al considerar los temas fundamentales de la Cumbre más cinco que se hará este año. Pero queremos dejar en claro que, para nosotros, el desarrollo rural, el desarrollo agrícola de los países en desarrollo debe ser un objetivo permanente de la Organización. La pobreza rural no sólo trae hambre y desnutrición sino que además provoca el círculo vicioso del mantenimiento del hambre y la desnutrición y de la degradación del medio ambiente.

La pobreza rural constituye en sí misma la causa de los flujos migratorios hacia las grandes ciudades, el aumento del desempleo y la tensión social, y la mayor depresión en las economías rurales.

Creemos que sea necesario detener el proceso de distorsión y promover, por parte de esta Organización, el lugar que le corresponde al desarrollo de la agricultura en todo el mundo en desarrollo como un medio insustituible de mejorar la situación socioeconómica de vastas poblaciones hoy sumergidas en el hambre y la pobreza.

Vilma DU MARTEAU (European Community)

I welcome this opportunity to speak on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. In the distributed document, CL 120/6, we have an overview of the trends concerning the world food situation. The European Community and its Members States agree with the conclusion presented in the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, that development prospects for the developing countries, will depend to a large extent on the success of the efforts to integrate them in the world economy by reducing obstacles to trade and therefore facilitating their market access.

We, in the European Community and the Member States, are concerned by the food security situation in the developing world. We acknowledge that there is a strong link between poverty and food insecurity, and therefore the European Community has reviewed its food aid and food security policy, and has undertaken to reform it in order better to address the causes of short, medium and long-term food insecurity.

Long-term food insecurity objectives are best met integrating them into poverty eradication policies, providing a coherent framework for national, regional development strategies. The key elements to achieve food security should include broad-based economic growth, promotion of equity, investment in human capital and at regional, national, sectoral and local levels.

With regards to exports from developing countries, their trade potential depends on a wide range of issues, ranging from factor endowments and agronomic constraints, production and distribution structures, domestic agriculture and the economic policy through to the external factors, such as location and integration in the trading system. Doubt has been cast as to whether economic resources have been correctly allocated in many developing countries over the years. Misallocation of economic resources distort potential comparative advantages in agricultural production.

However, it is clear that opportunity potential exists to increase productivity within the agricultural sector in most developing countries. There is considerable scope for developing countries to make better use of their comparative advantage in certain products.

Developing countries have a broad range on market opportunities in the developed world, for example, the EC is by far the greatest importer of products from developing countries. This is something that could be expanded further, particularly in the context of aid programmes and preferential access arrangements. Increased emphasis could be put on the production of the organic products in the developing countries, because of the good marketing prospects for organic fruit and vegetables in Europe.

In 2001, the percentage share in the EC imports of agricultural products for different groups of developing countries were as follows: Mercosur: 19.4 percent; ACP: 7.4 percent; ASEAN: 7.1 percent; Andean Group: 3.6 percent; Central America and West Indies: 3.4 percent; North Africa: 2.1 percent; LDCs: 2.8 percent; LDCs non-ACP countries: 0.2 percent.

The European Commission recently adopted the *Everything But Arms Initiative* to grant duty-free access to the world's 49 poorest countries, 39 of which are in the ACP group. In practical terms, the proposal provides for extensions of duty and quota-free access to all products originating in LDCs, except arms and ammunition, and subject to progressive implementation in just three sectors (rice, sugar and bananas).

In its comprehensive negotiating proposals submitted in WTO, the EC recalls that the objective should be to increase market access to the benefit of all WTO members and in particular, for developing countries. The EC proposes that the formula for tariff reduction should be a commitment to the overall average reduction of bound tariffs, and a minim reduction per tariff

line as was the case in the Uruguay Round. Our aim is to create opportunities for increased market access (Everything But Arms and GSP) for developing countries while taking into consideration their different needs and levels of development.

Agricultural production has the multiple role to produce cost-efficient, safe, high-quality agricultural products and to protect the environment, preserve the rural areas and the demands of the public society, for example, animal welfare.

We would like to emphasize the need to carefully analyse deliveries of food aid, which—if not implemented correctly—may hamper and disrupt development opportunities for local and regional markets and have a negative impact on sustainable food security, taking into account the fact that not all products have the same role in global markets. The European Community and its Member States are convinced that untying of all food aid from domestic market surpluses will contribute substantially to improved impact of food aid. The guidelines of the Food Aid Convention and the code of conduct for the use of food aid in development bring valuable guidance in this sector.

Taking into consideration the important role FAO is playing, we are convinced that it could continue to help the countries in the preparation of future multilateral negotiations, especially by emphasizing technical assistance for less developed and net-importing countries in trade-related issues. There is a need for technical capacity-building to assess the positive development of the agricultural sector and the further liberalization.

It is clear that the negotiation on trade should not be isolated from the broader economic and financial context. The European Community advocates that priority should be given to the analysis of more enhanced methods of coordinating and integrating the action of international bodies interested in improving the developing countries' situation, thereby ensuring that development needs, complementary to the establishment of trade rules are addressed.

The European Community and its Member States attach great importance of consumer protection based on the respect of environmental standards and bio-security. FAO could play an important coordinating role in this field.

The European Community and its Member States give great importance for improving meat safety and to restore the disrupted consumer confidence due to the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and foot-and-mouth disease. All Member States have to define minimum environmental standards. They must make their agriculture more sustainable, environmentally friendly and quality-oriented. Emphasis needs to be put on the role of organic farming and marketing of quality products.

Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)

As a new incoming member of the Council, I wish to begin by thanking all members of the FAO for the confidence they have put on Cyprus to serve the Council for the next three years. We are aware of the increased responsibilities, and we can assure that we will work actively in collaboration with all other Members and the Secretariat to bring the desirable results.

We take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to the newly elected members of the Bureau and to the Secretariat for the concise and well-prepared documents that we have before us.

Turning now to the item under consideration, we have to admit that the current World Food Situation is far from being satisfactory. I will refrain from repeating figures represented in the document under review, but the general impression one gets in reading through it is that the situation regarding hunger and malnutrition has virtually remained unchanged from the last year. Minor changes are observed in some regions but the overall situation in the world remains unchanged and, unfortunately, far below the desirable levels.

Some indicators however, are very significant and need to be highlighted: world food and livestock production in 1999-2000 increased at a lower pace than the population, resulting in a drop to the per capita food supply; cereal utilization in 2000-2001 is expected to outpace global

production for the second consecutive year; total cereal aid shipments in 1999-2000 dropped compared to the previous year; by the close of the season ending in 2001, world cereal stocks are expected to decline by seven percent from their opening levels and the lowest in four years.

It is obvious that with the continuation of the current trends, it will not be possible to achieve the target set by world leaders in 1996, which is to reduce the number of undernourished people to 400 million by the year 2015.

The main causes of food shortages, hunger and malnutrition are generally grouped in two broad categories, (a) those which are mainly resulting from human action and (b) those which are the causes of natural calamities like droughts, floods, earthquakes, extremely harsh winters, etc. It is understood that natural calamities cannot be controlled by governments or by international organizations. Their effects, however, can be minimized, if appropriate measures are taken. In this respect, research should be intensified to develop crop varieties which can grow and produce under extreme climatic environments in areas like the Near East, the North and Sub-Sahara Africa and regions that experience frequent floods. FAO can play a vital role in this respect. Similarly, emphasis must be placed in improving infrastructure to cope with flood conditions, which cause considerable loss of food items on many occasions.

But, if human action can have limited control over natural calamities, it can have a decisive role in controlling the disasters caused from civil strife. It is not acceptable in the twenty-first century to have millions of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition as a result of food shortages caused by civil strife. Every effort must be made to prevent such action and to concentrate on the peaceful solutions to the world civil problems. The international community and the international organizations can play an important role in this regard.

Another important factor, which has been recently added to the food shortage problem, is the food safety concern. This factor has emerged mainly due to the increase of the BSE incident, that is the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, and the outbreaks of animals diseases and in particular, the food-and-mouth disease, as well as the Rift Valley Fever. On this occasion, again, international cooperation is required to remedy the situation and prevent losses of food and livestock items.

Finally, a comment on paragraph 66. The delegation of Cyprus considers the discussion of the Current World Food Situation to be directly related to the mandate of the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Maximum time, therefore, must be given to the governing bodies of the Organization for the thorough discussion of the problem and the identification of possible solutions based on documents prepared by the Secretariat. At the same time, every effort must be made to use the valuable resources of the Organizations as effectively as possible.

It is obvious that, in preparing annually so many reports on practically the same item, namely the World Food Situation for the Committee on Food Security, the State of Food and Agriculture for the Conference/Council Sessions, and biennially on the Current World Food Situation for the Council, leads to duplication of work and to many repetitions. We therefore, support the proposal to discontinue the biennial reporting to the Council on the current food situation.

Thomas HUNT SHIPMAN (United States of America)

I am very honoured to represent the United States here at the Hundred and Twentieth FAO Council Session and we look forward to working closely with the Director-General and the FAO staff on pervasive, troubling issues such as food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition.

We appreciate the work of the FAO in its efforts to collect data on global commodity production, utilization and trade. The United States believes the FAO's *Current World Food Situation* report is well done and captures the major features of the current world commodity situation.

We were encouraged to see that following the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome, FAO has increased its reporting on global food security as an effort to assess global insecurity more accurately and to monitor progress toward the Summit's goal of reducing the number of food insecure people by half within a decade.

Global food security has improved slightly in recent years, but not rapidly enough for us to achieve the Summit's target if current trends prevail. FAO's analysis currently points out that Asia's food security situation has improved. Although the number of undernourished people is large, the percentage of the population that is undernourished is declining. This improvement stands in sharp contrast to the situation in sub-Saharan Africa, where both the absolute number and the percent of undernourished people is rising.

Improving data and information on the food security situation of countries will allow those recipients and donors to more effectively target resources toward the most vulnerable regions and groups.

In considering this report, we feel that Section C, paragraphs 14 through 17 need further clarification and development. It begins with four definitions of food security, but it lacks a discussion of the link between these indicators and an impact on food security in those most vulnerable countries. Moreover, these indicators are not necessarily those most relevant to the most food-insecure. Emphasis should be placed on developing a smaller set of indicators within an analytical framework that relates them clearly to each other and to food insecurity in vulnerable countries.

While paragraphs 18 and 19 of the world food security section discuss the relationship between poverty and food insecurity, there is no explanation of results or link to programmatic action. However, we feel that the summary table is helpful.

We would also like to take this opportunity to make a few comments on commodity information. The USDA is projecting a 2.7 percent growth in world production of oils and fats, substantially higher than the one percent FAO projects in paragraph 47. In addition, the USDA is forecasting a three percent growth in trade in fats and oils, well above the projection of 1.3 percent by the FAO in paragraph 49.

FAO foresees a continuing recovery in prices for oil cakes and meals in paragraph 50, while USDA expects that these prices will remain under pressure in 2000 and 2001 because of large global supplies.

With respect to rice, USDA concurs with the FAO's analysis in paragraph 33 of China's role in the drop in global rice production, and we project for 2001-2002 a further decline in global rice production, again likely driven by the production in China.

USDA agrees with FAO's statement in paragraph 40 that rice stocks are declining. We wish to note, however, that despite declining global rice production, near-record stocks are expected. India and China, the two largest producers in the world, will account for the bulk of global rice stocks and the stocks-to-use ratio for global rice is at currently almost 35 percent, a near all-time record.

Paragraph 20 and 21 refer to the decline in food aid shipments. This accurate, but the United States would like to point out that the declines are from a high base in 1999. Food aid levels are still well above those of earlier years. The United States has been a major food aid donor, accounting for 64 percent by volume of food aid delivered in 2000. United States food aid shipments returned to pre-1994 levels in 1999 and 2000, but food aid shipments had dropped off during 1994 and 1995 after the exceptionally high levels seen following the dissolution of the former Soviet Union. In 2000, the United States provided over six million metric tons of food aid to victims of natural or manmade disasters, as well as development assistance. Each year's level of United States food assistance depends on overall budget authority and the demand for food by needy countries. We are hopeful that others will join the United States in providing the needed food aid.

This week, we will be working closely together to review our options and make sometimes difficult choices, as we focus on our work in the FAO. We continue to believe that the Organization plays a vital role in marshalling resources to meet the world food security challenges that still confront us and we look forward to a strong, productive relationship in the years ahead.

J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)

On behalf of the Government of India, I extend to you my warmest greetings. We are confident that, under your able guidance, the daily business of the Council will be fruitful and rewarding.

My delegation appreciates the well-presented agenda document, the *Current World Food Situation*, as per which world crop and livestock production increased by 2.4 percent in 1999, which is an improvement on the growth rate of 1998. There is, however, cause for concern, that several developing countries have experienced lower agricultural growth rates. Many countries have faced conditions of droughts, floods or declining areas of cultivation due to unfavourable trade prices. It is also a cause of concern that the number of developing countries facing serious food shortages still remains at 36 and there have been no reductions since last year.

In India, the performance of the economy is closely dependent upon that of agriculture. As of now, 80 percent of the farmers are small or marginal and the sector engages 60 percent of the workforce. All this contribution to GDP has declined from 30 percent in 1987-88 to 24 percent now and it contributes around 20 percent of exports. The sector is characterized by inter-state disparities in agro-climatic conditions, cropping patterns and aid levels.

We have recently formulated a national agricultural policy. It is a long-term policy aiming at receiving a growth rate of four percent per annum in the agricultural sector. The national policy of agriculture seeks to actualize the faster, untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, achieve food and industrial security, strengthen rural infrastructure, to support and foster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro-business, create employment in rural areas, eliminate poverty, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers and their families, discourage migration to urban areas, and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalization.

A recently differentiated approach is proposed to be adopted for agricultural development which is sustainable, technologically, environmentally, economically and socially. In order to create this, to reduce risk in agriculture and impart resilience to Indian agriculture against natural calamities, emphasis is being given to disaster preparedness and agricultural insurance. People's participation will be encouraged in the development of land reforms to all inter-groups, village institutions and NGOs. 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 the food security requirement of more than half of the rural population. They are in need of continuing support to insulate them from market forces. Today, the major food security challenge is economic access to food. In other words, food security is best defined in terms of millions of persons, years of jobs, rather than in millions of tonnes of grains.

The World Trade Agreement on Agriculture should not destroy the livelihood opportunities in poor countries. It should not promote factory-farming at the cost of farmers farming, that is for mass production and not production by the masses.

The WTO Agreement on Agriculture can affect livelihood opportunities in poor countries if safeguards are not taken. We have therefore proposed the creation of livelihood security laws in the on-going negotiations in the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. FAO should work towards getting the livelihood security laws introduced in the revised World Trade Agreement on Agriculture under the WTO. There is a need to arrest the decline of public investment in agriculture and to invest and to stimulate investment particularly in irrigation. Slowing down investment in irrigation has adverse effects on cropping intensity and yields and is a serious constraint for the efficiency of agriculture, improving cropping patterns and productivity increase for food security.

India needs to extend the green revolution to the rainfed areas which comprise almost 66 percent of 142 million hectares in that area and zone. We would like to develop a definite strategy, to be

evolved by FAO, aimed at harvesting and conservation of water and its efficient use on farm environment.

Let me take the opportunity to congratulate FAO for the efforts made by the Organization in addressing the problems of hunger and food security. I would like to assure you of our continued support for these endeavours. 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 experience for the development of agriculture in other countries in the spirit of south-south cooperation and TCDC.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our support to the Director-General's initiative for the expansion of the SPFS. Besides Eritrea, we now look forward to sharing our expertise with Mozambique, Mongolia and Lesotho. I am confident that FAO will continue to take steps to assist the developing countries in facing the rapid changes in the global environment by providing expertise and support in issues emanating from WTO's Agreement on Agriculture, like TBT, SPS, TPS, and enhancing the capacity of developing countries to participate in the negotiations.

Sr. Efraín PALTÍ SOLANO (Perú)

Quiero expresarle, en nombre del Gobierno y del Ministro de Agricultura del Perú, un especial saludo y reconocimiento a la labor que viene realizando la FAO en el mundo, especialmente en los países que, como el Perú, tratan de superar los problemas de la pobreza rural y de su desarrollo. En este sentido, para mi país, constituye un alto honor y una enorme satisfacción iniciar hoy nuestro mandato como Miembro pleno del Consejo de la FAO luego de once años de ausencia.

Estamos culminando en el país un período de transición para la recuperación de la democracia que ha tenido, como tarea fundamental, restablecer la vida democrática para asegurar un proceso electoral transparente y limpio, el mismo que acabamos de concluir y del cual nos sentimos orgullosos. El rol del gobierno de transición conducido por el Señor Presidente de la Nación, Doctor Valentín Paniagua, ha significado restablecer la constitucionalidad, el principio de legitimidad y el imperio del derecho; devolver a los peruanos y peruanas la garantía de respeto a sus derechos humanos y libertades fundamentales, la lucha contra la corrupción como objetivo social y nacional, respeto a la independencia de la administración de justicia, proteger la estabilidad macroeconómica y jurídica, reactivar la inversión nacional y extranjera y priorizar el gasto en la lucha contra la pobreza, hacia una transición estable, de orientación hacia la concepción del desarrollo de la agricultura.

Bajo este marco, la política nacional actual de la agricultura en nuestro país está orientada a la promoción económica y social, plantea la promoción a la producción nacional competitiva y a la exportación a través del impulso al desarrollo de las faenas productivas de los principales cultivos y crianzas, como algodón, azúcar, arroz, papa, pastos y ganadería, café, cacao, plátano y yuca. Este programa que abarca más de 1,5 millones de hectáreas propende a la integración horizontal de los agentes económicos agrarios, con efectivo impacto en la rentabilidad de las explotaciones agrarias, en la generación de nuevos puestos de trabajo y oportunidades de inversión, en suma, al desarrollo descentralizado del país. En esta estrategia se desarrollan las cadenas productivas: maíz, avicultura, pastos, vacunos, lácteos, algodón, textiles, confecciones. Se han diseñado ejes estratégicos como La Cuenca Comunal Básica de Planificación y Gestión de los Recursos Naturales, el reforzamiento y renovación de las Agencias Agrarias como centro de servicios de apoyo a los agentes económicos agrarios. Este relanzamiento de las Agencias Agrarias es una de las consecuencias de la regularización del Ministerio de Agricultura que acabamos de efectuar. Las Mesas de Trabajo Especializadas como mecanismo de concertación y complementación de la acción del sector público con las organizaciones gremiales de los agentes económicos agrarios, agricultores, proveedores de insumos y servicios, industriales y exportadores. La concertación con la Municipalidad de la capital de nuestro país y demás gobiernos locales para el desarrollo de la Red Nacional de Mercado de Mayoristas.

Debo aclarar ante ustedes nuestra visión de la entidad agraria a largo plazo, como la de productores agrarios organizados competitivos, rentables y sostenibles económica, social y ambientalmente, en un entorno democrático y de igualdad de oportunidades, y nuestra misión de promover el desarrollo de los productores agrarios organizados en cadenas productivas en el marco de la Cuenca Comunidad de Gestión de los Recursos Naturales para lograr una agricultura desarrollada en términos de sostenibilidad económica, social y ambiental. Para ello estamos dejando al nuevo gobierno un conjunto de propuestas y de políticas agrarias que puedan dar continuidad con la orientación y el trabajo iniciado.

Asimismo valga esta ocasión para manifestarles que, en el camino alimentario e institucional, se destaca, a nivel de gobierno, el objetivo de mejorar el estado alimentario y nutricional de la población peruana. Por ello se viene impulsando la promoción para el desarrollo agropecuario así como se están revisando los programas sociales que traen consigo asistencia alimentaria, para lograr un sistema mejor focalizado y con mejores resultados en las diferentes poblaciones objetivo.

Quiero terminar esta presentación augurando éxitos a este período de sesiones y para que nuestro país sea la consolidación de la contribución de FAO en el nuevo contexto de desarrollo rural y agrario que nos impulsa.

Mohammed A. KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

At the outset, I should like to extend my congratulations to the Vice-Chairman and the Members of the Drafting Committee, wishing them every success in their endeavours. I should also like to thank the Secretariat for the sound preparation of these documents at hand.

Despite the fact that the world economy has achieved some improvement and an overall increase in food production, our targets have not been achieved yet, because many countries suffer from malnutrition and poverty and, according to the recent studies from 1996 to 1998, 800 million people suffer from malnutrition and hunger. In April 2001, sixty million people from 36 nations suffer from malnutrition, although we do not see any increase in food assistance given to those countries.

The overall world food production increased from 1996 to the year 2000, as compared to the five previous years. Food is one of the prerequisites for livelihood and this is an important factor in securing sustainable development, bearing in mind that human beings are the core and the objectives of any endeavour. It is also a basic human right, on the basis of the International Declaration of Human Rights and bearing in mind the recommendations of the World Food Summit. We believe that a number of meetings held in the 1990s stipulated very clearly the fact that food is a basic human right.

In the Millennium Summit held last year in New York, where 189 Heads of State gathered to state their objective of eradicating hunger from the world, a Declaration was adopted to eradicate hunger, malnutrition, civil strife and the use of weapons of mass destruction, and the use of food as a weapon, with further emphasis on the need for tolerance and peaceful co-existence. The Heads of State also stressed the need to protect the environment because, if we continue down this road, the natural resources would not be enough to secure our livelihood. The leaders also stressed the need to reduce by half the number of hungry people by the year 2015.

You are well aware of what has been happening for the last eight months in the Palestinian-occupied Territories. The Palestinian people are being subjected to economic sanctions, all sorts of torture and the whole population is being held under siege. People are being deprived of basic food and health care. Houses have been demolished in many parts of the occupied Territories. What is happening in the occupied Territories is something unseen in any spot on the Planet Earth so far.

We call upon this Council to lend the necessary assistance to the Palestinian people to allow them to enjoy their basic human right, namely food. We should like you to support the idea of sending a Mission from the United Nations in order to survey the conditions and suffering of the Palestinian

people; second, to send immediate assistance to the Palestinian people; third, the United Nations should send a Mission to secure the necessary financing to the agricultural territories, particularly in those parts of the Palestinian-occupied Territories where the soil has been lifted and carried away.

We should like to launch an appeal to the international community to send immediate emergency assistance to the Palestinian people so that human rights in the Palestinian territories can be upheld, the basic necessities can be secured and the houses and hospitals that have been demolished can be rebuilt.

In the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, we have launched the same appeal. We have also launched an appeal to the CFS in its last meeting. This was contained in the Report of the CFS.

So far, we do not know what has been achieved in this connection, as far as FAO is concerned, as far as WFP is concerned, as far as the United Nations in general is concerned.

We should like to hear from the Secretariat what has been done concerning this subject and what is intended to be done in the future. Hopefully, the Secretariat would give us the relevant information.

Thank you and may God help you to assist the Palestinians under occupation so that they can live in dignity.

RAKOTONDRA SOA (Madagascar)

Madagascar se réjouit de vous voir à nouveau assurer la présidence du Conseil. Nous sommes convaincus que, sous votre présidence éclairée grâce à votre compétence, nos efforts seront couronnés de succès. Nos félicitations s'adressent aux trois Vice-Présidents ainsi qu'aux autres membres du Bureau pour leur brillante élection. Notre présence aujourd'hui témoigne du soutien de Madagascar aux activités de la FAO sous la direction efficace de M. Jacques Diouf. Dans le document CL 120/2, bien présenté par le Secrétariat et soumis à notre examen, il est noté qu'en l'an 2000, les estimations relatives à la production vivrière mondiale végétale et animale, ont progressé de 1,3 pour cent. Cependant il est regrettable qu'en Afrique subsaharienne, 1999 ait été une année décevante avec un taux d'accroissement de la production vivrière de 2,4 pour cent inférieure à la croissance de la population pour la troisième année consécutive. Pour l'année 2001, les estimations n'indiquent aucune amélioration de production pour l'Afrique.

Je voudrais, comme les autres délégations qui m'ont précédé, exprimer nos préoccupations sur les résultats obtenus jusqu'à ce jour pour atteindre les objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Nous sommes convaincus qu'au rythme actuel, il ne sera pas possible d'atteindre l'objectif fixé visant à réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes mal nourries en 2015. Cela justifie la proposition du Directeur général d'organiser le Sommet cinq ans après, approuvée par le Conseil à sa 119^{ème} session.

Je me permettrais de vous brosser la situation de l'agriculture de mon pays et les mesures prises par le Gouvernement pour combattre la pauvreté rurale. Madagascar se caractérise par un potentiel agricole considérable. Il dispose de vastes superficies de terres avec des zones écologiques diverses. Il peut produire un large éventail de cultures tant tempérées que tropicales, aussi bien pour le marché intérieur que pour l'exportation. Cependant, bien que Madagascar ait une superficie totale de 587 000 000 km² et que la superficie cultivable s'élève à 9 500 000 hectares, 2 300 000 seulement sont mises en valeur. Au cours de cette dernière décennie, la dégradation de la couverture végétale a accéléré le phénomène d'érosion et le lessivage des sols par suite des cataclysmes naturels fréquents, cyclones, sécheresses et inondations. L'invasion acridienne, la peste porcine africaine sont venues aggraver la situation du déficit alimentaire de la population.

A Madagascar, le secteur primaire regroupe toutes les activités économiques associées à l'agriculture, l'élevage, la forêt et la pêche, et il occupe la première place dans l'économie nationale. Ce secteur emploie plus de 70 pour cent de la population active et fournit plus de la

moitié des matières premières pour le secteur secondaire qui produit plus de 80 pour cent des recettes.

C'est ainsi que le document 4, des économies politiques du Gouvernement malgache, pour les périodes 1999-2001, a mis l'accent sur le secteur agricole dans le but d'améliorer la production vivrière ainsi que les conditions de vie et d'alléger la pauvreté en milieu rural. Une politique agricole et alimentaire débouchant sur la réforme du secteur public agricole, a été mise en place et a permis d'élaborer un Plan d'action pour le développement rural, conçu pour servir de référence nationale à tous les projets relatifs au développement rural. L'élaboration du document de stratégie en vue de réduire la pauvreté, a constitué une étape non négligeable pour les engagements de Madagascar vers la lutte contre la pauvreté.

Tous les secteurs ont été pris en compte dans ce document, notamment le monde rural. Cette considération du milieu rural dans la stratégie de lutte contre la pauvreté est motivée d'une part, par le caractère préoccupant de la pauvreté dans les populations rurales et d'autre part, par la relance de la production qui est impérative pour atteindre les objectifs de croissance économique et de réduction de la pauvreté. Le secteur du développement rural, loin d'être exploité de façon optimale jouera un rôle important en ce qui concerne l'augmentation de l'offre prévoyant une croissance annuelle de l'économie rurale de 4 pour cent entre 2001 et 2005. Ceci représentera une part importante dans la croissance économique du pays pour instaurer un développement rural durable.

Le Plan d'action du développement rural constitue le cadre pour la mise en œuvre de la politique de réduction de la pauvreté rurale. Cinq grandes orientations sont inscrites dans ce programme. La première consiste à définir et mettre en œuvre des réformes institutionnelles ainsi que le cadre réglementaire pour assurer une bonne gestion du monde rural. La deuxième est l'incitation à l'émergence des facteurs économiques partenaires du développement rural. La troisième est l'accroissement et la promotion de la productivité agricole avec une utilisation optimale et une gestion durable des ressources et des infrastructures. La quatrième orientation concerne la sécurité alimentaire de toutes les régions du pays. La dernière orientation, et non la moindre, vise au développement des infrastructures sociales de base en vue d'améliorer l'accès des populations vulnérables aux services sociaux.

Nous saisissons l'opportunité qui nous est offerte ici pour exprimer notre satisfaction pour la coopération efficace avec la FAO à travers plusieurs projets et, notamment, le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire qui est un exemple de coopération Sud-Sud. Nous remercions vivement la FAO, certains bailleurs de fonds dont le PNUD, la France, Monaco et particulièrement le Viet Nam et ses experts travaillant à Madagascar. Nous sollicitons un appui de nos partenaires pour amplifier ce programme et l'étendre dans d'autres zones.

Pour terminer, nous voudrions vous confirmer ici notre attachement à cette Organisation, une de celles qui nous donnent un soutien sans faille, une de celles qui travaille à la restauration de la dignité de l'être humain.

Abdul Mehdi BAKHSHANDEH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

My delegation would like to commend the Secretariat for the preparation of a very comprehensive, informative and down-to-the-point paper on the *Current World Food Situation*. My delegation also thanks Mr de Haen for the update of document CL 120/2.

It is disappointing to read that the latest estimate suggests that 792 million people in developing countries remain undernourished in 1996-98, implying virtually no change from the estimate made one year earlier. The projection also indicates that, with continuation of current trends, the World Food Summit target is not likely to be achieved by 2015. The picture is even less promising when we are informed that world-wide food production increased at higher rates during the 1996-2000 period than the previous five years. At the same time, the developing world experienced a decreased trend in food production.

It is also not promising to remember that although, five years ago, our Heads of State and Governments here in this very same building committed themselves to reducing the number of hungry population in the world by half by the year 2015, since then, each year we have witnessed trends much lower than the agreed targets.

Paragraph 13 speaks about civil strife and successive drought in Afghanistan which have led to a severe food crisis, leaving more than three million people in urgent need of food aid. This, together with other recent difficulties, has led to another huge influx of refugees to neighbouring countries. The situation is of major humanitarian importance and needs the immediate attention of the International Community.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has, on average, hosted more than two million Afghan refugees over the past two decades. Assuming three hundred dollars per person per year, that is less than a dollar per day per person. My country has spent more than US\$30 billion dollars hosting the refugees. Any additional burden would be unbearable and unjust.

My delegation also expressed its deep regret at the lack of attention to the precarious food security situation in the Palestine Territories. We also support the statement made by the Egyptian delegation. The inhuman food insecurity condition imposed on the population of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is not even mentioned in the report.

I would like to refer to an important point, that is the problem of drought and adverse weather conditions. According to the report under consideration, the reason behind most of the food shortfalls in developing countries lies in the weather abnormalities, especially drought. Fortunately, FAO is very well aware of the importance of water availability and water management in food production in arid and semi-arid areas of the world. This has been one of the major concerns of the Director-General since his assumption of office some seven years ago. But, in spite of the importance and clarity of this subject matter and the conviction of the Organization, progress in this regard has not been satisfactory.

My delegation once again draws the attention of the Council and the Secretariat to this vital issue, especially in the Near East and the Horn of Africa. Drought management is a vital requirement and an essential element in the sustainable agricultural development strategy of these parts of the world. Continued drought not only puts an extra burden on the food security of the poor habitants of these area but the real danger lies in the fact that protracted drought leads to out migration leaving valuable plants and animal genetic resources of these environments in danger of extinction.

Due to this very fact, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to create a Centre for Drought Management. With the support of FAO, this centre could be expanded to serve as a Regional Drought Management Centre for the whole area of the Near East, Horn of Africa and Central Asia.

The third development plan of my country, which has been prepared on the basis of the proposed reform of President Khatami, the architect of the doctrine of dialogue between civilizations, is the cornerstone of all future developmental efforts. It is also important to mention that great care has been taken to keep the plan perfectly consistent with the commitment of all countries to the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit.

My delegation has prepared a more detailed and comprehensive statement, which will be delivered to the Secretariat.

Let me finish by sincerely thanking FAO for the provision of very satisfactory technical assistance to the agriculture of Iran. My delegation expresses its full support to the World Food Summit: *five years later* by a symbolic humble financial contribution and fully-pledged political will.

SHIQING MA (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation would like first of all to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election and congratulate the Chairman and the Members of the Drafting Committee on their election, too.

Since the WFS in 1996, the world's food and agricultural production has attained relatively rapid development. The global food security situation has improved fairly substantively. However, poverty and hunger in the world still remain as a serious issue. Currently, there are 1.5 billion impoverished people in the world whose *per capita* income is less than US\$1 per day. There are still 792 or about 800 million people suffering from hunger and malnutrition all year round.

Many low-income food-deficit countries are facing double constraints of insufficiency in domestic food supply and lack of purchasing power. In order to reach the goal of reducing the malnourished people by half by 2015, every year 20 million people must overcome malnutrition. The figure at present stands at only eight million. At this rate, it would be difficult to reach the goal set by the World Food Summit.

At present, the process of economic globalization and multipolarization are gathering speed. Science and technology are progressing by leaps and bounds. Society is marching ahead in great strides. However, the survival and security of mankind are confronted with challenges and threats, a one of which is the phenomenon of hunger and malnutrition that still exist in many countries of some regions. The eradication of this phenomenon remains a long-term and arduous task for us. In order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the world and to safeguard everyone's basic right to food, we believe that we must strengthen solidarity and speed up collaboration at the regional and international levels so as to seize opportunities and to meet challenges collectively.

Secondly, we must take a practical attitude and formulate feasible policies for development in light of our specific conditions while we should try to fully implement our slogans and policies for, only after being turned into practice can new slogans have a significance.

Thirdly, it is necessary to create a fair and equitable international, political and economic environment so as to have international trade mechanisms and try to solve the problems of distribution and circulation of agricultural commodities. We should strive to overcome the paradox of the global supply of agricultural commodities having a surplus while parts of the world suffer severe food shortages. Therefore, we appeal to the relevant international organizations and developed countries to intensify their efforts and honour their commitment to help developing countries get rid of economic difficulties and achieve food security. At the same time, developing countries themselves should continue to attach importance to food production and, to the greatest extent possible, strive to increase food supply and improve food security.

China and the Chinese Government have always attached great importance to food security, considering development of food and agricultural production and solving the problem of feeding and clothing its population a high priority on the government agenda. With arduous efforts over the past fifty years, particularly since the reform and the opening up over the past twenty years, world-renowned achievements have been made in China's agriculture and rural economy. Agricultural products increased by big margins with a current *per capita* production of cereals, cotton, oil bearing crops, meat, poultry and eggs, vegetables and aquatic products reaching or surpassing the world average. The goal has been reached of turning a long-standing shortage of major farm commodities into a generally balanced supply with a surplus in good years, which is an historical leap forward.

In 2000, parts of China were hit by severe drought and the planted area was reduced due to cautious agricultural structural adjustments, thus grain production dropped by over 35 million tonnes, about nine percent. Thanks to fairly sufficient stocks, the overall production could still meet the market demand and food security was not affected.

China's policy to ensure food security can be summarized as two experiences. First, under all circumstances, high priority must be given to agriculture, always taking agriculture and food production as the first priority in the national economy, and second, domestic resources must strive to realize self-sufficiency in food.

China's endeavours in helping the poor have achieved impressive successes too. The rural population still suffering from inadequate food and clothing has gone down from 250 million in 1978 to 30 million in 2000. Vigorous efforts in helping the poor and speeding up economic development in the poor areas have not only effectively improved food production capacity in these areas but also increased the poor people's income and purchasing power for food, and that has strengthened food security.

The fundamental solution of providing enough food and clothing for China's 1.2 billion people will be an important contribution towards food security.

Rafael TOVAR Y DE TERESA (México)

Mi delegación desea, en primer lugar, reafirmar el compromiso invariable con los altos principios que guían la labor de la FAO y subrayar de nueva cuenta su voluntad inquebrantable para trabajar, junto con la comunidad internacional, en el logro de los objetivos del Plan de Acción aprobados durante la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996.

La situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo, que de manera concisa se indica en el documento que oportunamente entregó la Secretaría de la FAO, refleja la lamentable paradoja que aún prevalece en el mundo: 792 millones de personas subnutridas en los países en desarrollo, en un mundo caracterizado por la abundante disponibilidad de alimentos. Esta es la realidad, una realidad lamentable sobre la que tenemos que trabajar y poner nuestra plena voluntad política para modificarla. No es posible desde un punto de vista económico pero sobre todo ético, que haya abundancia de alimentos y al mismo tiempo seres humanos con hambre y en estado de desnutrición.

Esta situación que nos presenta la Secretaría debe también movernos hacia la reflexión del papel que debe desempeñar la FAO, la forma en que puede contribuir a incrementar el acceso a los alimentos, a mejorar la relación de equidad en la distribución de los mismos y, en consecuencia, a hacer realidad el objetivo superior que trazaron los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno en la Cumbre de 1996: reducir a la mitad el número de personas que padecen hambre en el mundo en 2015. El propio documento señala una situación desalentadora. De continuar la tendencia actual se prevé que no será hasta el 2030 cuando se conseguirá el objetivo de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. En este año tendremos la oportunidad, no sólo de reforzar nuestra voluntad política para revertir esa tendencia, sino de que aquellas naciones que posean la capacidad económica tendrán la oportunidad para movilizar los recursos necesarios y que millones de seres humanos mejoren sus condiciones de nutrición.

No podemos eludir el hecho innegable de que existe una estrecha relación entre progreso y seguridad alimentaria. Si fijamos objetivos claros y realizamos acciones precisas para combatir, de manera estructural, las causas que provocan la pobreza, habremos dado también pasos importantes para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria en el mundo.

El Gobierno de México comparte esta tesis fundamental, por ello aplica políticas vinculadas directamente al incremento productivo del sector agropecuario. Además mediante el Programa de Educación, Salud y Alimentación, que México se denomina PROGRESA, apoya a 14 millones de personas que viven en situación de pobreza extrema, no desde una visión asistencialista sino brindando las herramientas que les permita superar sus condiciones de vida.

En el documento, que para este tema nos presenta la Secretaría, se hace referencia de manera continua a otro analizado recientemente en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. En el mismo se afirma que en México la prevalencia de la subnutrición empeoró ligeramente. Sin embargo, deseo reiterar en esta oportunidad que de acuerdo a los datos nacionales más recientes y como producto del esfuerzo en el que estamos empeñados, la desnutrición aguda en 1999,

descendió solo al 2 por ciento de la población y, en ese mismo año, la tasa de mortalidad infantil sólo se ubicaba en 14,5 por cada mil niños con una clara tendencia decreciente a diferencia de los 35 que indica el documento presentado al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Complementando lo anterior, esta delegación hará llegar a la Secretaría de la FAO algunos datos sobresalientes sobre la producción agrícola y ganadera, así como sobre la balanza comercial agropecuaria de nuestro país que, consideramos, pueden ser de utilidad para la Organización en la recopilación de datos actualizados de México.

Adicionalmente, hace unos días, entregamos a la Secretaría de la FAO los resultados de la encuesta nacional de nutrición levantada en 1999 con la petición de que se actualicen los datos que, sobre mi país, maneja la Organización.

Mi delegación apreciará que la Secretaría de la Organización atienda la petición realizada en el 27º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y que reitero en esta ocasión.

Dato' ABI MUSI ASA'ARI MOHAMED (Malaysia)

Malaysia would like to express her concerns on the little progress shown in strengthening the food security situation of the developing countries. Even though large reductions in the number of undernourished were achieved in most of Asia, with a total of 550 million in 1996-98, Asia and the Pacific accounts for more than two-thirds of the undernourished in the developing world. The slow down in food production performance reported will worsen the situation of hungry and undernourished people.

Malaysia knows that FAO analyses regularly the food situation of the world, the past, the present and the projected future. The findings and conclusions contained in the document presented and in annual publications such as the *State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)* and the *State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI)* are available and should be a strong basis in planning and formulating programmes to increasing food production.

The document presented did a very good job in assessing the production of food, its utilization, accessibility and trade within a global scenario. However, a more focused approach should be undertaken to highlight the food security situation of individual developing countries. Information on (1) individual nation's capacity in producing its own food, the demand and utilization of food within the country, the country's self-sufficiency level of major food items, its food import and export data can assist developing countries to better plan and improve their domestic food production and export. Wherever and whenever possible priority should be given to domestic production rather than imports. It is the poor that need food badly and imports cannot 100 percent guarantee availability of food to the poor since the rural poor are mostly farmers. Planting their own food is the best assurance to fight hunger.

(2) Regarding the high degree of duplication between the biannual reporting to the Council on the current world food situation; the annual reporting to the CFS on the world food situation; and the annual reporting to the Conference and Council on the State of Food and Agriculture, we support the Secretariat's recommendation that the biannual reporting to the Council on the *Current World Food Situation* be discontinued. The annual reporting to the Conference and Council and to the CFS is sufficient.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h

Se levanta la sesión a las 13 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
18 June 2001

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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. CURRENT WORLD FOOD SITUATION (CL 120/2)
3. SITUATION ACTUELLE DE L'ALIMENTATION DANS LE MONDE
(CL 120/2)

3. SITUACIÓN ACTUAL DE LA ALIMENTACIÓN EN EL MUNDO (CL 120/2)

Ms Mary MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

May I request that the opportunity is given now to Tanzania, the leader of my region, to present his report.

Costar MAHALU (Observer for Tanzania, United Republic of)

I will be talking on behalf of the Africa Group and I look forward to working under your guidance.

Once again the Africa Group has noted with concern the gloomy picture of the food security situation in the developing world, as rightly put in the document before us. It is clear to all of us that the data in the report covers the years from 1996 to 1998 when natural calamities were occurring in many countries. These calamities whose occurrence continued to happen do, to a large extent, affect efforts geared to the attainment of food security in developing countries.

The unfavorable food shortages occur simultaneously with declining food aid, as sited in the document and review, page one, paragraph three. This situation will necessitate countries to buy food, an alternative, which is not sustainable, considering scarce resources developing countries find themselves in as a result of striking poverty.

Many developing countries' economies rely on agriculture, as mentioned above, whether vagaries have affected it negatively. More important, is that the global liberalization of trade has not been equally beneficial to all players, in the sense that products from developing countries either fetch low prices or do not at all get access to the markets. They are always subject to either high tariff barriers or discriminative non-tariff restrictions.

FAO is a Centre of Excellence in agriculture and other related fields. The Africa Group believes that FAO has a major role to play in African countries, and other developing countries, in terms of policy, planning and technical advice. We regret to note that despite this vital role, aiming at improving the welfare of our people, the Organization is not facilitated with additional resources. We specifically refer to the field programmes; technical programmes that benefit developing countries in their fight against poverty and food insecurity.

The task to improve the food situation is becoming more cumbersome with the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, which undermines the agriculture system and affects the nutritional situation and food security of rural families. As adults fall ill and die, families face decline in productivity, as well as loss of knowledge in farming methods and loss of assets. At the same time, household expenditure rises to meet medical bills while the number of productive family members decline and the numbers of dependants grow. These realities threaten both short-term and long-term food securities strategies.

Furthermore, the Africa Group strongly believes that the political will from both developed and developing countries is necessary, if you are to reach the goal set by the World Food Summit 1996, of reducing the undernourished by half by the year 2015. Here we refer to the comprehensive issues for development and improvement of agriculture food security. Namely,

increase development assistance to agriculture, increase the location of resources to agriculture in national budgets, and reduce protection of markets for goods from developing countries.

Lastly, application of global recommendation should take into consideration specific circumstances of a particular country.

The annual publications on the *State of Food and Agriculture* (SOFA) and the *State of Food Insecurity in the World* (SOFI) do not cover the most current data on the subject. Therefore, they may continue to be published following the current arrangement. However, we see the duplication of resources and effort in the preparation of documents for CFS and the Council, that is done twice in a year. Considering that reports to the CFS are subsequently submitted to the Council and that the contents would not be very different from those documents presented to the Council under the current arrangement, the Africa Group would support the proposal to discontinue the biannual reporting to the Council. However, the Group feels that a Report to the Conference should be maintained in order to give benefit to other Members, who, due to unavailable circumstances, may find themselves unable to attend Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security.

Chul-goo KANG (Korea, Republic of)

I would like to congratulate you on your Chairing of this Session and to extend my appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing this excellent document on this Item.

Let me begin by talking about the current world food security situation. According to the document, 792 million people in developing countries remained undernourished in 1996 to 1998, which implies virtually no change from the estimates made in the previous period.

Several developing countries in Africa and Asia are still facing severe food shortages due to natural disasters and strife. Despite continuous growth of the world economy and considerable food availability in major exporters, the food security situation of the developing world, as a whole, has shown little progress in recent years demonstrating its remarkable diversity between regions and countries.

Furthermore, total food production in the developing countries increased at a lower rate during the 1996 to 2000 period, than the previous five years. The cereal production of major grain importers in low-income food deficit countries has been decreased because of natural disasters and their domestic policy changes. Therefore, the world cereal output in 2000 is estimated to have declined by almost two percent, compared with that over 1999. In addition, world cereal utilization in 2000 to 2001 is expected to outpace the overall cereal production for the second consecutive years.

While considering the uncertainty of the world food situation, it is very important for the individual countries to establish food security strategies as preventative measures by increasing domestic food production through sustainable use of the available resources. Also, FAO should renew a common and consorted effort to achieve the goal set by the 1996 World Food Summit and to fully implement the Plan of Action.

Ms Anchalee OORAIKUL (Thailand)

On behalf of Thailand's delegation, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for preparing an excellent document CL 120/2, *Current World Food Situation*. The document contains very brief and precise details. In particular, the summary and issues for discussion during the Plenary meeting. I believe it would make the meeting more efficient and fruitful. My delegation would like to urge the Secretariat to further keep this format in preparing other documents.

Concerning the trend in food insecurity, it is awful to know, from paragraph nine in the document, that in some developing countries the undernourished population is as high as 50 percent of total population affected by the problems of natural disasters, economic downturns and civil strife. At the same time some countries, especially the developed countries that have potential in agricultural production, spend some of their budget to reduce food production to resolve the marketing problems.

The Thai delegation would like to support FAO's efforts to request more active sponsorship from the developed countries in decreasing the food shortage, especially in the countries where food production is frequently destroyed by natural disasters.

Related to the estimated figure of undernourished population issued by FAO, my delegation would like to remind FAO to notice the differentiation between region to region and also country by country in terms of geography, culture and environment which determine the availability of food and behaviour of consumers regarding food consumption. Indicators used to identify the undernourished population in the developed countries should not be the same as those used to identify the undernourished population in developing countries. Moreover, the estimates based on statistical data might be erroneous due to the unreliability of statistical data from the developing countries. If FAO sets the methodology and framework system on how to select the indicators and facilitate the member countries to identify their own food security situation, it might come up with different pictures.

As for the recent trend related to food production, my delegation agrees with the Secretariat that weather seems to be very favorable for agricultural production, especially in Thailand. Nevertheless, farmers, at this time, remain suffering from agricultural price crisis, especially the low price of paddy and cassava due to over-supply. This will be disincentive and cause farmers to reduce the production of paddy and cassava for other crops that has market potential such as maize, bean and sugarcane. It is forecasted that rice production in 2001, main crop, will decrease by one percent and cassava by almost four percent, while of other crop productions are predicted to rise in Thailand. Broilers and black tiger prawn will be also significantly expanded in production, due to an increase in export demand.

My delegation appreciates this document CL 120/2, *Current World Food Situation*. It is very useful to all different groups of concern. So, I prefer to have this Report presented in this Council meeting.

Fabien OWONO-ESSONO (Gabon)

En poursuivant ce qui a été dit tout à l'heure au nom du Groupe africain, je voudrais, en particulier pour notre pays et certains pays de la sous-région, déplorer, encore une fois, l'aggravation de la situation de la sous-alimentation et indiquer que près de 50 pour cent de nos populations en souffrent en raison des conflits dans la sous-région et aussi des problèmes bien connus des zones rurales et de l'urbanisation dans nos différentes villes. Au-delà des conflits que connaît notre sous-région, d'autres facteurs se sont révélés assez important par rapport à cette dégradation de la sécurité alimentaire.

Dans le paragraphe 45 du document qui nous a été présenté, il est fait état de la production du manioc, et nous constatons que, dans certaines de nos régions, il y a une perte importante de production due à une dévastation assez prononcée des cultures de manioc par les insectes, les chenilles ou les vers. A cet égard, nous souhaiterions qu'à l'avenir, le Secrétariat, lors de l'élaboration des documents concernant la situation alimentaire dans le monde, présente des données approfondies, plus analytiques reflétant la situation spécifique des cultures dans chaque pays. Cela nous permettrait ainsi de formuler, sur la base de données chiffrées, les besoins tels qu'ils sont déclinés par nos différents pays. Cela nous permettrait ainsi de mieux appréhender, les préoccupations qui se font jour et qui devraient mieux refléter les programmes soumis à votre attention. Cela nous permettrait aussi de formuler des demandes d'assistance basées sur des données fiables. Ceci apporterait sûrement une réponse plus adéquate à nos besoins. Dans le prolongement de ce qui a été dit au nom du Groupe africain, dans certaines zones, des calamités se font jour et, dès qu'elles sont signalées, elles pourraient être appréhendées afin de répondre de façon significative au programme établi.

Hassane BENABDERRAZIK (Maroc)

Permettez-moi d'abord de féliciter les trois Vice-Présidents pour leur élection et leur souhaiter pleine réussite dans leur mission. Permettez-moi également de féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du rapport qui nous a été soumis sur la situation alimentaire mondiale actuelle. Tout en

faisant miens les propos du Président du Groupe africain, je voudrais centrer ma courte intervention sur l'importance de prendre en compte la désertification et la lutte contre la sécheresse dans notre rapport sur l'état de l'alimentation, comme le montre l'exemple de mon pays.

Je voudrais également m'associer à la position du délégué d'Egypte pour sa proposition qui consiste à expédier une mission d'enquête, "fact-finding mission", dans les territoires palestiniens. Notre pays a été confronté à la troisième année de sécheresse successive et son importance, ainsi que celle de la désertification dans le cadre des performances du secteur agricole, ne doivent pas être sous-estimées. Ces performances permettront de relever les défis de la lutte contre la pauvreté et l'éradication de la faim dans notre pays et dans le monde. A ce titre, la mise en œuvre d'une démarche intégrée à l'échelle du pays, incluant les recommandations du Plan d'action contre la désertification, issue de la Convention des Nations Unies pour la lutte contre la désertification, nous a permis de réduire et mitiger les effets de la sécheresse sur la pauvreté et l'exode rural. Pour cela, nous nous sommes attachés à accompagner les paysans, les ruraux et les éleveurs tout le long de cette catastrophe naturelle, pour qu'ils puissent rester dans leur ferme, dans leur village, pour qu'ils puissent préserver leur cheptel et obtenir les capacités financières et humaines pour un redémarrage rapide de l'activité agricole dès que les conditions climatiques le permettront. Il nous semble alors essentiel que le suivi des catastrophes climatiques, mais également "politiques" puisse participer à l'analyse de la situation de l'alimentation dans le monde de manière plus approfondie.

A ce propos, permettez-moi encore de me joindre à l'appel pour une mission d'urgence de notre Organisation dans les territoires palestiniens afin de mesurer les besoins que la situation dramatique de nos frères requiert.

Hafeez AKHTAR (Pakistan)

On behalf of the delegation of Pakistan, allow me to extend to you good wishes and warm greetings. I may also thank the Secretariat for presenting this quality document on the *Current World Food Security Situation*.

The concept of food security in today's world encompasses a broad set of issues relating to agricultural production, rural development, access to food and international trade in agricultural commodities. Indeed, the world is now in a better position to tackle major food crises, than it was in the 1970s. There has been a significant progress in the world food supply situation over the years, but its uneven distribution accompanied by rapid population growth and natural and man-made disasters pose colossal challenge to the world security in general, and that of the food deficit countries in particular. The environmental degradation, burgeoning external debt, volatile international commodity prices, protectionism and unfair terms of trade against the developing world have cumulatively exacerbated the situation. Intensive efforts are now required, more than ever, to arrest hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Despite the general unsatisfactory situation of food and agriculture in the world, Pakistan has consistently been able to perform reasonably well in this sector. The present Government in Pakistan is committed to improving the lot of the common man, and has embarked upon a comprehensive agricultural policy based on: provision of incentives to the producer through appropriate pricing which means removal of market imperfections; increasing credit facilities to enable the small farmers to purchase their inputs; diversification of agriculture to high value crops, livestock and fisheries with a view to improve the profitability of the farmer; creation of export oriented agricultural base; enhancement of productivity on a sustainable basis; and induction of private corporate sector in agricultural production operations.

In the last year in Pakistan, wheat production reached a record level of 21.1 million tonnes resulting in substantial savings in foreign exchange besides providing safety stock for future. Rice production increased to 5.2 million tonnes from 4.7 million tonnes. Apart from these two major crops, Pakistan is producing other crops including sugarcane, corn, pulses, millet, sorghum, barley, vegetables and fruits. Total annual production of vegetables, including potato is around

4.7 million tonnes. The total annual production of fruits is 5.8 million tonnes. Our potential, however, is much higher and we have to work harder in this field.

Our efforts received a serious blow in the current year on account a severe drought. According to preliminary estimates, there is a loss of over one point in GDP growth rate as a result of this drought, principally in the crop and livestock sectors. Though the impact has been felt on irrigated areas as well, the worst affected are the rainfed areas, increasing their vulnerability and food insecurity. In terms of availability and stability of supply, we can say that, according to the present estimates, Pakistan's production of wheat would reduce to less than 19 million tonnes, due to drought conditions. However, considering carryover stocks of about 3.5 million tonnes from the previous year, Pakistan would be able to meet its domestic requirement with some possibility of export as well.

Water availability for agriculture, its use and conservation is becoming increasingly important for agriculture-based economies like Pakistan, not only for their food security but also for poverty alleviation and economic growth. We, therefore, believe that this should form a key element in strategies for poverty reduction and food security, and receive high consideration in resource allocation. Emphasis must also be placed on appropriate technologies for dry lands and arid and rainfed areas for agriculture and development.

Livestock and fisheries are assuming great importance in the overall food security, and in the development of agricultural and agro-based industries. The thrust of the Government's policy is to increase livestock products, fruits and vegetables which have a direct impact on nutritional status of the common man. The country is now producing 31.8 million tonnes of milk, two million tons of meat. Our fish production has increased to 0.65 million tonnes. There is rich potential both for developing inland and marine fisheries. Construction of fish harbours will help in exploring this rich resource. We are planning to undertake deep-sea fishing. Inland, aquaculture activities are also being intensified.

From the document before us, we note that according to the latest estimates, the decline in the number of the undernourished has to come to a halt when there is need to reduce the number by at least 20 million per year, if the targets of the World Food Summit are to be achieved. This requires serious thinking and comprehensive review. We believe that the call made by the membership to hold a review at the highest level during the November Conference, was an appropriate one and should go a long way in strengthening the resolve and removing bottlenecks to the achievements of the target of halving the number of hungry poor in the world.

This document, as well as those submitted to the Committee on World Food Security, clearly show that South Asia continues to register a staggering increase in the absolute number of undernourished. We, therefore, cannot over-emphasize the need for targeting this region for attaining the objectives of the World Food Summit. In this regard, we can only express concern over the reported decline in food aid shipments to developing countries in general, and to Asia in particular, which is the home of the highest number of malnourished.

During the CFS, we had joined many others in highlighting the food insecurity together with the forms of insecurity being faced by the people of Palestine. We now join the Egyptian Delegation and others, in requesting for an update on actions that may have been initiated by FAO since the CFS.

Finally, coming to the issue for discussion mentioned in paragraph 65, we note that there is obviously some duplication and overlap in reporting on the global food situation. We believe that this duplication and overlap can be considerably reduced through (a) reducing reporting; (b) differentiated reporting.

We support the continuation of the annual reporting to either the Conference or the October/November Session of the Council on the *State of Food and Agriculture*, laying out the basic update information on the various aspects of the situation. We also support reporting annually to the Committee on Food Security on assessment of the world security situation, with an analytical and strategic focus to facilitate achievement of the World Food Summit targets.

We agree that biennial reporting to the Council in its June Session should be discontinued. Instead, objectives of this report could possibly be achieved by adding an information document as an update to be considered along with the WFS Report.

Masato ITO (Japan)

The purpose of my intervention is to support the suggestion of the Secretariat in paragraph 66 of the document CL 120/2.

The review of the *Current World Food Situation* is one of the most important tasks of the Council. However, as is pointed out in paragraph 66 of that document, the issue has been discussed in an intensive manner in technical committees, in particular in CFS. Therefore, for the purpose of efficiency and having in mind the workload of the Secretariat, I would like to concur with the suggestion of the Secretariat in paragraph 66 of the document.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Tal como lo hicimos en la recién terminada plenaria del 27 ° Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, y hoy reiteramos en este 120° Período de Sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, a nombre del Grupo de los 77, ante la seria situación de seguridad alimentaria en la Margen Occidental y la Franja de Gaza desde la Intifada, solicitamos a la FAO que considere seriamente el inmediato envío de una misión para verificar el deterioro de la situación alimentaria en los territorios palestinos.

El Grupo de los 77 propone los siguientes términos de referencia para la misión de verificación propuesta: estimar la situación de seguridad alimentaria de la población de la Ribera Occidental y la Franja de Gaza desde los acontecimientos de los últimos meses; estimar las necesidades de los campesinos palestinos de suministros de emergencia de semillas, posturas, fertilizantes, aperos de cosecha, alimento animal y otros prerequisites agrícolas abastecidos en base de emergencia, preferiblemente a través de las operaciones especiales de socorro de la FAO; hacer propuestas que eviten que la asistencia alimentaria proveniente de la comunidad internacional sea interferida arbitrariamente por el ocupante; hacer recomendaciones para el almacenamiento adecuado de alimentos en los Territorios Palestinos bajo el control de la Autoridad Palestina para asegurar una cantidad suficiente y su distribución puntual; formular un programa intermedio de uso de los alimentos para la generación de empleo para los hombres y mujeres palestinos en ocupaciones como el desarrollo de la tierra, la forestación comunitaria y el almacenamiento de madera en las aldeas, el suministro de agua, la vivienda rural y urbana, la construcción de escuelas, centros de salud, caminos para la alimentación de instalaciones sanitarias. Este programa sería financiado por el TCP y el PESA de la FAO.

En nombre de los países del Grupo de los 77 respaldamos los planteamientos realizados en este Consejo por las distinguidas Delegaciones de Egipto e Irán, Marruecos y Pakistán en su justo reclamo de proporcionar la ayuda necesaria al pueblo palestino sometido a injustas sanciones económicas. Para ello, es necesario la asistencia y la ayuda inmediata a esta población que, prácticamente, hoy es un pueblo rehén.

En este sentido hay un verdadero clamor de toda la comunidad internacional y de este modo nos pronunciamos en este 120° Período de Sesiones del Consejo de la FAO en nombre del Grupo de los 77: es necesario defender y apoyar el derecho y la ayuda al heroico pueblo palestino.

Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun)

La délégation camerounaise se joint aux délégations qui l'ont précédée, pour féliciter les trois Vice-Présidents et les membres du Comité de rédaction pour leur brillante élection.

Nous sommes convaincus que sous votre conduite et avec leur soutien, nos travaux se dérouleront bien et déboucheront sur des décisions et résolutions concrètes.

Tout en souscrivant à la déclaration faite au nom du Groupe africain par le délégué de la Tanzanie, nous voulons faire quelques observations complémentaires. La présente session se tient quelques mois seulement avant le *Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après*, Sommet au

cours duquel les Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement feront le point sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial tenu ici-même à Rome en 1996.

Nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour la clarté du document qui est soumis à notre examen et qui décrit tout à fait la situation alimentaire mondiale actuelle, et attire l'attention sur les cas graves, notamment celui des Etats d'Afrique au sud du Sahara, dont la sécurité des populations continue à se dégrader depuis la tenue du Sommet de 1996.

Nous souscrivons entièrement aux conclusions du paragraphe 18 du document CL 120/2, à savoir qu'il existe un lien étroit entre la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire.

Au Cameroun, la majorité des pauvres vit en milieu rural et est constituée en grande partie des femmes et des jeunes. Nous souhaitons, par conséquent, que les politiques internationales de lutte contre la pauvreté menée par la FAO, la Banque mondiale, la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) et d'autres bailleurs de fonds, tiennent compte de cette relation étroite, et que le développement de l'agriculture, à travers les petits producteurs, constitue la priorité dans le cadre de l'initiative PPTE.

Ce constat nous amène aussi à nous interroger sur la pertinence des mesures prises par les gouvernements de ces Etats pour renverser cette tendance. Car il faut le dire, de gros efforts sont déployés pour améliorer la situation. Mais les résultats sont ceux que nous connaissons.

C'est le cas dans notre Pays et nous voulons proposer qu'au-delà des constats, le Secrétariat s'intéresse également aux causes, aux obstacles, aux raisons des échecs et fasse des recommandations précises à l'intention des Etats et, à défaut, des régions concernées.

Cela nous paraît possible à partir des rapports des gouvernements sur la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation qui comporte désormais des indications dans ce domaine. Exploités dans ce sens, ces rapports seraient d'une plus grande utilité.

Le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale pourrait se charger, lors de ses sessions, d'examiner la pertinence des recommandations du Secrétariat avant de les soumettre au Conseil et à la Conférence.

S'agissant de la situation qui prévaut dans notre pays, il y a lieu de signaler la sécheresse qui a largement contribué à la dégradation de la sécurité alimentaire dans les régions septentrionales.

Cette situation a amené le Chef d'État à prendre des mesures d'intervention d'urgence en faveur des populations victimes de cette catastrophe dont l'ampleur, évaluée par la FAO, le PAM et d'autres partenaires du développement, a débouché sur un appel à une aide internationale qui est en train de se mettre en place.

C'est pour nous l'occasion, au nom de notre Gouvernement, de remercier sincèrement tous ceux qui ont répondu à notre appel.

Dans les autres régions du pays, la production vivrière a enregistré de légers progrès grâce aux mesures prises par les pouvoirs publics dans le cadre de la lutte contre la pauvreté, notamment l'exonération des taxes des intrants agricoles, d'élevage et de la pêche, mais également grâce à la création d'un cadre juridique qui facilite désormais une meilleure organisation des producteurs et le financement de leurs projets par les coopératives d'épargne et de crédit.

L'objectif visé pour l'augmentation de la production vivrière est d'atteindre d'ici cinq ans un taux d'accroissement annuel de 3,3 pour cent avec la mise en œuvre des mesures préconisées dans l'amélioration de la productivité des exploitations agricoles. La marge de croissance par rapport à l'augmentation naturelle des besoins qui est de 2,8 pour cent par an, permettra d'améliorer la disponibilité en produits et la stabilité des prix sur les marchés urbains.

Nous louons les efforts de la FAO et d'autres bailleurs de fonds en ce qui concerne la production du manioc en particulier.

Nous continuons à penser que ce produit, compte-tenu de son importance, mérite un meilleur traitement par le Comité des produits de la FAO, car il peut considérablement améliorer la

sécurité alimentaire dans de nombreuses régions actuellement en difficulté. Nous pourrions y revenir lors de l'examen du rapport du Comité des produits.

La malnutrition chronique a diminué dans toutes les provinces à l'exception des provinces septentrionales du pays confrontées régulièrement à des calamités naturelles.

La pandémie VIH/SIDA contribue également à freiner l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire. Une lutte acharnée contre cette maladie, avec le concours de tous, mérite une attention particulière.

Une fois de plus, nous souhaitons que nos travaux débouchent sur des recommandations pertinentes. Ceci facilitera les travaux de la prochaine Conférence qui verra la participation des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement ayant des décisions importantes à prendre.

Bachar AKBIK (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of my Government, I would like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and also the members of that Committee. I would like to wish our Council every success in its work, thanks to the wise leadership of its Chairman. I would also like to thank the Secretariat very much for the excellent reports which they have prepared for us. They are very detailed, transparent reports.

We are all aware of the worsening of the world food situation in spite of everything which this Organization is doing and all the work it is carrying out. In spite of all this, we note that the number of people who are suffering from malnutrition in developing countries has slightly increased if we look at the figures of 1996. If we want this Organization to be able to implement the objectives which had been adopted at the Rome World Food Summit, particularly cutting down the number of poor people who suffer from hunger by 50 percent by the year 2015, we must all be aware that we should all provide this Organization with the necessary resources to be able to carry out these tasks. We should work to get rid of all the obstacles which hinder the achievement of this very important human project.

Now, based on that, Syria therefore expresses support for the Director-General's initiative, that is to say, the holding of the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

We also support the proposals made by him on the following points: first, the establishment of a special fund to finance projects which would cut down the level of hunger in the world; second, fighting against hunger as an essential step to prevent the spread of poverty; third, appealing to international institutions and international banks that there should be an increase in the resources devoted to agriculture whether bilaterally or multilaterally; and fourth and last, supporting the Director-General's guidelines aimed at increasing the sums allocated to technical cooperation within this Organization's budget, in order to enable FAO to respond to the requirements of Member Nations within technical cooperational activities.

We should like now to refer to a point which was mentioned by the representative of Iran, that is to say, drought. Drought is something which has been prevalent in the Middle East for several years now and it is, in fact, becoming a chronic problem. In the first place, drought is the cause of the imbalance in agricultural production in our country. At the last Council Session, we already dwelt on the importance and seriousness of this problem for the whole region, not only as far as it concerns food security but also as it affects the security itself of the whole region. What we have done so far, concerning fighting the drought and dealing with water management, is not satisfactory because this, and other natural disasters, is one of the essential factors, if not the essential factor, which has prevented the establishment of guidelines by this Organization which would help it to cut down the number of undernourished people in the area, as stated in paragraph 9 of the document before us now.

We would therefore like to appeal to this Organization so that it should give this subject its due priority and give it greater importance in drawing up the new Programme of Work and Budget for the Organization.

Although enormous efforts have been made during the last meeting of the Committee on World Food Security in order to draw attention to the worsening situation of food security in the territories occupied by Israel, we regret that we have to note that the document that has been submitted, in spite of its clarity and transparency, has not taken into consideration the suffering of the Palestinian people and the obstacles which prevent the arrival of food aid and aid in the health sector.

We are convinced that, given the situation, this Organization has a duty to provide urgent assistance for the people of Palestine who are experiencing a blockade, also given its role in relationship to other United Nations Specialized Agencies who are working on the basis of multilateral assistance. This requires that there be no discrimination in the missions sent out by this Organization, because assistance should be supplied to all those who need help if we wish to guarantee the necessary independence to ensure that this Organization can carry out its very noble missions, in accordance with its basic constitution.

Now, we are very surprised to note that there have been objections to sending an enquiry mission which, in fact, should help us in our work and enable this Organization to obtain the information which is essential in order to be able to respond adequately to help meet the essential food needs of the Palestinian people who are undergoing this blockade. This mission should also be able to target efforts to those most in need and assess the work required in order to rebuild what was demolished by the Israeli authorities, that is to say the agricultural infrastructure in Palestinian territory.

Through you, Mr Chairman, I should like to appeal to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee that he should ensure that the Drafting Committee's work reflect the content of the discussions here within the Council meetings.

Finally, once again, I should like to thank the Organization for the very praiseworthy service it has done for us and for financing projects which have been extremely useful for my country.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

The compliments of the Nigerian delegation to the high table and congratulations also to the Secretariat for the beautiful document, a very elegant document that I have browsed through this last weekend.

The picture presented in that document, at least for the developing world and, in particular, Africa, is at best very disturbing and at worst very discouraging. We have been told that both in absolute numbers and in percentage terms, the number of undernourished, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, appears to be rising, or at worst stagnant for so many years back.

I do not intend to spend my time going into the details of the submission but I would like to capture a few points to further strengthen the view which the Africa Group raised through its Chairman. I would like to associate myself fully with what was read by His Excellency the Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania in this regard.

The situation has a number of reasons underlining it: one, man-made disasters, two, natural disasters; and three, declining injection of resources into the agricultural sector, both at the international level, through the international funding agencies and, at the national level, domestically.

The point, the basic problem before this Committee, is to try and identify what the causes are, and I have listed a few of them. The next question is how to prescribe the remedy.

Natural disasters are issues that cannot be helped much. The only intervention we seek and we would like to strengthen from the point of view of FAO, is the early warning system. Most of our countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are at risk in this regard. We would therefore wish that FAO, as much as possible, strengthens each capacity in this regard.

With respect to the manmade disasters, I have little comment to make for obvious reasons. Already comments on the floor here are raising a number, so I will leave it at that.

The other point I would raise is funding. I think, with respect to the international funding agencies, I would like to borrow from the comments made by the Director-General this morning. I will leave it at that. I only hope that the Panel on Resource Mobilization will be able to put up something that the Heads of State and Governments will benefit from in the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

Regarding the point of domestic mobilization of resources, I have come from one of the developing countries, and indeed from the sub-Saharan Africa, where the problems of natural disasters are prevalent and where we stand a chance of being able to benefit from any international intervention. I would like to admit here that the governments in our areas have probably done a little less than what they should—and we must admit this very frankly. The proportion of resources that go to agriculture in most of our domestic budgets are far below what FAO has recommended over the years. We have seen this year in and year out, at least I can speak on behalf of my country and one or two others. After all, God says, God helps those who help themselves. We should carry a message to our Governments, through this Committee, that in the budget preparation, agriculture and rural development should be given their rightful place. In the mobilization we hope that, by this mobilizing, we will be able to encourage the international funding agencies to come to our aid.

The last point is the issues that relate to trade, as these are incentives to farming in our various countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. I have heard of food security in the United Nations system being defined as access to food. Access to food can be by direct import, by purchase, but I think, as my colleague from Malaysia mentioned this morning, if we are defining access to food mostly coming from imports, my humble submission is that that is faulty because, at the end of the day, the man who is hungry is the least capable of buying the food, even if it is imported into the country anyway.

The second aspect is that import is subject to the vagaries of international trade, therefore our view in Nigeria is that the answer, the ultimate answer, lies with self-sufficiency in food production, not just simply access. We would therefore urge the international community, through FAO and others, to see to it that our food production capacity is pushed to the extent where we can boast of food self-sufficiency rather than mere access to food.

I hope I have made a point that is clear.

Finally, I would like to say that the same countries, and I think my colleagues have mentioned it this morning, the same countries that come in here and clamour for support in agriculture production are, by and large, the same countries that are suffering from debt-overhang, who will never be tired of mentioning this point in these international fora. We did raise it at the COAG Meeting, we raised it at the Committee of Food Security Meeting, we are raising it here now, and we will raise it again when the opportunity avails itself. How on earth do you provide the infrastructure for a developing country as poor as Nigeria, at such cost that, at the end of the day, after the intervention is completed, it spends all its external earnings. It is sad, is it not, that you expect it, to sustain the infrastructure placed by the World Bank, I mean the infrastructure built by loan form, the World Bank or other international funding institutions. This is our dilemma. We would want to use this forum to carry the message across that all these efforts at our end are subject largely to our capacity to be able to utilize 90 to 100 percent of our resources for development, rather than spending one-third of it paying debts, or servicing debts.

André Anatole YAMEOGO (Burkina Faso)

Nous ne pouvons que nous réjouir du rythme plus rapide de l'augmentation de la production alimentaire mondiale ces cinq dernières années, mais par contre, s'inquiéter de la baisse de cette production dans le monde en développement. Le rapport fait état d'une année 1999 décevante dans la production vivrière en Afrique sub-saharienne et les estimations de l'année 2000 n'indiquaient aucune amélioration. La réalité est que l'année 2000 est beaucoup plus catastrophique, car sur le terrain, nous avons constaté des pénuries alimentaires que les pays en développement tentent de surmonter avec l'appui des partenaires. Ces sécheresses observées

semblent être le début d'un cycle qui frappera surtout les pays sahéliens, et nous voulons partager nos inquiétudes avec le Conseil.

Le Burkina Faso fait partie de ces pays qui ont connu cette année la crise alimentaire et est également concerné, comme les autres pays du Sahel, par cette sécheresse cyclique dont on parle.

Le Gouvernement du Burkina Faso, nous l'avons déjà dit, est convaincu que la sécurité alimentaire, l'autosuffisance alimentaire au Burkina Faso, trouvera sa solution dans un programme de petite irrigation. Il est d'autant plus convaincu que le projet PSSA "Aménagement des petits ouvrages d'irrigation au Burkina Faso" a donné satisfaction aux producteurs concernés par le projet pilote, malgré les problèmes que nous avons recensés.

La Délégation du Burkina Faso appuie la déclaration faite au nom du Groupe africain. Elle voudrait également soutenir la proposition de la suppression de ce point à l'ordre du jour de la session de juin du Conseil qui peut être intégré dans l'examen du rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire (CSA).

Je ne saurais terminer sans remercier le Secrétariat pour le document qui nous a été présenté sur la situation alimentaire mondiale actuelle et féliciter le Vice-Président nouvellement élu.

Ahmed HACHEMI (Observateur pour l'Algérie)

Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter les membres du Bureau qui viennent d'être élus. Je voudrais par la même occasion féliciter les membres du Comité de rédaction et appuyer la déclaration qui vient d'être faite par Son Excellence, l'Ambassadeur de la République Unie de Tanzanie, en sa qualité de Président du Groupe africain.

L'état de l'alimentation dans le monde demeure une source de préoccupation en dépit de certaines améliorations. C'est, en effet, ce que fait ressortir la présentation faite dans le document qui nous a été soumis par l'Organisation, tant sur le plan des données actuelles que pour leur dimension prospective. Il nous semble en effet paradoxal qu'au moment où l'on constate une suffisance de la production mondiale, ou du moins son augmentation, le nombre de personnes mal nourries a, dans le meilleur des cas, stagné. Il est de ce fait urgent de poser, avec une plus grande acuité et un plus grand intérêt, le problème de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde, de s'interroger sur les véritables causes qui le soutendent.

Il nous appartient en effet d'approfondir l'analyse dans ce cadre, à la faveur de programmes novateurs dont la base existe déjà, pour assurer un taux optimal de réalisation des objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996, et si on veut réellement éviter que la situation déjà préoccupante, dans certaines portions de l'Afrique notamment, ne s'aggrave d'avantage. Cet élan de solidarité qui doit émaner de notre prestigieuse Organisation, la FAO, appelle de ses États Membres de lui fournir les moyens nécessaires à son action à travers la participation effective au PSSA et la coopération technique.

Finalement, je voudrais dire un mot sur la situation alimentaire critique des populations palestiniennes. Un mot certainement par souci d'économie de temps et pas en fonction de l'importance que nous accordons à cette question. L'ensemble des participants, au cours de la session précédente du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, a pu constater l'intérêt évident que le Comité a porté à cette question et l'appel qui a été lancé, la majorité des délégations qui ont abordé cette question en faveur d'une action urgente que l'Organisation se devait de prendre pour inverser la tendance et voir dans quelle mesure elle pourrait répondre aux besoins des populations palestiniennes. Je voudrais, à cet égard, partager la même préoccupation que la délégation de la Syrie, de l'Iran, de l'Égypte, mais surtout la déclaration faite par l'Ambassadeur de Cuba en sa qualité de Président du Groupe des 77.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

I do apologize for taking the floor for the second time on behalf of the United States but some issues were raised after we had made our intervention. We just wanted to go on record and make

sure that the Drafting Committee had adequate opportunity to reflect our views on the proposed emergency mission to the Palestinian Territories.

The United States regrets this proposal has introduced what would seem to be an inappropriate element of politization into the work of this body. We do not believe that this proposal advances the cause of peace in accordance with the Mitchell Commission proposals.

FAO has both the Mandate and the means to undertake food assessment missions, we do not question that. The Secretariat should not need to await instructions from the Council when emergencies strike. Therefore, we believe that it is inappropriate for the Council to take up this role.

We would also note that the World Food Programme, the UNRWA and numerous private voluntary organizations are already in place and actively working to address food security problems where they exist. We believe that these are the competent organizations to deal with short term emergencies in food security.

Ms Mary MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak on behalf of Zimbabwe, the Southern African Development Community Food Security, Agriculture and Natural Resources Coordinating Office to contribute to the comments on sub-Sahara.

I share the comments that have been raised by the previous speakers and by our Chairman of the Group of sub-Saharan Africa, Tanzania, on the need for us to redouble our efforts as we try to fight hunger and poverty.

In Zimbabwe, similar to the pattern of the previous year the rainy season was generally favourable in the North but this area only produces about 70 percent of the cereal harvest. The rains, however, came late and were below normal in the southern part and in the eastern part of the country and there was a prolonged dry spell, some floods, waterlogging and germination of crops that were almost ready for harvesting. The effect of this process was that crop yields in many parts of the country were below average.

Despite these setbacks, we feel that the national food supply situation taking into account the carryover stocks from last year, will probably not result in large maize input requirements. The general food supply situation is being closely monitored within the SADEC Secretariat to see how much needs to be imported.

The Zimbabwe Government remains committed to guaranteeing the growth of the agricultural production in our country. We see agriculture as the mainstay of the economy and the most important source of employment. For us agriculture accounts for 42 percent of the exports. There is no doubt that agriculture has a critical role to play in creating a stable macroeconomic environment and ensuring national and household food security, employment and overall economic growth.

In trying to respond to the issue of availability and access to food supplies. For agriculture to develop in a sustainable way, there is need to provide mechanisms and collaborative financing measures of the agricultural activities by the government together with the private sector and the other coordinating partners. To this end, the Government is entering into coordinating programmes with the stakeholders in an approach to commodities programmes to enhance commodity production and marketing. The major focus is on: accelerating agricultural production and agro-industrial growth to create additional rural income earnings and employment opportunities; development of smallholder production systems with minimum changes to the environment; improvement of participation of women at all levels of agriculture and increasing the number of women training in agriculture; reforming the public sector in order to improve efficiency, effectiveness and ensure demand driven responses; upgrading agricultural education for the farmer, the researchers and indeed the practitioners; and to implement an agrarian reform, in order to increase efficiency in land utilization and to bring about high production.

We are confident that this will improve the national food security situation in the country and eliminate hunger and poverty.

We do admit that we cannot conclusively deal with this question of hunger and poverty on our own without including the direct input of the smallholder farming sector. Now we are seriously tackling this question and we realize that many possibilities are beginning to open up to the smallholder sector which currently produce about 60 percent of our cereal production. With adequate technical assistance, we are certain that this target will be achieved.

In the SADC context, the rain pattern was similar to the situation that happened in Zimbabwe and countries such as Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia had another bad bout of floods, which affected their yields negatively. Due to insufficiency of food production to cover our regional requirements, the food supply situation is expected to remain precarious. The SADC Food Ministers will be meeting in the coming week to examine the extent of the need in the region and work out the future plan.

SADC has placed major emphasis on ensuring food security in the region by promoting regional food security projects. A number of regional food security programmes are underway and this covers the Natural Resources Development Unit and the Early Warning Systems. Under these programmes, individual Members have been given responsibility to coordinate the development and exploitation of individual sectors and we are beginning to see encouraging results in those sectors where we are ploughing extra resources.

Through the SADC Food Security Training Project exchange programmes, study visits have been undertaken and these exchanges have not only involved government officers and academics and farmers to exchange information among themselves and recently with dairy farmers undertaking a similar visit in Zimbabwe from our Malawi counterparts. We see this approach in the SADC situation as a way of maximizing our training capacity through exchange of experiences.

The recent establishment of the SADC Rural Development Hub to coordinate funding of projects in the region is most welcome. We would like to appreciate the number of governments and donor agencies that have come together to facilitate the evolution of this project. This is a major step forward that is being made to improve the support for a promotion of our agricultural projects.

Experience in the past has clearly illustrated that individual food security strategies can hinder trade in agricultural products. Additionally, the lack of an effective regional trade programmes can also affect regional food security. The SADC Trade Protocol, due to be implemented soon, is intended to increase trade in agricultural products and stimulate the abundant agricultural production potential in the region.

I am happy to inform you that SADC has received assistance through FAO to set up National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committees to coordinate the harmonization of measures pertaining to food quality and hygiene. Work is also being conducted regarding laws and regulations governing the cross border movement of plant seed, and control of transboundary animal diseases.

All these efforts require the cooperation of SADC countries and their cooperating partners in injecting technical assistance through organizations such as the FAO and its sister organizations.

As regards to the forthcoming budget. The Programme of Work and Budget has been derived from our Medium-Term Plan which we all discussed and agreed upon. We support the linkage of the budget to the goals that we have set for ourselves. We underline the need to strengthen direct FAO assistance to members to increase food production. The problem of resources needs to be tackled realistically. Requests coming from Member States are increasing for both normative and field programme activities.

FAO needs to be in the countries to make a difference. The no growth scenario will not help FAO. We, therefore, recommend that the Council settles for the real growth index since early indications are already showing that if we proceed at the present pace, we will not achieve the World Food Summit goal of halving the number of hungry people by the year 2015. To further

this case, we recommend the setting up of a special Trust Fund in the FAO, mandated to act as a catalyst for our projects.

Members of the Africa Group need assistance from FAO in: training and advisory services in trade-related policies, especially those challenges arising from the WTO Committees; the development and implementation of national FIVIMS; the support of the network of rural development; demands for the extension of the SPFS, particularly those that have shown a lot of promise among our regions; and need for more resources for the TCP as the most immediate and responsive source of funding.

It is in this spirit that we appeal to our cooperating partners to examine seriously the commitments they made during the WFS in 1996. This way, we can still hope to achieve our goal.

Andrew BYRNE (European Community)

I also apologize for taking the floor for the second time and indeed I can be brief.

The European Community and its Member States have listened with great interest to the valuable statements made here today with regard to the current situation in the Palestinian Territories.

Concerning the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Egypt, the President of G-77 and others. We would like to say that we are in support of fact finding missions. Furthermore, we take a great interest in the region both politically and financially. We are confident that FAO has the mandate and expertise to determine the circumstances under which a needs assessment mission should be sent to address a food emergency situation and that it should therefore proceed using established criteria.

Lino VISANI (Observateur pour l'Alliance coopérative internationale)

Vous savez que l'Alliance coopérative internationale, avec ses sept cent millions de membres dans toutes les coopératives du monde, est fortement engagée dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim. La sécurité alimentaire et la démocratie sont des buts fondamentaux pour la nature du mouvement coopératif. Nous pensons et considérons que le document, pour promouvoir la volonté politique pour combattre la faim, à présenter à la prochaine Conférence cinq ans après le Sommet alimentaire mondial, est particulièrement intéressant. Ce document est également intéressant pour la possibilité qu'il donne de considérer des points très importants pour changer positivement la situation économique, sociale et politique du monde. En particulier, la question du renforcement de l'action de relance de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation est très importante.

Il faut développer et renforcer le dialogue et la collaboration avec les ONG à tous les niveaux. Il faut encore renforcer la démocratie et la paix. La lutte pour la démocratie est une condition de base pour assurer à tous les agriculteurs et à tous les consommateurs la possibilité de combattre la pauvreté et la faim. Il faut encore libéraliser un marché mondial agro-alimentaire en fonction de la santé et de la qualité des produits agro-alimentaires dans l'intérêt des consommateurs et des agriculteurs.

Nous participons comme ICA avec l'IFAD, les Nations Unies, l'ILO et la FAO, au Comité pour la promotion de l'aide aux coopératives (COPAC). Le COPAC, au cours de sa dernière réunion, a proposé de prendre, pendant la prochaine Conférence, au Sommet alimentaire: cinq ans après, une initiative parallèle pour illustrer les résultats obtenus par les mouvements coopératifs dans la lutte contre la faim et pour souligner des cas divers où les coopératives ont représenté un point de référence pour l'action contre la pauvreté et la malnutrition.

Nous attendons une réponse positive à la proposition du COPAC à la FAO. Vous savez que le COPAC a été reconnu, en particulier par le Secrétariat des Nations Unies, pour l'action menée dans le monde pour valoriser l'action coopérative.

Nous soulignons aussi que pour la prochaine réunion du Sommet mondial alimentaire: cinq ans après, il serait opportun d'assurer la participation, en particulier de toutes les organisations non-gouvernementales et internationales intéressées, en cette période de globalisation, à entretenir un

rapport particulier de participation à des Conférences mondiales traitant des problèmes de relance et de renouvellement de l'action mondiale pour changer l'équilibre du monde.

Nous pensons aussi que la proposition pour une participation limitée aux conférences sur la sécurité alimentaire ou les tables rondes soit une limite à la participation des mouvements coopératifs et des organisations internationales.

Hussein ALAFLAK (Observer for Palestine) (Original language Arabic)

As you all know, the agricultural sector forms the main source of income and national production in Palestine. The sector in the past suffered major hardships, including environmental and technical hardships. However, the most important hardship lies in the fact that my country, and I believe it is the only country in the world, as we enter the Twenty First Century, that continues to be subjected to direct military occupation. You can imagine what military occupation of a country means in the form of limiting freedom, mobility, choice and production. The agricultural sector, particularly during the last eight months, was subjected to a decisive strike, not because of natural or environmental catastrophes but as the direct result of the policies of repression, siege, that is practiced by the occupation forces around all areas in which the Palestinian authority is in place. You are all aware of what is going on in my country. There is no need for me to repeat or enumerate in detail the repressive measures that are applied against my people in Palestine. I said since eight months, and this means two crops, two agricultural seasons and, in a small society such as mine, that is dependent on agriculture, this will have a destructive and catastrophic effect that will affect the agricultural sector, food production and livestock. Please do not take what I am saying to be an oddity, for all the sectors have also been affected by the siege and by the restrictions on mobility. Fodder cannot be accessed, livestock cannot reach their grazing lands either.

The Palestinian people, who have been subjected to unfair sanctions which have led the people to become hostages who are not allowed even to produce what would cover a part of their needs, this people appeals to you to take immediate action, not in order to avoid a food catastrophe taking place, but to limit or contain the destructive outcomes and impact on the Palestinian people as a whole and particularly the vulnerable sectors, including children and the elderly.

We have great hope that FAO will take an effective role and contribute to limiting the impact of this catastrophe. We consider the fact-finding mission not to be one merely to find out facts because the facts are well known, they are clear to all, but we hope that this mission will be mandated to draw up a binding mechanism, an unambiguous binding mechanism, to secure that aid reaches unimpeded before it is too late, as food has time limits that cannot be delayed. As for politics and applying political agreements, they have other timetables that might not be in harmony with the timetable for the need for food.

Allow me, in conclusion, to express my deep gratitude to all those who have spoken out in support of taking expedient humanitarian measures to assist the Palestinian people. Please excuse me if I point out the position of the European Community that has declared its support for sending a fact-finding mission to Palestine.

N.M. NKAMBULE (Observer for Swaziland)

We would like to associate ourselves with the statement made by the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the Africa Group and also by Zimbabwe on behalf of the SADC countries.

We, in the southern part of the continent, continue to be plagued by national disasters which have seriously undermined every effort made to address meaningfully the food insecurity problem in the subcontinent. Swaziland, in particular, has not fully recovered from the devastating effects of droughts which brought about havoc and suffering to the country during the last two decades.

During the 1991-92 season, in particular, the country experienced a great number of fatalities, particularly in the livestock sector, where about 90,000 head of cattle died as a result of undernourishment and acute water shortages. During the 1999-2000, season crop losses were

again very extreme due to excessive rains which caused extensive flooding and waterlogging problems nationwide.

These disasters brought about untold human suffering to a greater part of southern Africa. Before we could even recover from this calamity, we again fell victim to a devastating heat wave which suppressed crop yields nationwide during the 2000-2001 season. In this regard, we would like to express our appreciation to FAO and WFP for promptly responding to our appeal to send an assessment mission to ascertain the extent of food insecurity in the country following the recent drought. Through this initiative, we are looking forward to tangible interventions in the form of much needed food aid that will alleviate human suffering in affected regions of our country.

Apart from natural disasters, such as I have referred to briefly, another important factor influencing food security is development and adoption of appropriate policies. It is with this realization that we in Swaziland are seriously reviewing major policies affecting agricultural production in general and food security in particular. Such policy reviews are in the areas of land management, livestock development, general agriculture, forestry, resettlement cooperatives and group development. My country wishes to express its appreciation to FAO support in some of these initiatives.

My delegation wishes to register Swaziland's strong support for the Summit scheduled for later this year. My delegation also supports the views expressed by the Secretariat, through the Director-General, that the Organization needs to be allocated more resources to carry out the ever-increasing load of assistance to Member Countries.

A.R. AYAZI (Observer for Afghanistan)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group and, in so doing, we wish to express our strong support to the statement just made to the Council by the Representative of Palestine. He made his case clear and convincing.

In this connection, the Group supports the earlier statements made by Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Morocco, Cuba, Syria and Algeria.

We just heard the statement by the Representative of the European Community. We thank the European Community and we appreciate what he said. He clearly said it and the Council heard it, that he does support the fact-finding mission to Palestine.

Anton KOHLER (Observer for Switzerland)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the document CL 120/2, provided to us.

I am not going to repeat elements which have already been referred to by other delegations. Rather, I would like to focus on one aspect which, to us, is lacking, in order to draft or re-draft, during the Twenty First Conference, the strategies to attack hunger.

What we miss in the present document is the specific outstanding approach chosen in the SOFI 2000 report. The SOFI 2000 Report, as you certainly recall, started analysing the situation of undernourishment according to specific degrees of undernutrition of specific groups or according to depths of hunger. How hungry are the hungry? This would be of special importance regarding the future strategies in the fight against hunger.

Let me explain in easy terms what I mean. It is a time-consuming process to uplift the group of hungry with practically empty plates, in comparison to those with almost full plates or with a low calorie deficit. If we just concentrate our efforts to uplift the least undernourished group, we may even be able to reach the target of the World Food Summit 1996. This would be a kind of opportunistic shortcut to meet the World Food Summit's goal. But is this really our option? Don't we want to uplift the most downtrodden, poorest, most undernourished group from hunger and starvation? If we chose the option of the poorest, of the most vulnerable, then we really require courage, patience and lasting commitment to the task.

We feel that it is not yet too late to have such groupwise data at hand when it comes to discussing the way forward five years after the World Food Summit. Such data should be renewed and made available to the Conference and the Round Tables.

Bachar AKBIK (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to clarify that when we address lack of food security in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, we are not attempting to politicize the issue. We want Palestine to be treated the same as 35 other countries that are considered hotspots of hunger in the world. Perhaps these other countries suffer because of natural disasters but Palestine is a special case for its sufferers, as a result of occupation.

Perhaps, in some of those countries, there is an overflow of water. In Palestine, there is an overflow of bombs and rockets. Why, each time we raise the subject of Palestine, do we find some parties trying to obstruct and to present it as political exploitation and consideration for the feelings of an aggressive country? We want Palestine to be treated just as other countries are treated in food insecurity hotspots. We want a fact-finding mission to be sent to discover the reasons for the existence of such food insecurity.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

I would like to express the thanks of the Secretariat for the many comments on the document and also for the complimentary comments on the format of the document. It leads me to say that, even if Council would decide to follow the recommendation of the Secretariat and discontinue this Item on the biannual sessions of the Council, we will still draw on the experience with this type of document and try to draw lessons for the other documents that you will then continue to discuss in other meetings, regarding the world food security situation and the world food situation.

I do not have many questions to reply to but some very important ones, of course. May I just clarify to the distinguished delegate of Argentina that the reference to production in the developing countries was not that production has declined, it is just the slowdown of the growth of production that we noted. Of course, this is a slight distinction which is a bit less pessimistic than a decline of production would be.

Various delegates, in particular the United States of America, have made reference to the indicators used in the document and recommended a more detailed analysis of the implications of these indicators and of the relationship between indicators. This is, in fact, the purpose of the assessment document to the CFS, that we will now continue to improve, and so I can assure you that we will go in this direction as far as we can, that is, to provide you with a coherent, consistent set of indicators of the world food security situation.

Several countries, and here I refer in particular to the distinguished delegate of Gabon, wanted country-specific data. You will understand that such kind of succinct report is not the occasion to go into country details, at least not systematically. I would refer you to, firstly, the FAOSTAT information base that you can access through the Internet, that has complete commodity balance sheets for all countries although they are sometimes not as recent and complete as you would wish them to be. We are in the process of creating databases for basic food stuffs, including cereals, livestock products, pulses and, in particular roots and tubers, on which, admittedly, the information is, so far, not as complete as it is on cereals. We would hope that, in future – and this is in our Medium-Term Plan – we would have country-by-country current information on the state of the markets and on the balance sheets for each of these commodities, which we could then make available to Members, especially through the Web but also through other documentation.

There was a particular question by the distinguished delegate of the United States regarding various commodity market developments and, in particular, some discrepancy regarding oil crops between what is in the document and what the United States Department of Agriculture, with its rich database, has recently come up with. Now, let me just inform you that we too have more recent information that we were unable to put into this document on the oil crop sector that brings the information closer to what was stated by the United States. In fact, the February issue of the

Food Outlook was the basis for our document but there is a June issue of the *Food Outlook* that is already available on the Web but is not printed in all languages. In that you will find that the output of oils and fats is now expected to grow in the year 2000-2001 by 1.6 percent and not by 1 percent, as is noted in the document. However, this is still much less than the 3.3 percent growth rate registered in the previous season. So the slowdown in growth is of course explained. It is mainly because we expect a fall in the production of rape seed and sunflower seed oils.

Just one other remark on this: the growth in trade in oil and fats is now anticipated to be nearly 3 percent rather than just the 1.3 percent listed in the document. Here we have to update our information significantly and it is now nearly the same as the estimates published in the documentation of the United States Department of Agriculture.

I now come to the interventions concerning the Palestinian territories, beginning with the distinguished delegate of Egypt and then followed by many. I just wish to say that the Secretariat is aware of the difficult situation in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. FAO is prepared and is just taking necessary steps to send a mission to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to assess the situation of food security and nutrition. We will organize this mission under the umbrella of the United Nations and, of course, according to the rules of FAO. We will, as suggested by many, involve other agencies as appropriate, in particular the World Food Programme.

A few more remarks concerning those who commented on the unfortunate situation on development and food security in a number of African countries and here I refer in particular to the statement of the distinguished delegate of Nigeria. I thought that this is the occasion to draw your attention to a document that was supplied to you only today, I believe. It is CL 120/INF/18, *The Thirteen Countries Most Successful in Reducing Undernourishment, 1980-1997*. When you take note of this document, you will see that thirteen countries are mentioned as particularly successful and the criterion was that they have reduced the estimated percentage of undernourished in their population by one percentage point, or more, per year. These thirteen countries are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, China, Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, India, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal and Nigeria. You will note that, out of the thirteen countries, eight are from sub-Saharan Africa. I thought that sends also a signal of hope that success is possible and has been possible also in the continent which, at large, has much less favorable development behind it than this group of countries. Since several of you mentioned factors of success, may I draw your attention to the fact that we have identified a number that are documented there and I have just summed them up, because the document was not available to you before. They are peace and social stability, strong economic growth, primacy of policy support to and investment for food and agriculture, social safety nets for the poor and access to food imports, including food aid.

I believe I have replied to most of the questions, not to the comments of course, because they were not all in need of a reply. We have, of course, noted your reactions to paragraph 66, where those who spoke supported the suggestion to discontinue this Item, but of course I leave it to the Chairman to draw conclusions from these statements.

CHAIRMAN

On this proposal to discontinue the biannual reporting, may I take it that the Council gives its approval to discontinuing the biannual reporting to the Council on the *Current World Food Situation*?

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Asi se acuerda.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina)

Agradezco al Sr. De Haen que me permite hacer una aclaración que, sin duda, se debió a un error en la traducción. En la intervención, Argentina se refirió al párrafo 22 como a una "desaceleración del crecimiento de la producción". Pido por favor que conste correctamente en el *Verbatim*.

Andrew BYRNE (European Community)

I would just like to make a small clarification to our intervention on the issue of the fact-finding mission to the Palestinian Territories. In fact, our intervention had basically three parts. The first part is that the European Community and its Member States are in favour of fact-finding missions in general. Secondly, with regard to this specific area, the European Community and its Member States have both political and financial interests. Thirdly, we consider that FAO, as an Organization, has both the mandate and expertise to determine the circumstances necessary for a needs assessment mission and that it is up to the Secretariat to follow normal procedures in making this determination.

CHAIRMAN

Again, that concludes Item 3 of our agenda.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONTINUED)

III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)

8. REPORT OF THE 27TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

(ROME, MAY-JUNE 2001) (CL 120/10)

**8. RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DE LA SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE MONDIALE (CSA) (ROME, MAI-JUIN 2001)
(CL 120/10)**

8. INFORME DEL 27º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA MUNDIAL (CSA) (ROMA, MAYO-JUNIO DE 2001) (CL 120/10)

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

The Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome from the 28 May to 1 June 2001 is contained in Council document CL 120/10. The Committee examined FAO's assessment of the world food security situation and recommended that governments strengthened capacity for data collection, analysis, and timely dissemination, and incorporate sustainable food security strategies as an integral part of national poverty alleviation programmes.

The Committee accepted the indicators proposed by the Secretariat for future monitoring and made a number of detailed recommendations to FAO, which are set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report.

The Committee also examined an important paper on the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security and recommended that governments take account of the guiding principles and elements of a framework for action set out in the paper, and that this issue be considered at the World Food Summit: *five years later*. It was recommended that FAO support Member Nations in their efforts on this issue and strengthen its collaboration with other agencies, while avoiding duplication, in order to promote food security among AIDS affected populations. The Committee's recommendations on this issue are set out in paragraph 18.

The thematic issue at this CFS concerned the application of appropriate technologies and practices and their impact on food security and the eradication of poverty. The Committee examined a number of case studies, and encouraged governments and FAO to ensure the sharing of successful experiences among developing countries, and to undertake studies on both unsuccessful and successful cases. The full recommendations are set out in paragraph 21.

Committee members and observers also had the opportunity to hear of some strikingly successful cases of sustainable agricultural development at the informal panel, which was held outside of the formal agenda of the meeting. The Committee also had a very detailed discussion on the three

background documents for the World Food Summit: *five years later*. Members made a very wide range of comments, both complimentary and critical on the documents, and these are outlined in paragraphs 23 to 28.

I shall not attempt to summarize such a rich debate, but we should note that the Secretariat were requested to take account of these points, when finalizing the documents for the World Food Summit: *five years later*. These documents will, of course, be issued under the Secretariat's own responsibility.

In relation to arrangements for the World Food Summit: *five years later*, the Committee examined the Secretariat's paper on this issue, and generally agreed it, and its findings and recommendations are set out in paragraphs 31 to 42 of the report. The findings and recommendations in this section of the report were the subject of detailed consultations and negotiations and I expect that delegations are already familiar with them. Therefore, I will not set them out in detail now. Of course, this morning, you accepted one of the proposals in this section of the paper, in paragraph 41, to establish a Working Group to take forward the work on the resolution for the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

The Committee also selected, as the thematic issue to be discussed at the next session of the CFS, the following topic: "The impact of disasters on long-term food security and poverty alleviation - policy implications". The Committee also noted that the Bureau chose the topic: "The impact of access to land on improving food security and alleviating rural poverty - a review of successful cases of land reform in selected countries" for the informal panel discussion at the next session. The Committee decided to recommend to the incoming Bureau the theme "The role of aquaculture in improving food security at a community level - a review of sustainable cases, as the Standing Item on Nutrition at the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee.

I understand that there is one issue which needs Council endorsement, but which unfortunately was not included in the CFS report. I am referring to document CFS 2001/INF/8 on *Food Safety and Quality, Recent FAO-Led Initiatives*. This document provides *inter alia* information on the planned global forum on food safety regulators, to be held in October 2001, and to the Pan-European Conference on Food Safety and Quality to be held in Hungary in February 2002. Both conferences to be undertaken jointly by FAO and WHO, had not been included in the Programme of Work and Budget, and therefore need Council's endorsement. The content of the document was brought to the attention of the CFS, and there was no disagreement to these two initiatives. So I need to bring that issue to your attention.

Finally, I would like to say that the Committee commended Ms Barbara Huddleston for her excellent service as Secretary of the Committee for the past seventeen years and wished her a happy, fruitful and active future.

I understand that Ms Huddleston, the Secretary of the Committee, has one *erratum* to read out.

Ms Barbara HUDDLESTON (FAO Staff)

I regret that in the Spanish version, in paragraph 9, the translation of the English is not correct. The English language which introduced the various bullet points uses the language "give consideration to". This has not been correctly reflected in the Spanish. I draw that to your attention and we will, in the subsequent issuing of this Report, correct the Spanish.

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

Delegates will have noted that on your programme for this afternoon, you have two items: Item 8, the Committee on World Food Security Report to the Council, and Item 11.1, Arrangements for the Conference. The reason these two items are together on your agenda this afternoon is because, of course, of the interface, the link between the two which is the World Food Summit: *five years later*. This will be a special agenda item on the Agenda of the Conference, for which the Committee on World Food Security did a very careful review of proposed arrangements which at the request of this Council had been made by the Secretariat.

To facilitate your addressing of the various issues, I would like to make a few clarifications on the documentation which is before you. You will note that for the item Report of the Committee on World Food Security, you have the report itself in CL 120/10. Then you have two supplements, CL 120/10-Sup.1-Rev.1, and CL 120/10-Sup.2-Rev.1. These are the documents prepared by the Bureau, which in accordance with your decision already this morning will go to the Open-Ended Working Group.

Then you have CL 120/LIM/3. This is the document prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Committee on World Food Security, when it discussed the recommendations it would make to this Council with regard to the arrangements for the World Food Summit: *five years later*. It requested the Director-General to draw to the Council's attention the financial implications of any of the Committee's recommendations. I would like stress that if you have had the chance to look at CL 120/LIM/3, you will note that the conclusion of the document is that the incremental costs to the Regular Programme for the World Food Summit: *five years later*, as recommended by the Committee on World Food Security, are expected to be minimal. In fact, the strategy of using the Committee itself and the Council for the preparations for the event, and also combining the event with the Conference, will permit absorption of costs which otherwise would have been incremental, had it been a separate event.

At the same time, the Secretariat would draw the attention of the Council to the information in paragraphs 27 to 30 of CL 120/LIM/3, which give some indicative costings for activities, which are not recommended by the Committee on World Food Security, with regard to possible negotiations in the future.

If I could, also to facilitate the Council's debate, recapitulate the decisions required, or requested of the Council, at this Session, in order to enable the Secretariat to proceed with preparations for the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

As decided by the Council at its last session, the CFS considered the question of the format of the debate and has, as the Chairman has said, generally agreed to the proposals which the Secretariat made, and which you will find in document CL 120/11-Sup.1, that is a supplement to the document for Item 11.1. This latter document, which was prepared by the Secretariat, was considered by the CFS and the CFS has made some recommendations for change in the original Secretariat proposals.

Therefore, the Council is requested to consider the CFS's views on the Secretariat proposals, and to come to a decision on the following points:

The arrangements for the preparation of the resolution you have already dealt with this morning.

The arrangements for chairing of plenary debates: the Committee considered that the Council should decide on these arrangements for chairing the plenary debate, in the context of the overall question of arrangements for the Conference, and thus under your Item 11.1.

On Round Tables: the Committee has recommended the holding of three Round Tables, and has made specific suggestions, which are contained in paragraph 40 of the Report.

On stakeholders: the Committee has also recommended a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue as a parallel event, with voluntary participation of Member Nation delegations, and the details on that recommendation are in paragraph 42 of the report.

On participation of observers: the Committee noted that the proposed arrangements for the participation of observers, both inter-governmental and non-governmental, were based on the precedents established at the World Food Summit itself, five years ago. Similarly, that the proposals made on debates, related arrangements involving speaking time for countries and observers, were also based on the precedents of the World Food Summit.

If the Council considers and endorses the CFS findings and recommendations, the Secretariat can then proceed with preparations for the event. I would like to clarify right away that, following the Council, and in the coming months, the Secretariat would be in touch, of course, with Member's

representations here in Rome, to clarify the logistic arrangements that are going to be made, on the basis of your decisions.

I would also draw your attention to the proposal made in the document to request all Members to signal their intentions with regard to participation in Round Tables and in the debate itself, by 1 October 2001, to the Secretariat.

So those are the points on which the Secretariat requests clear guidance from the Council, in order to go forward.

I thank you in advance for your time and, of course, the Secretariat is prepared to answer any questions or provide any further clarification, if so desired.

CHAIRMAN

Before the debate, I would like to report to you that I have been informed that the two co-Chairpersons for the open-ended Working Group, will be Mr O'Driscoll of Ireland, and Ms Muchada of Zimbabwe.

Does the Council endorse these two names?

I see no objection,

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

Efraín PALTI SOLANO (Perú)

Quisiera solicitarle tenga a bien darle la palabra al delegado de Venezuela en calidad de Presidente del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

Fernando GERBASI (Observador de Venezuela)

Para mí es un honor hablar en nombre de los países de América Latina y el Caribe. Ante todo permítame manifestar que el GRULAC, consciente de la importancia que reviste la Cumbre de noviembre próximo, considera que no se deben escatimar esfuerzos en sus preparativos y que, para obtener los resultados deseados, es esencial y fundamental que se facilite y permita la participación de todos los países en el proceso preparatorio.

Es por ello que respaldamos las decisiones que, sobre este importante asunto, adoptó el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, pues es necesario que, durante los próximos días, concretemos los arreglos de carácter institucional que garanticen las consultas necesarias para someter a la Cumbre un Proyecto de Resolución, preciso, centrado y conciso, que refleje el compromiso, firme y definitivo, de nuestros gobiernos de alcanzar lo acordado en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996.

Los países de América Latina y el Caribe estimamos, y así lo hicimos saber al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, que la Cumbre de noviembre próximo constituye una ocasión importante para reforzar la determinación política de los gobiernos, de los organismos internacionales, especialmente los del sistema alimentario de las Naciones Unidas, y de la sociedad civil, definiendo y jerarquizando acciones concretas que permitan reducir el hambre al nivel y en el plazo previstos.

Para que la solidaridad se refleje en acciones es necesario canalizar mayores recursos y fortalecer la cooperación, especialmente si tenemos en consideración que la erradicación de la pobreza constituye el principal objetivo de la comunidad internacional para el nuevo milenio. En ese contexto, debemos incrementar las medidas que permitan reducir el hambre que es, al mismo tiempo, causa y efecto de la pobreza.

Reiteramos lo acordado en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: que los alimentos no deben utilizarse como instrumento de presión política y económica y, por ello, rechazamos que se sigan utilizando con ese propósito. Reafirmamos la importancia de la cooperación y la solidaridad

internacionales, así como la necesidad de abstenerse de aplicar medidas unilaterales que no estén en consonancia con el derecho internacional y con la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y pongan en peligro la seguridad alimentaria.

La liberalización del comercio es un aspecto prioritario para el logro de la equidad. El libre acceso a los mercados, la eliminación de los subsidios y de las medidas discriminatorias, arancelarias y pararancelarias, son indispensables para evitar la distorsión de los precios internacionales que afectan directamente las decisiones relativas a las inversiones, los métodos de producción, el comercio y el consumo.

Al mismo tiempo, es conveniente una efectiva aplicación del trato especial y diferenciado a los países en desarrollo, importadores netos de alimentos, en el marco de los acuerdos establecidos por la Organización Mundial del Comercio.

El proceso de sustitución de cultivos requiere con urgencia sostenibilidad económica y social, así como la instrumentación de un esquema para canalizar recursos a proyectos integrales que otorguen valor agregado a las cadenas productivas, de tal forma que los campesinos de la naciones afectadas puedan obtener ingresos justos por el cultivo de productos legales. La responsabilidad compartida y el enfoque integral y equilibrado sobre este problema debe reflejarse a través de una mayor cooperación hacia los programas de desarrollo alternativo, así como mediante un acceso facilitado de los productos sustitutivos a los mercados internacionales. En este contexto, es importante establecer acuerdos para el fomento y la protección de la inversión de capitales.

Toda vez que el hambre crónica sea, en igual medida, causa y efecto de la pobreza, el GRULAC está convencido que cualquier resolución que adopten nuestros Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno debe partir del compromiso que la lucha contra la pobreza empieza con la lucha contra el hambre.

Por ello el GRULAC planteó al Comité un conjunto de propuestas para ser incorporadas como elementos adicionales del proyecto de resolución. Esas propuestas que hoy reiteramos al Consejo son las siguientes.

En primer lugar, los ejes que propone la FAO como punto de partida para diseñar programas nacionales mejorados sobre seguridad alimentaria, establecer responsabilidades institucionales y formar asociaciones, son útiles en la medida que se apliquen con flexibilidad, de acuerdo con cada realidad. La FAO puede cumplir un papel orientador en esta materia.

En segundo lugar, concomitantemente, para un resultado exitoso se requiere que lo mismo ocurra a nivel mundial. En vista que la erradicación del hambre constituye en sí mismo un objetivo de desarrollo internacional, consideramos que debe ser incluido expresamente en las estrategias y los mecanismos de reducción de la pobreza de los organismos de cooperación internacional y de las instituciones financieras internacionales.

En tercer lugar, la asistencia alimentaria para el desarrollo cumple un papel fundamental en las estrategias nacionales de lucha contra el hambre en nuestra región y, por ende, consideramos que se deben realizar mayores esfuerzos para incrementarla, evitando, sin embargo, que la misma sea utilizada como justificativo para ubicar los excedentes existentes en los países que subsidian.

En cuarto lugar, apoyamos la elaboración del Código Internacional de Conducta sobre el Derecho a la Alimentación, siempre y cuando se refiera al acceso a los alimentos, en la medida que así se alentarán los esfuerzos nacionales e internacionales para generar un mayor y mejor acceso a alimentos suficientes, adecuados e inocuos.

En quinto lugar, debemos examinar la idoneidad de los mecanismos vigentes para la cooperación internacional, haciendo énfasis prioritariamente en la capacidad que estos tienen para prevenir y predecir las crisis, así como para promover mecanismos de reacción rápida.

En sexto lugar, se requiere diseñar una estrategia más efectiva de comunicaciones para sensibilizar a la opinión pública internacional sobre el flagelo del hambre, y la FAO, en este caso, debe cumplir una función primordial.

Al valorar la contribución a la seguridad alimentaria que realiza la sociedad civil, reiteramos nuestro convencimiento de que el apoyo de sus organizaciones, así como de las organizaciones no gubernamentales como actores asociados, será muy útil para este esfuerzo conjunto.

El GRULAC considera esencial que, en materia de movilización de recursos, los siguientes elementos también sean tomados en cuenta en la elaboración del proyecto de resolución.

Adoptar el firme compromiso de revertir la tendencia radical a la baja de los recursos financieros dirigidos a la agricultura, tanto a nivel multilateral como bilateral, durante los últimos años.

En segundo lugar, se debe crear, con base a contribuciones voluntarias, un Fondo Fiduciario en la FAO, que contribuya, entre otras cosas, a la formulación de proyectos con los cuales los países en desarrollo puedan acceder más fácilmente a los recursos financieros multilaterales y bilaterales.

Para concluir, el GRULAC desea reiterar su solicitud a la Secretaría para que se examine la clasificación de países de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos, a la luz de las consideraciones que nos hemos permitido hacer y tomando en cuenta que estamos a las puertas de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*. Por tal razón, proponemos que el Consejo haga suya la recomendación del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria de analizar la idoneidad y la justificación de la clasificación de los países PBIDA como base para determinar la asistencia, tal como está contenida en el informe que hoy se somete a la aprobación del Consejo.

Ms Neela GANGADHARAN (India)

We endorse the Report of the Committee on World Food Security and we are particularly happy that the arrangements for the WFS: *fyl* are progressing well. We hope that the working group begins negotiations early enough and is successful in producing a draft text by November this year.

The commitments we made in 1996, in FAO, assume greater significance with development thinking focusing increasingly on rural development and poverty alleviation. The reaffirmation of our commitments we hope would mean renewing the political will to fight hunger and poverty, as well as matching our will with resources and action. We strongly feel that the draft declaration for the World Food Summit: *five years later* should clearly delineate areas of action by FAO, in addition to what Member Governments should do.

India fully endorses the elements suggested by the G-77. We would, however, like to highlight the following.

One, recognize the central role of agriculture in rural poverty alleviation and rural employment and suggest that poverty reduction strategies of national Governments must include measures to increase food production and access to food.

Two, call for increase in investment in agriculture both by national governments and international financial institutions, to develop infrastructure, facilitate value addition and processing, thereby improving productivity and profitability of agriculture.

Three, appreciate the important role of women in agriculture and strive to upgrade productivity, skills and income of women in rural areas, internationalization of gender issues in all technological and policy issues in agriculture.

Four, integration development plans of national government and strategies for natural resources management with those of food security and sustainable management of environment.

Five, highlight urgent need for insuring increased market access for agricultural produce of developing countries for removal of trade-distorting subsidies and non-tariff barriers. Trade should become not only free, but also fair, if trade and not aid is to induce growth.

Six, the major food security challenge today is economic access to food. The WTO Agreement can adversely affect livelihood opportunities in poor countries if safeguard measure are not taken. We have therefore proposed the creation of a livelihood security laws in the on-going negotiations

on the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. FAO should work towards getting the livelihood security laws introduced in the revised World Trade Agreement on Agriculture under WTO.

Seven, highlight the continued need for food-based safety nets. Focus on food assistance should increasingly concentrate on enabling development of human faculties. Food should be used as an enabler, a pre-investment which frees people to take up development opportunities and escape the hunger trap.

Eight, FAO should take steps to highlight the immense harm that global warming can cause to poor nations by reducing crop yields. Studies by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have shown that a one degree celsius rise in temperature in North India would reduce the duration of the wheat crop by one week, thereby reducing yield by 400 to 600 kilogrammes per hectare. Climate change has therefore very serious implications for food and livelihood security of tropical and sub-tropical agriculture.

Nine, strive at national and global level to link the disaster mitigation with development, as linking leave? recovery and development is the challenge in disaster mitigation.

Finally, the international community to be encouraged to adopt appropriate measures for implementing specifically-targeted programmes to address the needs of food security. We support the strengthening of South-South cooperation as well as the idea of creating a trust fund of USD 500 million in FAO for accelerating food production and food access in least developed countries.

Before I close, I just want to make a comment on the proposed global forum on food quality. We had some misgivings initially about a parallel event taking place on food safety issues when there is a CODEX Committee already there under the aegis of FAO and WHO. We had some explanations on that, when we discussed it in our regional group, but we would still like to highlight the entire rationale, we would like to know the rationale behind holding a global forum as a parallel event and, if the global forum is held, then we would like to underscore the necessity to ensure adequate participation of all the developing countries. I think this is very important if food safety standards and related issues are going to be discussed.

Patrick PRUVOT (France)

Je souhaiterais vous demander de donner la parole à la délégation de la Suède qui s'exprimera au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses États Membres.

Ms Cecile NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. We refrain from repeating our comments made at the CFS but these still remain valid. We would like to endorse the report of the Committee on World Food Security which had its session from 28 May to 1 June this year. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee should be taken into due account, particularly when discussion agenda item 11, Preparations for the Thirty-first Session of the Conference, which is why we will revert to this matter under agenda item 11.

We would like to add something on food aid, since this issue has been raised again. The European Community and its Member States are of the opinion that development aid should go to the neediest countries and to those areas and beneficiaries where aid will have the highest impact. This is in line with what is stated in the food aid convention. Concentration of aid on the poorest is also being discussed in other United Nations organizations, funds and programmes. For example, in UNDP, the membership consented to have UNDP spend the main part of its resources in the LDCs. One consequence of reclassification could be that less development aid would flow to the poorest countries, mainly concentrating on sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia. Furthermore, countries which have reached and maintained a certain level of development, like middle-income developing countries, are in a better position to implement structural measures and to reach satisfying levels of national and household food security. In this context, I would like to refer to the World Food Summit Plan of Action, which clearly states a national responsibility for each country to achieve its individual food security goals.

Mohammed A. KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We should like to thank the Secretariat for having presented this document. The report of the Committee of World Food Security and, in particular in the conclusions and findings and recommendations in paragraph 7, it is stated that, and I will not continue with all the paragraph as we are pressed for time. There is a language that was used in the recommendations, in paragraph 10, where it says, "a view was also expressed".

With all due respect to the Report of the Committee in this regard, allow me to make clear my viewpoint on this matter. What was contained in the report does not faithfully reflect the debates and the subject raised during the discussion by a number of countries in this regard. It is quite serious and we are telling the Drafting Committee that it should take fully into account the debates and discussions that took place in the Committee. And this should truly be reflected in the Report so as not to waste time when we discuss the Report before adopting it. We strenuously object to words used, "attention was drawn" and "a view was expressed" since this language does not reflect at all the debates and issues and points raised during the debate and, therefore, does not reflect the true reality of the discussion in the Committee.

As to HIV/AIDS, we cannot consider it as a normal disease, but it is quite an intractable problem and disease because of its impact on the food, nutrition, health, agricultural production and food security. It is a great challenge facing all people from a humanitarian and developmental point of view and a crisis that undermines the countries' capabilities in achieving the objectives of the World Food Summit. Adequate nutrition should be supplied to the patients in order to improve their productivity. Assistance and aid should be provided and resources should be allocated to find ways and means to treat the disease as well as the medications at affordable prices so that all patients can be treated at the right time, in an affordable manner. And we have to promote agricultural development project in countries affected by the disease. We have to focus on extension through mass media to explain the different aspects, really, to this disease. Full cooperation with all the international organizations, specialized agencies and governments concerned to establish strategies, plans and programmes in the short-, medium- and long-terms, a regular follow up of the status regarding the spread of the disease to promote and encourage scientific research with a view to finding a cure.

As to the basic documents to be examined by the World Food Summit: *five years later*, we agree with most of the proposals contained in the two basic documents of the conference: enhancing the political will to fight hunger, mobilization of resources to fight hunger.

Allow me to add a recommendation to this second document, namely mobilization of resources to provide the necessary financial and technical support to developing countries within the field of the liberalization of trade.

As to the arrangement for the World Food Summit: *five years later*, we stress the importance of not reopening the deliberations of any part of the Rome Declaration or the Conference Plan of Action. We have to zero in on concrete measures and actions with a view to achieving the goals of the Summit as well as to study the problems and difficulties faced with a view to overcoming them, take into account the conditions of countries with very limited delegates who participate in the conferences. The Conference Declaration must not exceed a couple of pages so that it would be effective and succinct and precise.

Those are the points I wanted to point out regarding this document. I hope it will be taken into account in the interests of humanity which toil to survive.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

Mi delegación expresó, en el tema sobre la Situación mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, que era inaceptable la paradoja de vivir en un mundo con exceso de alimentos y al mismo tiempo que haya 792 millones de personas en estado de subnutrición, lo que en el fondo quiere decir sin acceso a alimentos que existen, que fueron producidos no para especular sino para alimentar.

Bajo esta perspectiva, mi delegación expresa de nueva cuenta su apoyo al Plan de Acción de 1996 y a la realización de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de noviembre próximo. El combate al hambre, su reducción efectiva y sistemática es la base insustituible para luchar contra la pobreza y sobre todo contra las condiciones de marginación rural.

En estos días mi delegación participará en los esfuerzos para los preparativos de la Cumbre y con ello reafirma su compromiso y su voluntad política para continuar contribuyendo con los grandes objetivos de la Organización pero, sobre todo, para que sigan reduciéndose los márgenes de pobreza y malnutrición de mi país.

La Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo es uno de los principios de la política exterior de México; por ello, defendemos que los alimentos no deben ser utilizados como instrumento de presión de ningún tipo y reafirmamos que la cooperación y el respeto al derecho internacional son esenciales para el desarrollo y una adecuada convivencia.

Con amplitud y precisión, el Presidente del GRULAC ha indicado las propuestas que comparte y respalda esta delegación. Deseo reafirmar que la liberalización comercial en materia agrícola es un elemento de equidad y es un objetivo que todos debemos procurar. La eliminación de las medidas discriminatorias, sean arancelarias o no arancelarias, la reducción de los subsidios y el libre acceso a los mercados de los productos agrícolas, son indispensables para eliminar las distorsiones que tanto afectan al consumo, al comercio y a las decisiones de inversión en el campo.

La FAO debe tomar la decisión de mantener una estrecha consulta con los Estados Miembros sobre los indicadores y metodologías nacionales relacionados con la seguridad alimentaria. Ello contribuirá a que sus informes reflejen, de manera más precisa, la situación de cada uno de los países y, en suma, la situación prevaleciente en el mundo.

También es recomendable la promoción de visitas de campo entre los Países Miembros para el intercambio de experiencias en la aplicación de tecnologías y experiencias en el ámbito comunitario que contribuyen a la erradicación de la pobreza.

Como lo han expresado otras delegaciones, en el transcurso de los debates en este 120^o Período de Sesiones del Consejo, y como se señaló durante el 27^o Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, sería útil la realización de una misión investigadora para analizar y valorar la gravedad de la inseguridad alimentaria en los términos que se indican en el párrafo 10 del informe que nos presenta la Secretaría. Coincidimos con la Comunidad Europea en que esta Organización tiene la facultad para el envío.

Asimismo, durante los trabajos de la Cumbre en noviembre deberá darse una debida atención a las cuestiones del VIH Sida y la FAO deberá intensificar la colaboración con otros organismos del sistema de Naciones Unidas para atender a esta epidemia.

México exhorta a los integrantes de este Consejo aprobar el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y, sobre todo, las recomendaciones señaladas en los párrafos del 39 al 42 sobre los preparativos para la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. Avanzar en estos aspectos también contribuirá a mostrar la voluntad política que se tiene a favor del desarrollo del sector rural de todos los países.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina)

La Delegación de Argentina apoyó en su totalidad la Declaración del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe que presentó el Presidente del GRULAC al comienzo de este tema. Permítame, viniendo de mi capital, agradecer el GRULAC de Roma por el valioso trabajo realizado; asimismo, quiero destacar la relevancia de los aportes del Grupo de África, del Grupo de los 77 y lo expresado por la Delegación de India en la sesión de hoy. Creo que el grupo de negociación tiene muy importantes y significativos aportes para hacer su trabajo.

La Declaración del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe en este período de sesiones señala, entre otros puntos, que "la liberalización del comercio es un aspecto prioritario para el logro de la

equidad. El libre acceso a los mercados, la eliminación de los subsidios y de las medidas discriminatorias, arancelarias y pararancelarias son indispensables para evitar la distorsión de los precios internacionales que afectan directamente las decisiones relativas a las inversiones, los métodos de producción, el comercio y el consumo".

Hace un año en junio de 2000, Estados Unidos presentó ante la OMC una propuesta amplia y omnicomprendensiva de liberalización del comercio agrícola, la propuesta incluía referencias al acceso a mercados, subsidios a la exportación y medidas de sostén interno.

Este año también la Unión Europea produjo propuestas interesantes a las cuales hizo referencia la delegada de Suecia en su intervención de esta mañana.

No calificamos estas propuestas pero consideramos que constituyen un muy buen punto de partida y material para las negociaciones.

El Grupo Cairns ha introducido también en la OMC propuestas sustanciales para las negociaciones agrícolas. Permítame recordar que este Grupo incluye nueve países de América Latina y está liderado por Australia.

Tenemos en la OMC un ambicioso programa de trabajo marzo 2001 – marzo 2002 y confiamos en lograr progresos concretos en el curso de este año.

Ahora bien, ¿por qué traigo estos temas en este punto de nuestra agenda? Porque en noviembre próximo la comunidad internacional asistirá a dos eventos de trascendencia mayor muy importantes para la agricultura y la alimentación. Estos dos eventos son: la Cumbre más cinco aquí en la FAO y la IV Reunión Ministerial de la OMC en Qatar. En la Cumbre que celebraremos en Roma se hará un balance de los cinco años posteriores a la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996 y se elaborarán compromisos y estrategias para el futuro. En la Reunión Ministerial de Qatar se lanzará, o no, una nueva Ronda, todavía no lo sabemos. Pero el balance de lo que se logre durante este año en las negociaciones en curso en la OMC sobre agricultura tendrá un peso significativo en ambas reuniones, en la Cumbre de Roma y en la Reunión de Qatar.

Si hay voluntad negociadora en los países industrializados, ella debe reflejarse ya en disposiciones concretas y en compromisos de reforma del comercio agrícola durante las negociaciones de la agenda incorporada o *built-in* agenda in curso.

Si no hay una expresión de voluntad de negociar por parte de los países industrializados, difícilmente los países en desarrollo se verán atraídos a embarcarse en una nueva ronda global que exigiría nuevas concesiones, mientras que el sector agrícola continúa siendo discriminado dentro del sistema comercial internacional.

Ello implicaría un severo golpe al comercio mundial y a la agricultura y a la alimentación en general y, sin duda, incidirá en las estrategias y compromisos que se elaboren e implementen para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria.

La Cumbre más cinco debe incluir un balance y evaluación del cumplimiento del Compromiso 4 del Programa de Acción del 1996 y, naturalmente, deberá constatar los avances que se registren en la OMC hasta noviembre próximo.

El documento CL 120/10-Sup. 1-Rev.1 recoge en la página 5 aportaciones recibidas por miembros o grupos de miembros que son coincidentes con lo que estoy diciendo, particularmente, por parte del Grupo de África.

En la OMC hemos trabajado mucho para introducir el desarrollo rural como preocupación no comercial; introducir el desarrollo rural como una de las preocupaciones no comerciales ha sido el resultado de una intensa labor del grupo al que pertenezco.

Hemos insistido reiteradamente que nuestras principales preocupaciones no comerciales son el hambre y la pobreza; invitamos a los miembros de la comunidad internacional a considerar el hambre y la pobreza como las principales preocupaciones no comerciales.

Estamos convencidos que existe una estrecha relación entre la liberación del comercio agrícola y el desarrollo rural, la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza, y los trabajos de la FAO preparatorios de la Cumbre más cinco deben reflejar esta vinculación.

La participación de la FAO como observador en la OMC que Argentina apoya, permitirá una labor positiva de la Organización en este sentido.

Efectivamente, las estadísticas y los datos sobre la situación de la producción agrícola en el mundo en desarrollo son preocupantes y desalentadoras, pero es que no hay inversión suficiente en el sector agrícola y no la habrá mientras no haya precios remunerativos a la producción, mientras los países en desarrollo no puedan aprovechar su potencial agrícola o sus ventajas comparativas por la competencia ruinosas de las exportaciones subvencionadas.

El Director General exhortó esta mañana a aumentar la inversión en agricultura y a crear un fondo fiduciario para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria. Sin embargo, sin una modificación profunda del contexto jurídico y económico del comercio internacional de los productos agrícolas, ni los fondos fiduciarios ni las iniciativas de cero arancel o de cero cuota para los países de menor desarrollo relativo, serán suficientes para producir los cambios dramáticos y los progresos concretos que la comunidad internacional espera para erradicar el hambre y la desnutrición.

Por todo lo expresado, pido que se tenga en especial consideración la declaración del GRULAC en la preparación de los documentos de la próxima Cumbre.

Ms Mary MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

I will not hold the floor for long because I would like to suggest that our Chairperson for the region makes a statement on our part. But I can only put in a sentence to say Zimbabwe is fully supportive of the report under discussion, particularly those salient points that touch on the concerns that were raised by the developing countries.

Costa R. MAMALU (Observer for Tanzania, United Republic of)

Tanzania will speak on behalf of the Africa Group and the statement will be quite brief.

The Africa Group supports the report before us and appreciates the fact that all regions of FAO were represented in the CFS Bureau in the preparation of the elements for the draft resolution to be adopted by Heads of State and Governments at the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

Likewise, the Group endorses the recommendation contained in the CFS report that the Council establish a working group to be entrusted with the preparation of the draft resolution and that the working group be open to all members.

The Group is optimistic about the resolution to be drafted and it hopes that the message that the only way to fight poverty is to start with a fight against hunger will come out strongly. As I said, the statement will be quite brief, but the Group would like to emphasize the fact that it has noted with concern the negative impact of HIV/AIDS as it undermines agricultural systems and affects the nutrition situation and food security of rural families.

We therefore strongly endorse the recommendations as contained in the Report that aim at reducing the negative effect to the societies.

Ms Anchalee OORAIKUL (Thailand)

My delegation would like to convey our profound gratitude to the Secretariat for the well prepared and excellent background document CL 120/10, in the part where it mentions the Twenty-seventh Session of the CFS.

With regard to the Conference on the World Food Summit: *five years later*, my delegation fully agrees with the Member Countries not to leave open debate on any part of the Rome Declaration and World Food Summit Plan of Action, since all Member Nations already accepted and adopted the Declaration and the Plan of Action.

Moreover, my delegation fully agrees to remain focussed on adjusting the concrete actions to be more appropriate and practicable in achieving the World Food Summit goals.

Regarding the number of Round Table meetings, my delegation is of the opinion that the number of Round Tables should be reduced to a maximum of three, with one overarching theme: "The World Food Summit Plan of Action - results achieved, obstacles met and means of overcoming them".

Heads of Delegation are invited to attend one Round Table on a selected day. However, because of the limitation in the schedule of a number of participants, some Member Nations may find it inconvenient to attend a meeting. Since some meetings may attract more attendance than what might be expected, we would suggest that each meeting schedule should specify names of participating countries in advance.

My delegation also agrees that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been widespread in almost all sectors of the society, including the agriculture sector. To solve the problem, we need a broad coalition from all sectors and parties concerned for concerted rapid action to deal effectively with HIV/AIDS.

Nonetheless, the main responsibility for handling this problem remains with UNAIDS under the UN System. All that UN Agencies concerned and FAO can do to eradicate this problem is to cooperate and implement a plan in the same direction as UNAIDS. However, this does not mean that FAO will handle the issue of HIV/AIDS solving as a key role action in parallel with UNAIDS. Rather, FAO should play a supportive role of cooperation by creating a commission of hunger eradication worldwide.

Efraín PALTÍ SOLANO (Perú)

La Delegación de Perú comparte y apoya plenamente la Declaración del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, realizada por su Presidente el Delegado de Venezuela. Asimismo, a continuación, presentamos algunos comentarios sobre el tema.

En el informe del 27^o Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria se menciona en su párrafo 8 que, para realizar una efectiva lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición, es necesario que los gobiernos incorporen en sus programas y planes de mitigación de la pobreza el objetivo de mejorar la seguridad alimentaria de sus poblaciones. Consideramos que este es el punto de partida para un enfoque amplio del problema de la inseguridad alimentaria en el mundo, que debe ser compartido por los organismos internacionales, instituciones financieras y gobiernos.

Sobre este tema, además de los esfuerzos nacionales, se requiere la cooperación internacional. Es por ello que deseamos reiterar lo expresado por el GRULAC durante la sesión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, sobre la necesidad de analizar la idoneidad de la clasificación de los países PBIDA como base para determinar la asignación de ayuda. Consideramos que esta debe llegar allí donde se presenten situaciones de inseguridad alimentaria y su asignación no debe verse limitada por este tipo de clasificaciones de países.

Concordamos con el análisis sobre los efectos del VIH/SIDA en la seguridad alimentaria, ya que ha quedado demostrado que esta enfermedad no sólo debe ser considerada como un problema exclusivamente médico, sino que una de sus más graves consecuencias, además de la pérdida de vidas humanas, es la malnutrición e inseguridad alimentaria de los que la padecen y de su entorno familiar, incrementando los niveles de pobreza. Es por ello que, además del compromiso de los países para su efectiva tarea de prevención, nos parece importante que, tal como lo aprobó el Comité, se incluyan iniciativas de seguridad alimentaria en los programas anti VIH/SIDA.

Por otro lado, nos parece importante destacar los esfuerzos de la FAO para promover la aplicación de tecnologías y prácticas agrícolas novedosas en los países en desarrollo que incrementen la producción y los niveles nutricionales. Para ello, será necesario un efectivo intercambio de información de las experiencias exitosas y la promoción de la cooperación entre países en desarrollo que promueven estas tecnologías.

En cuanto a los preparativos para la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, saludamos los valiosos aportes de los Países Miembros del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para el proyecto de resolución así como para los aspectos organizativos del evento. Asimismo, destacamos la labor de la Mesa a recopilar dichos aportes y consideramos que estas propuestas puedan ser enriquecidas con mayores sugerencias de los Países Miembros. Del mismo modo, apoyamos las modificaciones en cuanto a los aspectos organizativos tales como las mesas redondas y temas a tratar en ellas, entre otros, con objeto de dotar a la Conferencia de una organización dinámica.

Masato ITO (Japan)

First of all, I would like to stress the importance of minimizing the pressure to the other Regular Programmes by possible additional financial expenditure arising from the World Food Summit: *five years later*. It is also important to minimize the expenditure related to the World Food Summit: *five years later* and its preparation. Under current budgetary constraints, we have to bear this point in mind.

Regarding the Regular Programme budget, the utmost transparency should be ensured, while those funded by extrabudgetary resources should be clearly separated from those of the Regular Programme budget. In this regard, I appreciate the Document prepared by the Secretariat CL 120/LIM/3. Nevertheless, my delegation would like to have more time to analyse it and would like to reserve the right to make further comments if need be.

I would like to turn to the Elements of the Resolution, the preparation of the Draft Resolution. Before going into detail, let me thank the CFS and the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing Document CL 120/10-Sup.1 and CL 120/10-Sup.2 which could be referenced in proceeding with this process. However, my delegation is not in a position to regard these elements as an exclusive list for the upcoming process to be based on, because many countries' views expressed in the CFS Plenary, including ourselves, are missing from this list. Therefore, my delegation would like to reserve its right to raise some additional points, if necessary, to be considered in the Draft Resolution in the Plenary of the Council or in the Working Group.

With respect to the Draft Resolution, my delegation agrees to the formulation of the Draft Resolution to be prepared and submitted to the World Food Summit: *five years later*, if it is composed of two parts of preamble and operative paragraphs.

My delegation also strongly supports the basic perception in preparing the Draft Resolution, adopted in the last CFS Report, which says that "Draft Resolution should be concise, focussed and concrete". In order to achieve this, it is very important to reconfirm the principle that the preparing process should not be an open debate on any part of the Rome Declaration and World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Taking into consideration the fact that these outcomes of the World Food Summit have been agreed upon after a long time of tireless negotiations and are extremely well balanced, it is very important to keep in mind that repetition of any part of the World Food Summit agreements, as well as introductions of new elements, should be avoided as much as possible for the sake of facilitating this process. Furthermore, this process should not be a renegotiation of any issues which have been agreed upon in other summits or fora and strictly restricting itself from going outside food security issues.

Let me make several comments on the content of the Draft Resolution. Regarding the preamble it should be composed of reference to the first important fact and findings and should correctly reflect the current status and recognize major programmes or hinderance facing.

On the other hand, the operating paragraphs should concentrate on further complete actions needed towards the future which should, of course, be in line with the World Food Summit Plan of Action and be a South-South Cooperation to strengthen it based on the experience gained from its five year implementation.

In this regard, my delegation would like to point out that many of the elements listed in Section 3 of the CFS Bureau's list have exactly corresponding objectives and activities in the World Food Summit Plan of Actions.

My delegation is of the view that we should be very careful in drafting Resolutions not to repeat what has been agreed nor to break the subtle balance achieved five year ago by picking up certain part of World Food Summit Plan of Actions. We should try to find horizontal issues or interrelated issues which would not produce any new interpretation for the World Food Summit agreements. In this connection, my delegation has concerns over several comments included in Annex 1 of the document CL 120/10-Sup.1, especially those appearing under the section heading of Debt, Trade, Development Assistance because some of them clearly go beyond the World Food Summit agreement.

My delegation would like to remind the basis of this discussion, namely, not to reopen World Food Summit agreement.

With regard to the establishment of Trust Funds it is quite easy to say this and it might be a good idea if it were implemented. However, my delegation strongly doubts the reality and feasibility of such a proposal since donor countries, including Japan, seem to be far from such a generous financial situation. If such an element be included in the Resolution and turns out not to be feasible we are afraid that the credibility of upcoming Resolution would be damaged.

In this regard, my delegation believes that a more realistic approach should be to encourage both developing countries and donor countries to improve their own resource allocation to agriculture and rural development. In other words, the most important thing to do in terms of resource mobilization should be the prioritization of development policy both in developing and developed countries and reallocation of limited resources in favour of agriculture and rural development.

I would like to give some examples which my delegation considers appropriate to include in the operation paragraphs of the Draft Resolution. These are as follows: increased and effective utilization of existing development schemes and resources; strengthening partnership among all stakeholders including NGOs, CSOs; integrating World Food Summit goals into other international fora for ensuring its consistency and coherence with other international objectives and activities; strengthen the capacity of warehouse domestic production.

With respect to the HIV/AIDS issues my delegation shares the view with the delegation of Thailand. Therefore, I would like to support their intervention.

I would like to make further comments in the Plenary or Working Group, if need be.

Handi GUO (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation would like to begin by thanking the Secretariat of the Meeting for all the preparatory work it has done. We think that the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security generally reflects the tone of the discussion at the Meeting and the views of Member States. We are in favour of adopting this Report in Council.

Today, we are here to examine the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security because it is before us for adoption but we are also invited not to forget the solemn undertaking of Governments at the World Food Summit and to make every effort to honour our commitments. Five years after the holding of the World Food Summit, despite a certain amount of progress towards the objectives set at that time, the number of people who have effectively been saved from hunger is far lower than the figure set at the Summit. In this respect, my delegation would like to say the following.

First of all, with respect to food insecurity, it is mainly a question of a lack of balance between the production of food, because developing countries lack the means to provide or grow enough food, which is a result of past eras of colonialism and of the present unfair and irrational world economic order. Consequently, many developing countries are stuck in a poverty spiral. The elimination of food and hunger has to go through the elimination of poverty.

Secondly, the Chinese delegation supports the idea of the right to food. To obtain enough food and that is the basis of survival for humanity. It is one of mankind's fundamental rights and everybody should enjoy it. It is only by doing entirely away with famine and malnutrition and by guaranteeing food security that humanity will be able to benefit of this fundamental right of mankind. The Chinese delegation is consequently against food being used as an instrument of exercising economic and political pressure or as a means of punishment.

Thirdly, in order to resolve the problem of food security we need to extend external aid to the agricultural systems of developing countries. In certain countries, which belong to the Low-Income Food-Deficit group, outside aid represents a very high percentage in their investments. It is unfortunately to be regretted that for some years now official development aid from developed countries in particular, designed to help promote agricultural development, is steadily declining year by year, which erodes the process started by these countries to decrease their food insecurity.

In this respect, the Chinese delegation would like to repeat its appeal to the international community and, in particular developed countries, to turn their commitments as quickly as possible into specific actions and thus, increase their aid to developing countries in the area of food security. It is not just a question of technical aid that is necessary but an increase in official development aid for developing countries so that these countries may then be helped to strengthen their own development capacity using their own means. In other words to acquire a kind of regenerating capacity. At the sametime we must lighten the heavy burden that the developing countries are bearing. Without that, development efforts made by developing countries, will be of no avail.

Fourth, HIV/AIDS is no longer purely a matter of health. To a certain extent that disease does add to the threat of food insecurity and social stability. The Chinese delegation is very much in favour of FAO cooperating with other international organizations so as reduce the impact it has on social development, food security and public health.

Fifth, we appreciate cooperation between FAO and donor countries, as well as international financial institutions designed to mobilize enough financial resources for special food security programmes. It has been proven that special programmes for food security and South-South Cooperation play a very positive role in the reduction of poverty and in the reduction of food insecurity in developing countries, in particular in Low-Income Food-Deficit countries. Despite the fact that these programmes are somewhat limited they are nevertheless effective. That is why we would like FAO to continue mobilizing more resources for these programmes and to expand the scope of these programmes. At the sametime we also hope that FAO will learn from these programmes so that developing countries may be inspired by their success.

The Chinese delegation supports FAO in its efforts to achieve the objectives set forth at the World Food Summit. We express the hope that the *World Food Summit: five years later* will produce positive results. We hope that all countries, the international community as a whole, will be able to work together, reiterate their political will to do away with poverty, famine and malnutrition in order to mobilize resources throughout the world, so as to achieve the World Food Summit's objectives.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Permítame felicitarle, como siempre su conducción es sabia, precisa, paciente. Acceden así al debate todos los temas que deben acceder y ello enriquece y encauza nuestro trabajo dando más importancia a la esencia que a la forma, sin que por ello se produzca desorden alguno. Esa presidencia independiente que usted ejerce será siempre ejemplo a seguir en el ejercicio de esa posición tan importante dentro de nuestra Organización. Permítame felicitar, asimismo, a los señores Vicepresidentes por su elección y, muy especialmente, al Sr. Representante Permanente de la República de Chile, Embajador Angel Sartori; nuestra felicitación por su elección a la Presidente del Comité de Redacción y a los demás miembros que lo integran. Espero que tengamos éxito en nuestro empeño.

Respaldamos plenamente la declaración hecha por el Representante de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en representación de América Latina y el Caribe como Presidente *pro-tempore* del GRULAC. Esa es nuestra voz y esa es la voz de nuestra región.

Debemos subrayar algunos aspectos a la luz del debate. No basta con que reiteremos que existe el compromiso de que no deben usarse los alimentos como instrumento de presión política y económica. Señalamos que ese compromiso se incumple, y señalamos algo más grave aún: utilizarlos o no, de esa ilegítima, ingrata e ilegal manera que atenta contra lo convenido por nosotros mismos, es una simple expresión de voluntad política y, en tal sentido, debe de ser prueba de fuego para nosotros todos que en materia de voluntad política se aborde este tema que es, insisto, la expresión misma, la expresión más contundente de lo que es voluntad política, puesto que basta con que exista esa voluntad para que concluya tal atropello e infracción a lo convenido, y debemos entender que si no somos capaces tan siquiera de corregir esa infracción, que sólo depende de la voluntad política, poco podríamos esperar que se corrijan otras materias que no dependen sólo de la voluntad.

Respaldamos nuestra posición regional, acertadamente subrayada por México, Argentina y Perú; muy especialmente señalamos la importancia de lo expuesto por la Representación de la República Argentina en cuanto al tema del hambre y la pobreza, y su sentencia, casi profética: "Sin una modificación profunda del contexto jurídico y económico del comercio mundial, los esfuerzos para erradicar el hambre y la pobreza podrían estar condenados al fracaso".

Reiteramos que la FAO debe dar atención equilibrada a todos los mecanismos y programas con que cuenta la Organización para alcanzar las metas de la Cumbre y dirigirse, sin excepción, a todas las poblaciones que padecen inseguridad alimentaria. La ayuda alimentaria debe ser otorgada al ser humano; la pertenencia o no a clasificaciones y categorías no deben restringir los volúmenes de ayuda en perjuicio de poblaciones que padecen inseguridad alimentaria.

Permítame una advertencia final: se ha dicho que la Cumbre no debe reabrir debates, y espero, como lo esperamos todos sinceramente, que así sea, pero eso será posible, y así lo advierto, así debemos entenderlo, solamente si no se ponen en entredicho los compromisos ya adquiridos; en cambio, se les pone en entredicho con su reiterada y sistemática inobservancia, puesto que parece que ellos no existieran. Ignorar su inobservancia conduciría entonces, irremediablemente, a la reapertura de debates, pues se debería hablar nuevamente sobre los compromisos visto que no se entendió que se hubiesen formulado. Me parece una advertencia oportuna.

Concluyo: lo que importa es el ser humano y allí donde existe inseguridad alimentaria debe de estar nuestra Organización, muy por encima de cualquier implicación política; que pueda o no tenerla es algo que no debería importar a nuestra Organización que está por encima de ésta. No es hacer política sino cumplir un mandato expreso, evaluar la existencia de inseguridad alimentaria se encuentre donde se encuentre.

M.S. WICKEMARACHCHI (Sri Lanka)

This is the first intervention by Sri Lanka as a member of the FAO Council. Therefore, I take this opportunity to thank the Member Countries for the support extended to Sri Lanka to become a member of this important body for the next three years.

The Sri Lanka delegation endorses the recommendation made by the Food Security Committee and we congratulate you for the excellent paper you have presented here. However, we have some comments to make on certain points, which we feel should be given some emphasis in the Committee Report. Especially on page two, the issue on strengthening capacity for data collection, analysis and timely dissemination. I think we have built up our capacity within the nation but, when it comes to data for the region on all the other importers and exporters, we have found it difficult to get the data in time. For cereal cultivation, we do not have a problem but when it comes to other crops, in certain years we face difficulties in disposing of produce and in certain years we face shortages. This is a result of not having data for the region as a whole.

The data availability leaves almost little delay. If we can have a system of getting data at the beginning of the season, before production starts, each country can plan their production according to the requirement of the region.

The next item is examining the possibility of including employment and unemployment data. As stated by India in the morning, we fully agree that agriculture is not merely an economic operation but it is something to do with livelihood of rural masses. If we can have data on employment and unemployment, this will emphasize the fact that more emphasis should be given to the agriculture sector in the investment programme. This would be a very important item to be emphasized.

The next item is the impact of trade liberalization on food insecurity in developing countries. Especially with WTO, most developing countries are facing problems with regard to production of food items. In certain cases, we may not have competitive advantages in producing certain items. However, it is a question of – as was stated – livelihood and employment of rural masses. Therefore, this has to be looked into in the Committee paper.

Coming to page five, the Committee has identified some of the role of FAO in application of appropriate agricultural technologies and practices. I would suggest that there should be some reference to exchange of personal resources, especially expertise from countries. Maybe in the developing countries themselves, if FAO can provide opportunities for developing countries to exchange their experts among the countries countries, it will give an opportunity for the developing countries to learn from others and also share experiences.

Lastly, I would like to refer to section 23, which states that incorporation of measures towards hunger eradication into the Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers of developing countries should receive full support. I feel that we should give some reference to investment in agriculture in this section. Poverty reduction is mainly in rural areas and poverty is a rural phenomenon and, therefore, investment in agriculture can only help the poor as it is. Therefore, some reference should be given for the agriculture sector here.

I would like to state that the Sir Lanka delegation fully agrees with the statement made by the Director-General of FAO this morning, who very clearly presented a case for increasing investment in agriculture for which both developing and developed countries should share the responsibility. Bilateral and multilateral donors especially should take this into consideration and give more investment opportunities for the agriculture sector.

Looking at the situation in my country, although the country has given priority to the agriculture sector, we are governed by the projects funded by foreign donors. In a situation where the financial concerns are important, we have to allocate funds for the foreign-funded projects before allocating funds for other sectors. As a result, when the donor agencies are not giving priority to the agriculture sector, the country is compelled to invest more in other sectors but not in the agriculture sector. Therefore, this is a vicious circle. If we do not get investment from outside for the agriculture sector, we do not get any investment from the local area. Therefore, this has to be taken into consideration and should be given high priority in the discussions in the Summit.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

J'ai un dilemme parce que j'ai demandé la parole à deux niveaux, d'abord pour vous prier de bien vouloir donner la parole au Président du Groupe africain et que je dois également faire une intervention après celle-ci. Je vous prie de bien vouloir m'accorder cette double faveur.

Costa R. MAMALU (Observer for Tanzania, United Republic of)

I think I should let the distinguished delegate proceed with the statement he is going to give.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Puisque c'est la première fois que ma délégation prend la parole à cet important Conseil, permettez-moi de vous dire, au nom de ma délégation, combien nous sommes heureux de vous voir à nouveau, ici à Rome, présider ce Conseil, ce que vous faites d'ailleurs avec bonheur depuis

quatre ans déjà. Permettez-moi également d'adresser nos félicitations au Bureau, élu avec acclamation, qui vous seconde.

Bien évidemment, nous appuyons et nous demandons l'approbation de cet important rapport du CSA qui nous est soumis. Permettez-nous cependant de faire quelques brèves observations sur ce rapport. Tout d'abord, au paragraphe 9, nous relevons avec un peu de circonspection la recommandation adressée à la FAO d'analyser la pertinence et la justification de la classification des pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier comme base d'allocation de l'aide. Nous pensons que c'est peut-être une question de formulation. En tout état de cause, nous pensons qu'il faut différencier la classification et les critères d'allocation de l'aide. Et sur ce point, nous sommes d'accord avec la Communauté européenne qui a mis l'accent sur les critères en vigueur au niveau du système des Nations Unies.

Au titre du paragraphe 10 de ce même rapport, mon pays le Sénégal, en tant que Président du Comité pour l'exercice des droits inaliénables du Peuple palestinien des Nations Unies, accueille avec intérêt la mission d'évaluation que la FAO envisage d'envoyer dans les territoires palestiniens. Nous pensons, comme l'ont dit certains, que la FAO a le mandat et les compétences pour ce faire.

Je voudrais maintenant aborder les éléments du projet de résolution que nous sommes en train de préparer à l'intention des hauts dirigeants de nos pays dans le cadre du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*. Le Groupe africain a déjà communiqué, ainsi que ses sous-régions, ses vues et ses propositions sur ce qui devrait constituer les éléments du projet de résolution. Nous devons relever que trois préoccupations fondamentales doivent, à notre sens, apparaître au niveau des résultats si ce Sommet est appelé vraiment à se tenir.

En effet, la lutte contre la faim dans le monde doit revenir au premier plan dans l'agenda international et, à ce niveau, il serait pertinent qu'il soit bien indiqué que la lutte contre la pauvreté doit commencer par la lutte contre la faim, ce qui est plus qu'une logique, une urgence. En second lieu, il nous semble que pour que les mots aient un sens, on devrait nécessairement aboutir à la création d'un fonds fiduciaire d'au moins 500 millions de dollars pour que les engagements puissent être concrétisés.

Enfin, nous devons mentionner avec vigueur et faire en sorte d'augmenter la part de l'agriculture et du développement rural dans les budgets nationaux aussi bien qu'au niveau des organisations internationales de développement. En ce qui le concerne, mon pays le Sénégal, à travers ses nouvelles autorités, a déjà montré la voie, par son programme agricole et le Plan OMEGA pour l'Afrique. Il a été initié par le nouveau Président de la République du Sénégal et comporte un important volet agricole, et 200 économistes de par le monde, réunis à Dakar, viennent récemment de l'avaliser au triple plan de la faisabilité, de la cohérence et de l'opérationnalité.

Pour finir, je crois que nous devons être nourris d'espoir. L'espoir de retrouver encore une fois le consensus que nous avons pu forger en 1996. Je fonde cet espoir sur le fait que j'ai vu dans ce Conseil de vieux routiers de 1996 provenant aussi bien du GRULAC, que de l'Amérique du Nord, de l'Europe, de l'Asie et de l'Afrique. J'ose espérer qu'avec ces vieux routiers, et ce sang neuf que nous avons maintenant, nous pouvons à nouveau retrouver la voie du consensus, mais vers des engagements concrets et réels.

Vincent BOULÉ (Gabon)

Ma délégation remercie le Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale pour la présentation de son rapport. Je saisis également cette occasion pour appuyer l'intervention faite tout à l'heure, par la Tanzanie, au nom du Groupe africain.

En ce qui concerne les recommandations formulées à l'endroit de la FAO, la délégation gabonaise appuie particulièrement le point 4, relatif à l'analyse de la pertinence des indicateurs de la classification des pays à faibles revenus, comme critère d'allocation de l'aide. En effet le Gabon se trouve parmi les pays à déficit vivrier, importateurs nets de denrées alimentaires, mais il n'est pas éligible comme pays pouvant bénéficier de l'aide alimentaire. A cet égard, le Gouvernement

gabonais a entrepris des démarches auprès du PAM afin de pouvoir bénéficier d'une telle aide au niveau des écoles, des hôpitaux et autres populations de zones nécessiteuses. Je voudrais signaler que notre déficit dans ce domaine, qui s'est accru récemment à l'occasion de l'accueil de réfugiés des pays amis frontaliers en conflit, a été à l'origine de tensions qui ont surgi entre les populations locales et les populations réfugiées lors de la distribution de l'aide alimentaire.

En ce qui concerne le point 3 du rapport, les effets du VIH/SIDA sur la sécurité alimentaire, notre délégation appuie les conclusions du Comité. Sur ce point, notre pays vient d'inaugurer un centre de traitements ambulatoires pour les malades atteints du VIH/SIDA. Par ailleurs, d'importantes réductions sur les prix des médicaments destinés à lutter contre cette maladie viennent d'être accordées à notre pays par des firmes pharmaceutiques, répondant ainsi favorablement à notre préoccupation déjà exprimée lors de la dernière session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Nous espérons que cette forme d'aide et de solidarité s'étendra à tous les pays nécessiteux.

En ce qui concerne le point 4, nous appuyons les recommandations du paragraphe b et particulièrement les visites sur le terrain et l'échange d'expériences entre pays en développement. Le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, pour lequel le Gabon a fait une requête que nous espérons bientôt voir se matérialiser, nous semble le cadre le plus adéquat pour cette coopération sud/sud.

Mon pays a été parmi les premiers à appuyer la proposition du Directeur général de convoquer le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation : cinq ans après. Nous nous réjouissons de ce que ce projet ait pris forme et s'annonce sous les meilleurs auspices. Nous appuyons généralement les conclusions énoncées dans les pages 6 à 9, tendant à corriger les manquements observés dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations du Plan d'action. Notre pays tient particulièrement à l'application par la Communauté internationale des accords de l'OMC, notamment les accords concernant l'agriculture, les accords sanitaires et phytosanitaires, ceux concernant les obstacles techniques au commerce et les accords sur les droits de propriété intellectuelle liés au commerce. Nous appuyons également, comme déjà exprimé lors de la session du Comité, la mise en place d'un fonds fiduciaire pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Pour finir, notre délégation fait siennes les recommandations énoncées au point 5.2, concernant les dispositions relatives au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*.

Ms Beata NAMBUNDUNGA (Observer for Namibia)

I would like to align with the statement made by the Chairperson of the Africa Group with respect to HIV/AIDS. I would, however, like to make the following remarks.

There is no doubt that HIV/AIDS is destroying family units and negatively impacting on labour productivity, that it could reduce agricultural output and food availability in countries affected.

What is further clear to all of us here is that the disease is spreading very fast indeed, and that there is an urgent need to strengthen existing efforts and to do something about its rapid spread. However, referring to the recommendations under B on pages 3 and 4 of the document CL 120/10, with respect to FAO's proposed role, I would like to make the following observations.

One is that HIV/AIDS has got at least two main dimensions, one is the dimension of attitude, the other is the dimension of poverty. As an attitude problem, HIV affects everyone. It does not discriminate against the poor and the wealthy, both are infected and are affected. In this respect, the role of institutions that are actively involved in agriculture is to integrate the awareness of the HIV/AIDS message into extension services.

As a poverty dimension, the expectation is that the poor are the ones who would be affected most. It is here that Namibia expects the Organization, that is FAO, and other institutions working in the agricultural sector to make an impact by enhancing efforts towards creating opportunities for income-earning activities that would lead to reduction in poverty and hence improve food security.

However, before FAO could be intensely involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS, its initial collaborative involvement should be limited to collecting, analysing and disseminating data and information on the dimensions of HIV/AIDS. The objective of this exercise should be to assess the extent to which each dimension contributes towards the spread of the virus and the disease, and also to assess to what extent FAO should make special efforts, and in which area to address the problem.

I know that FAO has carried out work to assess the impact of HIV/AIDS on agriculture, but that these studies did not focus on finding out which factors cause the problem to rapidly spread. Is it an attitude factor, or is it a poverty factor? I think, and I believe, that this assessment is important, in order to ensure that the limited resources available to the Organization are targeted to the appropriate cause, and towards the mandate for which the Organization was established and for which it continues to exist.

As the document before us has clearly pointed out, FAO's work should not duplicate the work of those organizations which have expertise to deal with the problem, nor should the work of FAO on HIV/AIDS be at the expense of its general mandate.

With respect to the Round Tables for the World Food Summit, I would like to urge the working group to make sure that the debates in the Round Tables have a clear purpose, and are structured in a way that they produce the desired results and expectations, whatever they are.

It is my belief that these Round Tables are purposed to seek political guidance and commitment with respect to particular issues or sub-themes of food security. In this respect, I hope that there will be sufficient time within the working group, and before the Conference begins, to deliberate on the purpose issues or sub-themes of food security on which the Round Tables would be expected to focus, and that these issues and sub-themes would be clear to all Member States before they are debated and hence before political commitment towards them is made.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Observateur du Mali)

C'est la première fois que nous avons le plaisir d'intervenir au cours de ces assises, donc vous nous permettez tout d'abord de vous féliciter pour la dextérité, la sagesse avec laquelle vous menez nos travaux. Nous en profitons aussi pour féliciter les Vice-Présidents qui ont été élus, ainsi que tous ceux qui autour de vous conduisent ces présentes assises.

En qualité d'observateurs, nous ne pouvions pas ne pas intervenir au cours de cette session dont l'importance n'échappe à personne, car après la précédente vingt-septième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, elle consacre le démarrage effectif des préparatifs du *Sommet mondial de l'alimentation : cinq ans après*. Nous sommes donc en droite ligne pour la tenue de cet important Sommet: cet événement nous paraît de la plus haute importance. Si la conviction des uns et des autres en un lendemain meilleur pour les futures générations est établie, alors la participation sera à la hauteur de l'événement. Le niveau et la qualité de la participation sera un élément critique de l'importance que les décideurs ont accordé et continuent d'accorder aux engagements pris lors du Sommet précédent. Il ne faudrait toutefois, surtout pas que ce Sommet ne soit qu'un Sommet de plus, avec grand tapage médiatique mais hélas non suivi des faits.

Il est temps, que nous disions haut et fort ce que nous sommes à même de réaliser. Les pays en développement dont nous sommes ici les représentants, savent que dans le monde actuel, il faut d'abord compter sur ses propres forces. Mais les pays développés doivent savoir à leur tour, que nul ne peut aller au-delà de ses forces s'il ne jouit de l'appui requis. Le monde d'aujourd'hui doit être plus solidaire s'il ne veut s'exposer à des lendemains incertains. Le vaste programme de coopération sud-sud initié par la FAO, prouve à suffisance la détermination de ces derniers à œuvrer de façon solidaire dans la lutte contre ce fléau qu'est la malnutrition.

On a parlé auparavant de la situation actuelle de l'alimentation dans le monde. Nous pouvons avoir peut-être une légitime fierté de dire que notre pays, le Mali, connaît une situation qui n'est pas catastrophique. Mais la situation est quand même inquiétante: elle l'est parce qu'elle est autour du Mali. Aujourd'hui plus que jamais, nous disposons de tous les moyens techniques et

technologiques nécessaires pour améliorer l'alimentation et développer l'agriculture dans le monde. Pourquoi nous n'y parvenons pas? Qui a intérêt à ce que les pays en développement pauvres restent toujours dans une situation de précarité quasi permanente, surtout pour ceux au sud du Sahara? A quoi servent les statistiques si de l'autre côté rien n'est entrepris pour améliorer la situation? Jamais l'humanité n'a créé autant de richesses, mais hélas, jamais le fossé entre les pauvres et les nantis n'a été aussi profond. Nous devrions y remédier.

C'est pourquoi, vous nous permettez, de nous pencher un petit peu sur le Programme de travail et budget de la FAO 2002-2003 (je sais qu'on en parlera après, nous nous permettrons à ce niveau là de rentrer dans les détails), mais nous nous trouvons en face d'une situation paradoxale: d'une part, nous voulons que la FAO fasse toujours plus et d'autre part nous lui disons faite plus mais sans moyens supplémentaires. Alors il y a une contradiction quelque part. Nous avons participé à l'ensemble des réunions des Comités de la FAO, nous n'avons entendu personne ici dire qu'il faut diminuer ou restreindre les activités de la FAO. Au contraire, tout le monde émet le vœu tous les jours de renforcer ses activités, de voir plus de résultats, alors que nous savons que l'Organisation a su, ces dernières années, évoluer et atteindre des résultats appréciables dans un contexte de contraintes budgétaires.

Mais les conséquences de cette situation se sont faites aussi ressentir sur le terrain. C'est pourquoi nous portons tout notre soutien aux propositions faites dans le présent Programme de travail et budget et demandons aux Membres d'accepter, à leur tour, d'apporter la bouffée d'oxygène dont l'Organisation a actuellement tant besoin. Nous sommes certes fiers des performances de la FAO malgré toutes ses entraves, mais nous sommes inquiets de son devenir si les moyens adéquats ne sont pas mis à sa disposition.

C'est notre déclaration liminaire. Nous nous permettrons d'intervenir à la suite, pendant les travaux.

Ms Carmela BASILI MASTROPASQUA (Observer for Associated Country Women of the World)

I speak on behalf of a group of representatives of 30 international NGOs who have participated actively at the World Food Summit, and have subsequently followed up, through our headquarters, by stimulating action and promoting the implementation of the Plan of Action. We have also attended the FAO technical meetings, the Council and Conferences in the last years since the Summit, and some of us, also, the FAO Regional Consultation and Conferences. We are now invited, as is the usual practice, to the FAO Conference in November in which World Food Summit: *five years later* is discussed under Item 5 of the agenda in the first week. During the CFS, we have participated in the discussions held to prepare the participation of NGOs to the November event, and we will continue to do so in the immediate future.

In particular, there was discussion on the document concerning the arrangements for the November meeting related to the NGOs' participation, and we need clarification on two points: one, the possible participation of NGOs at the Round Tables; and two, participation in the World Food Summit: *five years later* of the international NGOs officially accredited to FAO and invited to the FAO Conference, as distinct from those indicated in paragraph 31 as other NGOs/CSOs. Would the first group be treated according to the rules of the FAO Conference, and considered separate from the second group? Would the proposed ten representatives, allowed to sit as observers in the plenary, be composed of all NGOs, irrespective of which group they belong to? In this respect, it was in any case the opinion of all NGOs at the CFS that the number was very restrictive, the most restricted of all international events held so far.

It is also not clear if the restriction includes both the access to the plenary and the right to speak, or only to the latter.

Clarification on these points is important in order for NGOs to organize their participation in the best order.

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

The great majority of the comments made by Member Countries have elaborated on the countries' views on the substantive issues in the CFS report and I do not think it is necessary, indeed it would not be appropriate for me, to reply to those points. I would just make a few points. First, some of the comments raised of a more specific nature very likely would be the subject of future discussions at CFS. I refer to issues such as some of those raised by Sri Lanka on the collection of food security data, for example.

A number of comments were also made on the AIDS issue and I would point out that the report of the CFS recommends that this issue should be duly considered at the World Food Summit: *five years later*. At the CFS the Secretariat undertook to revise its paper on this issue for that purpose, so the comments of delegations who were at the CFS and here can be taken into account in that way.

Many of the comments, of course, related to the report section on the World Food Summit: *five years later*. I would welcome the fact that delegations have endorsed, I think, the Committee's findings and recommendations on the World Food Summit: *five years later*. More relevantly, immediately for our work, I would note that many delegations referred to the work before us in the working group on the resolution and many again stressed the need for the resolution to be concise, focused and concrete, as indicated in the CFS report. That is the challenge before us in the working group and I am sure that we will all rise to that challenge.

Can I just say that Japan asked a question in relation to the—or made a point—that countries may have additional points they wish to raise in the working group, in addition to those that are contained in the Bureau documents, CL 120/10-Sup.1 and CL 120/10-Sup.2. Of course countries are free to do that, Japan is quite right. We did include in those documents the material which we received in writing from Member Nations. But obviously other countries, the same countries indeed, may have other points they wish to raise.

There were one or two very specific questions that I would like to refer to the Secretariat. One was from India on the question of the global food. Mr Boutrif will answer that question.

E. BOUTRIF (FAO Staff)

I am very pleased to provide some clarifications on the Global Forum of Safety Regulators that is proposed to be held jointly with WHO in October of this year.

In response to Indian delegation queries, I would like to state that, first, the proposed forum is not part of the preparatory process for the World Food Summit: *five years later*. It is an independent initiative that was taken jointly by FAO and WHO to respond to increased attention and interest from Member Countries in food safety matters and their impact on consumers' health and food trade.

Second, I would like to assure the Council that care has been taken to ensure that the forum does not duplicate the *CODEX* ? work, rather it should complement it in the most effective way. As you know, *CODEX* is an inter-governmental body in which international standards, guidelines and other ? documents are negotiated between countries and therefore is completely distinguished, it defers completely from the purpose of the global forum which is mainly to exchange information on approaches and experiences in dealing with current food safety issues of potential importance to public health and international food trade. It is also meant to advance the process of science-based public consultation and to facilitate capacity-building, particularly in developing countries, a matter that is not usually held in *CODEX* meetings.

The third point, I would like to—that was related to the participation of developing countries in the forum—I wish to state that this is at the centre of FAO's consideration in the preparation of the forum, the preparatory process and meetings that we have held here in FAO last month included participants from developing countries that were selected by the regional groups themselves, so we have tried to be as transparent as possible and as open as possible in the implication and the

participation of developing countries in the, not only in the preparation but, hopefully, also in the forum itself.

It was also agreed that the forum will have to be held in a developing country. FAO and WHO are actively, actually negotiating with some of the donor countries to seek their extra-budgetary support to fund the participation of developing countries in this important global event.

I hope with these clarifying points I have responded to the queries of the Indian Delegation in this process.

Ms K. KILLINGSWORTH (Assistant Director-General/Special Adviser (World Food Summit Follow-up))

Very briefly, because I know you want to go on to the Working Group Session. So, just to say that the Secretariat has noted the comments of the delegate of Japan on the additional information provided on the financial implications of the recommendations, in document CL 120/LIM/3. He made an important point concerning transparency in this regard and, certainly, this is something which the document is designed to address. I think perhaps the absence of more specific comments on the cost estimates may be a reflection of the fact that at the moment the cost estimates are very limited in their incremental effect, something which all Members obviously welcome and which we note with appreciation.

Of course, as the delegate from Japan mentioned, the Secretariat would be prepared to provide any further information if he needs to come back with further questions.

With regard to the other questions asked, one by the delegate of Thailand and then, recently, by the ad hoc group of INGOs, represented here in Rome. Since the questions are rather detailed and I know we are running out of time, I would like to suggest that I will give them the answers separately, and if there are any further issues to be brought to the Council's attention, I am sure that could be done under Item 11.1 tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much Ms Killingsworth. If there are no more comments, we have concluded our work for today. But, before we adjourn, I have been asked to announce a reminder to you. I would like to remind all delegates, including Permanent Representatives to register, if they have not already done so. The Registration Centre is located at the entrance to Building A and the names of those who fail to register will not appear on the List of Delegates.

The Open-Ended Working Group will hold its first meeting now in the Malaysia Room.

The meeting rose at 19.15 hours

La séance est levée à 19h15

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.15 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
19 June 2001

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 10h15
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONTINUED)
III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)
III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)

**11. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 31ST SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE,
 INCLUDING THE *WORLD FOOD SUMMIT: FIVE YEARS LATER***

**11. PRÉPARATION DE LA TRENTIÈME SESSION DE LA
 CONFÉRENCE DE LA FAO, AINSI QUE DU *SOMMET MONDIAL DE
 L'ALIMENTATION: CINQ ANS APRÈS***

**11. PREPARATIVOS PARA EL 31º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA
 CONFERENCIA DE LA FAO, INCLUIDA LA *CUMBRE MUNDIAL SOBRE LA
 ALIMENTACIÓN: CINCO AÑOS DESPUÉS***

11.1 Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable (CL 120/11)

11.1 Organisation de la session et calendrier provisoire (CL 120/11)

11.1 Preparativos para el período de sesiones y calendario provisional (CL 120/11)

CHAIRMAN

I call the third meeting of the Hundred and Twentieth Session to order.

Further to our discussion on the arrangements for the *World Food Summit: five years later*, under Item 8 yesterday afternoon, as set out in Document CL 120/11-Sup.1 and in the CFS Report, I propose we now proceed to sub-Item 11.1. namely, *Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable* of the Thirty First Session of the FAO Conference which also makes reference to the *World Food Summit: five years later*. I would ask Ms Gardner, Secretary-General of the Conference and Council to introduce the Item.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I just want to introduce this Item to bring your attention to document CL 120/11 which outlines the arrangements for the Thirty-first Conference and which includes the Provisional Agenda and the Provisional Timetable. I believe that Council considered CL 120/11-Sup.1 in the context of yesterday's debate on the CFS and basically endorsed the Committee's recommendations. In the context of your debate on Item 11.1 there was an outstanding question which needs to be addressed and that is the question of the chairing of the Plenary debate at the Conference, a matter which the CFS referred to the Council.

I would also like to draw your attention to document CL 120/11-Sup.2 which contains the details of an additional agenda item which needs your attention, proposed for the Provisional Agenda.

I want to take a few minutes to draw your attention again to some of the elements in the Provisional Agenda for the Conference. This is set out in Appendix A and the Timetable in Appendix B. The important items to note are the Election of Conference Chair and Officers; the Adoption of the Agenda; and the Appointment of the Commissions, which will take place on 2 November.

On 3 November there are other important activities: the Director-General's Statement; and the Statement of the Independent Chair. Those are important dates. I would think that delegations would have the question of managing the workload, therefore, I wish to draw your attention to those.

Two Commissions will be established. The tentative Timetable of the Conference assumes that the work of these Commissions will occupy no more than four days. Thus, the Election of Council Members and Independent Chair of the Council is proposed for 9 November. The vote on the Budget Level is also proposed for 9 November. Those are important dates that I wish to draw to your attention.

As you all know, Item 5 on the Draft Agenda will be dedicated to the review of the progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action which will be the theme of the general debate in Plenary as shown in Appendix B to the document.

I think, Members, that I have covered the main points to which your attention needs to be drawn.

CHAIRMAN

I open the floor for interventions. I would like to draw your attention to the outstanding question mentioned by the Secretary-General, namely arrangements for chairing the Plenary debate at the Conference.

Costa R. MAHALU (Observer for Tanzania, United Republic of)

The United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the Africa Group, will make a proposal with respect to the nomination of the Chairperson at the Plenary Session of the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

I wish to propose that the Head of State of the Host Country, that is the President of the Republic of Italy, be nominated as the Chairperson of the Plenary Session of the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

Ahmed HACHEMI (Observateur pour l'Algérie)

Je vous remercie de m'avoir donné l'occasion de prendre la parole au début de cette séance. Je m'exprimerai au nom du Groupe *Near East* pour apporter notre ferme soutien à la proposition qui vient d'être faite par Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de la République Unie de Tanzanie en sa qualité de Président du Groupe africain.

J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)

On behalf of the Asia Group, I am very happy to support the proposal of His Excellency Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Je vous remercie d'avoir bien voulu donner la parole à la République Unie de Tanzanie qui est Président du Groupe africain. Je voudrais, au nom de ma délégation, le Sénégal étant membre du Groupe africain, appuyer fermement cette proposition qui vient d'être faite et qui est conforme à la pratique onusienne, en même temps qu'elle répond à une réalité, c'est-à-dire l'engagement non seulement politique mais financier du Pays hôte concernant cette Conférence importante.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

Sur ce point, je voudrais vous demander de donner la parole à la délégation de la Suède qui s'exprimera au nom de l'Union européenne.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Observer for Sweden)

On behalf of the European Community and its Member States, I have the honour to address this important Agenda Item. The Secretariat's document CL 120/11 describes in great detail the organization of this Session of FAO's most important decision-making body. We support the document, in particular the suggested recommendation, paragraph 21, of designating a Rapporteur to prepare the Draft Report of the Conference.

Furthermore, we support the recommendations of the Committee on Food Security on the arrangements for the Agenda Item, World Food Summit: *five years later*, as contained in the Report of the Committee's Twenty Seventh Session, as food security must always be given particular attention. Food security aspects of any global initiative should always be especially looked into before implementation. Full participation of all concerned is of prime importance, which is why the recommendation by the Committee on World Food Security that provisions be made for a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the Conference, and that this Dialogue report its discussions to the Plenary, is very valuable and should be followed. The expected outcome of this

Item is a short clear and focussed Resolution which is expected to be adopted by all those taking part in the discussions under this Agenda Item.

The legal problem of having invited States that are not FAO Member Nations but United Nations Member Nations to this Agenda, while having preparations at the Council and a Resolution to be adopted by the FAO Members at the Conference, should be resolved in a flexible and expedient manner so as to allow these UN Member Nations to take part in the preparation and adoption of this Resolution, expected for this Agenda Item.

CHAIRMAN

I would like to go back to the outstanding question of the Arrangement for Chairing the Plenary Debate. So far we have had the United Republic of Tanzania, Algeria, India and Senegal. Is there any other delegate who would like to intervene on this outstanding matter?

Freddy LEAL PINTO (Observador de Venezuela)

En nombre del GRULAC queremos ofrecer todo nuestro respaldo a la proposición de Su Excelencia el Embajador de LA República Unida de Tanzania de manera que el Jefe de Estado italiano sea el Presidente de la Cumbre.

János KOVÁCS (Hungary)

Hungary fully supports the statement of the European Union.

Jan BERTELING (Netherlands)

I am speaking in my capacity of Chair of the European Regional Group. This particular issue has not been discussed yet in the Group although I assume that there is full support. I understand that if the request is to be made to Italy, it has to be the Prime Minister, President of the Council of Ministers because of the political circumstances in the Host Country. We will come back to this issue as soon as possible.

Ms S.A. SNAEVAR (Iceland)

Iceland speaks on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. It has already been decided that the Thirty-First Session of the Conference will be of a special nature.

The Council, at its Hundred and Nineteenth Session, supported the proposal of the Director-General to include on the Agenda the Item on *Progress in Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action five years after the Summit*. Further, based on a detailed proposal from the Secretariat, the Committee on World Food Security, the CFS, gave its recommendations concerning this Agenda Item. It is reported to the Council.

The Nordic countries welcome the recommendations made on the Round Tables, paragraph 40, on the Resolution, paragraph 41, and on the Stakeholders, paragraph 42, by the Committee on Food Security and detailed in the Committee's Report of May 2001. We further recommend: that the cost of the event should be contained as much as possible, that the Resolution from the event should be concise, focussed and concrete, and finally, that the event should be of a scale appropriate to the Agenda of the Conference.

Food Security must always be given prime consideration, especially in negotiations taking place on a global level in the appropriate fora. This is particularly true for the ongoing negotiations concerning agriculture, which remains the primary sector in most developing countries' economies. Effects of global initiatives on food security should also be carefully researched before being implemented. The importance of stakeholders having the possibility to actively participate in decision processes cannot be overemphasized.

Finally, we particularly welcome that the Committee on World Food Security recommends the provisions be made for a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the Conference and that this dialogue reports its discussion to the Plenary.

Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italy)

I would like to assure you, and the Council, that I have duly taken note of the proposal put forward by a number of Chairs of Regional Groups to ask the Host Country, my country, to chair the World Food Summit: *five years later*. I would like to see in this proposal, if I am allowed, a positive appreciation of the way we have been fulfilling our duties as Host Country to the international community in the past. Usually the choice of the Host Country in the United Nations system reflects a large consensus. If it is, as I have to assume, the case for the World Food Summit: *five years later*, in November, I am sure that my Government will consider this proposal with an open mind and being conscious that our position has been, and is, to serve Member Nations.

CHAIRMAN

It seems that we are having a consensus to have Italy to chair the Plenary Debate at the Conference. I understand that there are some other consultations that have to be done within some Groups but the general consensus is there.

Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italy)

I apologize, it is a small point of constitutional matter. If this invitation is confirmed, in accordance with our constitution it should be the Prime Minister involved in chairing the Summit - as it was in 1996 – because on the basis of our constitution, the President of the Republic has no governing power.

CHAIRMAN

Do we have other interventions on this matter and other matters as raised by the Secretary-General?

Can we adopt this document with the addition of an agenda Item as proposed in document CL 12/11-Sup.2?

Aboubakar BAKAYOKO (Observateur de Côte d'Ivoire)

La délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire saisit cette occasion pour féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents produits, et je voudrais, par la même occasion, affirmer que notre délégation appuie sans réserve la déclaration de l'honorable délégué de la République Unie de Tanzanie, au nom du Groupe africain. Concernant la présidence de la Conférence, je pense que nous sommes entièrement d'accord que l'Italie assure cette fonction. L'autre point que je voudrais soulever concernant le calendrier, est que le programme détaillé des tables rondes n'est pas inclus dans les annexes jointes au document CL 120/11- Sup. 1. Alors je voudrais savoir à quel moment nous aurons ce calendrier des tables rondes, et serait-il possible d'avoir un calendrier unique permettant aux délégués d'avoir une vision assez claire des différentes séances qui auront lieu pendant le Sommet?

CHAIRMAN

I am sure that you refer to the Chair of the Plenary debate at the Conference, which was being proposed here and agreed upon as a consensus, not the Chair of the Conference itself but the Chair of the Plenary debate at the Conference.

Masato ITO (Japan)

I would like to make a comment on document CL 120/11, the *Arrangements for the Thirty-First Session of the Conference*.

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for the documents, both CL 120/11 and its supplement, complemented by document CL 120/LIM/3, concerning Financial Implications of the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

At this stage, I have four comments with respect to the arrangement of the Conference, including the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

The first point is the same one which was raised by the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire. As a result of the CFS recommendation of reducing the number of Round Tables, my delegation would like to request the Secretariat to prepare a revised timetable, including the World Food Summit: *five years later* event, so as to have a clear, full picture of the whole event during the Conference time.

The second point is a resolution or declaration. The adoption of the resolution or declaration should be placed at the end of the World Food Summit: *five years later* before moving to the ordinary Conference business. My understanding is that the World Food Summit: *five years later* should come to the end with this adoption of the Resolution or declaration but it is not clear in document CL 120/11.

The third point is the Report of the Commission. My delegation considers that more time for examination is required before moving to the adoption of any part of the Commission Report, after the Commission discussion. As the PWB is so important, my delegation considers it appropriate to move the adoption of PWB to the following week, as an integral part of the Commission II Report.

The fourth point is the financial implications. As I made the statement yesterday, I would like to repeat a similar thing on this occasion. I would like to stress, once more, the importance of minimizing the pressure on the Regular Programme by possible additional financial expenditures arising from the World Food Summit: *five years later*. It is vital to minimize the expenditure relating to the World Food Summit: *five years later*, and its preparation, from the regular budget.

In this regard, my delegation is not yet convinced on the document CL 120/LIM/3, while supporting the proposed event in general, including a multi-stakeholder dialogue. Therefore, my delegation would like to continue examination of document CL 120/LIM/3.

Ms Jocelyn BROWN (United States of America)

Thank for this opportunity to comment on the resolution and the arrangements of the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

As we reaffirm and advance our efforts to end world hunger, it is important to ensure that the World Food Summit: *five years later* process not re-open debate on any part of the 1996 Rome Declaration and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, and that it focus on the concrete actions needed to achieve the World Food Summit goals.

We concur with the comments of our esteemed colleague from Egypt in calling for brevity of this document. For the United States, key elements of a draft resolution would include: recommitment to hunger reduction goals, analysis of recent successes in hunger reduction, trade and economic growth, sustainable development and enabling policy and pro-investment environment, good governance and human rights, promotion of the role of civil society and the for-profit private sector, and primary responsibility for development and attaining food security resting with developing countries.

We would like to share our conceptual framework for the World Food Summit: *five years later*. The concept of food security should be broadened to include achievements resulting from economic growth, trade liberalisation and government providing a pro-investment enabling environment.

Greater convergence between food security and poverty reduction, development strategies and programmes is needed. Summit and food security actions and objectives should be better integrated into existing development and poverty reduction strategies. Food security roles should be defined for all players within the multilateral system and among national governments and in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, considered collectively.

FAO's comparative advantage is in playing a catalytic role in getting food security on the agenda of other fora for the environment, sustainable development and health and nutrition.

Greater accountability for results and measuring progress is needed. Data quality and monitoring and reporting tools must be refined to provide credible information on progress and shortfalls in meeting hunger reduction goals.

With regard to the World Food Summit follow-up, information is needed on progress among countries in developing national food security plans, including how substantively food security elements are included in multisectoral programming processes, such as the poverty reduction strategy papers, the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance framework and establishing national mechanisms for involving civil society.

Greater consideration is needed in the role of the private sector, both charitable and for profit, in terms of advocacy and setting the public agenda, giving voice to stakeholders directly implementing programmes and resource contributions.

Achievement of our hunger reduction goals depends on the full involvement of civil society in the World Food Summit: *five years later* deliberations and follow-up implementation of commitments. We look forward to receiving the advice of civil society through the multi-stakeholder dialogue as an important input into the inter-governmental deliberation and decision-making process.

We encourage maximum civil society participation in the World Food Summit: *five years later* proceedings. This would be consistent with FAO's commitment to broaden civil society participation in its programmes. We applaud this commitment and encourage FAO to creatively seek ways to implement its policy and strategy for cooperation with non-governmental and civil society organizations in the meetings it sponsors.

Costa R. MAHALU (Observer for Tanzania, United Republic of)

Coming back to the question of the Chairman of the event, on behalf of the Africa Group I would like to express my appreciation for the clarification which has been given to us by the distinguished delegate of Italy, and other speakers, on who can chair the event. We highly respect the Italian Constitution and I wish to submit that the Head of Government of the Republic of Italy, who is constitutionally empowered to chair such summits, be the Chairperson or the Chairman of the forthcoming *World Food Summit: five years later*.

Yohannes TENSUE (Observer for Eritrea)

We would wholeheartedly welcome the Italian Government to chair the Plenary of the World Food Summit, as was similarly done during the 1996 Plenary Session of the World Food Summit.

Due to the number of Heads of States coming to Rome and being his guests, we can understand that the Prime Minister of Italy might not be able to chair the entire Plenary. It is traditional for the Vice-Chairperson to chair on his behalf under his authority.

In 1996, it was done. The Prime Minister chaired part of the Plenary but the remainder was transmitted to the Vice-Chairpersons. However, not all the other Chairpersons were given equal participation in chairing the remainder of the Plenary. It may be advisable to know who those Vice-Chairpersons will be and on what day and time they will be chairing on his behalf.

I would like to know if the Secretariat could recall the Chairmanship order of 1996. It would be highly appreciated either this morning or in the afternoon.

At the same time, I remember, in 1996, during the late evening the Plenary was empty. The Head of State was making a statement and the attendance was very poor due to the very late session. Now, as scheduled, up to 20.30 hrs is too late for a Head of State to sit and the attendance will be poor. It would be better to reduce it to 18.30 hrs, I do not know what the house may say, but up to 20.30 hrs is too late. It is my feeling that that might be better to cut down to 18.30 hrs so that the attendance will be more, rather than to see a Head of State making a statement with nobody in the hall.

I need some information regarding this schedule and also on the Vice-Chairpersons.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you for reminding us that CL 120/11-Sup.1, paragraph 12 stated that, taking due account of the experience of the World Food Summit, it is also proposed that the Chairperson be assisted by six Vice-Chairpersons.

I would like to propose that the regions consult among and within the regions and later on come up with the countries that will be asked to function as Vice-Chairpersons for the Plenary Session.

Is that agreeable?

We will leave the regions to consult again and later on report to the Council on the Vice-Chairpersons to the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

I would now like to ask Ms Killingsworth to respond to some of the points raised.

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

I would like to address first of all the questions raised by the delegates of Côte d'Ivoire and Japan and then some of the points raised just now by the delegate of Eritrea.

First of all, on a consolidated timetable for the entire Conference, including the World Food Summit: *five years later*. On the basis of what we understand to be the Council's decisions, in approving the recommendations of the CFS, the Secretariat will now be in a position to give you a consolidated calendar. Obviously this will greatly facilitate your work. We will do that as soon as we can. I would also point out that over the summer we will be putting out information notes to all countries and all participants, which will include further updates on all the preparations being made for the event.

The delegate of Japan raised a few other issues on the way in which the Conference and the World Food Summit: *five years later*, would carry out their business. Perhaps you will need to look at this revised calendar in order to see the whole thing clearly, but I would point out that the suggestion that the Secretariat has made, to schedule at the end of the week of 5-9, in other words on Friday 9 November, the adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget and the election of the Independent Chairman and Members of the Council, is made on the basis of the experience that all delegations are not able to stay through to the end of the Conference. Therefore, it is probably preferable for many delegations to see these items concluded by the end of the first full week of the Conference, and have the rest of the Conference's business on the two days in the following week. When you see the revised timetable, I think perhaps those points will be clearer. I will be happy to respond to any further questions which the delegate of Japan may have on document CL 120/LIM/3.

With regard to the points made by the delegate of Eritrea, indeed he has a very good memory of some of the problems of timetabling that we had at the World Food Summit five years ago. We have certainly taken his points very much to heart.

The proposed timetable, and the suggestion that on the first day the meeting continue until 20.30 hrs is, of course, flexible. If there are not a number of speakers who wish to take the floor on the first day, it will always be possible to conclude the proceedings earlier. The proposal was made on the assumption that a great many participants may attend on the first day and wish to take the floor, and perhaps will not be able to stay for the entire period of the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

That brings me to the point he also made with regard to the nomination of Vice-Chairs. It would be important for the Secretariat to have information early on who would be the Heads of State or Government nominated to act as Vice-Chairs, precisely in order to be able to schedule the periods in which they would preside.

We also will need to know well before the event takes place which Round Table discussion each country wishes to attend, in order to schedule everybody's time appropriately. In the document

before you, it is suggested that the Secretariat would need to have the relevant information by 1 October. Of course, the reason for that would be then to feed-back to you, also in advance of the event, how everything would take place, who would be where and when, in those very intense few days.

I would like to thank the delegate of Eritrea for bringing those issues to the attention of the Council and ask on behalf of the Secretariat that Members assist in letting the Secretariat know, as soon as possible, their plans, which Round Table session they will wish to participate in and, of course, their nominations for the six Vice-Chairs.

That is what I can propose at the moment, but let me stress again that the Secretariat will be keeping in close touch with Members after this session of the Council to keep everyone up-to-date on preparations.

CHAIRMAN

I take it that generally we can adopt this document, as proposed in document CL 120/11 and Sup.1 and 2, with the additional contributions from the floor.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

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

14. REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (ROME, MAY 2001) CL 120/4)

14. RAPPORT DE LA RÉUNION CONJOINTE DU COMITÉ DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITÉ FINANCIER (ROME, MAI 2001) (CL 120/4)

14. INFORME DE LA REUNIÓN CONJUNTA DEL COMITÉ DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS (ROMA, MAYO DE 2001) CL 120/4)

14.1 Savings and Efficiencies in Governance (CL 120/18)

14.1 Économies et gains d'efficience en matière de gouvernance (CL 120/18)

14.1 Economías y eficacia en el ejercicio del gobierno (CL 120/18)

14.2 Other Matters Arising out of the Report

14.2 Autres questions découlant du rapport

14.2 Otros asuntos planteados en el informe

CHAIRMAN

We now move on to Item 14, Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, held last month. The relevant document is CL 120/4. I should now like to give the floor to Mr Mekouar, Chairman of the Finance Committee, who presided over the joint meeting in May. I should like to ask Mr Mekouar to defer his introduction to the section related to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003, until this afternoon when the Council will consider this separately as Agenda Item 12.

A. MEKOUAR (President, Comité Financier)

C'est pour moi un plaisir d'être avec vous aujourd'hui pour présenter le rapport de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité financier, document CL 120/4. En dehors du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, nous avons eu un seul autre point dans notre ordre du jour: Réforme proposée du débat général à la Conférence, économies et gains d'efficacité en matière de gouvernance. Les Comités ont noté que le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*, nécessiterait des dispositions particulières durant la Conférence, et ont décidé de reporter leur examen de la réforme du débat général à la réunion conjointe de 2002, quand les Membres seraient en mesure de tirer les leçons de l'expérience de la Conférence. Je me ferai un plaisir de vous fournir toute explication supplémentaire que vous pourrez souhaiter concernant notre rapport.

J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)

I would like to compliment the Secretariat for an excellent Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The only point I would like to emphasize is that we support the Real Growth Scenario presented and strongly call for an increase in the allocation for Technical Cooperation Programmes, as well as for policy assistance and capacity building.

Ali ANWAR (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

We have some remarks on the question of savings and efficiencies. We would like to insist on the latter point, gained efficiencies, in the context of good governance.

However, we would like to ensure that the savings are not achieved to the detriment of the implementation of the Organization's programmes. Indeed we noticed, after scrutiny of the details of the Budget, that some projects have been relinquished, completely abandoned. Yet there is a pressing need for many developing countries, poor countries and especially in the context of irrigation, hygiene and water resources referred to in paragraph 14. We trust that there will not be contradiction between savings and efficiency and the various items in the Budget.

CHAIRMAN

Since I see no more interventions from the floor and Mr Mekouar has no further comments to make on issues arising from this, we can conclude this item.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

**15. REPORT OF THE 85TH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
(ROME, MAY 2001) CL 120/14)**

**15. RAPPORT DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-CINQUIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ
DU PROGRAMME (ROME, MAI 2001) (CL 120/14)**

**15. INFORME DEL 85º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DEL
PROGRAMA (ROMA, MAYO DE 2001) (CL 120/14)**

15.1 Other Matters Arising out of the Report

15.1 Autres questions découlant du rapport

15.1 Otros asuntos planteados en el informe

R. ROSE (Chairman, Programme Committee)

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be able to appear before Council to report on the deliberations of the Eighty-Fifth Session of the Programme Committee. Let me begin by assuring Members of Council that they have been very well served by the members, which they elected to the

Programme Committee. I wish to publicly thank the members of the Committee for their very positive, professional and constructive approach to the business of the Committee. We have also been aided in incalculable ways by the participation and interest shown in our work by the members of the Secretariat at all levels.

You have asked that this report cover items other than our deliberations on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, which will be reported under Agenda Item 12. Much of our time was devoted to the examination of three documents related to evaluations. I did want to take some time to report to the Council on these evaluations, as the documents go directly to Conference and Council has very little opportunity to review the evaluations.

We began with an evaluation of FAO's policy assistance activities. Your Programme Committee was particularly impressed with this evaluation. We were impressed with the scope and the depth of the evaluation, with the rigorous evaluation methodology that was followed, which included the use of outside evaluators and the subjecting of the results of the evaluation to a peer review, which included some recognized experts in the field. We were also impressed with the forthcoming nature of the management response to the evaluation.

In essence, the evaluation found that FAO's policy assistance was widely appreciated by the recipient countries, and by FAO's international partners. It also found that the technical quality of FAO's policy assistance was deemed to be as good as, or better than, that of other agencies. The evaluation found that the strength of the FAO, in terms of providing policy assistance to the membership, lay in providing assistance in forestry and fisheries sectors, and at the agricultural subsector level, as opposed to providing policy assistance at the agricultural sector level or the macro level which had been the focus of much of the Organization's activities in the past.

Finally, the evaluation concluded that the FAO's consultative approach in its dealing with governments also contributed to the comparative advantage in these areas. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the evaluation, and management's proposed response.

Those findings were that FAO required improved flexibility and rapidity of response to requests for policy assistance, exploiting the decentralized offices and augmenting the steps already taken to enhance the effectiveness of the support provided by the Technical Cooperation Programme. It required further strengthening of the central role of the FAO representative at the country level. It required the need for FAO's policy assistance work to be undertaken in the context of the work of other agencies and international financial institutions at the country level and as part of the United Nations team. It required an improved interface between the headquarters and the decentralized offices. And, finally, it required more attention to capacity building support for policy makers in the recipient countries.

Management has already taken action to implement the evaluation findings and we have asked that these measures be reflected in the full Programme of Work and Budget. We also requested a follow-up report, in about two year's time, on progress in implementing these recommendations. We seek Council's support for these recommendations of our Committee.

The next issue we looked at was a follow-up to the synthesis of recent field project evaluations. Members will recall that, during the previous year, the Programme Committee considered a report which synthesized a number of evaluations carried out on FAO's field projects. One of the conclusions of that synthesis was that FAO field projects were difficult to evaluate because of poor project design. The members of the Committee, over the past number of years, had heard of this problem many times before, so we challenged the Secretariat to do something about it. This report responded to our challenge. In preparing this follow-up report, the Technical Cooperation Department reviewed the entire project cycle and identified a number of weaknesses in project design, project appraisal and project monitoring.

The Committee noted the improvements which the Technical Cooperation Department had initiated to improve project design and strengthen mechanisms for design and appraisal. Specifically, the Technical Cooperation Department will create a new service within the Field Operations Division, responsible for monitoring of the entire project cycle and ensuring quality

control over documentation. The respective roles and responsibilities of the decentralized regional offices, and the newly empowered FAO representatives are also to be clarified. We recognized these remedial measures were not yet completed, and agreed to return to this matter once these mechanisms were in place, and the reorganization of the Technical Cooperation Department was completed.

There was a great deal of complementarity between our examination of the quality of field project design and the next topic that we turned to, which was a report on the level of FAO's field programme, because the members of the Committee recognized that improving the quality of project design was important in enhancing the Organization's ability to compete for declining technical cooperation resources, which are the source of funding for the field programme.

We therefore requested the Secretariat to carry out a comprehensive examination of the reasons for the decline over time, and to propose actions which could address this decline. I should stress that we were examining the decline in extra-budgetary resources for non-emergency technical cooperation. This distinction is important because the extra-budgetary resources available for emergency operations have been increasing. However, it is the resources available for non-emergency technical cooperation which more effectively target the capacity-building in recipient countries, which support the FAO's normative work, and which allow the Organization to effectively reduce hunger and malnutrition.

To place a magnitude on this decline, the document we reviewed noted that since 1996 the non-emergency field programme of the FAO has been reduced to one half of its volume in 1996. The report examined both the external reasons for the decline as well as the internal reasons, and focused on remedies to the internal reasons since these are the things that the Organization could actually remedy. The main steps being taken, which were generally supported by the Committee, included: the better targeting of priorities to match the requirements of the donor community; decentralization of project responsibilities to the country level to match the growing number of donors which have decentralized decision making to the field level; undertaking additional efforts to search for new partnerships in providing funding for the field programme; and the improvement of field programme management.

The Committee regretted the low level of resources at the Organization's disposal for project identification and formulation, and we urge the donors to increase their support for these activities. We also recommended that ways and means be explored to increase the allocation of Regular Programme funds to project preparation, over and above those already available for the Special Programme for Food Security and the Technical Cooperation Programme.

As our recommendations are made to Council, the Committee looks forward to Council support for these two recommendations.

We had three separate evaluation-related items on our agenda, related to aspects of the field programme. We noted that many recommendations are still being implemented and that many of the remedies have resulted in restructuring within the Technical Cooperation Department. We requested that we be kept informed of future developments in the field programme and in the restructuring of the Technical Cooperation Department.

To round out an agenda full of evaluation-related items, we also had a presentation of the new FAO Evaluation website which disseminates the results of FAO evaluations. The findings of evaluations are sometimes sensitive matters, but the Committee welcomed and strongly supported the policy of maximum disclosure of the findings of evaluations of the Regular Programme, and we supported efforts to apply the same policy of maximum disclosure to field project evaluations, subject to the agreement of the other parties concerned.

I am happy to announce that Mr Kato, the Chief of the Evaluation Service, and his staff will be happy to demonstrate the Evaluation website at a presentation on Wednesday, 20 June, from 14.00 hrs to 14.30 hrs, in the Gabon Room – which is located on the Ground Floor of Building A, A-024 – so you will also have an opportunity to see the breadth and the depth of this new FAO website on their evaluations.

The next item we wish to draw to Council's attention, is the draft of the *FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action*. This Plan of Action was requested by Conference in 1999, after recognizing a number of weaknesses in the previous Plan of Action for Women in Development. Weaknesses which were noted by the Programme Committee, and highlighted by the Hundred and Sixteenth Council.

This report on the Plan of Action for Gender and Development will be presented to Council and to the Conference in November, and there was no requirement for the Secretariat to present it to the Programme Committee. However, I believe it is a measure of the trust which has been established between the Secretariat and the Programme Committee, that the staff opted to present the draft to us for comments and suggestions.

We were pleased to note that the new Plan of Action responded to the critical remarks made by the Committee and the Conference in 1999. We also welcomed the close integration of the Plan of Action with the strategic framework and with the Medium-Term Plan.

The views of the Committee are reported in paragraphs 60 to 64 of document CL 120/14 and focused on making sure that managers would be held accountable for actions which they propose to take to mainstream gender concerns within their programmes.

The Programme Committee very much welcomed this opportunity to comment upon, and contribute to, the development of the Plan of Action. We believe that the final document will now be a closer reflection of the desires of the membership as a result of our review. We would welcome Council's expression of support for the Secretariat's initiative in bringing this draft before the Programme Committee for our review.

The final item I wish to draw to Council's attention, deals with a recent addition to our agenda, and that is an annual report of new activities of the Organization, which may impact on its ability to complete the Programme of Work as approved by the Conference. One inevitable consequence of undertaking additional work with finite resources is that some activities will have to be cancelled or postponed. The representative of Syria just made reference to this process.

We have requested that a document be prepared for our next Session in September, describing the various mechanisms designed to enable the FAO to deal in a flexible manner with urgent additional demands, while protecting the implementation of the approved Programme of Work.

This concludes my report, I have tried to review the highlights of a very full and productive meeting, but also to draw to Council's attention the implications of your approval of this report.

Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)

Cyprus endorses the Report of the Programme Committee. However, we have given due consideration to the remarks, concerns or reservations that have been expressed by the Committee, especially regarding the level of FAO's Field Programmes, and we trust the Secretariat to take all necessary measures to recover the negative points in the best possible way.

I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Chairman and the Members of the Programme Committee for their concise and comprehensive report.

Claude CHÉREAU (France)

Je voudrais pour ce point également vous demander de bien vouloir donner la parole à la délégation de la Suède au nom de l'Union européenne.

Rolf ÅKESSON (Sweden)

The European Community and its Member States, upon whose behalf I am now speaking, have considered with great interest the report of the last session of the Programme Committee and want to offer some comments for consideration by the Council.

The most important issue on its agenda was the Summary of the Programme of Work and Budget. We have noted that the summary programme overall was a good reflection of the priorities as set in the Medium-Term Plan which we adopted last year. However, we would have preferred that the

Programme Committee would not only have considered the actual contents, but also the priorities, taking into account that we have to work with limited budgets. We will further revert to this matter under Agenda Item 12.

Another essential issue is the consideration of the Evaluation Report on FAO's Policy Assistance. We agree with the Committee which considered it a model for future programme evaluations. It relates to one of the major activities of FAO, it contains a very frank assessment; outside experts were used; the results had undergone a peer-review by independent outside experts, and it was commented by FAO's management in a very constructive way.

The European Community and its Member States welcome this development and are, indeed, looking forward to further information in due time on the follow-up to this report. However, we, like the Programme Committee, would like to stress the importance of this kind of evaluation. The Programme Committee will consider, at its May session in 2002, the evaluation of the Special Programme on Food Security, which is also of great importance for FAO and its Members States. We hope that this evaluation will be conducted along similar lines and will be presented to the Membership when it is completed. In this way, the integrity of the evaluation process will be preserved.

A final few sentences on FAO's Field Programme: the European Community and its Member States welcome the detailed consideration by the Programme Committee of the level of FAO's Field Programme and of the state of affairs in FAO's decentralization process, which is of great importance. Major changes in the organizational setup at Headquarters and at field level are envisaged and we would expect to be informed regularly on these developments through the Programme and Finance Committees. There is a clear relationship with developments elsewhere in the United Nations system. In this respect, we are very happy that FAO recently requested, successfully, membership in the United Nations Development Group.

Ali FAHAD AL-HAJIRI (Qatar) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, I would like to thank the Programme Committee for the report presented.

I have some questions to ask concerning FAO's Policy Assistance Evaluation, paragraph 44, second bullet, which says that there are new measures to strengthen the central role of FAO which require additional funds and expertise to provide the necessary support, and also responds to the preparation of policies. This paragraph is not very clear in my opinion. Is it possible to have some additional clarification about this second bullet in paragraph 44?

Nuri Ibrahim HASAN (Observer for Libya) (Original language Arabic)

The delegation of my country has studied with attention the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the years 2002-2003. We have noted with gratitude the efforts made by the Secretariat for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget to be fully in line with what was adopted within the Medium-Term Plan for the 2002-2007 period, and in close connection with the long-term goals mentioned within the Strategic Framework of the Organization.

We also noted that the level proposed for the budget, on the basis of real growth, could entail an increase of 5.3 percent in the budget, and this on an exchange rate of the Italian lira 2 250 to US\$1.

CHAIRMAN

For the attention of Libya, we are deferring the debate on the budget until later this afternoon, so please can you defer your intervention also to later this afternoon on Agenda Item 12.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

We would like to request that the floor be given to Tanzania to speak on behalf of the Africa Group.

Perpetua M. HINGI (Observer for Tanzania, United Republic of)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Group. The Group has reviewed the Eighty-fifth Session of the Programme Committee and, as presented by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, we support the recommendations made.

We also fully support the thrust expressed in the document, especially on Commodity and Credit Policy Support to Developing Countries for Trading Negotiation. We believe the planned assistance will be a vital input during the period of the World Trade Organization negotiations on agriculture.

The Group also concurs with the recommendations of extra-budgetary resources to be made available in order to accommodate the recommendations made by various committees, in that the Special Programme for Food Security pay due attention to marketing and other support services. We believe, as it is in the rural areas where the majority population of mainly developing countries reside, marketing is very important. Markets are necessary for farmers to acquire cash from their surplus product and as an alternative means to get rid of post-harvest losses where storage facilities are not available or are inadequate. In this way, to some extent, we will be able to meet the goal of acquiring food security for all.

Ms Lucy TAMLYN (United States of America)

Thanks very much to the Chairman of the Programme Committee for his very illuminating report. It is very helpful for those of us who do not have the opportunity to go into the kind of precise detail that that Committee goes into, to see the work that is being done there. It certainly helps us understand where our contributions are going to.

I think, in particular, that the comments on the policy advice that FAO gives, and the reaction response from countries, recipient countries, is very important.

I would also like to highlight another issue, that is the decline in resources for extra-budgetary activities. I think that this decline raises some interesting questions which we should pursue.

We appreciate the work of the Programme Committee in identifying some of the problems that may have contributed to this decline. We would like to note in this regard the key role of FAO field offices. When funding authority has devolved to the field, as is for instance the case with my Government for many aid projects, it is ever more critical that the FAO Representative be a key player in the donor community. Unfortunately, this is not always the case and I think that it must be admitted that this has often led to lost opportunities for donor collaboration with FAO.

So we would certainly like to support the recommendations of the Committee, specifically that there be better targeting to the priorities of the donor community and also a decentralization to the field offices, to match the decentralized authority on the part of the donors.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

Australia was very pleased to be able to participate in the Programme Committee Meeting in May, so I will not go into much detail about what has already been presented to the Council. We had a very productive meeting and it operated in a very constructive atmosphere.

I just wanted to highlight one point, for the benefit of the Council, that is recorded in the Programme Committee's Report. Colleagues may recall that, at this last session of the Council, Australia raised serious concerns about a particular project funded with extra-budgetary resources, which we did not consider was in line with the decisions taken by the Governing Bodies of this Organization. Australia, and a number of other countries, had expressed concern about transparency and governance with regard to the extra-budgetary activities of the Organization. So Australia is particularly pleased with paragraphs 56 and 58 of the Report of the Programme Committee, which drew attention to the need for FAO to ensure that the decisions of its Governing Bodies, as well as its mandate and comparative advantage, are taken into account in

the process of project formulation and approval. Furthermore, in paragraph 58, the Committee has recommended fuller disclosure and dissemination of project data and information.

Australia considers the governance of the extra-budgetary activities of FAO as an important issue. We welcome the Report of the Programme Committee and look forward to a continued addressing of this issue within the Organization.

Flavio Celio GOLDMAN (Brasil)

Mi delegación quería muy brevemente hacer referencia al párrafo 22: el equilibrio lingüístico en la FAO. Aunque es un tema muy importante para mi región y que fue ya discutido ampliamente en la última sesión del COAG, nos interesa particularmente la información de WAICENT que consideramos esencial para los sectores agrícolas de nuestros países. En el caso de Brasil, como el portugués no es una lengua oficial de la FAO mucha gente en nuestro país tiene acceso a la información en español. En ese sentido nos parece muy importante lo señalado en el párrafo 22 y una vez iniciado el nuevo *evaluation web site* mencionado en el párrafo 46, sería muy importante que la FAO garantizase toda esta información en todos los idiomas oficiales de la Organización.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

En primer lugar, deseo agradecer el excelente informe que nos ha presentado el Presidente del Comité del Programa. Con esta presentación tan alentadora, la Delegación de Guatemala desearía apoyar las recomendaciones del mismo. Particularmente se desea referir al Programa Principal en los temas del fortalecimiento a las medidas para reestructurar y reforzar la Secretaría del Codex, muy en particular el inciso 18 relativo a la importancia de la entidad 22.4 A2 que es de apoyo a los países en desarrollo en materia de políticas sobre productos básicos y comercio para las negociaciones comerciales. Un asunto muy importante respecto al cual la Delegación de Guatemala se había manifestado con anterioridad y respecto a que, cuando se realicen estos seminarios que ya se llevan a cabo en el CARICOM, en la región centroamericana y también en otros países de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe, se tenga en consideración las agendas, la propuestas que emanen de los propios países para que las negociaciones y el enfoque sean realmente aprovechados por los países en desarrollo.

Quería aprovechar lo manifestado por la declaración de Brasil. La Delegación de Guatemala ha siempre enfatizado la importancia del tema de la igualdad de los idiomas en WAICENT; la información es el punto más importante para nuestros países: su divulgación, la preparación de los documentos de la FAO y otros en los cuales la FAO se apoya, son fundamentales y deben hacerse en todos los idiomas.

En relación al WAICENT, creo que las recomendaciones que ha hecho el Comité del Programa son muy importantes ya que el WAICENT es el programa ejecutor y el objetivo principal del Marco Estratégico 2000-2015. También creo sea importante reconocer el papel que juega el WAICENT en asegurar una cobertura equilibrada de idiomas en el sitio de Internet de la FAO y, creo fundamental, que el Consejo reconozca la preocupación del Comité del Programa respecto al WAICENT y recomiende a la Organización que le asigne mayor coherencia a los programas de administración y difusión de la información de la FAO.

Ariel FERNÁNDEZ (Argentina)

Voy a ser muy breve, simplemente apoyar lo dicho por Brasil y Guatemala en referencia al WAICENT; particularmente este último enfocado en el objetivo E del Marco Estratégico aprobado por la Organización. Apoyamos también lo que acaba de decir Australia respecto al párrafo 58, creemos que la transparencia es vital para la correcta asignación de recursos extrapresupuestarios y para el éxito de los programas que tengan que ver con estos recursos, y en general, obviamente, apoyamos las recomendaciones y conclusiones que ha hecho el Comité y al que felicitamos por su calidad en la elaboración de sus conclusiones y en el arduo, pero muy efectivo, trabajo efectuado.

Masato ITO (Japan)

My delegation would like to support in general the recommendation of the Programme Committee but I would like to make one comment in relation to the point raised by my Australian colleague.

I have no intention to reopen the discussion of the last Council, I also support the recommendation contained in the Report of the Programme Committee but I would like to emphasize that my delegation is convinced that the project referred to by the Australian colleague is fully in line with the mandate of FAO and in line with the decision of the Governing Bodies.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, de m'associer à l'intervention faite par la Tanzanie au nom du Groupe africain et de féliciter le Comité du programme en particulier son Président que nous sommes heureux de revoir ici pour le travail ardu mais efficace qui a été fait. Nous voudrions simplement appuyer quelques recommandations, notamment pour les grands programmes, et nous arrêter sur le Programme spécial sur la sécurité alimentaire car nous pensons que c'est un programme qui vient à son heure et répond d'ailleurs aux objectifs fixés par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. En particulier, on ne saurait jamais assez insister sur la coopération sud-sud. Malgré les moyens économiques et financiers limités, certains pays en développement, viennent, en solidarité envers leurs partenaires, pays en développement également, appuyer leurs efforts dans le cadre de ce Programme spécial. Je crois que c'est une activité louable qu'il faut magnifier au sein de ce Conseil.

Je crois également qu'il convient, à la suite du Comité du programme, de se féliciter du rapport d'évaluation pour l'assistance de la FAO aux politiques. Le Comité du programme a considéré que c'était un modèle à suivre.

Mais au titre des préoccupations, nous devons signaler le déclin des ressources extra- budgétaires, notamment en ce qui concerne le programme de terrain. Je crois que cela n'est pas conforme au mandat de la FAO et le Conseil qui constitue un organe directeur doit se pencher sérieusement sur cette question.

Nous avons également remarqué que le Centre d'investissements de la FAO s'est intéressé à la réduction de la dette. Nous n'avons pas très bien compris ce point et peut être le Secrétariat pourra-t-il nous aider à mieux comprendre. On nous dit que c'est dans le cadre des efforts internationaux et au niveau de l'organe de fonds pour l'environnement mondial, le GEF que la FAO peut ainsi pouvoir accéder aux ressources de ce fonds. Nous savons aussi que récemment le FIDA a également été autorisé à accéder à ce fonds, pour la dégradation des sols. Le Secrétariat peut-il nous dire la part qui sera concernée par la réduction de la dette pour ce qui est de l'accession qui vient d'être donnée à la FAO par l'intermédiaire du Centre d'investissements? A quel niveau se situe cette part dans la réduction de la dette? Nous avons noté également les efforts du Secrétariat pour accéder à des partenaires extérieurs mais nous ne savons pas si ces efforts, vu la situation assez pessimiste actuelle, tendent à porter des fruits. Nous serions curieux de savoir ce que le Secrétariat peut nous dire à ce propos, je parle notamment des paragraphes 40 et 41.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

Allow me to compliment the Chairman of the Programme Committee on the excellent work done by his Committee.

Zimbabwe would like to add its voice to the sentiments expressed by the United Republic of Tanzania, the Chairman of the Africa Group, and others from the region who have spoken on the work of the Programme Committee.

We agree with the priority attached to the recognition of food security as a key element in poverty reduction strategies, food security and consumer protection. We would also like to add our voice to compliment FAO on the capacity building for the World Trade Organization, trade negotiations

on agriculture, monitoring the achievements of the World Food Summit, target at national levels and improving the coverage of quality of statistics, as well as responding to the increasing number of food emergencies.

We emphasize the importance of FAO contributions and active involvement in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) activities. We would also like to reiterate the importance of the Special Programme for Food Security and recommend that the Programme pay due attention to complementary aspects of marketing and other support activities.

We are concerned with the declining trend of extra-budgetary resources for non-emergency technical cooperation as reflected in the data on field programme delivery provided by the Secretariat. This declining trend, if it were to persist at this rate, would have a negative impact on FAO's field activities as well as on the quality of its normative work and its effectiveness in reducing world hunger.

Lastly, we welcome the opportunity to review the Draft Plan of Action on Gender and Development and are pleased to note the more explicit linkage established between the new plan and the main corporate planning and programming processes of FAO, in particular in the Medium-Term Plan of 2000-2007.

Rudolph HINKSON (Barbados)

Let me add my voice, on behalf of the country of Barbados, to the Chairman of the Programme Committee for an excellent document and to join also with the delegate of Argentina, who spoke on behalf of GRULAC, to indicate our agreement with this document in full. We would also like to say that, as a beneficiary of FAO's generosity in its field programme, we consider this to be important work and we would like to be assured that this work will continue.

We join on behalf of Member Countries, particularly Small Island Developing States, who have problems in relation to pest control and crops, to say that we appreciate deeply the work of the FAO field officers in these countries and would like, in doing so, to pledge our continued support for this important work.

R. ROSE (Chairman, Programme Committee)

On behalf of the Members of the Programme Committee, let me thank the Members of Council for the obvious attention which they have paid to our report. It is heartening to see that our efforts are in fact appreciated by the Members of Council.

A number of delegations, the United Republic of Tanzania, Brazil, Guatemala, Senegal, Zimbabwe and a few others, raised questions which actually relate to the part of our report that deals with the Programme of Work and Budget. They asked very interesting questions and I can assure them that they will get responses but they may have to wait until we get to Agenda Item 12 later today to hear those responses, so we should at least make sure that those delegations will be present for that debate.

There were a number of questions. The United States made a point that I think amplified a question by Qatar about the decentralized decision making. Qatar, I believe, asked if we could amplify the statement suggesting that the decentralized, or that the newly empowered, FAO representatives at the country level required additional resources. The intent of that comment was to say that these individuals are now empowered to take specific actions on behalf of the Organization to enter into agreements with donors, with recipient governments, and that they require the resources to enable them to carry through on those promises if the recipient government asks for a review of a particular problem that it is having.

The FAO Representative in that country not only needs to be able to send a message back to Headquarters saying something must be done. They must now be able to, in fact, initiate a response to that. So that is why the Committee feels that FAO requires these additional resources.

Brazil and a number of countries asked questions about language balance and again that will be covered later today when we discuss the Programme of Work and Budget.

Senegal again talked about our comments regarding the SPFS, particularly South-South Cooperation. There was not a particular question asked but again it is an area that we will be discussing as we discuss the second part of our Programme Committee report later today.

We are pleased with Senegal's support, also expressed by the European Union, for the model of evaluation that was used in the evaluation of FAO's policy assistance and that, was certainly a strong recommendation on the part of the Programme Committee that, as much possible, the Evaluation Service use this new rigorous model for evaluation.

I am sure that the Secretariat will be happy to shed light on the comments on debt reduction and the new access to the global environmental facility mentioned in paragraph 35 but, again, probably in the context of our discussion on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Thank you, Zimbabwe, for noticing our comments on the Gender Plan of Action.

That, I believe, will cover the questions that were raised on the part of our report that did not deal with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

There was not much that was in the form of a question that was addressed to the Secretariat but of course you will take note of all of the comments that were made. I would like in particular to thank Members of the Council for the complimentary comments concerning the model used for the evaluation of policy assistance work.

I would like to add a comment as there seems to be a connection between complimentary remarks and the fact that the external input was included in this evaluation. This is a fairly standard approach for us, but I should emphasize that the evaluation was carried out by the Evaluation Service, contracting and using external people wherever it was appropriate. It was not an external evaluation which for example will be the case for Special Programme for Food Security, where the Evaluation Service will not carry out the evaluation, but where, in fact, it will be run by the external team.

The reason I make the point is that there sometimes seems to be a link between the use of external experts and credibility. I think that that is not necessarily the case as is proven by this particular example. You can have a good evaluation carried out by a good independent Evaluation Service.

On the questions concerning paragraph 35 and in particular the work we are doing from the Investment Centre in support of the promotion of debt reduction I will ask you to pass the floor to Mr David Forbes Watt who can expand on that for the benefit of Senegal. He may well also wish to comment on the Global Environment Facility and what we have been doing there.

I would only add, in relation to paragraph 40 where some information was asked about what we were doing, that this all relates to the work covered by Mr Rose concerning the level of FAO's Field Programme. What we are trying to do is to find various ways in which we can create better relationships with the donor community so that we recognize their areas of interests and match them to the needs of member countries.

It also involves creating strategic alliances with certain donors who are interested in supporting the FAO's Strategic Framework in particular and therefore are directing their efforts in support of the specific objectives stated in the strategic framework. We now we have strategic partnerships with the Government of the Netherlands, and also to an extent with the United Kingdom and I believe upcoming with the Government of Belgium.

As I do not think there are any other questions for me, can I now pass the floor to Mr David Forbes Watt on this other issue.

David FORBES WATT (Director, Investment Centre Division)

I just wanted to make a few comments on the Investment Centre's involvement in debt reduction initiatives. This is mainly linked to the HIPIC and is carried out in larger part under our Cooperative Programme with the World Bank. We are now working on poverty reduction strategy

papers with eligible countries to ensure a proper involvement in proportion and content in the poverty reduction strategy exercise for agricultural and rural development and to reflect the needs for food security. Right now, we are working with some eight countries in Africa, most of this is in Africa, both on interim poverty reduction strategy papers and on full papers.

We also have several activities of assistance beyond PRSPs linked to bilateral debt reduction initiatives. I think this is very important because these are all upstream. They end up reflecting in the World Bank's CAS - Country Assistance Strategies - and in the UNDAFs, and it is very important, in view of the fact that such a majority of the poor are in rural areas. However, the rural sector and food security, it seems to me, is sometimes left out or does not have its proper focus in these sorts of exercises because it may be somewhat more difficult to get the background statistics and information. Some of the conceptional work may go beyond the skills available so that, where we can, we are called upon and we are very anxious to see this through. It will result, of course, in larger programmes in agriculture and rural development and food security further down the line.

The second point that I was asked to address was that our work programmes with the Global Environment Fund - the GEF. I am very pleased to say that these have been developing very well, not least since, about a year ago, now the GEF Council had decided that FAO, as well as UNIDO I may say, would be an executing agency for the GEF. That is, we would no longer have to work through the implementing agencies directly, although we still do in some cases, that is, the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. However, we could take on activities in fields where we had comparative advantage and specialist expertise, directly as executing agencies with the governments and the GEF. The Investment Centre is providing the focal point for this. We have a small group of environmental officers working with environmental people in the technical divisions and we have quite an active pipeline for the GEF. The target will be to build up a pipeline of US\$80 or 90 million a year in GEF-funded projects.

We are now initially working on two projects in area of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) for which the GEF Secretariat is very anxious to tap FAO's expertise. So I think that is on the way to becoming a much more solid programme between the GEF partnership and FAO.

CHAIRMAN

I think we can certainly compliment the Programme Committee for a good work accomplished and approve this Report. If there are no more comments on this Item we can conclude this Item and move on to our next Item.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

16. REPORT OF THE 96TH SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (ROME, MAY 2001) (CL 120/15)

16. RAPPORT DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-SEIZIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ FINANCIER (ROME, MAI 2001) (CL 120/15)

16. INFORME DEL 96º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE FINANZAS (ROMA, MAYO DE 2001) CL 120/15)

16.1 FAO Audited Accounts 1998-99 (C 2001/5)

16.1 Comptes révisés de la FAO 1998-99 (C 2001/5)

16.1 Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO relativas a 1998-99 (C 2001/5)

16.2 Status of Contributions and Arrears (CL 120/LIM/1)

16.2 Situation des contributions et des arriérés (CL 120/LIM/1)

16.2 Estado de las cuotas y de los atrasos (CL 120/LIM/1)

16.3 Budgetary Performance 2000
16.3 Exécution du budget 2000
16.3 Ejecución del presupuesto de 2000
16.4 Scale of Contributions 2002-2003
16.4 Barème des contributions 2002-2003
16.4 Escala de cuotas para 2002-2003
16.5 Appointment of the External Auditor
16.5 Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes
16.5 Nombramiento del auditor externo

CHAIRMAN

I should like to ask Mr Mekouar, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, to introduce the Report, again deferring your comments on the section related to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003 until we discuss Item 12.

A. MEKOUAR (Président, Comité Financier)

Je voudrais avant tout vous dire que les membres du Comité financier n'ont rien à envier aux membres du Comité du programme. Comme d'habitude, ils ont fait preuve d'une compétence, d'un professionnalisme et d'un esprit constructif qui ont permis à notre Comité financier de mener à bien ses travaux. Je voudrais leur rendre hommage et les remercier pour le travail qu'ils ont accompli. Je voudrais également remercier le Secrétariat pour l'aide inestimable qu'il nous a fourni sans laquelle il nous aurait été difficile de remplir notre tâche.

Je voudrais maintenant vous rendre compte des travaux de notre Comité à sa dernière session. Avant tout, je voudrais vous dire qu'au cours de la session, le Comité a élu à l'unanimité M. Anthony Beatty, représentant du Royaume-Uni, comme Vice-Président pour 2001. L'ordre du jour de cette session comprenait une large gamme de questions budgétaires, financières et administratives, concernant et affectant la situation générale de l'Organisation. Notre Comité, outre son examen de la situation financière de l'Organisation, a également abordé des questions de contrôle, y compris le rapport annuel de l'Inspecteur général, et le rapport du Commissaire aux comptes. Comme d'habitude, le calendrier de la session prévoyait également des réunions conjointes avec le Comité du programme.

Je voudrais dans la présente introduction, souligner les points revêtant l'intérêt général pour le Conseil ou ceux qui lui sont soumis pour décision.

Comptes vérifiés de la FAO 1998-1999 – document C 2001/5.

Conformément aux dispositions de l'article XXVII.7 (1) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Comité a examiné les comptes vérifiés de la FAO pour l'exercice 1998-1999, et a noté avec satisfaction que le Commissaire aux comptes a formulé une opinion sans réserve.

En réponse à une série de questions et d'observations du Comité, le Directeur de la vérification extérieure des comptes et le Secrétariat ont fourni des explications détaillées et des éclaircissements concernant les recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes. L'examen de ces questions est décrit en détail aux paragraphes 55-57 de l'autre rapport. Le Comité a noté que, comme le veut l'usage, le rapport intérimaire sur l'application des recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes, y compris les recommandations correspondant à des périodes précédentes, seraient présentés à cette quatre-vingt-dix-septième session. Le Comité a recommandé que le Conseil soumette à la Conférence, pour adoption, les comptes vérifiés de l'exercice 1998-1999, et le projet de résolution correspondant de la Conférence, figure au paragraphe 58 de notre rapport.

Point 16.2 Situation des contributions et des arriérés - document CL 120/LIM/1.

Le Comité a examiné la situation financière de l'Organisation au 2 mai 2001 et a noté que 40,10 pour cent des contributions mises en recouvrement avaient été reçues. Trente-et-un Etats

Membres ont réglé intégralement leur contribution ordinaire, trente-deux autres avaient fait des versements partiels et cent seize n'avaient encore fait aucun versement au titre de leur contribution de 2001. Une mise à jour de la situation est fournie dans le document CL 120/LIM/1.

Le Comité a en outre noté que le taux de recouvrement des contributions était inférieur à celui de l'année dernière à la même période: 40,10 pour cent contre 48,38 pour cent l'année précédente. Le Secrétariat a expliqué qu'en raison de l'adoption d'un nouveau barème des quotes-parts de l'ONU pour 2001-2003, la FAO a dû préparer un barème révisé des contributions pour 2001, conformément aux dispositions de la résolution 9/99 de la Conférence. Il y a donc eu retard de quatre semaines dans l'envoi des lettres de rappel aux Etats Membres pour 2001, qui se répercute sur le recouvrement des contributions, mais le taux de recouvrement devrait dans les prochains mois, atteindre un niveau semblable à celui des années précédentes.

Point 16.3 Exécution du budget 2000 – document CL120/15.

Le Comité a examiné le trente-quatrième rapport annuel du Directeur général sur l'exécution du budget et des virements entre programmes et budgets, rapport résumé des aspects budgétaires de l'exécution du Programme ordinaire pour l'an 2000, et indiqué les transferts probables de ressources entre les chapitres. Il est joint en tant qu'Annexe 1 au document CL 120/15. Le Comité a noté que le Directeur général gère les crédits budgétaires conformément aux dispositions du Règlement financier, et qu'il prévoyait d'utiliser intégralement les crédits de l'exercice biennal. Il a également noté que le montant de neuf millions de dollars Etats-Unis, autorisé pour les dépenses de réaffectation et de cessation de services serait entièrement utilisé. Le Comité a noté qu'une demande officielle de virement entre chapitres serait présentée à sa prochaine session en septembre 2001. Il a rappelé sa position, selon laquelle, il convient donc, dans toute la mesure du possible, de réduire au maximum, les virements de crédits effectués au détriment des programmes techniques.

Chapitre 2

Il a approuvé le rapport et demandé qu'il soit transmis au Conseil.

Point 16.4 Barème des contributions 2002-2003.

Le Comité a examiné le barème des contributions proposé pour 2002-2003 tel qu'il figure à l'Annexe 2 de notre rapport et a noté que celui-ci dérivait directement du barème des quotes-parts de l'ONU approuvé pour ces années. Le Comité a approuvé le projet de résolution correspondant figurant au paragraphe 36 de l'autre rapport, en recommandant qu'il soit transmis par le Conseil à la Conférence, pour adoption.

Point 16.5 Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes.

Le Comité a examiné les propositions reçues concernant la fourniture de services de vérifications extérieures des comptes. Des représentants des services de vérifications extérieures de six pays, ont fait un exposé aux membres du Comité, afin de leur permettre de mieux apprécier les diverses propositions et d'obtenir un complément d'informations et des éclaircissements.

Le Comité a fait observer que les propositions formulées par tous les soumissionnaires étaient de bonne qualité. Après un long débat et un examen approfondi des mérites des diverses propositions, le Comité a retenu la proposition présentée par l'Inde, et l'a recommandée au Conseil pour examen.

Le paragraphe 68 de notre rapport comprend le projet de résolution présenté au Conseil, pour adoption, en vue de la nomination du Commissaire aux comptes, pour la période de quatre ans, commençant avec la vérification des comptes de l'exercice 2002-2003.

Point 16.6 Autres questions des plans du rapport.

Rôle du Comité financier dans la gestion des arriérés.

Le Comité a examiné les diverses options possibles, ainsi que l'expérience acquise par d'autres organismes du système des Nations Unies dans ce domaine, et est arrivé à la conclusion qu'il ne

devrait pas contribuer directement à la gestion des arriérés. Le Comité est convenu d'envoyer au Conseil, pour examen, une série d'options pour la gestion future des arriérés comme expliqué en détail au paragraphe 44 de l'autre rapport.

Examen du Plan d'incitation au paiement rapide des contributions.

Le Comité a examiné l'historique du Plan d'incitation et en a évalué l'efficacité et le coût. Le Comité a noté que le Plan d'incitation est appliqué depuis 1993, et qu'il n'a apparemment pas entraîné d'amélioration globale du taux de recouvrement des contributions. Outre le manque d'efficacité du Plan, le Comité a noté que son coût continue à être important. Le Comité a recommandé au Conseil, et par son intermédiaire à la Conférence, de suspendre le Plan pour une période de quatre ans, couvrant deux exercices biennaux à compter du 1 janvier 2002. On examinera alors les effets de la suspension du Plan, et sur cette base, une nouvelle recommandation sera faite en vue de la suppression de la réactivation du Plan.

En conclusion, je tiens à dire que dans l'ensemble, cette session du Comité financier, a été très fructueuse, et je pense notamment qu'il a été possible d'aborder un certain nombre de questions financières et budgétaires importantes au thème, et confronté l'Organisation. Au nom du Comité, je tiens à remercier de nouveau le Secrétariat qui nous a assisté dans nos débats, et remercier les Etats Membres de la FAO qui nous ont donné cette possibilité de contribuer aux travaux importants de l'Organisation. Je me ferais un plaisir de vous fournir toutes explications supplémentaires que vous pourriez souhaiter concernant d'autres rapports.

Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)

To be more time effective I will make a comment regarding Sub-Items 16.2, 16.4 and 16.5.

The Cyprus delegation expresses its appreciation and its compliments to the Chairman, the Members of the Finance Committee and the Secretariat for the comprehensive and excellent Report.

While endorsing this Report we would like to give our views on some crucial points.

Let me begin with the chronic problem of the arrears and in the timely payment of current assessments. We share the Committee's concerns that FAO had to use unspent TCP funds to avoid external borrowing.

With regard to the financial position of the Organization we thank the Secretariat for the updated information as presented in the document CL 120/LIM/1. We have observed a slight improvement since 2 May in respect of the rate of receipt of current assessments, although we have not reached the rate of last year. We accept the Secretariat's explanation and we do hope that the financial position of the Organization will be improved further.

Taking due consideration of the issue of the *Management of Contributions* and the options that have been presented by the Finance Committee to the Council, we believe that the Finance Committee should be directly involved in the review of arrears and to report to the Council. We also believe that apart from the loss of voting rights, the introduction of other sanctions, such as the loss of the right to possess high positions in the Governing Bodies could be seriously examined and eventually imposed.

It is very easy and very interesting for someone, in order to understand the dimensions of this problem, to do a simple exercise by using the Appendix A of document CL 120/LIM/1 and the Membership in the Council, Programme and Finance Committees and other high posts in the Governing Bodies.

I would like now to comment on the recommendation of the Committee to the Council to suspend the incentive scheme for prompt payment of contributions for a period of four years. My delegation does not agree to this proposal. Instead we have the view that it would be fairer that such costs should be absorbed by introducing a penalty to unjustifiable Members in arrears.

On the other hand, knowing the fragile financial situation of the Organization, due to the problem of arrears and the current payment of current assessments it would not be wise to risk worsening this problem. We are of the view that due consideration is required not only to the cost of the incentive scheme but also to the cost of arrears to the Organization.

We, therefore, suggest that the decision on this issue be postponed to the next Council and to request the Secretariat to present a comprehensive document, providing all relevant information and projecting all the dimension of this protracted problem.

It is our wish that a new scale of contributions 2002-2003 will have a positive impact on the issue of arrears.

With regard to the appointment of the new External Auditor for the period 2002-2005, we endorse this selection of the Auditor General of India and we extend to him our congratulations.

The part of the Report of the Finance Committee dealing with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget will be commented on by the Cyprus delegation when Item 12 is being discussed.

Hervé GALLEPE (France)

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir donner la parole à la délégation de la Suède, pour une déclaration au nom de l'Union européenne.

Rolf ÅKESSON (Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. We are grateful to the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his introduction to the Report for highlighting the issues on which the Council is asked to make a decision. I would reserve our comments on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget until we reach that Item in its own right on the Agenda.

I first turn to the *Scale of Contributions for 2002-2003*. This Council is invited to send forward to the Conference in November the Draft Resolution in paragraph 35 of the Finance Committee's Report. Details of the proposed Scale are set out in Annex 2 of the Report. We support the recommendation of the Committee. We have noted the concerns about the derivation of the Scale of Contributions for the current year 2001 that are recapitulated in paragraphs 36 to 39 of the Report but are satisfied that the Scale properly reflects the decision of the Conference in November 1999.

The next issue for decision is dealt with in paragraph 41 to 45 under the heading "The Role of the Finance Committee in the Management of Arrears". We note that the Committee has carried out a thorough review of the subject and has identified four options for the Council to consider. These are set out in paragraph 43. We think it would be impracticable for either the Finance Committee or the Council to undertake reviews of the circumstances under which countries have fallen into arrears and thus forfeited their voting rights. We are equally clear that this role cannot be satisfactorily carried out by the General Committee of the Conference which lacks the time and information to make a judgement that is fair both to the country in question and to the Membership at large. We therefore support Option b) that places on the country concerned the onus of presenting a resolution to the Conference seeking the restoration of its voting rights.

Paragraphs 46 to 50 deal with Committee's review of the Incentive Scheme to encourage prompt payment of contributions. We agree that this scheme has not achieved its objective. We think the evidence is strong enough to justify the scheme's abolition but would be prepared to join a consensus in favour of suspension for four years as recommended by the Committee.

Turning to the audited accounts for the 1998-99 biennium, we note, with satisfaction, that the External Auditor has given an unqualified opinion. The narrative report is long and thorough. We have studied it closely together with a very full record of the Finance Committee's discussions with the External Auditor and the Secretariat. The External Auditor has identified a number of areas ranging from banking services to human resource management, financial system implementation, decentralization and fraud, which require urgent management attention. We

welcome the information noted also in the auditor's report that the Director-General has decided to carry out an evaluation of the Special Programme on Food Security. We are looking forward to seeing the results.

Likewise, we support the recommendation of the Auditor that the thorough evaluation be promptly carried out on the FAO's decentralized structure. We understand that the Secretariat will report their follow-up action to the Finance Committee in September. We look forward to the Committee's assessment of the adequacy of that response when it reports to the next session of the Council in November. I should say here, however, because it has a bearing of our consideration of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, that we are especially concerned by the opinion of the External Auditor recorded in paragraph 56G) of the Report that: "Finance Division no longer has adequate staff resources to do the work expected from it".

With those comments we endorse the recommendation of the audited accounts for 1998- 1999 and that they should be sent forward for adoption by the Conference in November. We similarly support the recommendation of the Finance Committee that this Council should appoint the Controller and Auditor General of India as External Auditor of the Organization for four years starting in 2002. We congratulate him and very much look forward to working with him and his staff.

Finally, three additional comments.

Firstly, we greatly welcome the expanded format of the Finance Committee's Report which gives a much better idea of what was discussed and how views were formed.

Secondly, we support what we understand to be the Committee's wish that it should have private sessions from time to time with the External Auditor. That is routine practice in IFAD and in New York where the Board of Auditors meet with ACABQ. We understand that the management of WFP would have no difficulty with the idea. We hope that the Secretariat in FAO will adopt a similarly liberal view.

Thirdly, we remain seriously concerned that the Finance Committee is not given sufficient time to carry out the important tasks it is required to perform on behalf of the Membership as a Sub-Committee of this Council. We shall revert to this matter in November.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

We would like, once again, to request the Chair that the United Republic of Tanzania be given the opportunity to take the floor to speak on behalf of the Africa Group.

Ms Perpetua M. HINGI (Observer for Tanzania, United Republic of)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Group.

First, I would like to congratulate the Chairperson for the presentation of the Report of the Committee. The Africa Group has examined the report and supports several comments which are presented in it.

As for the proposed summary Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003, the Group has examined the report and the different scenarios which the Finance Committee has presented. The Group supports the Real Growth scenario.

In the report, there is a recommendation that efficient savings should be used as a way of increasing the budget of the Organization. The Group requests that the Council should also consider other ways of increasing the budget of the Organization, since efficient savings should be taking as a daily activity of the Organization. Whenever they get resources, this should be part of their activity, to be examined, so that resources are efficiently used. It should not replace the increase of resources for the Organization since the Organization has a lot of demands from other Members, which cannot only be fulfilled by efficient savings.

We also support the recommendation in paragraph 16, that resource transfers from technical programmes should be minimised, or refrain from taking resources away from it.

The Group also supports the resolution concerning the scale of contribution 2002-2003.

The Group has also reviewed the section in the report concerning incentive schemes to encourage prompt payment of contribution. Since the scheme was introduced as a trial, and that after several years it has not proved that it has really increased the early payment of contributions, we find that, as presented in the report, it has ended up taking away some resources of the Organization which would have been used to implement other programmes. We, therefore, support the recommendation that it be suspended for two biennia, effective January 2002.

Finally, the Group supports the recommendation to appoint the Controller and Auditor-General of India as Auditor-General of the Organization for the coming four years.

Kyeong-kyu KIM (Korea, Republic of)

As a member of the Finance Committee, I particularly thank the Chair of the Finance Committee for his excellent job during the last Committee meeting.

I have never complained about the late circulation of the agenda because I am very lazy. This report on the Finance Committee was circulated last Friday afternoon. I still believe that the Secretariat have done their best to prepare this. I am not complaining this time either. However, my concern is that many distinguished delegations might not have enough time to digest this very complicated and very concise document. This document has a particularly complicated part on the matter which I am going to raise now.

Please forgive this long intervention.

It is about the scale of contribution 2001, from paragraphs 37 to 41, page 7, in the English version, and Annex III, page 32, in the English version.

Annex III is a response from the Secretariat to questions raised by my delegation during the last Finance Committee. It is very lengthy and difficult to understand. At that time, my delegation requested many further clarifications against that response which have not been answered yet. I am not going to repeat those questions here. Instead, I try to explain the exact situation to distinguished Members for better understanding and the long-term benefit of FAO.

My delegation starts with the conclusive remark in advance as follows: My delegation supports the main body of the draft resolution in the paper, which adopts the scale 2002-2003, stemmed directly from the UNGA resolution. That is a long practice for FAO. However, as the UNGA has done, FAO should have considered transitional measures to address substantial increases of many countries in 2001.

In 1999, the FAO Conference, having adopted the scale 2000-2001, also decided that "if the UNGA adopts a new scale, the Director-General shall prepare a modified scale for the year 2001 to reflect the scale of assessments for that year fixed by UNGA, applying established principles for adjusting the FAO scale."

In December 2000, UNGA, after long negotiations, finally adopted a new scale for 2001-2003, the mainstream of which was to reduce the maximum contribution of a Member State from 25 percent to 22 percent.

In the UNGA resolution, we should note that it has transitional measures. In paragraph 4 of the resolution it says the General Assembly, "Decides to apply transitional measures to address those substantial increases."

Whereas UNGA agreed on the new scale of contribution 2001-2003, it also noted in paragraph 5 that "...United States of America has decided to pay... in 2001 an amount equal to three percent of the amount assessed on Member States..." UNGA decided that "...this amount should be credited against the assessed contributions of the other Member States..."

We know that this is a product of great compromise between Member States.

Some could argue that this is only a transitional measure and the new scale is established as from 1 January 2001 in resolution C paragraph 2. Transitional measures, however, are also a very

important and critical part of the UNGA resolution. It comes not only in a main part of the resolution but also before the new decision on scale in Annex II.

Accordingly, but unexpectedly, FAO has two scales in 2001 to follow. One is basic and official but not applied. The other is the exceptional but really applied and binding Member States, which is clarified in Annex I of the UNGA resolution. Which one is more adequate for FAO to go along with, the Organization, which has a long history of following the UN scale? Which one is more consonant to the 1999 Conference resolution, which commends the Director-General to "prepare a modified scale of assessments for that year fixed by UNGA"?

This is really an open question. I am asking Council Members for their own answers. The reality and limiting conditions are another matter.

The FAO Secretariat, based on the official but not applied UNGA scale, changed the 2001 scale and already informed each Member State, by the letter of AFFR/AR-1a, 25 January 2001. It does not say anything about the transitional measure. At least the Secretariat should have consulted relevant governing bodies or, if it was not relevant at that time, it should have officially consulted with the major contributors because the UNGA resolution has two scales for this year. As far as I understand, until now, the Secretariat has not checked officially the position of the major contributor on this matter.

Given the fact that UNGA, which felt the necessity of the scale change, has transitional measures, why does FAO not take transitional measures? In dealing with the financial matter, we know that we should keep a basic principle, a principle of conservation.

In the Finance Committee, my delegation asked the Secretariat, in a very straight way, to provide any kind of internal evidence or data showing that the Secretariat have given enough consideration to the transitional measures when they prepared the new scale.

Now, frankly speaking, my delegation cannot get rid of the doubt that the Secretariat might not have considered, or just have missed, the transitional measures in the UNGA resolution.

We have two main reasons to follow the UNGA scale for the long term. The first one is to relieve the unnecessary time-consuming effort of negotiations. In this respect, we have been free riders for a long time. The second reason is that, until now, the UN scale has been applicable to FAO and has been thought to be relatively fair to all Member States.

What is the result of the Secretariat decision? Briefly answering, FAO adopted the scale in 2001, which the UN itself does not apply – not only for this year but also forever. That UNGA scale in 2001 just works as a reference.

To follow the unused UN scale is a serious problem to be accepted by my delegation.

Somebody could argue that UN transitional measures were only available and possible thanks to the mercy of the main contributor. Was that entirely right? If there had not been requests for mitigating the sharp increases of burden from other Members, did the three percent extra contribution come to reality? As I said before, this is a great compromise. Why do we not have the same measures? Why do we not deal with this matter openly among Member States? Why do you not request the same contribution from the major contributor? We have not had any chance to discuss this matter until now among Member States. This is why my delegation requested the Secretariat so strongly, during the Finance Committee, to note this on paper, which distinguished Member States can see in paragraph 37.

Now we have three choices. The first one is to leave it as it is, which means not to take any action or correction. In this case, we just raised questions without any solution, as we have done so many times in the past.

The second solution is to cancel the Secretariat's decision, the decision of taking the unused UN scale for FAO application and then to follow UNGA transitional measures. As far as I know, around 45 percent of contributions have been paid up to now, for this year. We could introduce a

deduction or carry-over scheme for adjustment but I think the Secretariat may have difficulty to accept this solution.

The third solution is to introduce the transitional measures for 2002, which should have been worked this year. This is an after-action remedy. Some complex calculations would be necessary.

In the second and third case, we need a political compromise and a great decision from the major contributor. It will take time. I hope all distinguished Members of Council consider this matter seriously and make a good decision.

Last but not the least, I feel really sorry for the staff members dealing with this matter because I am going into it too deeply. I know and appreciate that the Secretariat try to do their best, as I do mine.

Chao Tiantong (Thailand)

Thailand would like to echo the statement made by the Republic of Korea concerning the scale of contributions, as we are also one of the countries hit by the sharp increases. In fact, it has been quite a shock for a country that has been under an economic crisis since 1997 to be hit once again by a sharp increase in the level of contributions. This, in turn, shall have a more negative effect on the economic stability of the country. Our budget allocation has to be considered by the cabinet one year in advance of the future payment.

An important question is how has the new contribution been derived and whether the country will be capable of paying for that big increase. This is the question to which we need to try to find an answer.

With the adoption of a new scale for 2001-2003 by UNGA, and with the new modified scale prepared by FAO, contributions by Thailand jumped from 0.171 percent in 2000 to 0.277 percent in 2001. In nominal terms, this is an increase of more than US\$400 000 per year. This is a really big increase for a country that is trying to escape from an economic crisis and a country that has never been in arrears.

As a Member State of FAO, it is not our intention not to recognise the modified scale proposed by FAO but, as mentioned previously by the Republic of Korea, we doubt whether the transitional measures have been taken into consideration and, if not, the Secretariat should give us a clear answer. Again, it would be also extremely for the Thai delegation to accept the scale of contribution without taking into consideration the transitional measures.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h

Se levanta la sesión a las 13 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
19 June 2001

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**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)**

**16. REPORT OF THE 96TH SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (ROME,
MAY 2001) (CL 120/15) (CONTINUED)**

**16. RAPPORT DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-SEIZIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ
FINANCIER (ROME, MAI 2001) (CL 120/15) (SUITE)**

**16. INFORME DEL 96º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE FINANZAS
(ROMA, MAYO DE 2001) CL 120/15) (CONTINUACIÓN)**

16.1 FAO Audited Accounts 1998-99 (C 2001/5)

16.1 Comptes révisés de la FAO 1998-99 (C 2001/5)

16.1 Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO relativas a 1998-99 (C 2001/5)

16.2 Status of Contributions and Arrears (CL 120/LIM/1)

16.2 Situation des contributions et des arriérés (CL 120/LIM/1)

16.2 Estado de las cuotas y de los atrasos (CL 120/LIM/1)

16.3 Budgetary Performance 2000

16.3 Exécution du budget 2000

16.3 Ejecución del presupuesto de 2000

16.4 Scale of Contributions 2002-2003

16.4 Barème des contributions 2002-2003

16.4 Escala de cuotas para 2002-2003

16.5 Appointment of the External Auditor

16.5 Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes

16.5 Nombramiento del auditor externo

16.6 Other Matters Arising out of the Report

16.6 Autres questions découlant du rapport

16.6 Otras cuestiones planteadas en el informe

CHAIRMAN

We will now continue our debate on the report of the Ninety-sixth Session of the Finance Committee.

Mark COREY (Canada)

I would like to speak only to the point of eliminating the "early payment" incentive.

Throughout the UN System of organizations Canada has always been a strong proponent of early payment incentives.

Comparatively speaking, in our view, such incentives have served well as a reason for Member Nations, like Canada, to consistently pay early. Such incentives are standard business practice.

We do not understand the rationale for proposing to eliminate this incentive. We would have preferred to have discussions and analysis on any perceived shortcomings, and how to address them. We find it difficult to believe that such incentives are without merit.

Members of the Finance Committee for example may have been unaware of the fact that, in Canada, under our Treasury Board rules which control our spending, we are allowed to pay early only because there is an early payment incentive. Without such an incentive, we are required by our rules to pay our bills only when they are due. Therefore, if this measure is adopted, we will no longer be able to pay early, by our rules, and there will be a cost for FAO and other countries may be in a similar position.

Again, this is standard business practice paying your bills only when they are due, and providing appropriate incentives for those who pay early.

We therefore feel the Finance Committee should reconsider this recommendation. Rather than suspending the incentive, Canada feels that a closer study of the advantages and disadvantages needs to be undertaken.

If we understood correctly, we understood Cyprus to propose a further study of this measure. Canada would also support further study, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the Finance Committee.

Shengyao TANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for having submitted for our consideration this document and briefed us on the discussion, which took place at latest session of the Finance Committee in May.

Before adopting a report of the Finance Committee the Chinese delegation would like to venture a view comments on the Scale of Contributions of 2001-2003 of FAO.

First of all, the Chinese delegation supports the Republic of Korea and Thailand in what they had to say in earlier statements. The Chinese delegation has taken due note of the new *Scale of Contributions* adopted by the United Nations in December 2000 for the period 2001-2003. Pursuant thereto FAO has recalculated the contributions, assessed contributions of Member Countries for 2001. This led to a decrease in contributions for numerous developed countries and a generalized increase in such contributions for the developing countries.

According to the new *Scale of Contributions for 2001*, the contributions for China went from one percent in 2000 to 1.55 percent in 2001, that is an increase of 55 percent. Therefore, the Chinese delegation would like to draw FAO's attention to the Resolution 55/5 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Chapter B, paragraph 3 which reads: "...assessment rate referred to in paragraph 1 of the present Resolution shall apply to the appointment of the expenses of the United Nations and should have no automatic implications on the apportionment of the expenses of the specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency". Therefore, FAO should not automatically readjust the Scale of Contributions for 2001.

The Chinese delegation has likewise taken due note for the fact that in November 1999 at the Thirtieth General Conference of FAO we adopted the Resolution 9/99. During discussion on that Resolution at the afore-mentioned Conference, China voiced its opposition and following the adoption thereof the Chinese delegation registered reservations on the Resolution itself.

The Chinese delegation and this regarding the new readjusted Scale of Contributions for 2001, China would like to launch its reservation.

The Chinese Government has difficulties in substantial financial constraints in regulating our assessed contribution to FAO according to the revised Scale of Contributions for 2001.

The Chinese delegation would also like to voice its resolute concerns regarding the way in which the Secretariat is applying Resolution 55/5 of the General Assembly. In the course of the preparation of the Scale of Contributions for FAO applicable to the year 2001, the Secretariat

applied certain elements of that Resolution or certain dispositions of the Resolution but it omitted other dispositions which are to be found in that same Resolution, especially Chapter A, paragraphs 3 and 4. Now those two paragraphs quite clearly contemplate that the United Nations should adopt transitional measures in the substantial increases of the assessed contributions of certain Members.

Moreover, the United States decided to regulate the equivalent of three percent of contributions for 2001. Therefore, the Chinese delegation would like to give its full support to paragraph 37, 38 and 39 of document CL 120/15. At the same time, we would urge FAO to revise the Scale of Contributions for 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Le Président du Groupe africain a déjà parlé au nom du Groupe et je ne peux qu'appuyer cette intervention. Je dois cependant signaler qu'en intervenant au nom du Groupe africain, l'Honorable Représentant de la République Unie de Tanzanie, a abordé le point 12. J'espère que le Secrétariat en a pris note et que, la déclaration conséquente de la République Unie de Tanzanie au nom du Groupe africain sera versée au point 12.

Maintenant, s'agissant du point qui nous est soumis, je voudrais souligner au point relatif au rôle du Comité financier dans la gestion des arriérés ce qui suit: notre délégation est, comme d'autres, d'avis que le Comité financier, tout comme d'ailleurs le Conseil, n'a rien à voir dans la gestion directe des arriérés et de la perte du droit de vote. Les Textes fondamentaux sont très clairs et notre délégation n'est pas favorable à une modification des Textes fondamentaux. En conséquence, notre délégation ne saurait appuyer les solutions c) et d) qui entérineraient une modification des textes fondamentaux de notre Organisation.

Avant de finir, permettez-moi d'appuyer avec plaisir la recommandation visant à nommer le contrôleur et vérificateur de l'Inde comme Commissaire aux comptes.

Masato ITO (Japan)

I would like to start my intervention expressing our concern on the very late distribution of the Finance Committee Report. This report was provided to my delegation very recently, this week.

My delegation hopes that distribution of the documents will be done in such a manner to provide enough time for Member Nations to examine them, in particular regarding financial issues for which I need to consult my capital.

While supporting the Committee's recommendation in general, my delegation would like to make one particular comment. I support the two recommendations related to the Management of Contributions with respect to the role of the Finance Committee on Incentive Schemes. However, my delegation has difficulty in endorsing the recommendation for the Scale of Contributions. It is a very important point, not only for my delegation, but also for all Member Nations. I only received this document this week, and therefore I have had no time to consult with my capital for their instructions. Therefore, while supporting in general the principle outlined in paragraph 36 my delegation is unfortunately, not in a position to endorse the draft decision at this stage. I would like to request to defer this issue until the next meeting.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

The United States is a member of the Finance Committee and therefore we are familiar with the issues presented in the Report. We would like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for summing up quite concisely some very complicated issues which did take a great deal of time and consideration on the part of the Committee.

I would like to take the issues in order in which they are listed under Item 16 and just comment briefly.

The first item was the *Audited Accounts* which I would to again regret the fact that the audited accounts were received late due to problems with the information processing systems and

therefore, augmented in an already heavy agenda for the Committee. However, that is a comment on process. I would like to comment as far as substance. We thought the Audited Accounts were very well done. They were much more lengthy than usual and we note the opinion rendered was not qualified. We would simply urge that in future every effort should be made to present the Audited Accounts in a timely fashion.

Regarding Item 2, 16.2 *Status of Contributions* and Arrears. The United States agrees with opinions that have been expressed by several delegations. We do not believe that the Finance Committee should necessarily have a role in listening to the circumstances of many countries that might lead to arrears and see no reason for any change in the Basic Texts which would alter the system, as it stands, for the calculation of the effect of arrears on voting rights.

The third item refers to *Budgetary Performance and the Possibility of Transfers between Chapters*. The United States like other delegations laments the necessity of transferring funds from Chapter 2, the Programme Technical Account of the Organization to cover administrative expenses. This was a step that we agreed to with the greatest reluctance.

On the next item, *Scale of Contributions*, I would simply like to say that as a member of the Committee the United States heard the arguments that have been very eloquently presented. We also heard the Report of the Legal Counsel and like the European Community, we are satisfied that the Scale as adopted properly reflects the decision that the Conference took in November of 1999.

Item 5. *Appointment of an External Auditor*. We welcome the selection of India as the future External Auditor for the Organization, and look forward to working with India in the Finance Committee.

Finally, on the matter of *Incentives for Prompt Payment*, we would simply note that this is a matter that these incentives do cost the Organization amounts in millions of dollars. The question was raised in the Committee as to whether this is a necessary expenditure since, when we were looking at the issue of arrears, it seemed to us that many of the countries who appeared on the list pointed to circumstances beyond their control. We think it is appropriate to adopt a different Scheme for a trial period noting that the budget of the Organization is a two year budget, it would appropriate to look at this over two budget periods. Therefore, we endorse the recommendation to compare the results over a period of time without the Incentive Scheme.

Ariel FERNÁNDEZ (Argentina)

Trataré de ser conciso con el Tema 16, me voy a referir solamente a dos puntos.

Con relación al Tema 16.5 "Nombramiento del Auditor Externo", ratificamos nuestra posición de que India sea recomendada como nuevo Auditor Externo de la Organización. Representa un principio muy saludable que un país en desarrollo como India pueda tener acceso a la Auditoría Externa de la Organización.

Con relación al Tema 16.4 *Escala de cuotas para el 2002/2003*, mi delegación constata que hay interpretaciones divergentes sobre la resolución de Naciones Unidas 55/5. Hay algunos elementos que han sido volcados en el documento pero que, evidentemente, en esta sala todavía sigue generando en algunos casos preocupación y en otros casos solicitud de clarificación por parte de la Secretaría. Como bien dice el documento CL 120/15 página 39 (en español) párrafo 15: "que sean los órganos rectores de la FAO, quienes estimen la conveniencia del uso de medidas transitorias". La Resolución, a nuestro juicio, es perfectible. Pero, tenemos que remontarnos un poco a los antecedentes de cuál es uno de los problemas básicos para la determinación del presupuesto de esta Organización y que, con el tiempo, ha habido cierto desacople entre lo que es la fijación de la escala de cuotas para la FAO y la fijación de Escala de Cuotas para Naciones Unidas. En tal sentido, ese desacople es temporal y ha llevado a que en la práctica, en los últimos ejercicios presupuestarios, la Conferencia haya decidido aguardar cualquier modificación que se produzca en Naciones Unidas para aplicarla a las futuras contribuciones de los Estados Miembros. A nuestro juicio, sobre este tema, deberíamos volver a trabajar para incluir algo muy simple que

cualquier técnica presupuestaria exige y que es el principio de certeza. Si nuestras autoridades administrativas y financieras no tienen ese principio de certeza pueden encontrarse con que en el ejercicio presupuestario siguiente tengan que hacer una consignación de fondos que no estaba para nada prevista. Todos aquí sabemos cuán difícil es, fundamentalmente para los países en desarrollo, pero también para los países desarrollados, definir sus presupuestos. Si no tenemos este principio de certeza para la aplicación y determinación de los presupuestos, las sorpresas pueden ser múltiples e internamente cada país tiene que reasignar presupuestos para cumplir con sus obligaciones internacionales.

Lo señalo como primera propuesta: que se estudie la posibilidad de volver a los mecanismos originales que tenía la FAO para el establecimiento de las Cuotas.

En segundo lugar, el tema de las medidas transitorias ha sido contemplado por algunas delegaciones y no por otras. No tengo ninguna duda que estas medidas transitorias tienen un sentido lógico y apuntan también al principio de certeza. ¿Por qué políticamente se negoció en Naciones Unidas esta Resolución y se incluyó la incorporación de estas medidas? Seguramente por estar vinculadas al principio de certeza, de modo tal que, no podemos desagregar la Resolución de Naciones Unidas con dos interpretaciones diferentes. Tiene que tener un sentido lógico, y si allí había un sentido lógico esas medidas transitorias deberían ser aplicadas en principio para todas las agencias del sistema. La Delegación de China citó oportunamente lo que constituye parte de esa Resolución de la Asamblea que es la parte C en su párrafo 3; en ella se hablaba de que no necesariamente, lo que se aplicaba en Naciones Unidas tenía su correlato en lo que se aplicaba en el resto de las agencias especializadas. Por lo tanto, éstas y sus órganos ejecutivos están en todo su derecho de no hacer una aplicación automática de lo que hizo Naciones Unidas, porque esta institución en esa Resolución deja abierta la discusión para que las Agencias Especializadas discutan sus presupuestos. Por lo tanto, a nuestro juicio, no hay mecánicamente una asignación directa entre lo que es la Resolución de la Asamblea y la distribución de los porcentajes, *vis-à-vis*, el Proyecto de Resolución que nos presenta la Secretaría, con el cual estamos de acuerdo, pero, en la aplicación de ese proyecto de resolución hay componentes, como estas medidas transitorias, que a nuestro juicio deben ser, al menos, analizadas. Esa es la posición que queríamos dejar asentada y, teniendo en cuenta el emergente de lo que han señalado otras delegaciones, la Resolución ameritaría un estudio más profundo de sus implicaciones y su ajuste a esta Organización especializada como es la FAO.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

Thank you to the Members of the Finance Committee for the quality of the Report that has been presented to us. The comprehensive nature of the Report is very informative and the substance highlights to us the large range of important matters that the Committee has before it.

We recall the discussion at the Council last November on the need for the Finance Committee to have more time to complete its work expeditiously. At that time, an additional meeting for the Finance Committee was not agreed but I know that an additional day was added to their recent session. I can certainly vouch for how hard the members of that Committee worked. They worked in the evenings and all day on the Saturday to ensure they were able to complete their agenda. So I would welcome hearing from the Chair of the Committee or the Secretariat, hopefully to assure us that there will be sufficient time for the Finance Committee to get through its work at its next session, without detriment to the health of its Members.

There are a few issues in the report that I would like to draw attention to. In paragraph 8, it refers to the substantial efficiency savings that have been made in the Organization since 1994, amounting to between US\$50 and US\$60 million a year. I think that is an important point for us to take into account when we come to our discussion regarding the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, under the next Item.

Similarly, paragraph 9 highlights the important role that the exchange rate will play with respect to the cost increases. Again, we should also take this into account in our discussions on the budget.

We would also note the concerns that have been expressed by a number of countries here regarding the difficulties with the current Level of Assessed Contributions and, again, we feel that that should also be taken into account in determining the level of the next budget for the Organization.

In paragraphs 52 and 53, there is a reference to a liability facing the Organization for After-Service Medical Coverage. I wonder if the Secretariat could tell us a bit more about the extent of this liability and what risk is involved in not having this fully funded.

In paragraph 55, we have a description of some observations by the External Auditor and the one that particularly stands out is in Sub-point g), where it emphasizes that the Finance Division no longer has adequate staff resources to do the work expected from it. Again, in Sub-point h) ii), it says that should this matter not be addressed as a high priority, the entire Organization's finances could be at risk; for example, if failure to provide adequate accounting to donors were to damage donor confidence. Again, I suggest that that is an important matter we should take into account in considering the budget for this Organization.

In Sub-point h) iii), there is a reference there to a number of cases of fraud and presumptive fraud, and also cases involving internal control over the use of the Organization's resources. We note that these were subject to an investigation by the Inspector-General and that this investigation has been reopened as a result of the External Auditor's own extensive review of this issue. We wondered if more could be said about the circumstances that led to this matter having to be reopened.

Finally, please allow me to express our pleasure in being able to support India as the next External Auditor for the Organization. It is very pleasing that a developing country is able to take on this important role. We also pay tribute to the quality of the work of the current External Auditor.

Flavio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)

Brazil shares the concerns expressed by the Republic of Korea on the issue of the Revised Scale of Contributions, concerns which were echoed by Thailand, China and Argentina. My country would certainly face serious difficulties to bear this new financial burden. We believe that the changes proposed raise important questions of justice and equity and international sharing of financial obligations, especially because they represent additional constraints to developing countries, as was pointed out by China.

We consider, therefore, that the issue deserves careful consideration by this Committee, in particular regarding the application of transitional measures.

We would also like to take this opportunity to support the appointment of the Controller and Auditor General of India as the new External Auditor of the Organization and would like to give the total support of Brazil to the work it will perform in the next four years.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

Mi delegación desea expresar su pleno apoyo a la recomendación contenida en el párrafo 68 del informe, para que el Auditor General de la India sea nombrado Auditor Externo de la Organización.

Dada la naturaleza de los anexos II y III y su complejidad, esta delegación se reserva el derecho de expresar su posición vista la premura con que fue distribuido el informe que los contiene.

Mi Cancillería examina aún con la debida atención el tema de la Escala de Cuotas, para determinar su pertinencia. Espero, así mismo, que se dé una respuesta amplia y satisfactoria a la intervención realizada por el delegado de la República de Corea.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

My comment is going to be very brief indeed. Quite frankly, I wasn't going to comment, having heard the comments from the delegates of the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Argentina.

I have done a very simple calculation and took note of the fact that, in terms of percentage increase, Nigeria probably has the highest increase arising from this revised scale of contributions. I have my fears, one would want to know first, maybe for the purpose of education, what the criteria are – I know it might not be easy to give them to me today – but what the criteria are and how these criteria are composed into the indices that are used in arriving at the figure for each country. It is a little disturbing that we jump from a percentage of .0322. Certainly there is an increase of about 94 percent for Nigeria alone.

The second point I would like to raise is the issue of the Resolution, I saw it for the first time only this morning and I have taken time to read it. The concerns raised by some delegates regarding the question of the transitional element to be built into it appear, to my humble judgement, valid. Even the Resolution of the United Nations does make room for that and I understand from the submission of the Secretariat that they were not given any room whatsoever to introduce that element. I beg to differ from that position.

As soon as I got this Report, I phoned Abuja this morning because, when we recently got the figures for our assessed contributions from FAO, my Government deliberately refused to pay everything. They held back quite a bit of money. For one, they did not know how the jump came. Nobody informed us that this was going to come and so, when we got the figures early in the year, my Minister was perplexed as to how the increase was arrived at. They therefore went ahead and paid, they paid quite a bit but held back something, hoping that the clarification that might come later would justify his position. Now the clarification I am getting this morning does not seem to give me cause for cheer, either.

I would like to request, therefore, that we are allowed time to digest this. Quite frankly, my Government told me this morning I should not take any position until they digest it and understand the implications. We should see if there are further data to be collected from FAO. Therefore, I am not in a position to endorse the proposal as submitted by the Secretariat, on account of the instructions that I received from home.

However, I would like to say this, that we probably need to get a little bit more information as to the detailed computation because some countries are getting zero increase, some are getting 100. I am aware that there must be some very informed factors that must have been used but I think we can benefit a lot from them.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

La Delegación de Guatemala se complace con el nombramiento del Interventor y Auditor General de la India como Auditor Externo de la Organización.

Quisiera, particularmente, dar nuestro respaldo a la exposición que ha hecho el distinguido representante de la delegación de Argentina. Considero que ha tocado en esta reunión puntos fundamentales como es el principio de certeza, al cual todos los países desarrollados y países en desarrollo se atienen en la elaboración de sus presupuestos y, ciertamente, la forma en que actualmente se están fijando las cuotas y como se está llevando la discusión en este Consejo. Es muy importante que la FAO proteja este principio de certeza fundamental para nuestra planificación. Particularmente para los países en desarrollo, como en el caso de mi país, donde ha habido un incremento que lo coloca en una situación de gran dificultad. Guatemala y otros países se han esforzado en pagar sus cuotas. En 1997 hicimos un pago de casi once años de atraso y siempre estamos tratando de cumplir debido a la confianza que tenemos en esta Organización y en el trabajo que desarrolla. Pero creo que la sugerencia de que la FAO vuelva a analizar, como señalaba el delegado de Argentina, los mecanismos para su propia fijación de cuotas sea muy importante. Se debería estudiar nuevamente con seriedad; en este Consejo se ha citado muchas veces la Resolución de Naciones Unidas 55/5 y merece un detenido estudio, como también lo señalaba la Delegación de México, la ampliación de las explicaciones con respecto a la situación de esta Resolución. Los países en desarrollo que tienen verdaderas dificultades de pago, muchos ya en atraso y que no por ello dejan de mantener su interés en esta Organización, encontrarán salidas viables que la FAO debe tomar en consideración y este Consejo debe tener presente.

Rolf GERBER (Observateur pour la Suisse)

Je voudrais, tout d'abord, remercier le Président du Comité financier de sa présentation fort complète du rapport. En tant que Membre du Comité financier, la Suisse n'a que peu de remarques à formuler. Je voudrais féliciter le Commissaire au compte de son excellent rapport sur les comptes vérifiés de la FAO du biennium 1998-99.

L'amélioration de la gestion d'une organisation internationale telle que la FAO est une préoccupation primordiale de mon pays, non seulement du point de vue de la transparence et de la "good governance", mais aussi du point de vue des ressources additionnelles. L'amélioration de la gestion est une tâche permanente et je souligne permanente.

Il y a toujours des possibilités d'amélioration ou d'économies à exploiter. Pour cette raison je recommande d'examiner de plus près la proposition faite au paragraphe 56 (g) du bien fondé d'un renforcement en personnel de la Division des finances. Il ne s'agit pas, à notre avis, d'un chèque en blanc. Tout dépend finalement du niveau du nouveau budget pour le prochain biennium. Des surprises ne sont pas à exclure.

La décentralisation mérite aussi une attention particulière et devrait être évaluée à fond. La FAO ne jouit pas toujours de la meilleure réputation, comme le Conseil d'administration du PAM vient de le constater lors d'une récente mission au Cambodge.

La Suisse félicite le Contrôleur et Vérificateur des comptes de l'Inde pour sa nomination en tant que Commissaire aux comptes de la FAO à compter de l'année 2002, tout en souhaitant que le pourcentage du *value for money* soit augmenté et que, si possible, deux contrôleurs soient stationnés d'une manière permanente à Rome.

Concernant l'intervention de l'Union européenne je voudrais appuyer sa position concernant le paragraphe 43 et la proposition d'avoir des contacts réguliers avec le Commissaire aux comptes. Cela reflète l'esprit d'une meilleure transparence qui n'est pas contestée du tout.

Pour conclure, je voudrais souligner que les membres du Comité financier prennent leur travail très au sérieux. Le Conseil est donc conseillé de suivre les recommandations du Comité financier. La Suisse peut donc souscrire à ce rapport tenant compte des remarques exprimées.

André Anatole YAMEOGO (Burkina Faso)

Je m'excuse de devoir intervenir à ce stade de l'examen du rapport du Comité financier sur un cas un peu particulier, mais c'est tout juste pour apporter des informations qui vont peut-être permettre de modifier la situation de la contribution du Burkina Faso. Je me réfère au document CL120/LIM1. Ce document fait effectivement état d'arriérés de 12 000 dollars pour l'année 2000 et 2001 pour le Burkina Faso.

Nous avons en notre possession une lettre de la Représentation de la FAO au Burkina qui date de février 2001 et qui confirme que le Burkina n'a pas d'arriérés pour les années 1998, 1999 et 2000, la contribution ayant été reçue le 4 janvier 2001 par la Représentation de la FAO au Burkina.

En effet, le Gouvernement du Burkina Faso avait versé à la Représentation une somme d'environ 20 000 000 CFA qui correspond à la contribution de l'an 2000, plus un trop payé d'environ 12 400 000 CFA que la FAO devrait retourner au Burkina Faso. La Représentation de la FAO avait proposé à l'époque une réutilisation de ce trop perçu pour couvrir la contribution de 2001. Le Burkina n'avait pas approuvé cette proposition afin d'éviter encore un double paiement de la contribution de 2001 qui a déjà été régulièrement engagée depuis le 3 mars 2001.

Il y a peut être eu un problème de communication entre le siège de la FAO et la Représentation à Ouagadougou, mais en attendant que la contribution de 2001 parvienne à la FAO, c'est plutôt la FAO qui doit retourner au Burkina Faso un montant équivalent à peu près à deux fois sa contribution annuelle.

Enfin, permettez-moi d'apporter l'appui de la délégation du Burkina Faso à la déclaration de la délégation de la Tanzanie au nom du Groupe africain.

CHAIRMAN

We have had very fruitful contributions to the debate, and I think that while we have general support and endorsement to the Report, there are issues that I would like to give to Mr Mekouar to refer to, and to comment. Also, we have endorsed wholeheartedly and congratulate India for its appointment as our next General Auditor of the Organization.

A. MEKOUAR (Président du Comité financier)

Je pense que je n'ai pas beaucoup de commentaires à faire, et s'il y a des commentaires à faire, le Secrétariat sera mieux placé que moi pour les faire. Je voudrais simplement revenir sur la question des incitatifs pour le paiement des arriérés. Je voudrais vous livrer comment le débat s'est passé au sein du Comité financier, je pense que cela est important.

Il y a eu un débat, peu de délégations étaient favorables au maintien de cette mesure et, en fait, on est arrivé à la conclusion qu'il fallait la suspendre, la supprimer, parce que certains pays avaient comme bénéfice quelque chose comme 3 000 dollars, comme 10 000 dollars, alors que le coût global pour l'Organisation était de l'ordre de 400 000 dollars par année. Donc, on a considéré que c'étaient des fonds qui ont été plus utiles pour l'Organisation, d'autant plus que ces mesures d'encouragement disons, nous l'avons vérifié au cours des dix dernières années, n'avaient pas été très efficaces. Donc, je voulais vous livrer cette réflexion que nous avons faite au sein du Comité financier.

Je pense qu'il est important de tenir compte du fait que la FAO doit payer une somme importante sans réel bénéfice en matière de paiement, disons d'anticipation du paiement des contributions. En ce qui concerne le barème des contributions, je passerai la parole au Secrétariat et à M. Pucci en particulier, qui pourra peut-être nous donner quelques éclaircissements sur cette question.

K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

We have just a few comments and one or two questions which have been asked by Members. I would just like to make a comment on the External Auditor's Report. We, the Secretariat, give a lot of importance to the External Auditor's Report and I would just like to inform the Members that our normal practice is to submit a report to the Finance Committee, following the review of the Report at the next Session, a complete implementation document which not only gives the status of the implementation of each recommendation but also has the External Auditor's comment on each of our method of implementation. So the Finance Committee has an opportunity to keep this matter under constant review.

There was one question from Australia, two questions really. One I would respond to and one I would ask my colleague, Mr Ruddy. One of the questions which he raised was under the section "Fraud and Presumptive Fraud" and he wanted to know what circumstances led to the Inspector-General's Review, and whether we could give some details. The details are really in the External Auditor's Report and, because the External Auditor showed concern for the internal control, the Director-General asked the Inspector-General to review the matter since it is the Inspector-General who has the review of internal control constantly in his programme. The review of the adequacy and the functioning of internal control, so that is the background to the Inspector-General carrying out the review. His report will be ready next year, and I think he informed the Finance Committee that he would be informing them of his findings.

While I have the floor, I could also give some information on contributions received since the preparation of the document CL 120/LIM/1. We have received US\$8 176 581 from Spain; the Czech Republic has paid US\$331 945; Senegal has paid US\$32 502; Gabon has paid US\$46 939. We have received a communication from Burkina Faso and we are in contact with the delegation to see how the apportionment can be made. All these amounts would adjust the document which we have submitted and a revised document will be issued.

I think those were the questions, there was one on the After-Service Medical Scheme, which I would, with your permission, ask Mr Ruddy to respond to.

M. RUDDY (Consultant/Interim Director, Finance Division)

This issue, After-Service Medical Costs, came up as I recall the first time in 1997, when we went to the Finance Committee and shared with them the actuarial determination that we were carrying a liability with a net present value of about US\$195 million, and no funding on a pay-as-you-go basis was in process to take care of this long-term liability. At that time there were certain decisions made on how to approach the resolution to this problem. One decision made was that we should start for staff on duty, and continuing on duty for the rest of their employment period with the Organization. We should start funding that liability through reserves on a year-by-year basis, taking it out of the annual budget.

With respect to the cost of people already retired, there was a so-called overhang, if I remember the figure, which was probably US\$121 million of that total figure. We decided that we would make an amortization of one-thirtieth of that actuarially-determined amount each year, and charge the accounts of the Organization, bringing it in as an unfunded liability on one side of the balance sheet and as a charge to the General Fund Reserve on the other. This means that over time, unless we decide how to fund this, we will gradually build up in the General Fund a deficit equal to the unfunded liability that is represented by retirees.

The issue of how to fund this was addressed without conclusion. We did, however, at the suggestion of the External Auditor, decide that the other reserves for after-service termination grants and payments due to staff, that we would pool this liability with those liabilities and take advantage of the extent to which the investment pool, supporting the funded retirement benefits, any gains and appreciations in those funds, over and above the liability for those obligations, we would let accrue to this unfunded medical insurance category of liability.

I think that this has brought some additional funding to offset the costs of the retiree component of this liability.

CHAIRMAN

Are there any other comments from the Secretariat?

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

There was one question which was raised in the External Auditor's Report concerning the staffing levels in AFF, which of course was of concern to all. This is a very difficult issue, since 1994 the Organization has taken major budgetary reductions as you know: US\$95 million per biennium is the net financial reduction that it has faced over that period of time, about 14 and a half percent. Much of that was managed by trying to reduce administrative costs, and I have to admit that a great deal of pressure was put on the Finance Division, as one of those units that appear under Chapter 5 of the budget and therefore is less favoured by the Governing Bodies.

Unfortunately, this coincided with the work on developing a new financial system, and it is the conjunction of these two pressures, that is, the increased workload from developing a new system, and the reduced staffing that resulted from the budgetary cuts that led the External Auditor to draw the conclusion that they have.

There has been an immediate response to this recommendation in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, where the restructuring proposed by AFF itself has been included. This involves a reduction in General Service staffing but an increase of 11 Professional posts for the Financial Services Division. In addition, within the Use of Arrears proposal, some one-time amounts have been provided to allow the continued efforts to bring the system up to standard. At that stage it is hoped that the current staffing will be sufficient, but there will be a review to see if that is the case when it is appropriate to do so.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much for the response from the Committee and the Secretariat. Are there any more comments from the floor?

Simon J. DRAPER (Observer for New Zealand)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and thank you to the Secretariat for their clarification of those issues. I would just like to register one small point from the New Zealand Delegation's point of view, like our Japanese colleagues, because we only received the paper reasonably recently.

I likewise have no instructions from my capital, but thanks to my Canadian colleagues, my eye has fallen on the Review of the Incentive Scheme to encourage prompt payment. Certainly, this is something that I would much prefer to seek guidance from my capital on. As a reasonably prompt payer, I must say I find that a slightly perverse incentive to be taking that incentive away, when there are still so many countries in arrears.

So I would just like to register, for the record, that we would have some difficulties with the recommendation of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN

Any other comments from the floor? We have concluded the debate on this Agenda Item and we should proceed to Agenda Item 12.

12. SUMMARY PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2002-2003 (CL 120/3)

12. SOMMAIRE DU PROGRAMME DE TRAVAIL ET BUDGET 2002-2003

(CL 120/3)

12. RESUMEN DEL PROGRAMA DE LABORES Y PRESUPUESTO 2002-2003

(CL 120/3)

CHAIRMAN

We now move on to Item 12, Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003. The Council is called upon to consider the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, in order to provide guidance for the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget to be submitted to the Conference later this year. The main documents are: The Summary Programme of Work and Budget, document CL 120/3, and its Sup.1 and 2, which contain the outline of a Zero Real Growth Scenario and details of cost increases.

As I mentioned before, we considered reports of the joint meeting, the Programme and the Finance Committees. I would like to invite Mr Mekouar, followed by Mr Rose, to make their remarks on this Item.

A. MEKOUAR (Président du Comité financier)

Le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour 2002 – 2003 a été examiné par le Comité financier, document de référence CL120/15 paragraphes 3 – 12, et par la Réunion conjointe avec le Comité du programme, document CL120/4 paragraphes 5 – 12. Le Comité financier examine une mise à jour des augmentations des coûts suite à la conclusion récente d'une enquête menée par la Commission de la fonction publique internationale (CFPI) sur le coût de la vie concernant les fonctionnaires du Siège. Il a noté que cette enquête entraînera une augmentation des traitements des fonctionnaires du cadre organique en poste à Rome de 12,2 pour cent avec application en juillet 2001. Le Comité a reconnu que ce fait nouveau augmenterait de 22 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis le montant des accroissements de coûts qui étaient de 27 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis selon les estimations antérieures.

Le Comité a reçu des éclaircissements détaillés sur le caractère obligatoire des décisions de la CFPI pour la FAO depuis que l'Organisation a accepté le statut de la CFPI en mars 1975. On a rappelé au Comité que la CFPI est responsable de la fixation de l'indice de l'indemnité de poste pour assurer que les traitements des fonctionnaires du cadre organique ont le même pouvoir d'achat dans tous les lieux d'affectation.

Le Comité a noté que l'ajustement important des traitements résultant de cette enquête montre que le mécanisme de mise à jour entre les enquêtes n'a pas suivi la croissance réelle du coût de la vie pour les fonctionnaires du cadre organique en poste à Rome ces dernières années.

Le Secrétariat a confirmé que les hypothèses relatives aux augmentations de coûts feront l'objet d'un examen attentif et seront révisés dans le texte intégral du Programme de travail et budget pour tenir compte des derniers faits nouveaux pour chaque rubrique. En particulier, le Comité a encouragé le Directeur général à continuer à rechercher des moyens pour dégager de nouveaux gains d'efficacité afin de contenir le niveau du budget. A cet égard on a rappelé au Comité les importants gains d'efficacité réalisés depuis 1994 représentant environ 50 – 60 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis par an. En outre, la preuve est faite que les réductions dans certains domaines administratifs, telles que le financement d'Oracle et les dépenses de personnel à la Division des finances, sont allées trop loin et qu'il faut maintenant faire marche arrière.

Le Comité a examiné et approuvé les calculs des augmentations des coûts ainsi que les hypothèses sur lesquelles reposent ces calculs. Le Comité a noté l'effet très favorable pour les augmentations des coûts du taux de change actuel de la lire, 2 183 liras pour un dollar, par rapport au taux de change du budget actuel, 1 875 liras pour un dollar.

Le Comité s'est également déclaré satisfait des explications reçues concernant les crédits prévus pour les programmes non techniques. Il a souligné que les domaines des finances du personnel et des techniques de l'information au titre du grand Programme 5.2, Administration, doivent être financés de manière adéquate, et il a souligné l'importance d'une infrastructure administrative satisfaisante en ce qui concerne la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité financier. Les comités se sont félicités de ce que les propositions présentées dans le document avaient été formulées conformément au Cadre stratégique 2000 - 2015 et au Plan à moyen terme 2002 – 2007.

Les Comités ont fait observer que les sessions des comités techniques et du Conseil tenues depuis le début de l'année avaient également fourni l'occasion aux Membres de réaffirmer la validité des priorités retenues.

Des opinions divergentes ont été exprimées quant au niveau de ressources jugées nécessaires pour le prochain exercice biennal. De nombreux Membres ont déclaré qu'ils étaient favorables aux propositions de croissance réelle qu'ils estimaient être la seule réponse appropriée aux demandes d'actions prioritaires adressées à l'Organisation à ce stade. Un petit nombre de Membres ont répété qu'ils préféreraient nettement une Croissance nominale zéro, politique poursuivie par leur gouvernement, dans diverses instances des Nations Unies. D'autres Membres n'ont pas exprimé d'opinion ferme quant à un niveau spécifique pour le prochain exercice biennal, tout en espérant qu'une solution de consensus pourrait être trouvée pour concilier les positions divergentes.

Les comités ont souligné qu'il importait d'accorder une intention continue au gain d'efficacité en se félicitant des progrès importants réalisés à cet égard dans le passé récent. Tous les membres ont convenu qu'il importait que la FAO dispose d'une infrastructure administrative adéquate et de ressources pour la financer, eut égard, en particulier, à la gestion financière, à la gestion des ressources humaines, aux technologies de l'information et au programme de communication.

Constatant que les différents points de vue interdisaient la formulation d'une recommandation de consensus à ce stade, les comités ont demandé que le dialogue se poursuive entre les membres de façon à préparer la voie à un tel consensus lors de la Conférence. Je me ferai un plaisir de fournir toutes les explications supplémentaires que les pays Membres souhaiteront.

R. ROSE (Chairman, Programme Committee)

My comments this afternoon focus on providing to you and Members of the Council the views of the Programme Committee on the Programme of Work proposed by the Director-General in document CL 120/3. The Programme Committee focused on the elements of the Programme of Work as opposed to the budget allocation that would be supplied to implement that Programme.

It is my pleasure to report that the Committee had very little difficulty in supporting the proposals of the Director-General for the Programme of Work for the next biennium. This is due to the fact that the Organization now has a logical and coherent planning system which has led to the predictability and to a reduction in the number of surprises in the Programme of Work that gets presented to the Organization. The proposals for 2002-2003 flow directly from the Medium-Term Plan, which Council and Conference approved last year, which in turn was routed in the Strategic Framework 2000-2015. Clearly, the benefits of the considerable work Council Members put into the elaboration of the Medium-Term Plan are now beginning to bear fruit. The Committee examined in detail the proposals under Chapter II, the Technical and Economic Programmes. We felt that the proposals were well balanced and took appropriate account of emerging global issues and priorities. We also questioned the Secretariat about the activities which would be reduced or eliminated to accommodate these new priorities and we concurred with these strategic choices. I have taken note of the comments of the delegation of Syria this morning on some of the activities that have received a lower priority.

In discussing Major Programme 2.1. Agricultural Production and Support Systems, we supported the allocation of resources to coordination of the diverse activities falling under the mandate of this Major Programme, especially to support the achievement of the objectives of the many Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action, referred to as the PAIAs, which are led by the Agricultural Department.

We supported the activities proposed under Major Programme 2.2, Food and Agricultural Policy and Development.

As you will note from our report, the Programme Committee has been particularly vigilant in upholding the Council's desire to improve the balance of language coverage in FAO's activities and we encourage continued attention in this area, especially in the FAO Website. This was a point that was mentioned this morning by Brazil and Guatemala, among others.

We also noted the proposals to restructure and strengthen the Codex Secretariat, as we felt that the work of Codex is fundamental to the ability of FAO to contribute to nutrition and food safety debates.

We welcomed the proposals to reduce the costs of the commodity meetings falling under the Committee on Commodity Problems where the Secretariat has proposed to cut costs while, at the same time, expanding language coverage. The Programme Committee stressed the importance of commodity and trade policy support to developing countries for trade negotiations as proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and we noted that these efforts would need to be intensified over the period of WTO negotiations on agriculture. This is a point that was raised by the delegation of Tanzania this morning on behalf of the Members of the Africa Region.

We endorsed the Organization's efforts to ensure that the World Food Security objectives be recognized within the context of international development goals and be reflected in poverty reduction strategies. The Director-General's opening remarks yesterday morning represented an example of those efforts but I do not think the Programme Committee can take credit for that particular remark of the Director-General.

However, the Committee was advised about a looming problem with a programme that is referred to as the Corporate Database for Substantive Statistical Data, known by the acronym of FAOSTAT. FAOSTAT is traditionally one of the strengths of the Organization, a basis for FAO's comparative advantage. The Committee expressed concern about this development and requested the Secretariat to expand on this problem in the text of the full Programme of Work and Budget. We look forward to the text of the full Programme of Work and Budget for a further explanation of this potential problem.

The Committee noted that the proposed activities of Major Programmes 2.4, Forestry, and 2.5, Contributions to Sustainable Development and Special Programme Thrusts, while appropriate, should be justified in terms of their contributions to World Food Security.

We examined the proposals under Chapter 3, Cooperation and Partnerships. The activities under this Chapter are revolving, perhaps more rapidly than elsewhere in the Organization, and we noted a number of areas where activities were being reorganized as a result of recent evaluations, or are currently under review and would be reported on in more detail in the full Programme of Work and Budget or in later documents. Many of the activities under this Chapter were discussed in detail when we examined documents dealing with recent evaluations and I reported in detail on those deliberations this morning.

The Programme Committee was satisfied that the proposed changes within this Chapter were based on very thorough evaluations or similar examinations and would enhance the Secretariat's ability to carry out its mandate.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to report to Council about our deliberations on the Special Programme of Work and Budget and I hope that the Membership will find this to be useful background to their debate.

CHAIRMAN

I would now like to give the floor to Mr Wade, Director of the Office of Programme of Budget and Evaluation.

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

In the Summary Programme of Work and Budget (SPWB) you will have seen that the Director-General proposes a Real Growth Budget, which involves a total programme increase of 4.8 percent or US\$35 million in the proposed Programme of Work, or 5.4 percent in the appropriation. He fully explains the reasons for his proposal in the introduction so I will not spend more time on that but you have also heard the comments of the Chairman of the Programme Committee concerning the Programme content.

However, please note that this budget is presented in constant dollar terms before accounting for cost increases and exchange rate effects on the budget. Members need to be aware that an additional amount would need to be added to the US\$35 million increase, and therefore, to the appropriation, so as to ensure such cost increases are covered.

The document itself contains tables and data on this issue but the information has changed since we published CL 120/3, which is the main document. As the Chairman of the Finance Committee indicated, there is document CL 120/3-Sup.2 which provides an update on cost increases. As this was only recently issued, I would like to summarize what has happened for the benefit of Members of the Council.

The major area of change is in professional salaries. The SPWB contains the original estimates of cost increases in paragraphs 103 to 116. Here the total is shown as being US\$27.1 million or the equivalent of an annual average rate of 2.33 percent. This included an expected five percent increase in professional salaries arising out of the place-to-place survey which we knew was being conducted by the International Civil Service Commission in Rome. In fact, however, the result was much higher than expected and it is now likely that the ICSC, which is currently meeting, will approve an increase of 12.2 percent, assuming an exchange rate of 2 186.05 lire to the dollar. The issue is further complicated by two other factors, the pre-existence of a negative post adjustment for Rome and furthermore, the need to examine the increase at the budget rate of lire 1 875. We use that rate because you need to be able to compare the proposals precisely to the last budget. Of course, at the end of the process, we adjust to whatever exchange rate occurs on the day that the Conference votes its Appropriation Resolution.

The net result of this is to increase the provision of cost increases by approximately US\$22 million. That is, instead of the US\$27.1 million I mentioned to you, we now face a rather horrifying total of US\$48.9 million in cost increases. If you look at the table on paragraph 13 of Supplement 2, it spells out the total effect on the assessments

It may be worth briefly going through this table with you. The first column of figures shows the current budget for 2000-2001 compared to four different versions of the budget for 2002-2003. All four versions deal with the Real Growth proposal, that is with the increase of US\$35 million but they differ in the exchange rate which is assumed.

The second column, for example, shows what the increases would have been at the same rate of exchange as in the last budget, i.e. at lire 1 875. This is where the figure of US\$49 million is demonstrated. In this case we see that the bottom line shows assessed contributions would rise from US\$643 million in 2000-2001 to US\$727 million in 2002-2003, an increase of US\$83.9 million or 13 percent. Of course, our costs are very much affected by the Lira or Euro rates of exchange. The current rate of exchange is above Lire 2 150, which is the assumption for the last column of this particular table, where you see that the cost increases fall to about US\$21 million and hence the increase in assessed contributions drops to US\$55.9 million or 8.7 percent.

I guess the point I am making here is that the exchange rate has a very important bearing on the final result of the budget. I would like to add that there may be further exchange rate benefits arising from the relationship of the US dollar to our other main currencies, that is, those that we use in our Regional Offices. This effect has not yet been factored into the calculations as we take a conservative approach in forecasting such costs. However, Members may rest assured that the Secretariat will be making every effort to minimize the final level of cost increases to be sought in the full Programme of Work and Budget. In other words we see the amount of US\$48.9 million as an upper limit to the amount which will be required.

Could I turn now to the question of scenarios. As you may recall, the Medium-Term Plan proposed an increase of 9.6 percent in the net appropriation for 2002-2003. The reaction of Members to this ranged widely from those that fully supported the proposals to those that felt that Zero Nominal Growth should be considered. This latter group requested that a Zero Nominal Growth proposal be produced. As explained in the Director-General's introduction, he did not feel able to produce such a scenario. Firstly, because he simply did not believe that it could be developed consistently with the demands being made by all Members, both developed and developing, for additional services from the Organization. Secondly, because he feels he has had no guidance from the Membership from where it would see the necessary budget cuts being taken.

I wish to remind you that by definition ZNG means US\$650 million for 2002-2003 which implies the absorption of all cost increases - and you saw that, at lire 1 875, those are currently estimated at US\$49 million. Therefore, in order to cover salary and other cost increases within the US\$650 million, which is what would happen if those Members seeking ZNG approved a budget on that basis, the Organization would have to reduce its programmes by US\$49 million or 7.5 percent. The enormity of that reduction needs to be recognized. It is more than our entire budget on crops. It is more than our entire budget on forestry, on fisheries or on nutrition, so we are talking about a very serious reduction in the Organization's capacity to provide services to its Members.

Some Members have referred to the use of efficiency savings to cover cost increases and I would like to make two points in this regard. The first is that the Organization has made tremendous efforts to improve the efficiency of the Organization and to reduce its costs. This is very well documented in CL 119/INF/12 which was presented to the last Council, where we demonstrated what had been achieved. I would like to remind you of some of the key figures. A 36 percent reduction in General Staff at Headquarters since 1994, 631 less General Service staff out of 1 765 when we started. About US\$20 million per annum of savings generated from downgrading professional staff posts, from the replacement of international with national professional staff and from the use of the Partnership Programmes. Over US\$16 million from improvement in processes through streamlining, restructuring of the Field Programme operations and various other activities that are also described in that paper. All in all, approximately US\$50 million of savings per annum have been made and that is how we faced the overall reduction of US\$95 million that I referred to in my answer to a previous question.

But I have to say that it is simply unrealistic to expect that the Organization could do something like this again. We cannot make significant savings of this nature and call them efficiency

savings. By definition, efficiency savings are savings where you reduce the cost but you do not reduce the output. If we go ahead with the reductions, of the order of magnitude that we have been discussing, then we must reduce the output.

The second point was made by the Director-General himself in the introduction of the Medium-Term Plan, which is that, given the demand for the Organization's services, is it in fact a proper strategy to follow? That is, should efficiency savings be used to fund cost increases? In reality this policy implies using efficiency savings to reduce assessed contributions, something which benefits one group of Members and not the others - not those in the greatest need.

I would add that on the issue of efficiency savings you have already seen the signs that we have been overdoing it. You have seen the External Auditor's Report indicating that we, in fact, reduced the staff of AFF by too much and that we now have to redress that situation.

I have heard today a request from the European Union that we should consider extending the length of Finance Committee meetings. Reduction in the length of Committee meetings, Council meetings and the Conference was one of the ways we achieved the efficiency savings. So already we are beginning to lose these savings.

In conclusion, on the question of Zero Nominal Growth, I really would urge those Members who wish to pursue the idea to try and make sound suggestions about what programmes should be cut so that if this should eventuate, we do have some proper guidance from the Governing Bodies.

May I now draw your attention to CL 120/3-Sup.1, this is supplement 1 to the SPWB Document. This provides analysis of what a Zero Real Growth budget would encompass. Zero Real Growth budget assumes that the appropriation would be increased to cover cost increases but not for real growth. To put it another way, the purchasing power of the US\$650 million would be maintained but it would not be increased. Therefore, in effect, this document removes the additional US\$35 million proposed in the SPWB as real growth and gives you a summary of the programme entities that would have to be cut in order to achieve Zero Real Growth, or ZRG. I need to emphasize that this scenario was provided for your information and is not to be seen as a proposal by the Director-General, who stands by his proposals in CL 120/3.

Finally, the Technical Committees, COAG, COFI, COFO and the CCP all met in between the time we prepared the document and now and I would just like to draw your attention to a final piece of information which concerns the outcome of the Technical Committees.

We have analysed the recommendations of each Committee with a view to identifying the budgetary impact of these recommendations. That information has been provided to you in CL 120/INF/17 which lists the additional outputs which we believe would need to be produced to satisfy their recommendations along with the cost of producing those outputs. The grand total for all programmes is about US\$8 million. Of course, the extent to which such activities can and should be brought into the Programme of Work and Budget would depend on the views of the Council itself.

Mohammed A. KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

The Zero Real Growth budget, referred to in this document, is a compromise as far as expectations of developing countries are concerned. Within the framework of the Programme of Work and Budget for the period concerned, we believe that the Programme of Work and Budget is fully in line with the Medium-Term Plan for the year 2002-2007.

The proposals contained in the proposed budget does reflect the recommendations of the various technical committees of the Organization. Actually, the members of these committees did call upon an increase in order to implement these programmes and activities. Therefore, we do support the Programme of Work and Budget for the years 2000-2003 on the basis of the Zero Growth, so that the Organization will be able to undertake all the activities. This will help the Organization to offset any shortcomings.

We believe that the resources should be adequate to fulfil this mandate.

J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)

We welcome the proposals of the Director-General in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, which are clearly linked to the priorities set out in the Strategic Framework and the programmes outlined in the Medium-Term Plan.

We find the Summary Programme of Work and Budget technically sound with clear delineation of programme entities. Linkages established between programmes under the priority areas for inter-disciplinary action are also appreciable.

We have the following comments to make on the budget level and on the programme content.

We recall the Strategic Framework for the resource neutral long-term vision. It is our belief that the whole exercise of setting out priorities for 15 years, up to 2015, should lead to greater resource flow for agriculture and rural development, which are key factors in poverty and hunger alleviation.

After such an exercise, any suggestion for a negative growth budget for the biennium, would reflect the lack of will to assist the most vulnerable of sectors, namely agriculture. We feel that a nominal growth budget for the Organization is not a solution to reforming the Organization. Reforms have to run parallel and are an ongoing process. The core mandate of the Organization is serviced by the regular budget and continued whittling down of resources would deter the Organization from carrying out its mandate.

We are happy that the voluntary contribution to the Organization is substantial but voluntary contributions have the inherent disadvantages of being directed. We strongly feel, therefore, that if, as a premier agriculture Organization, FAO has to carry out this complex mandate it should be supported by adequate funding.

We support, therefore, a growth budget at 5.4 percent, as proposed by the Director-General, as the absolute minimum, for the first biannual budget in the new century. We do not, however, believe that the change in staff salaries will lead an upward revision in costs increases. However, we hope that a favourable exchange rate will help in keeping the Assessed Contributions from Member Nations at a reasonable level.

With regard to the programme content, our views are as follows. In the increasingly complex technical and rural based issues that agriculture is facing today, a quick response, technical assistance from FAO is becoming more and more crucial for Member Nations. Especially in areas relating to capacity building, in trade related issues, plant and animal quarantine, etc.

Over the years there has been considerable reduction in the number of TCP projects, sanctions to developing countries. We, therefore, strongly support the proposal to increase the funding for TCP. We, however, recommend a close monitoring of the projects as some times there is a considerable time lag between proposals and sanctions.

We note, with concern, the fall in the extra-budgetary resources for non-emergency field programmes. The developing countries have consistently argued for a balance to be maintained between normative and field programmes in FAO. The status of funding of non-emergency field programmes further strengthens the argument for higher allocations for TCP projects.

We find that a large number of outputs of programmes are guidelines and publications. We would like to see linkages established between the guidelines and demonstrations in the field whenever possible.

In this context, we would like to reiterate establishing strong normative and operational linkages in programmes of FAO. This linkage is also important between programmes in the regular budget and field programmes funded by extra-budgetary resources.

We welcome FAO's initiatives in new areas like bio-security, food for cities, organic agriculture, etc. At the same time, we would like to emphasize the fact that food security in many developing countries is dependent on increasing agriculture production and productivity. The challenge is to

improve the productivity of farming systems through sustainable intensification, diversification and value addition. Substituting knowledge for capital is the key to such an improvement.

FAO should continue to work in the area of transfer of technology, helping especially developing and small-island countries in the total re-organization of technology transfer.

Dato' ABI MUSA ASA'ARI MOHAMED (Malaysia)

Malaysia strongly supports a Real Growth Budget for the Programme of Work and Budget. We believe that with increased, enhanced and well-managed resources, FAO can effectively deliver effectively the pressing demands of the developing countries in their quest to improve their food production capabilities, availability and accessibility.

With the commitments made at the World Food Summit, all Member Countries have given greater emphasis to agricultural development, food production and food security. Even more important is FAO's role in providing assistance to Member Nations and improving global food security.

A Programme of Work and Budget with a Real Growth Budget should be able to guarantee FAO to carry out its mandated responsibilities and meet the growing needs of its Member Nations.

Malaysia would also like to comment on a specific aspect of the Programme budget under the proposed SPWB. We applaud the emphasis given to the Technical and Economic Programme and the Technical Cooperation Programme, with a proposed increase in budget of 5.4 percent and 11.2 percent, respectively, from 2000-2001 budget. However, we question the distribution of budget under Major Programme 2.1: Agricultural Production and Support System. Even though the budget reduction for crops under this major programme was not significantly reduced, but on closer scrutiny, its sub-programme, i.e. Alternative Crops and Cultivates for new Opportunities, have been significantly reduced by more than 65 percent to only US\$1.3 million and for sub-programme Conservation, Management and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources the budget is zero.

We believe crop diversification is an important activity among poor smallholders and can increase the income of farmers in many developing countries. We are also confident that the review on the International Undertaking (IU) of the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will be concluded satisfactorily by the coming Conference, and thus implementation of the IU can proceed immediately.

The Malaysian delegation thus requests FAO to revisit the proposal and reconsider a more equitable distribution of budget for the two very important programmes.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

El CL 120/3 es un documento consistente, bien hecho, cuya amplitud responde a las múltiples demandas y necesidades de los Estados Miembros. Es particularmente pertinente su vinculación con el Marco Estratégico y con el Plan a Plazo Medio, documentos que ofrecen una visión ordenada del universo de actividades que realiza la Organización.

La identificación de esferas prioritarias para la acción interdisciplinaria puntualiza los bloques de actividades sustantivas en los trabajos de la FAO para el próximo bienio. Seguramente todos estos instrumentos de planeación posibilitan una identificación más rigurosa de las demandas de los países, así como una ejecución más fructífera de las acciones. Por ese motivo, sería deseable que a nivel regional se realizaran ejercicios derivados con impacto en los programas a nivel de país. Este planteamiento es congruente con el proceso de descentralización de la FAO en las distintas regiones. A ese propósito, es deseable que las conferencias regionales contribuyan cada vez más y de manera paulatina a los ejercicios programáticos y presupuestarios de la FAO, apoyando los trabajos que se realizan en esta sede.

Llama la atención, sin embargo, la asignación general de recursos propuesta para el Programa de Trabajo en donde, para algunos conceptos se proponen incrementos en los montos asignados y en otros, que consideramos importantes, se proponen reducciones. Tal es el caso del Capítulo 2,

Operaciones en Campo, rubro para el que se propone una disminución del 12.1 por ciento y en cambio se propone un incremento del 7.3 por ciento para representantes de la FAO. No pueden pasar desapercibidas las limitaciones presupuestarias que se vislumbran cada vez que se ha formulado un PLP bienal en los últimos años. Sin embargo, se debe insistir en la necesidad de que los Estados Miembros cubran sus cuotas pendientes, más aún cuando la Organización ha hecho claros esfuerzos por ser más eficiente y eficaz en las operaciones de sus programas.

Por otra parte, consideramos adecuado el cambio de número y nombre de las entidades programáticas propuestas para el PLP. Para el sector agropecuario de México hay temas que son prioritarios. El diseño de políticas y programas, la sanidad agropecuaria, la normalización, los recursos genéticos vegetales y animales, el desarrollo rural, el financiamiento agropecuario y el desarrollo tecnológico. Mi delegación solicita que la Secretaría tome nota de estas prioridades.

Aprovecho la ocasión para apoyar la propuesta realizada por el delegado de Brasil hoy por la mañana con relación al WAICENT, lo que hará viable lo que se indica en el inciso H del párrafo 237 del resumen que nos presenta la Secretaría.

Oswaldo DEL AGUILA (Perú)

Hemos leído con interés el documento CL 120/3 sobre el Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para los años 2002-2003 para el Organismo y consideramos que la FAO debe aprobar un presupuesto que responda a las crecientes necesidades de los Países Miembros y a los compromisos asumidos en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación.

Asimismo opinamos que se debe tomar en consideración las decisiones de los Comités para la Asignación de Recursos, fundamentalmente los de Montes y Pesca y a su recientemente creado Subcomité de Acuicultura. Por otro lado consideramos que la FAO debe dotar de fondos suficientes al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, teniendo en cuenta el sustantivo aporte que realiza en beneficio de los Países Miembros a través de la realización de diversos proyectos en países en desarrollo y del cual el Perú también es un país beneficiario.

Renaud COLLARD (France)

Je vous prie de bien vouloir donner la parole au délégué de la Suède qui s'exprimera au nom de l'Union européenne.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Observer for Sweden)

This agenda item has the most immediate impact on what the Secretariat will be able to do and it is, thus, with keep interest that the European Community and its Member States will follow further developments on this important matter. The document, which we have before us, is the first draft for a Programme of Work and budget based on the Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan.

As stated under Agenda Item 1, the European Community and its Member States find it important that the discussions on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget should take place after that the Council has had time to consider both the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees and the reports of the technical committees to permit a substantive exchange of views. We recommend that this will be the order in how to deal with these reports in the future.

The strengths of specialized agencies like in the complementarity between normative functions and operational activities, of which the latter should not duplicate those of other bodies and rest only on comparative advantage. For FAO, the balance has been outlined in the Strategic Framework 2000-2015. The normative functions and operational activities should be mutually reinforced and synergetic, integrated within the overall mandate of the UN System and based on their comparative advantage, that is, specialized skills and the capability to assist developing countries in their specific field of competence. In this context, the collective actions of other international organizations and bilateral donors should also be considered. The Summary Programme of Work and Budget follows logically and fits in well with the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan.

Taking into account the preferences of the Member States and previous budget decisions of the Conference, different budget scenarios, starting from the current levels, can be built, thus allowing Member States to clearly see what these scenarios can and cannot deliver. In reaching a view on the appropriate level and distribution of the budget the following considerations give guidance.

First, FAO's comparative advantage lies primarily in those tasks for whose fulfilment FAO has a unique position in relation to national and other international agencies, that is FAO's normative activities supported by complementary field activities as both are mutually supportive. It follows that these should have first claim on resources.

The European Community and its Member States shall want to satisfy ourselves that resources are suitably provided for under the Regular Programme and do not depend on extra-budgetary funds. The fact that core activities and high priority tasks should be funded from the regular budget is a pre-condition, in any organization, in order to allow rational decisions by Member States when allocating scarce resources. The Secretariat must safeguard the FAO's position as an independent, credible centre of excellence, which is directed by the decisions of its Member States.

Secondly, as the complementarity of normative and operational activities is of utmost importance, also the activities of the Technical Cooperation Programme should be clearly defined as being complementary to FAO's normative activities if they shall enjoy the budgetary protection. The transparency of this Programme should also be improved.

Thirdly, the continuing search for efficiency gains is of great importance. FAO could help make this debate better informed by benchmarking its performance in certain areas against best practices in other organizations.

Fourth, echoing the views of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, we, the Members, must ensure that FAO's administrative infrastructure – notably as regards finance, human resource management and information technology – is not neglected.

Fifth, reflection must be given to what FAO should stop doing. We should focus, in particular, on whether some proposed activities are below critical mass, that is to say too small to be useful and should be eliminated. The Director-General has rightly reminded the membership, on many occasions, that the Member States are good at laying extra burdens on the Organization but are unwilling to say what it should do less of or stop doing altogether. We intend to take up this challenge and to address it when the Finance and Programme Committees consider the full draft Programme of Work and Budget in September.

FAO is the lead agency, indeed the only one, for agriculture, forestry and fisheries on a global level. A central test of the adaptability and dynamism of an organization is the change in resource allocation due to changes in the external environment. In spite of the fact that remarkable changes have occurred in the relative economic, social and political importance of the three main areas of work of FAO, no substantive changes in the allocation of regular budget resources have occurred at least during the last decade. Along with many other countries, the EU deplores this lack of response and continues to request a considerably larger share of regular resources to meet the challenges in the area of Fisheries and Forestry. We shall make our own proposals for redressing this balance in due course.

The European Community and its Member States regret that the technical committees during their spring sessions were deprived of their central role of expressing views on the next programme of work in their areas of competence due to the lack of traditional and substantive Secretariat proposals. We are fully aware of the new budget procedure. However, these new procedures do not prohibit crucial inputs from expertise in Member Nations to the substance of the work programme. Consequently, the EC request that draft costed programmes of work for the forthcoming biennium will be distributed prior to the meetings of the technical committees. An open and transparent process, involving all Member Nations, for the development of a programme of work with clear priorities is a precondition for the rational management of an international organization. The inclusion of the substantive committees in this process will enhance the credibility of the organization and its work.

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) recommended the Secretariat to continue work in a number of important fields. A necessary basis for all work of the FAO regarding fisheries management is a professional and generally recognized monitoring of the global situation regarding the status of fish stocks and other marine living resources.

Two years ago, COFI agreed that improvements were needed, particularly regarding coverage, consistency regarding methodology and frequency of updating. We continue to consider this a priority.

Another priority area concerns the development of ecosystem approaches to fisheries development and management. We recognize the efforts by FAO but the role to be played by regional fisheries organizations and arrangements in the international order established by the UN Straddling Stocks Agreement and the Code of Conduct can hardly be overestimated. Yet we know that a considerable number of them are not yet in a position to fulfil the tasks assigned to them.

The implementation of the initially three but nowadays four plans of action developed in FAO is an additional priority for the European Community and its Member States. In particular, the one on illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries that is due for adoption at this Council meeting requires urgent attention to ensure that the ambitious plan also translates into practical action consistent with the political and substantive seriousness of the problems addressed.

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture was presented recently. It contains, as usual, a great deal of useful information and is widely used and quoted by all interested parties all over the world. Its influence on the international debate can hardly be overestimated and its further improvement is an important task for the FAO normative work.

The Committee on Commodity Problems decided that the Secretariat should continue its efforts to assist Member States to more effectively participate in trade negotiations, that the Committee should further streamline its meeting formulas and that the results of the Common Fund for Commodities be sufficiently documented, in order to allow for an evaluation of the Fund's activities.

The Committee on Forestry (COFO) strongly encouraged the Secretariat to ensure the Organization's lead role in the newly established Collaborative Partnership on Forestry (CPF), established by the UN Forum on Forests, in order to speed up implementation of the IPF/IFF recommendations. In line with this, the CPF members have agreed on the lead role of FAO in this matter. COFO further requested that FAO work with other CPF members to establish an internal CPF work programme to support the UNFF, including its future Multi Year Programme of Work and its Plan of Action.

We would also like to highlight the COFO request to FAO, in collaboration with other CPF members, to assist UNFF in its work related to monitoring assessment and reporting on progress towards implementing the International Panel of Forests (IPF) and International Forest Forum (IFF) proposals for action, using existing channels and streamlining the reporting processes to the extent possible. The Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme and existing regional and international processes for criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management could be components of the monitoring and reporting system.

FAO should also continue to support countries in their implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, including capacity building and related technical and financial assistance to countries to develop and implement effective national policy frameworks and national forest programmes. We also would like to underline the significant potential and capacity of the Regional Forestry Commission (RFCs) to identify emerging and important regional forestry issues. COFO urged the FAO Secretariat to continue to strengthen the capacity and roles of the RFCs. The private sector and non-governmental organizations in forestry need to be more involved in the work of the commissions as their participation could greatly enhance the Regional Forestry Commissions.

The Committee on Agriculture decided that FAO's role in climate change and catastrophes be better coordinated with the numerous other organizations involved in this and that FAO should, in

line with the decision at the previous Conference, continue to work on sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. In line with this, we are pleased to see that resources have been channelled to Programme 211A3, which treats the question of the relationship between water and land.

However, as stated at COAG, Programme 211P7, Land and Water Information Data Bases and Statistics, demands an important share of scarce resources and the expected results do not seem to measure up to that level. Therefore, we would like to repeat our suggestion to redistribute these resources to Programmes 211A1, Agricultural Water Use, Efficiency and Conservation and A3, Integrated Land, Water and Plant Nutrient Management.

Furthermore, at COAG the Secretariat stated that the work on IPPC was a priority. We very much agree with this since there is an obvious risk that developing countries cannot follow the work of formulating phytosanitary standards, which will be used for trade. Consequently, Programme 212P1 should be allocated more resources.

Another Programme, 224A2, Assistance for WTO Negotiations, has time and time again been commended by members. It is, therefore, most surprising to see the projected cut in this Programme. The main Programme 224 Agriculture is suggested to receive a five percent increase but within the programme there are large redistribution compared with the period 2000-2001. We would appreciate an explanation of this redistribution.

The Programmes under 222, Information of Agriculture and Food, are important to the core activity of analysing the present situation, which becomes ever more fluid in our changing world. These Programmes should, therefore, be strengthened. The food security related Programmes 223P3, 223P5 and 223S1 are very much in line with discussions both at COAG and the CFS.

The Committee on Food Security, which very recently finished its work, made recommendations for the arrangements of the agenda item World Food Summit: *five years later*, which we debated under Item 11. As we have all agreed that the follow-up to the Summit is vital in order to speed up the implementation of the Plan of Action, it is most surprising to see a reduction in the resources allocated to the planning of the Mid-Term Review in 2006.

Ms Sigridur Ásdís SNÆVAR (Iceland)

Iceland speaks here on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The Medium-Term Plan was the first step in our process of deciding on the budget for the next biennium, and we welcomed the format of that document with all its major improvements, compared to previous versions. At the same time, we stated that the resource projections were solely the responsibility of the Secretariat. We asked for alternative scenarios in budget levels to enable us to see and better analyse proposed changes in programme priorities.

After giving our views and recommendations in the Council in November, it is regrettable and disappointing to learn that the Secretariat had chosen to develop only one alternative scenario, which will be insufficient to assist the Members to find consensus on the budget level. The approach taken – to simply back out of all the proposals that had been made in the Medium-Term Plan, and also presented in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget – is of little use.

Zero Real Growth and Zero Nominal Growth scenarios could have been useful had they been developed as we indicated. When developing the Zero Real Growth budget, the Secretariat should have incorporated in the Programme of Work the Member States' recommendations and priorities. Introducing new activities and priorities within the Zero Real Growth scenario means that it will be necessary to discontinue others.

We have always stated that we have to consider the budget level in relation to the content of programmes and priorities proposed. That could well result in an increase or in a decrease on the budget.

Moving to the main document, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, the Nordic countries wish to commend the Secretariat for its clear presentation of the proposals and we

welcome the overview given on the planned achievements under the Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action.

This proposal, with a 5.4 percent real growth, is much lower than the proposal made in the Medium-Term Plan. To examine further this proposal, a very informative table is presented in paragraph 20 of the document, comparing the resource levels for major programmes between the Medium-Term Plan and the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Bearing in mind all the recommendations for activities and priorities mentioned in Council, one would have expected to see more differences between the resource allocations in the Medium-Term Plan and the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. For the Nordic Countries, it is regrettable not to see a considerable increase in the proportion allocated to the programme areas of fisheries and forestry of regular resources. This has been requested by Member Nations, in view of the increased economic and political importance of fishery and forestry. Here we recognize FAO's comparative advantage, and that comparative advantage should be used to strengthen the Organization in terms of resources and capacity.

In the field of forestry, the new challenges demanding increased resources mainly come from the follow-up work of UNCED in its different forms. The newly-established United Nations Forum on Forests, which continues as a forum for high-level dialogue in forestry matters, needs a lead agency to coordinate the collaboration of international forestry organizations. As proposed by COFO, FAO should take this role and the Forestry Department should have adequate resources for the task.

However, FAO's challenges are not limited to the work of UNFF and its Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The crucial task of UNFF is to promote the implementation of the recommendation of the IPF/IFF, and FAO has the comparative advantage in several fields related to them, as well as in some other fields of the follow-up of UNCED. Both negotiations on climate change and conservation of biodiversity need reliable and comparable information as a basis. The implementation of IPF/IFF recommendations mainly takes place at national level, but also there, reliable information is needed as a basis. The Forest Resources Assessment should serve as the main source of this information, and its core functions should be financed from the Regular Budget. Other fields where FAO has a remarkable comparative advantage are support to the preparation of National Forest Programmes and capacity building in such fields as forest genetic resources and plantation forests.

The important and huge work in the field of fisheries is to promote the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The IPOA needs to be recognized by increasing budgetary allocations from the Regular Programme. Having, in the COFI meeting, agreed to establish a Subcommittee on Aquaculture and to adopt the IPOA on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, we must allocate resources to these new commitments. In the field of fisheries, the Nordic countries would like to give high priority to the following general areas; promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; promoting responsible fisheries management; resources assessment and monitoring; the development of ecosystem approaches to fisheries management; and to further improve global monitoring of fisheries, contributing to the publication of the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture.

We welcome the new staff officer to deal with the issue of HIV/AIDS in the Gender and Population Division. However, we cannot see how FAO is going to be able to implement all the recommendations from CFS on the challenges of HIV/AIDS for the agricultural sector, when simultaneously the total budget allocation to the Division is reduced.

Women play an essential role in achieving food security. The FAO Rome Declaration establishes the need to empower women and policies that ensure gender equality. This must be a high priority for FAO, where they need to intensify their work and strengthen their capacity, rather than reducing the resources allocated to these tasks.

The Nordic countries believe that the strong normative mandate that we have given FAO is the foundation for its success in the field of agriculture, forestry and fishery. The Nordic countries

have been, and will continue to be, strong supporters of FAO's normative activities because, by improving on those tasks, FAO can convince the national governments and the international organizations, including the international financing institutions, to provide the necessary resources for the efforts to achieve the WFS objectives.

We are fully aware that FAO needs adequate resources to be the global centre of excellence in the field of agriculture, forestry and fishery. However, only when Member Countries and the Secretariat work together in an open and transparent manner on budgetary matters, can there be trust and ownership and ability to overcome obstacles when taking necessary and sometimes difficult decisions.

Finally, the Nordic countries would like to give support to the statement made by Sweden on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

Ms Fatimah HASAN J. HAYAT (Kuwait)

I apologize to my Arabic-speaking colleagues in the Near East Group, to deliver this statement in English because it is on their behalf, but has been prepared by the Chairman of the Group, Mr Ayazi of Afghanistan, who is involved now in the Working Group.

The Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003 has been carefully prepared and its linkage with the Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan is concise and clear. In fact, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003 is the first slice of the Medium-Term Plan 2002-2007 as approved by the Council last year.

Like the Medium-Term Plan, the same three categories of work are included in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003, namely, (i) technical projects, (ii) continuing programme activities, and (iii) technical service agreements. Similarly, the resources of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003 are distributed by the twelve Strategic Objectives as that of the Medium-Term Plan. Indication of resource allocation by the 16 PAIAs (Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action) is also given. All the PAIAs are of interest to the countries of the Near East and North Africa, particularly REHA (Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness, and Post-Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation). We understand that the management of PAIAs is not an easy task but, with time and experience, it should improve.

Before making some observations on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003, I should make the position of the countries of the Near East crystal clear. To accelerate the progress towards achieving the target of the World Food Summit, the budget submitted by the Director-General is the bottom line. We consider a Zero Real Growth budget to be static and therefore a budget of inaction. We are not ready to entertain a Zero Nominal Growth budget because it will be regressive, self-defeating and detrimental to the work of the Organization.

The 2002-2003 proposed budget of US\$769.8 million shows a modest increase over the approved budget of the previous biennium. The net increment of US\$35.4 million amounts to 4.8 percent. Our Group notes with appreciation that the largest proportion of this modest increase is given to Chapter 2: Technical and Economic Programmes, and Chapter 4: Technical Cooperation Programme, 46 percent and 29 percent respectively. Only 2 percent of the net increase of US\$35.4 million is for Administration. We fully support the percentage rise in allocation for Chapter 4: Technical Cooperation Programme, between the two biennia.

In terms of normative work, Chapter 2 is central to the work of FAO and we would like to touch on selected aspects of its Programme Entities.

We are in broad agreement with the Main Substantive Thrusts and Priorities as outlined in paragraphs 143-149 and particularly that with EMPRES (Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases), the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Plant Protection Convention and Prior Informed Consent.

We also note with interest the Changes in Resources as highlighted in paragraphs 150 to 155. We support the six Intra-departmental Entities as mentioned in the table on page 41. Five of these Intra-departmental Entities consist of resource transfer from other programmes except 2.1.0.S5 (Central Support to PAIAs).

We also note that, for each Programme Entity, three features are mentioned, Amount of Money Allocated for the Biennium; the Objective of the Programme Entity and the Biennial Output. We support this approach.

The Council will recall that, in the Medium-Term Plan for each Programme Entity, two other features were shown, namely Rationale of the Programme Entity and Indicators. In the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003, these two features are dropped. Perhaps the Secretariat can explain the reason? Is it because it will add to repetition or is it intended to save space?

We note that, apart from Programme 2.1.2: Crops, Programme 2.1.4: Agricultural Support System, and Programme 2.1.5: Agricultural Application of Isotopes and Biotechnology, the net increase in resources varies from a low of 1.3 percent for Programme 2.1.1: Natural Resources, to a maximum of 8 percent for Programme 2.2.1: Nutrition. The increases are in response to prioritization of specific activities as discussed by COAG, COFI, COFO and CFS.

Considering the breadth of the Programme Entities, I should like to focus mainly on a selected number that are of greater interest to our region. Under the Programme of Natural Resources, we found it difficult to understand the rationale of budgetary cuts in such important Programme Entities as Agricultural Water Use, Efficiency and Conservation, Land and Soil Productivity, and the disappearance of the Entity entitled Waterlogging and Salinity Control, Environmental Effects of Reclamation and Problem Soils. All these Programme Entities are of high value to countries of the Near East and North Africa which face serious problems of waterlogging, soil salinity, inefficient water use for irrigation and poor drainage. Perhaps the Secretariat could explain if these cuts are real or if the Entities are shifted somewhere else and under different names?

Under Programme Crops, the Programme Entity 212A - Alternative Crops and Cultivars for New Opportunities, receives a cut in resources. This can hardly be justified, because the eradication of narcotic plants in many countries of the world demands exploring alternative crops that can compete with narcotic plants in terms of income to the producer.

We fully support the increase in resources for the Promotion of Specific Action for Rice Development.

There is a cut of 29 percent in Programme Entity 213A8 - Technologies and Systems for Efficient Natural Resource Use in Livestock Production, and a cut of 35 percent for Programme Entity 213P1 - Global Livestock Information System and Knowledge Framework. Both these Programme Entities are important to our region as well as to Africa, particularly for the countries in the Horn of Africa.

With respect to Programme Entity 214A4 - Agribusiness Development, what measures are underway to develop cooperative arrangements with the private sector which possess the technology?

With respect to 221P2 - Codex Alimentarius, is there a problem with the WHO's share of the cost?

We welcome the increase in resources for FIVIMS and for Capacity Building in Developing Countries for Agricultural and Food Information through WAICENT.

We strongly urge FAO to make use of the Arabic language equal to that of other official languages of the Organization, and we stress the need for an Arabic Website regarding WAICENT.

We fail to understand the cut in resources of 45 percent for Programme Entity 224A2: Commodity and Trade Policy Support to Developing Countries for Trade Negotiations, unless

this drop is compensated by the flow of extra-budgetary support. We also support the early start on the Mid-Term Review of the WFS targets (Programme Entity 224A3).

I am sorry for all these figures but I think the Secretariat will appreciate it.

We would appreciate knowing from the Secretariat, the reasons for the decline in resources for Programme Entity 23A2 - Increased Contribution of Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries to Food Security, and Programme Entity 234S1 - Promotion and Strengthening of Regional Fisheries Bodies and Arrangements and Field Programme Support.

Well, I think there are a lot of programmes, but I am trying to summarize because I have myself been complaining on the length of the speeches.

The spread of desertification is a major threat to our region as well as to other developing regions. We therefore appreciate the increase in allocation for Programme Entity 251A6, which includes support for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, but would appreciate knowing what is the amount earmarked for desertification *per se* and for what other purposes, apart from information gathering.

We note an increase of US\$5.25 million for Major Programme 3.4: FAO Representatives. A net increase of 14 additional Country Representations are expected, though no indication is given as to which countries are on the priority list.

In this connection, we hope that the Secretariat would give serious consideration to opening offices in the newly independent countries of Central Asia. Perhaps a reconnaissance mission headed by a senior FAO official to the five countries of Central Asia would be very useful.

With respect to Major Programme 3.5: Cooperation with External Partners, we support the increase in resources for Programme 3.5.2 - Civil Society Awareness and Partnership, but we fail to understand why there is a small decrease for ECDC and TCDC (Programme 3.5.3). We hope that this matter will be reconsidered by the Secretariat.

We would appreciate very much knowing from the Secretariat the reasons why there has been a notable cut in the staff of the regional, sub-regional and liaison offices, especially in light of the emphasis on decentralization by the Organization.

In each of the 20 programmes covered under Chapter 2, there is a Programme Entity (S1) which reads: "Technical support services to Member Nations and the field programmes". Though this nomenclature differs slightly from one Programme to another, the sum allocated to S1 and the 20 programmes under Chapter 2 amounts to nearly US\$47 million for the biennium 2002-2003. This is about 18 percent of the resources committed to these 20 programmes. The breakdown of this sum is not given by advisory services to Member Nations and technical and administrative backstopping of the field programme. The most surprising phenomena is the sharp difference in the ratio of S1 to the total resources allocated for each programme. It varies from a high of 40 percent for programme 2.3.4: Fisheries Policies, to a low of 4 percent for Programme 2.2.3: Food and Agriculture Monitoring, Assessment and Outlook. What is the reason for such sharp variations?

Another issue of importance to the Near East Group, as well as other regional groups belonging to G77, is the decline in Extra-Budgetary Resources for the Non-Emergency Component of the Field Programme. The table on page 20 of CL 120/3 shows the decline in the delivery of non-emergency field projects of 44 percent between 1995 and 2000. The report of the Programme Committee CL 120/14, paragraphs 52 to 59, throws light on the deteriorating status of the non-emergency field programme as well as the need to improve the field information system and rectify the inadequacy of resources for programme and project development.

There are other paragraphs, but I think, for the sake of the time of the Committee, I am going to drop them because they have been repeated in some paragraphs that I have already read.

Finally, can the Secretariat assure us that, in the detailed Programme of Work and Budget of 2002-2003, there will be a section to show the distribution of resources by programmes among the

different regions? We do realize, however, that such a distribution is bound to be tentative and, in some cases, even arbitrary.

Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)

Cyprus shares the general observation and we acknowledge that the proposals presented in the document before us are indeed rooted in the Medium-Term Plan and the Strategic Framework, which were endorsed by the Membership.

We have also noted the balanced allocation of resources among programme activities and between normative and operational work, and we support in particular the priorities proposed for the technical programmes.

We were pleased to observe a number of sustainable development-related issues, listed in the priority areas for Interdisciplinary Action, like Biosecurity, Climate Change Issues in Agriculture, Organic Agriculture and the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources for food and agriculture which had been highlighted in the Medium-Term Plan.

Another positive observation is the 11 percent increase of resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme, maintaining the share of this Chapter at the 14.9 percent level of the appropriation in full conformity with the Medium-Term Plan.

Cyprus also strongly supports the continuation of FAO's trade-related technical assistance to Members prepared for the forthcoming WTO negotiations on agriculture. Other areas of high priority for Cyprus, and other countries in the region, are the issues of land degradation and desertification, and agricultural water use, efficiency and conservation.

Turning now to the question of the level of the resources, let me state at the outset that Cyprus is in favour of a budget level that will enable FAO to carry out its mandate and to be functional in the most effective way. However, in view of the uncertainty of some relevant issues, we would prefer to express a firm position at our next Council Session when these questions are more clarified.

The inflow of assessed contributions and arrears, the Trust Fund proposal, the cost increase assumptions, the Post-Adjustment annual change of salaries, the exchange rate of US\$ to the Lire, the payments of contributions in other currencies than US dollars as demanded by a group of countries, are some of the issues requiring clarifications or revision to reflect the latest developments.

With regard to efficiency savings, we appreciate the efforts of FAO over the last three biennia to cut costs and increase efficiency in the Organization. How much scope there is for further substantial efficiency savings, we are not in a position to know. This can only be found with an in-depth assessment of programmes in a transparent and accountable manner, with the aim to terminate all programmes which either do not lie entirely in the area of competence of FAO, or have not been effective enough.

Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun)

Je voudrais, dans un premier temps, vous prier de passer la parole à la République Unie de Tanzanie qui s'exprimera au nom du Groupe africain. Par la suite, si vous le permettez, nous ajouterons un bref commentaire au nom de notre délégation.

Costa R. MAHALU (Observer for Tanzania, United Republic of)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Group.

First, I wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing this Summary Programme of Work and Budget, as PWB 2002-2003. The Africa Group has examined the document with great interest and the following are our observations.

The Group has observed that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget proposal is rooted in the Medium-Term Plan 2000-2007 and the Strategic Framework 2000-2015, just in line with our expectation, especially so since both documents were endorsed by the Governing Bodies of FAO.

During the approval of the MTP by the Council, it was found that it provided an accurate presentation of the key priorities and the needed balance, and they concluded that the substantive contents were the starting point for the Programme of Work and Budget.

The Group has also observed the proposed Real Growth budget of 4.8 percent. As far as the Technical and Economic Programme is concerned, there is an average increase of resources of about six percent for each of the programmes on agricultural production and support systems, forestry and fisheries. We feel that these increases will have a major impact on agriculture and food security in general.

The Group has also noted that there is an increased attention to the work on the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal Diseases, EMPRES. This programme, if implemented as planned and with the proposed budget, will indeed contribute greatly to the achievement of food security through the prevention of problems associated with animal and plant diseases.

The Group has further noted the proposed budget to support the development of a regulatory framework for food and agriculture. This support will certainly enable Member Countries to adopt guidelines, codes of conduct and action plans which will provide the basis for harmonized contents for national legislation. This will make it possible for the majority Member States of this Organization to benefit from globalization.

The Africa Group has also noted the cost increases as per document CL 120/3-Sup.2. While the proposed Summary Budget does include some five percent of the foreseen cost increase, there is a possibility for further increase to the tune of 12 percent in the Headquarters Post Adjustment. This implies that, for the Organization to continue with its work, it will need an increased budget which will be able to absorb the Post Adjustment cost increases.

The budget of the Organization has not been increased for the past six years, despite increasing demands from its Members. We have also noted various requests for funds from various committees of the Organization. Now, considering the slow progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit Committee's goals, it is obvious that the Organization will require more resources in order to play its role effectively.

It is with the above account that the African Group, after considering the contents of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, strongly recommends that the next biennium budget proposal be based on a Real Growth scenario.

Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun)

Je vous remercie, une fois de plus, de me permettre d'exprimer notre point de vue qui consiste d'abord à appuyer fermement la déclaration de la République Unie de Tanzanie faite au nom du Groupe africain, mais également à signaler que nous gardons en mémoire la déclaration du Directeur général faite à l'ouverture de cette Session. Elle nous paraît d'une grande pertinence et d'une grande logique, parce que nous sommes d'avis que, si on n'approuve pas un budget avec une croissance réelle, nous allons demeurer dans un cercle vicieux, ce qui a été constaté depuis la tenue du Sommet en 1996. Si on ne le rompt pas en changeant la manière de faire, il ne sera pas étonnant que dans deux ans, dans quatre ans, nous soyons encore là à constater qu'il n'y a pas eu de progrès dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Nous voulons également signaler que, dans les pays en développement, qui interpellent régulièrement la FAO pour les aider à sortir de leurs conditions déplorables de sécurité alimentaire, des programmes de lutte contre la pauvreté sont à peine en train d'être mis en place. Ce n'est que d'ici quelques années que l'on pourra commencer à percevoir leur impact. Or, nous savons que la pauvreté qui sévit et qui ne fait que s'agrandir dans certains pays, est à la base de l'insécurité alimentaire. C'est pour cela que nous voulons lancer un appel à ceux qui ont la possibilité d'aider la FAO à mieux remplir sa mission, de ne pas hésiter à le faire, parce que ce serait une façon de rompre le cercle vicieux dans lequel nous nous trouvons, si on n'approuve pas un budget avec une croissance réelle.

Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA (Gabon)

Ma délégation appuie l'intervention faite par la délégation de la République Unie de Tanzanie au nom du Groupe africain. En effet, nous partageons l'idée selon laquelle il est nécessaire d'accroître les ressources dont dispose la FAO afin qu'elle puisse mener à bien les objectifs que nous lui avons fixés.

Nous voudrions ajouter à l'intervention du Groupe africain et aux autres intervenants qui nous ont précédés quelques remarques spécifiques sur les points qui nous intéressent particulièrement. Tout d'abord, notre pays réitère son attachement au Programme de coopération technique, aux Représentations de la FAO dans les pays, et au renforcement des Départements des forêts et des pêches. A cet égard, nous signalons que le Gabon a été retenu pour abriter les prochaines sessions des Comités des pêches, des forêts et de la faune sauvage, qui se tiendront en mars 2002.

Dans le chapitre 2 du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 2002/2003 intitulé "Programme technique et économique", nous insistons particulièrement sur le fait que le niveau des ressources allouées au secteur 2.2 "Politique de développement alimentaire et agricole" et le point 2.5 "Contribution au développement durable et programmes spéciaux" ne devraient pas subir de réduction. Comme d'autres pays en développement, nous comptons sur l'assistance de la FAO dans ces domaines qui sont très importants pour notre sécurité alimentaire.

De même, notre pays attend beaucoup de l'assistance de la FAO dans la mise en œuvre des programmes techniques pour le développement durable des ressources et notamment les programmes spéciaux PSSA, les programmes spéciaux phytogénétiques et les programmes spéciaux zoogénétiques.

En ce qui concerne le programme 2.2 "Nutrition", la délégation gabonaise saisit cette occasion pour lancer un appel à la FAO afin qu'elle mène à terme le Programme de coopération technique sur la normalisation des denrées alimentaires initié dans notre pays il y a quatre ans et suspendu en cours de route.

Abdoukarim DIOUF (Sénégal)

La délégation du Sénégal voudrait faire sienne la déclaration du délégué de la République Unie de Tanzanie qui s'est exprimé au nom du Groupe africain ainsi que celles du Cameroun et du Gabon.

Nous serons brefs après ces déclarations qui reflètent parfaitement notre point de vue, après avoir entendu la déclaration du Directeur général à l'ouverture de la session, qui, comme l'a rappelé l'Honorable délégué du Cameroun, a été fort pertinente, et surtout après les explications très claires de M. Wade. Nous n'avons rien de particulier à ajouter pour recommander au Conseil l'adoption du budget tel que proposé par le Directeur général.

Nous voudrions porter, si besoin est, à la connaissance du Conseil ces quelques informations dont nous disposons ici et qui vont dans le même sens que ce qui nous a été dit par M. Wade. M. Wade a dit en introduction que la FAO avait perdu 631 postes correspondant à quelque 20 millions de dollars en 1994 et 2000.

Nous avons ici un document qui montre qu'entre le 31 décembre 1994 et le 31 décembre 2000, le personnel fixe de la FAO et les recrutements continus sont passés de 1703 à 1350, donc une perte d'au moins 350 emplois. Ce chiffre est très intéressant quand on le compare à ce qui s'est passé au Programme alimentaire mondial où, durant la même période, le niveau du personnel est passé de 479 à 831, ce qui correspond à un accroissement de 351 postes. Nous nous félicitons du fait que le Programme alimentaire mondial reçoive les moyens financiers et humains et nous ne pouvons que lancer encore un appel ici à la Communauté internationale pour cette Organisation qui a montré qu'elle pouvait faire face de façon efficace aux problèmes auxquels sont confrontés les pays en développement. Nous nous félicitons et nous lançons un appel pour que cette Organisation reçoive les moyens nécessaires pour s'acquitter de sa tâche.

Mais, en même temps, nous ne souhaitons pas qu'il y ait de discriminations entre les organisations. Certes, chaque organisation a son avantage comparatif, mais nous ne pouvons pas

comprendre qu'on donne les moyens nécessaires, les moyens humains et financiers à une organisation et qu'on les refuse à une autre. C'est une observation, un commentaire que je souhaite faire, et je voudrais que les membres de cette auguste assemblée y réfléchissent pour l'adoption de ce budget.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

We note that there is an increasing disparity between the goals set by WFS in 1996 and the achievement of what is supposed to have been executed. A wide range of proposals have been put forward that are aimed at reducing this gap. It was the Director-General who, on the first day of our proceedings, pointed to the declining provision of resources to agriculture by many regional and international financing bodies.

It is the view of our delegation that the achievement of the WFS goals set forth in 1996 will not be achieved while we pursue a Zero Growth scenario in our budgetary allocations.

This was reiterated by our Head of Delegation during our presentations yesterday. This has further been echoed by the Chairman of the Africa Group, His Excellency the Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania, and by several delegations: India, Egypt, Malaysia, Iceland, the EU – the list is very long.

We fully support the Director-General's proposal to redouble our efforts to enable us to achieve the goals set forth by WFS 1996. We believe that the key to improving productivity for farmers in Zimbabwe and, indeed, in Southern Africa and many countries in the developing world, lies in the empowerment programmes for our smallholder farmers. This calls for increased budgets for the TCDC programmes to avail more training to the farmers and the development of marketing infrastructure. The achievement of these central goals in a wide range of countries would not be achieved in a Zero Growth scenario.

Ms Lan HOANG (Canada)

I would like to stress that budgetary discipline remains the policy of the Government of Canada for all international organizations. We believe that budgetary discipline is a crucial component of good governance and an essential element of the broader United Nations reform process.

In May, WHO adopted a fourth consecutive budget which shows real discipline. Likewise, on 7 June the ILO took a similar approach. Budgetary discipline is still a global trend, thus FAO has to find ways to work in a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach with other partners to avoid duplication and to complement each other's work for the common cause. At the same time, a clear demonstration of sustainable resource will build confidence and inspire more forthcoming financial support.

Also, FAO should draw lessons from other organizations which have had success in their financial pledging exercises. Within the Government of Canada, for the last six years, we have had to follow strict budgetary discipline. Every department has had to identify its most important priorities and allocate its precious resources to these priorities. As difficult as it may be, particularly in a broad-based, multilateral organization with many stakeholders and diverse interests, setting priorities necessarily involves eliminating or reducing low-priority programmes.

Canada is ready to work with other delegations and the Secretariat in devising procedures for priority setting.

CHAIRMAN

I still have a list of speakers but I am sure that this list will be added to by other delegates. Actually the timetable as it is now still allows us to return to this item in the morning. So I propose that we should adjourn this meeting and start again tomorrow with the debate at 9.30 in the morning.

Point of Order***Point d'ordre******Punto de Orden*****Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)**

With the agreement of the Presidency of the European Community and its Member States, I am intervening on a point of order which is as follows:

The Finance Committee report which was debated by the Council earlier this afternoon put to the Council five issues for decision; four of them were expressed as recommendations, and one was expressed as a set of options. Since you did not sum up the end of the debate, we at least are unclear what decisions the Council has taken.

Could you very kindly sum up what you believe to be the views of the Council and invite its endorsement?

CHAIRMAN

In the last debate that we had on the report of the Finance Committee, I saw that there was actually general endorsement of the report. However, there are points raised by several delegates on several issues and I will ask the Committee and the Secretariat to review these questions again, in their next meeting in September.

These issues concern those raised by Korea, Malaysia and, I think, Cyprus also raised one, China and several other delegates, concerning the proposal of the Committee to suspend the incentive system for two consecutive biennia – four years. It was raised in the debate that a review should be conducted and the reasons behind the proposal should be clarified.

Another issue that was also raised was on the scales of contribution and this I think is not yet resolved. It should be resolved by the Committee and Secretariat, and explained further to Members of the Council at its next Meeting, that is the proposal made by at least one delegate.

Overall, the report of the Finance Committee was endorsed, except for several issues and I have mentioned those issues.

Point of Order***Point d'ordre******Punto de Orden*****Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)**

With due respect to the Chair, I find that, as a Member of the Finance Committee, this creates an almost impossible situation for the Finance Committee which already has a very heavy workload for September. It seems to me, from my position here in this body, that there was consensus on some of the Resolutions. I would urge the Chair to try to reach a consensus on more of these recommendations rather than leaving all the recommendations that were contained in the report up in the air.

I cannot express in any stronger terms the need for us to come to some decision on some of the recommendations, even if others would require clarification. For example, on the Scale of Assessments we talked about the need for certainty. How can the Organization operate if it is unknown what the Scale of Assessments is for this year. That would put us into November, two months from the end of the year.

I am sorry but I have a very strong opinion on this, and I am sure that it is shared by the rest of my Government, as well as other Members of the Council.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

Let me first of all begin by agreeing with what has just been said by my US colleague.

My sense of the debate, and it is only my sense of the debate, is that the Council was content with the recommendation that the report of the External Auditor should be sent forward to the Conference for endorsement.

I believe that to be uncontroversial but that, Chairman, is a matter for you to put formally to the Council.

My sense of the debate is also that the Council was content with the Finance Committee's recommendation that the Controller and Auditor General of India should be appointed as the next External Auditor.

There are then three outstanding issues. The first, as my US colleague has said, relates to the Scale of Contributions, and I have to say that I share her view that it is difficult to see how the financial planning of this Organization can proceed if that issue remains up in the air. If it goes back to the Finance Committee in September, I am not at all sure what the Finance Committee will be able to do with it. The Finance Committee has already conducted an exhaustive and indeed exhausting review of the issues, and it has reported its findings to this Council.

I therefore believe that that issue can only be settled here and sending it back to the Finance Committee is simply a recipe for delay. It would mean that the Finance Committee would then have to bring it back to this Council in November. I cannot believe that that is in the best interests of the Organization.

Two other issues: one was presented as a set of options for the Council to consider. There was no recommendation by the Finance Committee as such. That issue was how the relationship between arrears and voting rights at the Conference should be handled. Some views were expressed as between the options that were presented, but I have to say that I am not clear, from what was said on the subject, what the general view of the Council might be. That is an issue that could be postponed, but frankly there is nothing more that the Finance Committee can say on the subject. The Finance Committee has been into that subject on two occasions and it has now brought its views forward to the Council to consider, so sending it back to the Finance Committee just sends us round in circles.

The final point relates to the Incentive Scheme to Encourage Prompt Payment of Contributions. Again, the Finance Committee has been into this subject with very considerable care on the basis, if I may say so, an excellent paper presented by the Secretariat which reviews experience in this Organization and elsewhere in the international system, and the Finance Committee has made a clear recommendation to the Council.

Now one of the problems, of course, in dealing with this report is that it was produced extremely late and at least two colleagues represented in the Council have complained of the late appearance of the report. I have to say that I agree with them. On behalf of the Finance Committee, I very much regret its late appearance, given the effort we put into doing the job entrusted to us by this Council, but that is a digression.

On the Incentive Scheme, there are contrary views. Maybe Members of the Council who have problems with the recommendation would wish to spend more time on the subject. One way of handling that might be to postpone the decision of the Council on that subject until later in the week, in order to give those who have difficulties with the recommendation to read the Report, to talk to Members of the Finance Committee who were involved in the decision as to the basis for their consideration, and indeed to look at the paper which the Finance Committee based its own recommendation on.

So I can think of a practical way which if you, Chair, agrees and colleagues on the Council agree, in which we might be able to make a decision about the Incentive Scheme during the course of this week.

On the scale of contributions, I have to say that I believe that this is a matter that needs to be settled during the course of this week.

CHAIRMAN

Can I open this and ask for interventions from the floor on this point and on how we should proceed. Indeed, these issues have been raised and I do not think that there has been a consensus on these two issues.

I think we agree that Members of the Council may not have had time enough to really study the report of the Finance Committee, because of its late arrival. This has been brought up by some of the delegations.

I would like to endorse the proposal of the UK delegate to agree that there should be further consultations between those delegates who may have difficulties in understanding and agreeing on the recommendations of the Finance Committee on these issues and Members of the Finance Committee, with the hope that later this week we will have consensus on these matters. Can we agree on that?

I think we can now adjourn this meeting and we will begin again tomorrow at 9.30 hrs to continue our debate on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
20 June 2001

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 00
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**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)**

**12. SUMMARY PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2002-2003 (CL 120/3)
(CONTINUED)**

**12. SOMMAIRE DU PROGRAMME DE TRAVAIL ET BUDGET 2002-2003
(CL 120/3) (SUITE)**

**12. RESUMEN DEL PROGRAMA DE LABORES Y PRESUPUESTO 2002-2003
(CL 120/3) (CONTINUACIÓN)**

CHAIRMAN

I would like to call the fifth meeting of the Hundred and Twentieth Council Session to order.

Shoji SATO (Japan)

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to make a short statement.

First, my delegation regrets that the FAO Secretariat has not yet provided a scenario based on Zero Nominal Growth, as part of the Programme of Work and Budget, despite requests from several delegations, including Japan.

As stated in the recent policy speech by Prime Minister Koizumi, the current Japanese administration is determined to implement key economic and fiscal structure reforms. I quote, "leaving no sacred areas exempt from these reforms".

The Japanese Government has been struggling to cut its domestic budget drastically and strongly hopes that international organizations will firmly maintain the Zero Nominal Growth in their administrative budget in the years to come, through streamlining and improving the cost-effectiveness of their work.

From this point of view, the Government of Japan highly appreciates the FAO Secretariat's efforts to streamline its work, including the reform for strengthening FAO's functions, while maintaining Zero Nominal Growth in its administrative budget in the last six years.

With no sacred areas allowed to be exempt from its reforms, the Japanese Government holds a strong view that FAO should continue to pursue a Zero Nominal Growth in its administrative budget for 2002-2003. The Government of Japan understands the importance of FAO's work in food security and thinks that it is possible for FAO to vitalize its activities, including those in food security, by further streamlining its work while maintaining the Zero Nominal Growth budget. In addition, the Japanese Government will make its utmost efforts to continue its financial support to FAO projects to this end.

As to the World Food Summit target of reducing the number of the undernourished by 2015, the Japanese Government attaches great importance to the reduction of the number of the undernourished. Japan's ODA, which includes its assistance in the field of food and agriculture, tops the world for nine consecutive years. Japan's assistance through its ODA schemes will also contribute to the attainment of the World Food Summit objectives. Japan's ODA, in 1999, marked US\$15.3 billion and its share among DAC countries was 27.3 percent.

We think it important that the financial situations of the supply side, that is Japan's contribution to FAO's administrative budget is US\$ 63.5 million, should be taken into account so as to have a realistic solution.

I would like to make a few comments on the proposed Summary of Programme of Work and Budget. The following could be explored to accommodate the Zero Nominal Growth budget: focus on priority matters, in particular, cost effective technical programmes in agriculture; forestry and fisheries, such as FIVIMS and GIEWS; plant genetic resources; food safety, including CODEX; technical assistance in relation to trade negotiation; implementation of Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and related Plan of Action; contribution to CSD; on the long-term basis, review the official languages of FAO in the direction of reducing them – I know this is quite controversial but, while accepting the importance of language issues, we have to reconsider what the priorities are for us in reducing the number of undernourished *vis-à-vis* language cost; and the length of the meetings and documentation to be shortened.

For the reasons I mentioned, my government is not able to concur the proposed PWB, which suggests the 5.4 percent increase only. Therefore, my delegation would like to ask the Secretariat to present an option of the Zero Nominal budget.

Ariel FERNÁNDEZ (Argentina)

La República Argentina observa con especial cuidado el listado de prioridades enunciado como expectativas de las demandas más acuciantes de los Miembros, contenida en la Carta de Introducción del Director General. Si bien reconocemos la relevancia de temas tales como el asesoramiento de políticas relacionadas con el comercio o el establecimiento de reglamentaciones nacionales que posibiliten el pleno aprovechamiento de los beneficios de la globalización, creemos que cabe realizar un análisis cuidadoso para dar lugar a una coincidencia entre los postulados de la Organización y las preocupaciones de nuestra región.

En este contexto, no debemos olvidar la misión primaria que persigue la Organización: la consecución de la seguridad alimentaria, la erradicación de la pobreza y la desigualdad, como así también, la mejora del acceso físico y económico a alimentos suficientes para toda la población mundial, en el marco de un desarrollo sostenible y equilibrado de la agricultura. Es por ello que advertimos con preocupación el apartamiento de la misión de la FAO que produce la constante transferencia de recursos desde los programas de campo hacia las oficinas nacionales. Esta situación es más inquietante si tenemos en cuenta que, como se indica en el documento de análisis, las oficinas nacionales no están haciendo entrega de proyectos a un ritmo que pueda ser considerado provechoso y eficiente y, parecería que las mismas no tienen la capacidad técnica suficiente para llevar adelante operaciones de campo de manera satisfactoria. Del mismo modo, no dejan de inquietar los aumentos previstos para la oficina del Director General y la Oficina del Inspector General para las labores de Auditoría y para el fortalecimiento de la Dirección de Asuntos de la Conferencia y el Consejo y de Protocolo, que se destinarán a mejorar los servicios de traducción y de las relaciones con las organizaciones intergubernamentales. El fin de estas mayores erogaciones llama poderosamente la atención en vista de los adelantos tecnológicos con que se cuenta en la actualidad y la posibilidad de abaratamiento de costos que posibilita los progresos técnicos.

En este sentido, se imponen mejoras para un aprovechamiento idóneo de los fondos a fin de lograr una eficaz utilización de los avances de las nuevas tecnologías, tal como se indica en el Capítulo 1. En lo relativo a los programas técnicos, debemos reparar en que la asignación de los recursos para la preparación de análisis, estudios y estadísticas, la formulación de orientaciones y directivas y el mantenimiento de la información en sitios WEB, entre otras labores, no se producen en los países y desde el terreno sino desde la misma sede de la Organización.

Por otra parte, la lentitud en los desembolsos para los programas de cooperación técnica, lentitud que ha sido oportunamente señalada por el Auditor Externo, conspira contra su efectiva utilización y desarrollo, impidiendo un cabal aprovechamiento de los beneficios de esos

programas que son la fuente más inmediata para la financiación de una buena parte de la asistencia que brinda la Organización.

En conclusión, de las observaciones expuestas surge la necesidad de examinar con especial cuidado los contenidos del PLP puestos a consideración en este período de sesiones, sopesando las ventajas y los inconvenientes de cada una de las propuestas con la finalidad de consensuar una gestión eficiente de las actividades que nos ocupan. Creemos que la agricultura contribuye de manera muy importante a la subsistencia de un porcentaje de la población de los países en desarrollo. Solicitamos por ello, que no se produzcan reducciones de ningún tipo en los presupuestos para este sector.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

I have to say that I woke up this morning and wished I was Ted Turner or Bill Gates or a woman of similar wealth – I could not think of any women quite that wealthy – so that we could, indeed, solve some of the problems in resource gaps and allocations faced by this Organization. The longer I thought about it, I thought I would not like to be the Director-General of FAO, faced with all the difficult choices that he has before him. He has to respond to a very richly diverse Organization and in this Membership it is not surprising that there are many different opinions. So I do not envy him the task of responding to all these interests.

Let me make one brief comment on the process of the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget and that is that the United States welcomes the document that has been so capably prepared by the Secretariat: it followed the development of the Strategic Framework, which gave us a vision for the future of this Organization. More recently, we looked at the Medium-Term Plan at the Council held last November, and certainly the next step is the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget. We would like to support the suggestion that was made earlier, but that we were not able to accommodate in this meeting, to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget in the future, after considering the Programme and Finance Committee reports as well as the reports of the technical committees. We believe they contribute substantially to this process.

The current discussion is obviously consultative and the decisions on this budget will take place at the Conference in November. However, in order to promote meaningful and realistic consultations, the Organization must provide the Council with useful and relevant information. We continue to believe specific requests of Member States for information should be met. Therefore, we support the suggestion, the request, of the Japanese delegation – a request that we have made in the past, in the Finance Committee and in the Council meeting – for the preparation for a Zero Nominal Growth budget. We need to look, as we discuss the overall level of resources for the Organization, at how they might be allocated. I think, in the past, we have lingered on the question of ceilings so long that we were not able to adequately consider the allocation of the resources for the Organization in the Governing Bodies.

As for my country, the United States of America is committed to Zero Nominal Growth as a ceiling for all assessed organizations in the UN System, and for international organizations in general, much like the Canadian delegation has stated. Thus, for FAO, the United States of America cannot join a consensus on any budget level above US\$ 650 million for two years, for the biennium. It is our observation, however, that further management reforms, programme prioritization, exchange rate gains and negligible inflation combine to make a Zero Nominal Growth budget both achievable and feasible. Moreover, we believe that Zero Nominal Growth is essential to budget reform for the Organization.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, for its helpful tables, for indications of projected resource changes and we also appreciate the supplementary documents that the Secretariat prepared for this meeting, indicating resource allocations for a Zero Real Growth budget and expected cost increases. However, we really do find it unfortunate not to have before us, at this time, a Zero Nominal Growth scenario.

The United States of America values very highly the normative functions of FAO. It is for this reason we wish to highlight and echo sentiments already expressed by others about the work and

role of the technical committees. We have already spoken about the Committee on Food Security and we will share our views, as appropriate, on the deliberations of the COFI, COAG and COFO when we reach those items in our agenda. However, it would be wrong not to note at this time that the work outlined in the technical committees represents the crown jewels of FAO's comparative advantage.

My delegation and others have requested a reallocation of resources, which we believe is possible within a Zero Nominal Growth framework, given willing leadership. We believe, providing the necessary resources to programmes in fisheries and forestry, programmes vital for enhancing food security, as recommended by the relevant technical committees, would best use FAO's strengths to achieve worthy ends. We look forward to moving ahead constructively through this process, toward a decision, and we hope our request for information will be honoured.

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

Allow me to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Programme Committee and Mr Wade, for their clear presentations related to this Agenda Item. Our comments are as follows: we agree with the European Commission and its Member States that this is the most important document likely to have an impact in the near future, and therefore most relevant requiring careful consideration of the substance, as well as the resources.

We agree with the Programme and the Finance Committees as well as other speakers, that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is well rooted in the Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan.

We reiterate our previous stance that FAO's Programme of Work and Budget must reflect a balance between field activities and its normative work. We agree with the Programme Committee as it states in paragraph 10, that a clearer and more consistent approach be taken to the inclusion and reporting of extra-budgetary resources.

We note with pleasure the complete support of the Programme Committee to the Summary Programme of Work as it was stated by the Chairman of the Programme Committee in his presentation. Noting that it is still at the stage of summary and the complete programme has yet to be developed, we emphasize the careful consideration of priorities identified here, as well as by the Technical Committees.

We further take this opportunity to re-emphasize the following areas for appropriately enhanced allocations: 1) Technical assistance for trade-related negotiations and for preparation of policies and establishment of national regulatory frameworks, and these include requirements under various plans of actions in fisheries and forestry sectors; 2) FIVIMS; 3) the Special Programme for food security; 4) the international undertaking on plant genetic resources; 5) biotechnology and biosafety; 6) WAICENT; and 7) the Technical Cooperation Programme, TCP.

On the resources side, we note the cost implications provided to us and highlighted by Mr Wade. In considering the Programme of Work and Budget 2000-2001 two years ago, we had noted that the so-called efficiency gains may not be forced upon the Organization, so as to impact upon its effectiveness. We maintain our position and we are glad to note that this time around, Mr Wade also agrees with us.

Having argued for a growth programme of work and budget consistently in the past, we continue to support the position. This is particularly in reference to Mr Wade's comment that, if there are any cuts to be proposed that the Membership should propose those cuts here during the Council Session. We wish to make the following remark. We would like to see the benefit of growth to go more towards the programme side. For us, the Medium-Term Plan serves as the benchmark against which we would examine the present Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

The Director-General, in his introduction, has stated that he has voluntarily adopted a middle path by reducing the growth of 9.6 percent in the Medium-Term Plan for the current biennium to 5.4 percent in the proposal now before us. This, according to the introduction, has been done to

introduce a possible compromise solution, given the demand from some Members for presentation of other scenarios.

We believe that the Medium-Term Plan allocations should have formed the basis of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and then it should have been left to the Membership to propose cuts, rather than presenting a Programme of Work and Budget at a reduced size.

In this context, we regret that the Secretariat has unilaterally reduced the Medium-Term Plan increase in the Technical Cooperation Programme, from about 14 percent to about 11 percent, and we demand that this be restored.

We would also like to pose this question to the Programme Committee, that is, whether the Programme Committee examined all the reductions that have been made in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, as compared to the allocations that were presented to us in the Medium-Term Plan. We believe that this would have been a very important job of the Programme Committee. If they have done so, we would like to have a response from the Programme Committee, as to whether they are satisfied with the responses that they received from the Secretariat on the rationale behind the cuts, the reductions, from the Medium-Term Plan allocations to the Programme of Work and Budget allocation.

Kyeong-kyu KIM (Korea, Republic of)

Because this document is a summary, my delegation would like to reserve detailed comments to a later stage and at this time focus on two or three matters. During my intervention, I will try to answer the Secretariat's request to suggest the areas or programmes to be cut.

Unlike yesterday, I do not want to provoke another debate, but I request the Secretariat to review my proposal very carefully because I am not sure as to whether it is enforceable or not.

First, I refer to the Technical Cooperation Programme, paragraphs 520 to 532. We can see a substantial increase of 11 percent in TCP budget. I am arguing two things. The first is the imbalance in the allocation of TCP among regions. To Asia and Pacific, undoubtedly having the largest population and hungry people, only 20 percent of TCPs has been allocated for the year 2000. I do not think it is because of the lack of applications from that region.

We know very well the characteristics of TCP, that of unexpected and urgent requests. Even if we recognize that fully, we need some explanation from the Secretariat on the background for which some regions have been allocated a high portion of TCP, whereas certain regions has not been. My delegation proposes to introduce a certain system or procedure to cure currently severely unbalanced allocation in the future.

The second thing I wish to raise is the carryover level of the unused resources in TCP. According to the Agenda C 2001/5, Audited Accounts FAO 1998-99, which we dealt with yesterday. By the end of the biennium 1999, only 26 percent of the TCP budget was expended, carrying over the remains – 74 percent – to the next biennium. Of course, there is obligation to the Secretariat to use these during that biennium. I am not arguing the legal matter, but I am arguing the more time-efficient distribution of resources to each biennium. We have two methods of allocating resources. One is to allocate resources horizontally to each area at once – you are dealing with it at this time. The other method is to allocate resources vertically to each biennium or each budget period.

In preparing the next biennium budget, particularly in TCP, we are allocating the resources which are definitely not going to be used during that biennium. My suggestion is to solve the chronic delay of the TCP implementation. This is not a good practice. We are suffering from the lack of resources.

Extremely saying: What could happen if we do not allocate about 70 percent of the proposed TCP budget in the next biennium, which is not expected to be used? That would be almost 10 percent of total budget proposed. Instead, we could allocate that to other more urgent areas. If the Secretariat follows along the current practice of delaying more than 70 percent to the next biennium, I cannot see any problems to be met, only cashflow or cashflow shortage problems. If

we can do this without hurting TCP projects, we could solve all budget problems which we have now. We could actually have a Real Growth Budget. We could solve the monstrous Oracle problem and we could find a clue to solve the Scale of Contributions problems.

Of course, in the 2004-2005 budget, we should allocate that amount to TCP. This is a reform – reform carries pain. Clearly saying, I am not opposing to the increase of TCP, I am arguing the increase of TCP itself. I am arguing that we are losing the chance to use the resources more efficiently and time relevantly.

I will now raise some questions and comments on the level of budget itself. My delegation still has difficulty to understand that the Director-General of FAO, ultimately all Member Nations, have no option but to be bound to the recommendation of ICSC. This time resulting in a sharp increase of costs and affecting negatively on the programmes of work.

Because of this, I am afraid that FAO loses a chance to reverse its past trends of zero growth. Very briefly saying, if we sum up the Director-General's real growth rate of 5.4 percent, and the 12 percent post adjustment ratio, which shall be recommended by ICSC soon, the total increase in the next biennium, even if we have a very favourable exchange rate, reaches to around 9 percent.

On behalf of the Republic of Korea, my delegation would like to make it very clear that the Republic of Korea is not ready to accept that increase of FAO's next biennium budget at this moment.

My third argument is about the Oracle system. The Auditor's Report reports point out the core of the problems and difficulties which FAO has faced during the establishment process of Oracle. I am not reiterating them here, and I think the Secretariat also have their view or justification on the Audit Report.

I am saying that soft landing in establishing the new financial system in FAO cannot be over-emphasized. In this regard, the relevant Governing Body should be informed of the development of this system. It is particularly necessary because there seems to be some trouble.

My suggestion is that the Secretariat prepare an information paper for the next Council, or any kind of informal meeting or representation for Members. The paper should include the process until now, key problems met and causes, current situations, possible solutions, technical and budgetary matters and so on. We need information and data to decide on this matter. As all Member Nation's note, in the next biennium Programme of Work and Budget, the Secretariat requests a substantive amount of budget to settle the Oracle systems.

Ms Rachel Refiloechape NTS'INYI (Lesotho)

Thank you for allowing my delegation at this moment to submit its views on document CL 120/3 as summarized in its Sup.1. We congratulate the Secretariat for compiling the document given budget limitations they were faced with. We further support, and agree with the statement given by the Chairman of the Africa Group on these documents.

We observe that the SPWB outlines the Zero Real Growth Scenario, but has maintained the total level of the approved budget of US\$650 million. It is also noted that the SPWB is rooted in the Medium-Term Plan 2000-2007 and the Strategic Framework 2000-2015. This is commendable work, but we also acknowledge that to achieve this goal, sacrifices have had to be made and this unfortunately seem to have affected some core programmes of the Organization, as summarized in document CL 120/3-Sup.1.

We will recall that the Director-General alluded to this issue in his opening statement. Member States are therefore urged to rethink and review their stand on the budget levels, that would render FAO programmes more effective and sustainable. Under the Technical and Economic Programmes, there has been a considerable reduction in levels of activity in areas that would have benefited the Members. For instance, the programme intended to strengthen professional capacity at FAO headquarters, Regional and Sub-regional Offices has been substantially reduced due to the budget limitations.

Furthermore, in his opening statement, the Director-General emphasized the need to strengthen programmes to address issues, such as transboundary animal and plant pest and diseases, integrated pest management and disasters. Yet, as per SPWB, it is realized that related entities will receive a relative lower support.

We also note that the cost increase calculations contained in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget may be significantly increased to cater for the professional salaries of Rome-based staff in accordance with the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission. We understand from paragraph 9 of CL 120/3-Sup.2, that professional fees will be increased by 5 percent from July 2001 and a further possible increase of 12 percent in the headquarters post adjustment is foreseen. These cost increases put pressure on the already tight budget limits.

My delegation, therefore, urges that Member nations should revisit their decision of maintaining present budget levels and allow FAO to apply a Real Growth Scenario. If this is considered then the Organization will be able to accommodate the increased demand for financial support from Members. It will further be able to consider requests for new programmes which emanate from various FAO committees, and also inject more resources in programmes that address the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

RAKOTONDRA SOA (Madagascar)

Permettez-moi d'abord d'adresser mes félicitations au Secrétariat pour la préparation d'excellent document qu'il nous a soumis. Nous tenons aussi à souligner que Madagascar appuie la déclaration faite par l'honorable délégué de la République Unie de Tanzanie au nom du Groupe africain.

Le Programme qui nous a été présenté a fait l'objet de diverses observations émanant de plusieurs délégations. Nous avons noté avec regret, entre autre, la diminution des volumes de crédits réservés à certains programmes, notamment les plus sensibles, comme par exemple au point 2.1 ou 2.2. Comme cela a déjà été évoqué, je me permets de signaler que certains pays appartenant à un groupe, ont bénéficié de l'initiative PPTE de la Banque et du Fonds, et que le volet Développement rural figure en bonne position dans chaque DSRP des pays. A notre avis, il est important de considérer dorénavant la complémentarité et la cohérence de nos interventions dans ce sens.

Pour ce qui est du budget, la logique veut qu'il s'intègre dans les plans stratégiques à long et moyen terme approuvés par la Conférence et adoptés par le Conseil. Le Directeur général a formulé l'espoir d'un exercice biennal établi sur la base d'une croissance réelle. Cette proposition nous paraît évidente sinon notre Organisation ne pourra pas remplir les tâches que nous lui avons confiées. Il faut noter que la baisse de ressources enregistrée depuis 1994 handicape sérieusement la réalisation des objectifs de la FAO en général, et ceux fixés par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996, en particulier.

Pour terminer, permettez-moi de faire un vœux, un vœux qui consisterait en l'obtention d'un consensus autour du budget à croissance réelle, car je sais très bien que nous voulons tous donner un nouveau souffle à notre Organisation.

S. CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

On behalf of my Government, I would like to express my appreciation to FAO in its endeavour to reduce hunger and to eradicate poverty in various regions of the world.

However, in terms of financial and economic crisis, as we are now facing, Thailand finds it difficult to accept a 100 percent increase in contributions to be made to FAO from the level which we have paid last year.

May I inform the Council that, from all indications, the Thai Agriculture Ministry will be allocated, in the year 2002, a budget of Zero Nominal Growth.

Thailand concurs with the remarks made by several delegates here, including Japan and the United States, and strongly believes that sizeable savings can be realized if FAO actively pursues

restructuring efforts toward a leaner Organization, including prioritization of projects and programmes. In so doing, FAO can work just as well, if not better, with the same level of budget. In this regard, I would like to urge the Council to consider the Zero Nominal Growth for the budget for 2002-2003.

ZHENG DONG LI (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent documents that have been submitted and also for the excellent way the documents are presented. We feel that the Zero Real Growth scenario is too simple, that is the presentation thereof, is far too simple. The information submitted is not sufficient.

On the 2002-2003 biennium budget for FAO, the delegation of China notes that FAO has not increased its budget over the past three biennia. This has led to a certain amount of difficulties in the work of FAO, especially the services rendered to Member States. At the meeting of the Technical Committee this year or in the past, and when we consider the Medium-Term Plan and the Strategy, the Member States have expressed a wish, that is the wish to increase the Technical Cooperation Programme. In order to go along with such *desiderata*, we need to increase resources made available. We feel, therefore, that we sympathize to a certain extent with the 2002-2003 growth as proposed by the Director-General.

Also, we have taken note of the fact that the United Nations have adjusted the Scale of Contributions in December of last year. This has led to an increase of shares for several countries, specifically the developing countries' shares of contributions. This has led to difficulties and constraints for the countries concerned. This is the reason why we feel that FAO, when working on the 2002-2003 budget, must not only take into account the real situation of the Organization but also the real situation of the Member States and their capability to pay.

As for the 2002-2003 Work Programme, the delegation of China endorses the seven priority areas indicated in the Director-General's introduction: specifically; the first area, food safety to deal with outbreaks of animal diseases and food contamination, and also phytosanitary and biotechnology issues; the second area, advisory services in trade-related policy which will loom particularly large, etc.; fourth, the development and implementation of national Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping Systems; and, the seventh, demands for the extension of the Special Programme for Food Security.

As for Major Programme 2.2, we feel that FAO should strengthen aid and advisory services in policies for developing countries and, especially, the developing countries should be supported to actively take part in the production of technical and legal standards for food and agriculture to encourage and support developing countries to take an active part in multilateral negotiations.

Under 2.5, we should underscore the strengthening of the role to be played by women in the rural and agricultural areas. While many developing countries are experiencing malnutrition and hunger, some developing countries are striking a balance between supply and demand and, not only, even a favourable situation where supply slightly exceeds demand.

In view of Sustainable Agricultural Development, so that the limited resources might be considered under a virtual cycle, we need to go ahead with structural adjustment. We would like to hope that FAO will continue its endeavours in this direction.

Technical Cooperation Programmes have contributed to promote and help developing countries in developing their agricultural production. The Government of China has always supported FAO in its Technical Cooperation Programme, consequently we endorse the proposals submitted by the Director-General to increase by 11.2 percent the resources allocated to the Technical Cooperation Programme, on the basis of the 2000-2001 biennium. What is worthy of note, at this stage, is the following: whatever the budget we approve in the end, increasing resources allocated to the Technical Cooperation Programme must be maintained.

The delegation of China has taken note of the fact that FAO has made major steps forward in terms of decentralization and improvement of work efficiency. However, there is still a great

potential that looms ahead and that we should make use of. Under the 2000-2001 budget, the staff costs were US\$486 million. Were we to add the costs that have to do with human resources for travel and missions, under the item Goods and Services, we note that staff costs account for 87.7 percent of the total amount of the budget. According to the 2002-2003, under the Real Growth scenario, we still have the same percentage, 87.7. We feel that FAO should make a special effort to cut down on staff costs in the budget.

Lastly, we appreciate the role played by the Special Programme for Food Security. We endorse a proposal by the Director-General, in other words to expand the scope of this Programme, and we do hope that this might be implemented as soon as possible.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Australia welcomes the introduction of the new results-based programming process in FAO and sees financial discipline as an essential element in making an organization more effective, efficient and productive.

Australia considers that Zero Nominal Growth policies have been a powerful and effective tool for promoting reform and efficiencies across the United Nations System, to the benefit of Member Nations, and we do not believe that the process has yet run its full course.

Australia concurs that improvements in efficiency and related process change is an essential part of a dynamic organization and should remain an on-going management activity. In this regard, we acknowledge the efforts of FAO over the last three biennia to cut unnecessary costs, to increase efficiency in the Organization and to implement a more effective planning model to assist FAO to more effectively prioritize its work and budget.

However, we also continue to believe that further prioritization of programmes and expenditure is both realistic and achievable and that FAO's budget for the coming biennium needs to reflect this.

Australia also considers that the level of the budget needs to take account of the continuing financial and economic pressures on Members' own national budgets. The Australian Government continues to face pressures for change and budget stringencies and must also adopt a fiscally responsible approach to its contributions to international organizations. Indeed, as a result of the new scales of assessment, Australia has already seen its financial obligations to FAO substantially increase. In this regard, it is important that FAO be realistic in setting its priorities, given that these will need to be achieved within a realistic budget level, a budget level which the Australian Government considers should be set at Zero Nominal Growth.

Australia is, therefore, disappointed that the Secretariat has again chosen not to provide a comprehensive range of options to the Membership on which to base our assessment, despite previous requests and, in particular, that the Secretariat has not produced a ZNG scenario for consideration of Members. As also called for by other delegations, including the United States and Japan, Australia would wish to see the Secretariat produce a comprehensive budget scenario reflecting a ZNG position, for presentation to Members. This will then enable the Membership to have all the relevant information to inform the discussion on an appropriate budget level.

However, while advocating a ZNG budget, Australia is strongly of the view that there remain a range of core activities in which FAO's work is of fundamental importance to the broader Membership and which should continue to be accorded a high priority. While I do not intend to outline these in detail, I will merely list them for the record. These include work in the areas of CODEX, IPPC, Forestry, Fisheries and a range of trade-related activities.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

One of the advantages of speaking late is that a lot of the issues that one would have raised would have been captured by some more eloquent speakers, which has happened in this case. I have decided therefore to set aside the little brief that I had before coming to this meeting.

I would like to join others in congratulating the Secretariat for producing a document that, by and large, has received the endorsement of a large proportion of the Membership of this Organization, and particularly the Finance Committee.

I do not intend to go into the issues because my next door neighbour from Pakistan has essentially captured all the key points that one would probably have raised, along with my Chairman of the Africa Group yesterday.

I would like to crave the indulgence of this audience to comment briefly on the issue of the size of the resources to be made available to this Organization. I have only been in this system for about a year so permit me if I am speaking with some elements of ignorance. From the document that has been made available to me, we have been operating a Zero Nominal Growth for the last eight years or so. The factors that informed this Council to insist on the Zero Nominal Growth obviously have been well documented and I respect and appreciate them.

From the documentation we have to hand, there is a clear indication that enforcing the Zero Nominal Growth has had a desirable effect on the management efficiency of the Organization, there is no doubt.

I have listened very carefully this morning to the comments particularly from the US, Japan, Australia, Korea and a few others. I would have loved it more if the Zero Nominal Growth scenario that the Secretariat is being asked to produce could have been tabled along with what we have now, in order to enable the Council to arrive at a decision as to whether to review the policy or to keep it. My impression is that a decision by some Members has virtually already been taken – we will stick to the Zero Nominal Growth, all we are asking for is this document, to that effect.

While I appreciate very deeply the wisdom of those who embarked on this exercise several years back, my worry is at what point are we now going to say it is time to sit back and take a look at it. We are being informed here that FAO can absorb all the incidents and increase in expenses over and above its programme budget, inflation and others, implying, therefore, that there is still room for improvement. Of course, as the distinguished delegate from Australia said a few minutes ago: "...improvement in terms of savings is an on-going philosophy of any dynamic Organization", and certainly Nigeria will associate itself with that. However, some of us are beginning to get worried that we are reaching a point where FAO as an Organization is being over-stressed and, unless we give them a little bit of a leeway, we may find ourselves in a situation where certain programmes that are absolutely critical to some developing countries in particular are now going to be cut. My Pakistani colleague made ample reference to the TCPs; that is one classical example.

My opinion is that, while I endorse the request, it is unfortunate in a way that the Secretariat did not bring the comparative document. From the trend of the debate this morning, I think that they will hardly have a choice but to report this before the next meeting.

However, I would like to make a plea. As contained in the speech by our Chairman of the Africa Group, and from what I am reading, at the end of the day, what is likely to be affected is FAO's exposure in the field, and for us that is a little worrying. We would wish therefore to submit to this Council that, while we endorse the request that the Secretariat should produce the Zero Nominal Growth Budget scenarios for the next meeting, I want that document to be taken and used side by side with what has been produced in order to arrive at what we think is the irriducible minimum of what we will accept.

Nigeria's position as of today is that there is still some room to revisit the matter and see whether in fact the time has not come to give, even if it is only one percent, but to simply say that an Organization can run for almost ten years without an increase of one dollar nominally, I find a little difficult to accept.

While I appreciate the views expressed by the other delegations, that the budget of FAO must take into consideration the constraints of national governments, I do respect that, that is what I said yesterday – and I still hold my brief on the submission of yesterday - I am glad that the Chairman

has said we are coming back to it. However, that was an issue of budget sharing. This morning it is an issue of quantum of resources.

I would like to plead with most of the delegations in this hall that when the documents do come, we should look at them with an open mind in the hope that, should it become obvious that FAO will need to move slightly away from the Zero Nominal Growth, we should accept it.

The other worrying point is the fact that all the savings that I have seen in the document only go to say all right, the countries should now pay less. The efficiency of resource management in most Organizations that I am familiar with, not the UN ones, is that such efficiency savings are ploughed back into the programmes themselves, so that the non-essential components of FAO are now given less emphasis. But what has happened in this case is that although there have been some savings, all we are being told is that the Members Nations should now contribute less, full stop. In other words, there is no additional incremental benefit of that saving to the programmes themselves. This is one aspect that has worried my government is that although FAO is boasting about savings, we have not seen any tangible expansion in its activities. So where are the savings going?

I feel that I want to take the time to plead with this distinguished audience that when we do come back next, this matter should be looked at further, dispassionately.

André Anatole YAMEOGO (Burkina Faso)

La délégation du Burkina Faso voudrait appuyer la déclaration faite par la République Unie de Tanzanie, au nom du Groupe africain, lors de l'examen du rapport du Comité financier, et verser également à l'examen du PDB. Nous trouvons que l'approche adoptée pour l'adoption d'un budget à croissance réelle zéro, et même le budget à croissance réelle zéro, l'approche que nous connaissons tous, nous semble quelque peu contraire à notre volonté commune de venir à bout de la faim, par des actions conséquentes et adaptées de la FAO. Cette deuxième proposition du scénario à croissance réelle zéro qui, nous l'espérons, n'est qu'à titre de comparaison, affecte beaucoup de programmes, surtout ceux directement liés aux besoins exprimés par les pays Membres, dans leurs efforts de lutte pour la sécurité alimentaire.

Nous, nous avons toujours demandé à la FAO, à travers les Comités techniques: Comité de l'agriculture, Comité des pêches, Comité des forêts, de faire plus pour aider les pays en développement à surmonter les difficultés qu'ils rencontrent dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, et cela malheureusement, avec les mêmes moyens qui n'ont pas permis, jusqu'à présent, de nous conduire vers l'objectif de réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de faim et de malnutrition.

Nous espérons qu'un consensus sera trouvé pour que la FAO soit dotée d'un budget, je ne parlerais pas de croissance réelle, ni de croissance réelle zéro, encore moins de croissance nominale zéro, mais d'un budget adéquat pour pouvoir permettre à la FAO de répondre aux besoins des pays Membres de l'Organisation.

La délégation du Burkina Faso pense, que nous devons tous ensemble poursuivre nos efforts, et surtout faire des sacrifices à tous les niveaux, c'est à dire au niveau des pays en développement, au niveau des pays développés, et pourquoi pas, au sein de l'Organisation, des organes et des travailleurs de la FAO, même s'il est vrai que, le nouveau barème de contributions pose des problèmes à plusieurs pays et il faut trouver une solution. En tout cas, depuis ce matin, depuis le début de cette cinquième séance plénière, la délégation du Burkina devient de plus en plus inquiète, sur les débats et le document en examen, et nous voudrions lancer un appel, comme l'ont fait beaucoup de délégations, pour que des concessions puissent être faites afin de trouver un consensus pour l'avenir radieux de la FAO.

Rolf GERBER (Observateur de la Suisse)

La Suisse a suivi avec beaucoup d'intérêt le débat sur le nouveau budget: aucun compromis entre croissance réelle et croissance nominale zéro ne se dégage. Si mon estimation est correcte, une grande partie des principaux pays contribuant au budget ordinaire de la FAO, sont en faveur de la

croissance nominale zéro, je dirais presque plus de 60 pour cent des ressources proviennent de pays favorisant la CNZ.

En ce qui concerne la Suisse, nous avons une certaine flexibilité à la hausse, mais pas *ad infinitum*. Ce qui nous gêne dans les prévisions de la FAO, c'est la hausse de 12,2 pour cent des allocations au personnel basé à Rome. Pourquoi devons-nous accepter cette formule en tant que Membre de la FAO? Il est difficile de la vendre à nos capitales; je me demande dès lors, si le personnel au dessus du niveau P5 ne pourrait pas renoncer à cette allocation supplémentaire, ou si nous ne pouvons pas étaler la charge au budget sur trois ans, sur la base d'une augmentation de 4 pour cent, les deux premières années, et de 4,2 pour cent, la troisième année. De plus, je vous prie de confirmer que les consultants stationnés à Rome, ne bénéficieraient pas de cette allocation. Je me demande aussi, si certaines tâches financées par le budget ordinaire, ne pourraient pas être financées par des ressources extra-budgétaires.

Finalement, ma délégation suggère, par exemple, de faire payer par les pays à revenus supérieurs et intermédiaires, les services que la FAO leur rend. Ce faisant, la FAO pourrait obtenir des ressources supplémentaires et ainsi atténuer la question du budget. On pourrait donc maintenir la croissance nominale zéro, tout en ayant des sources financières supplémentaires. La réponse du Secrétariat à ces questions, nous intéresse beaucoup.

Simon J. DRAPER (Observer for New Zealand)

The New Zealand delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the paper, but specifically we would like to record our thanks for the Achievements section on page 10 of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. It is a results-based approach which the New Zealand Government heartily approves of.

In terms of the budget itself, New Zealand approaches the budget issue with a reasonably open mind. We recognize, for example, that FAO has had cost increases imposed on it by external pressures. That said, we support the request for the chance or the opportunity to see a Zero Nominal Growth scenario. It is a scenario that the New Zealand Government Department are normally required to produce and would simply enable us to see what all the options are available to Members. In this vein, we would note the wide range of countries yesterday that expressed difficulty with the increase in their Scale of Contributions and we think this has some bearing on the budget discussion.

I would also take the opportunity to endorse the comments made by my colleague from the United States regarding the normative work of FAO. It is, in our view, the most important work of the Organization and the "crown jewels" analogy is an appropriate one.

Finally, in conclusion, and with your indulgence, and in the hope of my minimizing my interventions, I would just take the opportunity while talking of the normative work to support the Use of Arrears paper CL 120/16 which is coming up later and, in particular, the application of arrears funding to the normative biosecurity and in particular fisheries work.

CHAIRMAN

Are there any other interventions from the room?

We have had a full and positive debate in which a wide range of opinions has been clearly expressed and this clearly has been made possible by the excellent document made available to us by the Secretariat.

I would now like to invite Mr Wade to run through the main issues arising from our discussions in order to answer the questions raised during the debate.

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I would like to thank delegates very much for a series of insightful interventions, as well as for the support for the proposals, both in terms of their linkages to the Strategic Framework and the

Medium Term Plan, which I think was pretty well unanimous, as well as, in many but not all cases, for their extent or their level.

There were an enormous number of specific questions about the Programme of Work itself. I will not attempt to try and answer them all here. I will be selective and I try to answer the ones in which I think that the Council may have a broad interest, rather than those which are very specific to one country. I will try and arrange for answers to be given to the groups or countries where I have missed out the answer here, directly or bilaterally, outside the meeting.

Can I start with some questions from the Near East, in particular in relation to Programme 2.1.1. They were concerned about the loss of 2.1.1.A4 which was originally a Programme Element on Waterlogging and Salinity. Now, in fact, that has been absorbed. The work has not disappeared as the current Programme 2.1.1.A4, Waterlogging and Salinity Control and the Environmental Effects of Irrigation, has been absorbed into 2.1.1.A3, which is Integrated Water, Soil and Plant Nutrition Management, as A3 deals with the land and water issues. In the new biennium, the 2.1.1.A3, which is the Waterlogging and Salinity Control, and Water Quality Management of the Environment Effects, will continue to play an important part and, as before, three professionals are allocated to this work. It has not resulted in a substantial change; it is more of a restructuring of the way we are presenting the Programme.

There was a question from the European Union as to whether it was worth investing the resources into the Land and Water Information Database proposal under 2.1.1.P7. I have approached the Director of AGL on this, who feels that the recommendation for this comes from the debates in COAG, and that there is strong support from the Membership that we improve the flow of information for this purpose. At this stage, we see it as being one of your priorities. If that is not the case, it needs to be corrected.

Madagascar was concerned about the general decline in Major Programme 2.1.2, which is Crops. There is a major transfer out of this Programme for the work on Plant Genetic Resources and that is now shown under 2.1.0.P1. In fact the transfer out was for US\$ 1.77 million, so you can see that Major Programme 2.1.2 has, in fact, effectively increased.

Within 2.1.2, the Near East was concerned about what had happened on Alternative Crops and Cultivars, which showed a decline. This has been divided into two Elements, the first one being the existing 2.1.2.A1, Alternative Crops and Cultivars, and the second being 2.1.2.A3, Strategies and Technologies for Sustainable Crop and Grassland Production Systems. Again, the funding level has remained the same and is equivalent to that of the last biennium.

I have already responded, in a way, to Malaysia's concern about 2.1.2.A6, Conservation Management and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which disappears from 2.1.2 and goes into 2.1.0.P1 - so this is the same case as we were referring to when we were explaining our response to Madagascar's question.

We move now to Plants. We have a couple of questions from the Near East concerning Technology Systems for Efficient Natural Resource Use, that is 2.1.3.A8, and 2.1.3.P1, which is the Global Livestock Information System. Again, the changes are a reconfiguration of the Programme to make it more effective but it does not result in a change in the overall resources. If you want more detail on that, I will give it to you outside the meeting.

The question on Agribusiness which, I think, came from both the Near East and the European Union, was what measures are underway to develop cooperative arrangements for the private sector. In fact, that is a major theme of this Programme Element. During the course of the current biennium, contacts have been made with a number of private sector organizations, as well as non-government organizations, to seek collaboration on agroprocessing. Examples of that include coconut water processing using an FAO approach, post-harvest management, micro-finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and, finally, for the development of a Windows version of the FAO Micro-Banking System.

On the question of the share of Codex paid for by WHO, which was raised by the Near East, the answer is that there is an on-going problem. The theoretical share is 75 percent FAO, 25 percent WHO. The Programme, as you know, is run here. The current contribution of WHO stands at about 20.7 percent and certainly we are attempting to persuade them to raise it to the agreed level of 25 percent, as this would actually enhance our Codex work significantly and allow us to provide better and more timely delivery of its Standards to Member Nations.

On the cuts to our work on WTO, that is again one of those cases of an apparent cut. If you take 2.2.4.A2, which is Assistance to the WTO Negotiations, and you look at it in conjunction with 2.2.4.P4, which is International Action on Commodity and Trade Issues, and also includes Assistance to Member States, there is, in fact, a significant increase of 81 percent across the two Entities.

We were asked also to comment on why there has been a decline to the Contribution of Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries to Food Security. This is 2.3.2.A2. This is primarily because the resources have been transferred to 2.3.2.A1, where the demand for better aquaculture management with lower environmental impacts has taken greater importance.

I am missing some questions out, because they do seem to be rather detailed and I hope you will forgive me. If you feel I am missing something important, please come back to me.

On 2.4.1., Forest Resources, the Near East commented that they appreciated the support for Watershed Management and the International Year of the Mountains under Programme Element 2.4.1.A4, but wanted to know if some resources are set aside for the Tehran Process, for countries with low forest cover. In fact, one of the Forestry priorities is to support the Tehran Process and to strengthen National Forest Programmes in low forest cover countries, which of course are mostly in the Near East Region. So the answer is effectively, yes. FAO actively supported the International Meeting of Experts in Tehran in 1999 and financed a mission to support the FLCC Secretariat in the year 2000. For 2001, activities in support of FLCCs are included in the new Netherlands' Partnership Programme.

There was a detailed question on 2.5.1.A6. I have a very detailed response about the allocation of resources for the Near East. I will pass it to the delegate bilaterally, if I may.

Programme 2.5.2., Women in Development, and a cut of that Programme as a contradiction to the HIV/AIDS priority, as raised by Iceland. In fact, a cut to the Programme occurs in the area of population activities and is entirely due to the withdrawal of the United Nations Fund for Population Activity Support of five professional posts. If you take that away, there is actually an increase in this Programme as far as direct allocation of Regular Programme resources is concerned, so we share your priority for that.

Mexico raised the question of the decline in the budget for field operations under Major Programme 3.3. There was a decline shown there of 12.1 percent. That, in part, reflects the decline in the Field Programme itself. The cost of operations has to go down when the Field Programme delivery goes down because the support cost earnings, which generate the resources for that particular group, will also decline. I should add that it is influenced by a second factor, which is that this is one of the areas where the greatest level of efficiencies has been brought into the budget over the past two or three biennia, and it continues in this particular biennium. As you know, we are further decentralizing field operations from the Regional Offices to the Country Offices. That has efficiency benefits for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that we are tending to using national professional officers instead of international professional officers. This means that the amount allocated to 3.3. declines by the amount of savings made.

A flow-on effect is a partial increase to the next Major Programme which is 3.4, the FAO Country Offices. Because we are decentralizing field operations to the Country Offices, we are having to reinforce them, and hence part of the increase for the Country Offices, US\$ 1.6 million, is attributable to that effect.

On a further point with regard to the Country Offices and that budget line, the Near East were concerned that the Secretariat would give consideration to opening offices in the newly independent countries of Central Asia and perhaps a reconnaissance mission, headed by a senior FAO official, to the five countries of Central Asia would be very useful. The response I have on that is, that at the beginning of the year 2000, the Director-General wrote to twenty-three countries which had, at some stage in the past, expressed the wish for an increased presence of FAO in their countries - this included two governments in the Central Asian Region. All of the countries were requested to reconfirm their interest in the principle of an arrangement whereby FAO would outpost an officer in their capital cities to act as FAO Representative but the host government would also provide most of the means for the functioning of the offices.

In the follow-up to the decision of the Council at its November 2000 Session on the opening of new FAO Representations using this technique, the Director-General wrote to all of the countries which had confirmed interest in the arrangements, including one from the Central Asian Region. An FAO officer visited that country in December 2000 and had preliminary discussions with the government on the matter, but we are still awaiting a final reaction in that particular case. Of course, should other countries from the Region express interest in this arrangement in the future, the Organization would enter into a dialogue with those countries as required. You also asked for a list of the countries where this new arrangement is occurring. We will provide it but not yet. There are so many of these under discussion and negotiation at the moment that it is really rather uncertain. It would be premature to announce cases which may not, in fact, eventuate.

TCP, Chapter 4, the Programme was roundly supported, although the European Union expressed some concern about its utilization. I am not sure that I understood the comment correctly but it seemed to be that it was not clearly defined and that there was need for further transparency in the use of these funds. I am not really clear what the concern is. Of course, from a budgetary view point, TCP is not programmed. It is, by definition, an unprogrammed resource and that is precisely its strength. It is there to meet demands as they come up, not to be pre-programmed into particular areas. However, as regards accountability, I would say there is very full reporting on TCP in various forms. In the Programme Implementation Report, it is subject to an analytical review, giving the use of resources by region, by project category and by other criteria. It is also included in our Programme Evaluation reporting, where there are on-going thematic evaluations of TCP which go through the Programme Committee to this Body. Recent examples include TCP projects on food legislation. There were also TCP projects in the Policy Assistance evaluation, which you commented on yesterday.

Finally, the expenditure of TCP is reported by country in the Audited Accounts. You can check that in C 2001/5 so that you know exactly what is spent where. So I am not clear what the absence of transparency is in this particular case and perhaps some further clarification can be given on that.

The distinguished delegate of Korea raised several questions on TCP as well. The first concerned the balance between regions and how that is determined. It follows from my earlier answer to the question on programming TCP, that it is very much a function of demand. In addition, as part of TCP is used for emergencies, that demand is seriously affected by where emergencies occur. So you get major shifts from year to year and from biennium to biennium.

The second point I would make is that you referred to the possibility of a more precise system for the allocation of resources. As a historical note, it has been attempted before, although that is not to say it should not be attempted again. There was an effort made under Director-General Saouma involving a proposal to the Governing Bodies to accept allocations by region and notional allocations by country, but that was rejected at that time as it was felt it would distort the real value of TCP, which is to be able to respond to demand where demand is greatest.

On the carry-over of TCP, it sounds very attractive that we can find such an easy answer to our budgetary problems for one particular biennium, that is to simply forego part of the TCP appropriation. But I regret to say it is not, and it never is, that easy. It is true that the disbursements of the 1998-1999 TCP appropriation only reached 26 percent of the value but, in

fact, the approvals made for projects to countries exceeded the 1998-1999 appropriation by a small amount. As, in fact, there was an available balance from 1996-1997, that excess was made up and there is a small surplus at the end of 1998-1999 which was not subject to approved projects. That was reported in the PIR at a value of US\$7.5 million (out of the total of US\$ 87.3), which is carried over to the next biennium for new approvals. So, from the point of view of whether those resources are committed in the sense they have been approved for use in countries, they are substantially committed and they are not available resources. Of course, you are correct, the cashflow is available to the Organization until such time as the disbursements occur and I would say that it is because of that cashflow that the Organization is not borrowing on a continuous basis. If we did not have that cashflow then we would certainly be having to borrow to cover the fact that many major contributors do not pay on 1 January, some of them only pay on 1 December and, with that particular situation, we either borrow money or we try and find ways of covering the cashflow. I am not saying that your proposal is not something that should be considered but it is important that we give a reasonable indication as to the potential problems with it.

Turning to the form of the Programme of Work and Budget, as well as the content and the process, the Near East asked if regional data would be included in the full Programme of Work and Budget. The answer is definitely yes and, in fact, we have taken notes of the comments from the Technical Committees where concern was expressed by some regions about the level of information provided. We intend to provide a fuller exposition of the regional dimension of FAO's budget in the full Programme of Work and Budget document. This is being done as a combined effort with our Regional Offices and our HQ Technical Departments and I hope will go some way to respond to the comments of Mexico as well.

The European Union spoke in, if I may say, somewhat strong terms, to the effect that "the Technical Committees were deprived of their central role of expressing views on the next Programme of Work in the areas of their competence, due to the lack of traditional and substantive Secretariat proposals". They then went on to say that they were fully aware of the new budget process. Well, they may be fully aware of the process but they continued to ignore what was specifically approved by them and every other Member Nation in the approval of the Strategic Framework and, in particular, of the Implementation Plan that is included in that Framework. I refer you to the Strategic Framework, paragraph 175, where it very clearly shows that the Programme of Work and Budget was not intended to go to the Technical Committees but that they would review the Medium Term Plan. I accept that that procedure can be changed but I do not accept the implied criticism of the Secretariat and the Director-General which might be understood from the terms used by the European Union. I am sorry to be so direct, but this is the fourth occasion on which it has been raised. This reply has been given so that it appears in the verbatim.

If there is to be a change, and we are open to suggestions for change, then I would recommend that the process be referred to the attention of the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting which, under the General Rules, are required to determine the format for the presentation of the Programme and Work and Budget, so that they can look at this matter and see whether such a change is a good idea or not. I have to say, it results in a major change in the timing of the production of the Programme of Work and Budget, so it is not something we can take lightly and it does need to be looked into properly.

The next question concerns the distribution of resources between programmes. I suppose it comes out most obviously in the fisheries and forestry issue where there are several comments about the allocations of resources. You have heard from my replies on programme elements, that there are many concerns about the decline of resources in various programme elements. I should add that those concerns were expressed more frequently about Major Programme 21 and Major Programme 22 than they were about 23 and 24. Seventy five percent of the specific interventions made reference to the first two Major Programmes.

On the other hand there are strong calls for increased allocations to fisheries and forestry. The European Union even suggested that there had been no substantive change in the allocation of Regular Programme resources over the last ten years. I should advise you that this is not the case with forestry, where there has been a 12 percent increase in Major Programme 24.'s share of Chapter 2 in that period. In the case of fisheries the increase was much more modest and I concede that there has not been a substantial increase.

On this whole issue, of course the Director-General supports increased allocations to these programmes for the very reasons you have stated. Not so much the reasons stated by the United States. I find it hard to accept the argument that fisheries and forestry programmes make the greatest contribution to food security. This would seem to be a little bit in contradiction to the work we are doing under Major Programmes 21, 22 and 25 but, there are still very good reasons for increasing resources, particularly as regards the comparative advantage we have in the areas of fisheries and forestry.

However, Members make these calls without saying where we are going to get the resources; without apparent concern for the consequences for other work; and without saying what we should be cutting. Some Members argue, at the same time, that we should reduce the Organization's budget. I cannot help wonder if we are being a little unrealistic. I assume that TCP is considered as important as fisheries and forestry by many Member Nations. I assume that CODEX is considered as important. I assume that the International Plant Protection Convention is considered as important. I imagine support for the WTO negotiations is considered as important. None of these fall under Major Programmes 23 and 24. In other words, it is far harder to do than it is to say.

Turning now to the comments of Iceland on the Zero Real Growth scenario - I may have misunderstood the comments and if I have, I apologise. I got the impression that Iceland was saying that the Zero Real Growth proposal should have been significantly different and it should not have just shown the reductions back from Real Growth to Zero Real Growth in the most important programme areas.

I would like to explain the internal process. We initially built the Zero Real Growth budget by realigning the available resources to meet all the highest priority programmes of Member Nations. You have heard from the Chairman of the Programme Committee that the Committee questioned the Secretariat on what had been cut and eliminated from each programme. So Zero Real Growth was the best we felt we could do with no growth in resources. We then applied additional resources in all the highest priority areas to create the Real Growth scenario. Of course if you are going to go backwards from Real Growth to Zero Real Growth you have to take it out of the places you added it to. If you do not, you are saying that the Zero Real Growth budget that you built in the first place was not credible or was not realistic. I do not feel that we have gone wrong here. It is a reflection of the constraint of the Zero Real Growth resource level. We cannot do those things within that amount of money.

On the question of efficiency savings, I think there has been some acknowledgement of what has been achieved and recognition that the sorts of reduction referred to in my introduction yesterday cannot have been achieved without great effort on part of the Director-General and without pain to quite a lot of staff. Therefore, the savings of US\$ 50 or US\$ 60 million p.a. have been the major means by which we have faced what is effectively a US\$ 95 million biennial cut that we have incurred over the last eight years.

Now the European Union suggests, in relation to efficiency savings, that we should benchmark our performance. Can I say that this is something we already do? This is not a straightforward process but it is an important way of identifying where you are expensive and where you are cheap. The application of benchmarks always requires a significant amount of analysis to ensure that the data for the Organization is comparable to the data in the benchmark.

However, this the way we managed the reductions, for example, in support costs for field projects through on-going comparisons of our costs of supporting the field programme in each of the

various areas where we provide services, with those of the United Nations Organizations that publish figures and with international Non-Governmental Organizations. The consultant we used had access to a lot of that data. Therefore, we were able to see, for example, where our purchasing systems were expensive and we responded to that and took action and reduced those costs. That is one way in which we have used benchmarks.

We also use the technique – I should say the consultants used the technique – when we did the management review of the AF Department some years ago. They did benchmark comparisons for each of the services provided by the AF Department.

We agree that it is an appropriate tool. It is not a terribly easy tool to use in reporting to a body such as the Council, however. It is very much an analytical tool.

Another issue raised was the ICSC decision on Professional salary increases. This was as much a shock to us as it was to you. As a Professional, of course, at a personal level I cannot feel too bad it but as the Officer responsible for the budget of this Organization it is making life very difficult indeed. It is, however, a question over which we have no choice. The Director-General has no legal option but to implement the decisions of the ICSC. We are a part of the Common System. The ICSC makes decisions on salaries in the common system and, therefore, the Director-General is bound to implement that decision once it is made. If you would prefer to have a formal legal opinion on this I can arrange for that to be given but that is the case.

Turning now to another subject raised by the distinguished delegate of Korea, reporting on Oracle. I was a little bit surprised by the suggestion, that there should be a major new report on Oracle to the Council. In fact, the Secretariat volunteered a very lengthy report to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, if I remember correctly, last September and there has been follow-up reporting since then. There will, of course, be further reporting to the Programme and Finance Committees on the implementation of Oracle and I hope that will satisfy the delegate's requirement, particularly as he is a Member of the Finance Committee.

The budget level: of course this a matter for Members but I would like to refer briefly to Zero Nominal Growth. Zero Nominal Growth is, of course, a completely unknown figure when it comes to purchasing power. Everybody talks about it very easily and some recommend Zero Nominal Growth. They do it with a source of wisdom that is not mine because I actually have no idea what it means in terms of what programmes it will produce for you.

If the Lire was at 1 875, Zero Nominal Growth would be worth, around about, US\$ 600 million in terms of this year's budget. If the Lire goes to 2 150, which it is above at the moment, then Zero Nominal Growth is worth the purchasing power of about US\$ 630 million dollars. Those of you that support Zero Nominal Growth must have some feeling for what it is going to be, otherwise you would not be so sure that it is feasible through efficiency savings..

I have to say, in all honesty to you, that if Zero Nominal Growth occurs at the sorts of exchange rates that are likely to happen in November – and I think that most of you will agree that the Dollar/Euro relationship will change in favour of the Euro – then we are talking about a major cut to FAO's programme that will not be possible by “peeling the potato” – by taking small bits off of each programme. We will have to take a major cut somewhere and I have not heard any suggestions about where that should be.

From the Secretariat's viewpoint, I have to say that it is disheartening to hear the same story every biennium. You have repeated this story and we have responded by improving the efficiency of this Organization. We have demonstrated the savings made, we have improved the programming and planning techniques, we have introduced a Strategic Framework and a Medium Term Plan which you have endorsed and yet when it comes to the crunch we cannot persuade you to provide the resources to support the programmes which result. We come back to hearing from the largest contributors that they cannot afford or do not wish to provide more and they talk instead of UN reform and budgetary discipline.

I noted one remark – probably I should not say this but I will – which suggested that the fact that WHO had conceded to ZNG was a good sign of budgetary discipline and, therefore, some sort of victory. It seems to me, Members of the Council, that if it is a victory it is a victory of evil over good and not good over evil.

R. ROSE (Chairman, Programme Committee)

Perhaps while we are waiting for Korea to come back, there were a couple of questions that you were asked to direct to the Programme Committee.

One was raised by Argentina, talking about the additional allocation of resources to the FAORs, when they in fact lacked technical expertise and lacked the technical resources to carry out their function. I think that does require a bit of explanation.

One of the exciting things that is happening in this evolving Organization is the shift of responsibilities to the FAO country representatives. It is ongoing now and, as Mr Wade mentioned, it is still happening and it is even, in fact, impossible to tell exactly which countries will end up with representatives of one form or another.

The role of these country representatives is well explained in paragraph 506 of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, which says: "... the majority of FAO Representations have assumed operational responsibilities for national projects in the 2000-2001 biennium, and are expected to play an increasing role in the development of the field programme".

The shift in resources to the FAORs is being done for a number of reasons, including efficiency. So, the comment that they lack the technical resources is not, in fact, a criticism of the FAORs but a reflection of the fact that they require additional resources to carry out these new responsibilities that they are receiving as a result of this shift in their roles.

The second question was asked by the Representative of Pakistan and one of the advantages of sitting here is that you can look down and see that the Representative has, in fact, a copy of the Medium-Term Plan on his desk. We cannot pretend that we did not look at the Medium-Term Plan. I think the specific question asked was: did the Programme Committee examine the decline from the 9.6 percent requested in the Medium-Term Plan to the 5.4 percent that is requested in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget? In fact, we did not make that specific comparison. It is a little difficult because the work elements in the Medium-Term Plan are explained in terms of a six-year budget figure. Therefore, for each individual entity you have a six-year figure that is required. Whereas we were examining, in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, a two-year figure. As we explained in our report, we did take a very close look at the specific items that were being reduced or eliminated in each of the technical departments and we were, in fact, satisfied with the explanations that were given to us, of the items that would no longer be carried out or would be reduced in this particular biennium.

One of the advantages of having a six year Medium-Term Plan and applying the principles of results-based management is that you can defer some activities and, in fact, carry them out in subsequent biennia of your six year plan. We, in fact, did not make that very close examination.

Kyeong-kyu KIM (Korea, Republic of)

Thank you very much for the response from Mr Wade. He said that it is not easy, he did not say that it is impossible for my suggestion.

I would like the Secretariat to provide more analysis and implications on my proposal, bilaterally, before the end of the Council.

CHAIRMAN

I think I do have to attempt a summary of the discussion, the debate, that we have had on this very important Agenda Item. I realize that a more complete and concise version will be provided to us by the Drafting Committee.

Among the most salient points in our discussion. The Council appreciated the close links between the *Summary Programme of Work and Budget* and the other policy document, namely, the *Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan*.

Support was expressed to the private areas for inter-disciplinary action, the PAIAs. The Council observed that the conclusions of the technical committees had been anticipated to the maximum extent possible, although the information document prepared by the Secretariat demonstrates that more was requested by these committees.

There was a general agreement about the pressing demands placed on FAO, particularly given the slow progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit commitments and that the Organization should be able to exercise its mandate effectively. However, and not unexpectedly, there were different perceptions among the Membership in terms of the relative priority of specific activities or services that Member's require from the Organization. In this connection, some Member's saw the major comparative advantage of FAO in its capacity to bring its normative work to bear all important problems in the food and agricultural sector.

As regards the substance of the proposals, a majority of Members favoured, in particular, the increased resources for technical and economic programmes, and the Technical Cooperation Programme. Other Members were somewhat disappointed to see little relative change in allocations among technical areas, as they would have expected a strong preference to be given to fisheries and forestry activities.

The Council was satisfied that due attention had been paid to balance the language coverage while urging further efforts in this direction, particularly in relation to WAICENT and FAO's Website.

Turning now to the budget level. The Council recognized the number of uncertainties. The cost increases estimates has had to be increased in the light of more recent information but would be refined again in the full Programme of Work and Budget.

Even more importantly, the impact of the US Dollar and Italian Lire, or Euro exchange rate will be quite significant this time since current rates were far above the budget rate for the present biennium of Lire 1 875 to US\$ 1.

In terms of individual preferences expressed by Members, these fell essentially in three groups. A large majority was in favour of Real Growth, in order for further resources available to FAO to be in line with the expressed requirements in all regions. A few Members supported Zero Nominal Growth, as a matter of general policy in the United Nations system. Other Members did not express a firm view, on the budget level, that they were prepared to support as yet.

It is clear that there is no consensus position emerging at this time from the Council. It is, thus, highly desirable that dialogue continues among Members, especially in the light of more detailed and updated information to be provided in the full Programme of Work and Budget, taking advantage, in particular, of the forthcoming sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees and the next session of the Council itself, prior to final discussions in the Conference.

As I have said earlier, a more complete and concise report on this session of the Council, will be provided by the Drafting Committee and reported to us.

We have therefore concluded this Agenda Item.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Asi se acuerda.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

Thank you very much for you summary and I am sure there may be some refinements in the Drafting Committee.

I did not understand what the decision of the Council, in your view, is regarding the additional information that was requested by the United States, Japan and others on a Zero Nominal Growth

Scenario. I would like, essentially to call the question on that issue please. I would like to see a Zero Nominal Growth Scenario presented to the Finance Committee at its next meeting for consideration by the Council this fall. I do not know how to state it more clearly.

CHAIRMAN

Your request will certainly be included in the resume.

There is something that I have to announce. As was yesterday brought up by the United Kingdom and the United States, there were several points that still need to be cleared up and that were still outstanding. I can report to you that, this afternoon, there will be a consultation that will include the Secretariat, the Chair, and several Members of the Council, in order to sort this out and a report will then be given to you later. This will also answer the question from Swaziland.

I would also like to announce that the Vice-Chairperson, Ambassador Nouri-Naeeni from the Islamic Republic of Iran, will chair our Session this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 12.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 00.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.00 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
20 June 2001

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Mr Mohammad Saeed Nouri-Naeni,
Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Saeed Nouri-Naeni,
Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeed Nouri-Naeni,
Vicepresidente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN

I would like to welcome you all to the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the Council of FAO. I hope you are all enjoying your stay here in Rome, especially those of you who have come from capitals abroad. Before we call the meeting to order, I will ask the Secretary-General to make some announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Informal consultations with the Chair of the Finance Committee will be held this afternoon, beginning at 15.00 hrs in the India Room, for any persons here present who may be interested in speaking more about the subjects that were discussed yesterday. I have been asked to invite anyone here who wishes to go to the India Room at 15.00 hrs.

CHAIRMAN

And with this I call the Sixth Meeting of the Hundred and Twentieth Council Session to order.

Ms Lan HOANG (Canada)

Regarding the concluding remarks by the Secretariat on Item 12, I would like to ask you to remind the Secretariat that their function is to implement the wishes of the Member Nations and not, I repeat, not to question nor to make judgements on their motives. In our views many of these comments by the Secretariat were inappropriate.

We will be looking for transcripts to reveal exactly what was said. In other words, this is not the end of the story.

CHAIRMAN

I am sure that the Secretariat will take notes of this and act accordingly.

The first item on our Agenda this afternoon is Item 13 *Use of Arrears*. The relative document is CL 120/16 and I would like to invite Mr Wade to introduce this item.

**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)**

**13. USE OF ARREARS (CL 120/16)
13. UTILISATION DES ARRIÉRÉS (CL 120/16)
13. UTILIZACIÓN DE LOS ATRASOS (CL 120/16)**

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

The document CL 120/16 is presented to the Council with the aim of obtaining the Council's approval for the priorities for the use of arrears, in the event that such payments are received within the current biennium.

The Council may recall that it considered this matter at its last session but that it concluded, at that time, that it did not need to take a firm decision, given the continued uncertainties on the exact timing and the amount of the arrears payment.

Since that time, the final accounts for 1998-99 have been published, and in fact considered by the Council, and these allow us to definitively calculate the amount that could be available under the terms of the Resolution.

As you will see from the document, the accumulated deficit has now grown to US\$ 63.6 million. This figure is considerably higher than the US\$ 38.4 million which was previously forecast. The change arises from the earmarking of resources to cover the liability for After-Service Medical Care. Now, while this was not anticipated at the time that the Resolution concerning the Use of Arrears was approved by the Conference in 1999, the proper interpretation of that Resolution requires the entire deficit to be taken into account. This means that the balance that could be available, should the full amount payable by the largest contributor be received before 31 December 2001, would now be approximately US\$ 21.9 million.

With this new figure in mind, a revised set of high priority proposals has been prepared totalling close to US\$23 million. In preparing this revised list of priorities, the Secretariat has paid particular attention to the advice of the last Council concerning these priorities; hence the list includes, for example, the proposed Network on Plant Biotechnology in Asia, as well as the original one for Africa; technical support to countries in the implementation of Phytosanitary and CODEX Standards; and in according high priority to the full implementation of the Organization's corporate administrative systems.

In conclusion, we are aware that there is still considerable doubt about when the payments will be received and whether they will be received before 31 December 2001. However, it is important that the Council approves a list of priorities so that the Resolution becomes operational in case such a payment is made.

Kyeong-Kyu KIM (Korea, Republic of)

On the priority item table I need some clarifications and explanations from the Secretariat.

Firstly, whether the numbering from number one to six has got the order of priorities or not. If not, what criteria shall we apply when they are conflicting each other.

Secondly, on Corporate Administrative Systems in priority number six. In this regard, I am reiterating the proposal which I delivered this morning about the Oracle System. We, the Member Countries, want to know the exact situation which FAO faces now in relation to the Oracle System before it is too late. Thus, Member Nations hope that the Secretariat will prepare an information document relevant to the meeting.

Thirdly, there are four bullets under number six. Could the Secretariat break down the amount to each bullet. On the first bullet, as far as my memory is correct, during the Ninety-Fifth Session last September, the Finance Committee approved the allocation of the regular budget of up to US\$3.5 million for this purpose. Could the Secretariat clarify this?

Fourth, my delegation needs more explanation on the last bullet: development of the Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS). Does the Secretariat intend to replace the FHIS of the World Bank which FAO has already introduced or just to try to make up the weak point. According to the Audit Report, the adoption of the FHIS of the World Bank proved to be ineffective. It cost the United States US\$870 000. The Audit Report, in paragraph 182, says that: "... Oracle could not be implemented without an investment of US\$ 8 to 10 million to put the connectivity required in place".

Fifth, new systems, as the report says, are the keystone when dealing with resources when no one knows the timing of a payment. If this is so important, why does the Secretariat try to link it to uncertain resources? Is it because of the lack of a resource budget? I suggest considering putting this on the regular budget, and trading it off with other, non-urgent regular budget items. My understanding is that the use of arrears must be allocated to make things better, rather than allocate it to indispensable things. That is the safer measure and is more logical.

Going to the decisions sought, I realize that it is extremely difficult to measure the exact amount at this moment. However, if we, the Member Nations, approve this decision, I would suggest that, as and when the arrears are paid, the Director-General reports to the relevant technical committees, before final allocation of them.

Finally, I hope the major contributors solve this matter from a broader point of view quickly, making not in vain, our efforts to arrange priorities.

Andreas ROUSHIAS (Cyprus)

We would just like to approve the proposal of the Director-General to use the said balance of arrears of about US\$ 23 billion in the proposed priorities as set out in the document CL 120/16.

Furthermore, noting that the allocation of resources was based on a budget level, as proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, flexibility is granted to the Director-General for any adjustments required if a different and proposed level of budget is adopted by the Conference within the existing proportions between the items.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

In fact, the numbering in the table in paragraph 10 does not represent any sequence of priorities, in that they all, in theory, have equal priority. I should however point out that both the Council and the Director-General have said, that highest priority would be given to the Corporate administrative systems, so it does suggest that – regardless of the sequence of the table – that resources that came in would first be applied to the Corporate administrative systems before they would be applied to the other items.

I do not have the exact breakdown of Item 6 here, but I will provide it to the distinguished delegate of the Republic of Korea outside the meeting.

The comment on Oracle overall is noted. This was also raised this morning by the distinguished delegate of Korea and, as the Chairman pointed out, we indicated the reporting that had been made to the joint meeting. It is clear that there is a need for some further reporting on this issue. I think we can assure the delegate that the Finance Committee will receive a report on Oracle and, if these resources are received in the meantime, it would receive also a clear indication of how these resources would be applied to the improvement of that situation.

As regards the distinction between FAS and FPMIS, can I just clarify something here. The last bullet of Item 6 refers to the Field Programme Management Information System. This is a Headquarters Corporate system which is about field project information, in the broader sense, not only financial data but it includes project documents, it includes evaluation results; etc. It is a Management Information System which is intended to be used internally to assist us to carry out our operational work. There is, in fact, little or no connection between this and FAS. FAS is the Field Accounting System and it is a system run by the country offices to record the accounting entries for which they are responsible and then transmit those to Headquarters. Therefore, there is no connection between this proposal and the FAS system. The External Auditor did comment on FAS and implied - if I remember correctly - that it probably was not the best acquisition we ever made. However, that system is now operational and working and so I do not think there continues to be a serious problem in that regard. However, we will cover this matter in the Report to the Finance Committee on Oracle.

The distinguished delegate of Korea made a good point about whether the resources should be allocated here or in the full Programme of Work and Budget. We would like to have them in the full Programme of Work. Certainly it would be a better situation to have them in there. We have, in fact, got in the budget at the moment, under Real Growth, US\$ 5.2 million. This is reduced, if I remember correctly, to US\$ 3.5 million in ZRG, or a figure similar to that. This will be sufficient, we believe, to continue the work on the current module for the financial system. It is not sufficient to build a human resource module; it is not sufficient to build the replacement payroll and it probably would not cover the budget preparation, planning and implementation and monitoring system although perhaps a start could be made with the money that is in ZRG.

However, you have to draw the line somewhere and this cut off point is reasonable; that is, we can complete what we are doing but we cannot start the new modules if we do not get the arrears money.

I was more comfortable with the intervention of Cyprus concerning the manner in which this could be handled. I think it would be very difficult to go back to the Technical Committees on each of these items. Remember, they only meet every two years, so it would cause a blockage in the system which would not allow us to spend the money in the timeframe which is intended.

The last point made by the distinguished delegate of Cyprus is actually rather important and it is maybe not clear enough from the document which is: if you approve a different level of budget from that proposed in the SPWB, the balance between the items in the budget and the items in the arrears will change. So that flexibility needs to be borne in mind.

Thiery PREVOT (France)

Pourriez-vous donner la parole à la Suède qui interviendra au nom des pays de l'Union européenne.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Observer for Sweden)

Yes, proceedings have gone a bit quickly here, we would have appreciated to speak after Canada on the previous item which we just heard and Canada voiced some concern about. We also have some concern.

The European Community and its Member States note the detail with which the Secretariat responded to questions concerning the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. However, our concern about the place of technical committees involvement in the planning process is very real and deserves serious consideration, which is why we have raised this item when appropriate. We would appreciate a wider recognition of the vital importance of the technical committees' possibilities to the basis for the Programme of Work and Budget. And, therefore, as suggested by the Secretariat, we request that the Programme Committee look into this matter.

And now, reverting to the agenda item which we are currently talking about, still on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. As the paper explains, the need for a decision on the use of arrears derives from Resolution 3/99, approved by the last Conference. That Resolution dealt with the contingency that arrears payable by the major contributor would be paid before the next Conference met, and specified a set of principles governing the way such arrears should be applied.

As we have said on previous occasions, both here and at other United Nations meetings, we deprecate any departure from the principle that contributions should be paid when they are legally due. We look forward to early settlement of the outstanding debts payable by the United States.

We note from the paper that the amount estimated to be available for one-off expenditures, as envisaged by Resolution 3/99, is US\$ 21.9 million; that the uses recommended assume that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget will be approved at the level proposed. We are content to approve the decision in paragraph 18 of the paper.

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brazil)

We have some difficulties and we are not very comfortable with the situation of Oracle. Oracle for us is a sort of mystery. It needs much more explanation than those which have been given until now. We have a feeling that something unpredictable happened in the contract or the deal with Oracle. We have reasons to believe that FAO is facing a sort of situation where it has reached a point of no return concerning the adoption of this software. On top of the explanations already given to the Finance Committee or the Council or whoever or whatever, we would very much like to have access to the correspondence interchanged between Oracle and FAO concerning this matter.

Ms Jocelyn BROWN (United States of America)

In response to our distinguished colleagues from the European Union, United States would like to state that our goal is to pay our arrears before the end of this calendar year. We are working actively with the Secretariat to achieve that goal and we concur with the proposed use of arrears, in particular the Replenishment of the Working Capital Fund and the other priorities listed in the document.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

First of all I have the rest of the answer to the question from the Republic of Korea if I could complete that now. You asked for the amounts against the bullets in paragraph 17 which is the breakdown of item 6 Corporate Administrative Systems. Can I say that these figures are provisional internal figures and that we would not be surprised if we needed to shift resources from one line to another as we go through the implementation process. However, for your information, US\$ 3.7 million is to cover the unbudgeted cost of consolidating Oracle financials; US\$ 2.0 million is for the replacement of the corporate payroll system; US\$ 4.1 million is for the human resource module; and US\$ 400 000 for the budget system; and US\$ 300 000 towards the field programme management information system. Now those figures are very provisional. I have to say, for example, that I already know that the first estimate we have recently received for the human resource module is very much larger than that provision. Therefore, we have a problem to face as to whether we can go ahead with that or not, even if the arrears are paid.

Regarding the comment from Brazil and the request for access to correspondence. As far as I know there is no contractual difficulty between us and Oracle; that is, the organization Oracle. The problem we have had is with the implementation of Oracle in our own operation of that implementation process and in not having sufficient resources to be able to fund the extra workload that was needed to carry out this sort of customization of a package which was greatly underestimated.

In a way it was not underestimated. We had asked the Conference in 1996-97 for US\$ 20 million to do this work. Unfortunately, that was turned down at that time and it was the same biennium in which US\$ 56.9 million was taken out of the budget. So we were left in a position where we were under-funded in everything, and hence we under-funded Oracle badly and we therefore left the division that was responsible for doing the implementation in a very difficult position, as is reflected in the External Auditor's report.

I wonder if I may offer you as an alternative to the correspondence, which I suspect would not be helpful, the detailed report which was provided to the Joint Meeting on Oracle which spells out those difficulties and what action has been taken to correct them – if you have not all ready had access to that. If you have had access to that then maybe we could discuss afterwards what would be helpful to your concern.

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brazil)

Yes, I had access to that information but we have a feeling that something wrong happened in line of the implementation of the contract. We have a feeling, and we believe, that perhaps Oracle changed the rules of what had been established with FAO in the middle of the road, such as informing to a certain point, that this system should be upgraded or have something plus to what had been originally agreed. I hope I am wrong, but I would like to be very much convinced that I am wrong in this sense, in the sense that the rules have not been changed in the middle of the road – that is my point.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I would not attempt to try and convince the Ambassador. First of all I am not the best qualified person to answer your question and secondly, I think it would be better if we come back to you with the full story of that and you can see whether you need for information – I think that is the simplest way to handle it.

CHAIRMAN

Any other requests for the floor? If not, if I can conclude that the Council has approved the report, including paragraph 18, and as amended by the distinguished representative of Cyprus.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONTINUED)**III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)****III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)****4. REPORT OF THE 24TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES
(ROME, FEBRUARY-MARCH 2001) (CL 120/7)****4. RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-QUATRIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DES
PÊCHES (ROME, FÉVRIER-MARS 2001) (CL 120/7)****4. INFORME DEL 24º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE PESCA
(ROMA, FEBRERO-MARZO DE 2001) (CL 120/7)****CHAIRMAN**

We now move to Item 4, Report of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, which was held in Rome in February 2001. We will refer to documents CL 120/7 for this item.

The February 2001 session of COFI was attended by the largest number of participants ever. As you will see from the document before you, the deliberations and outcome of this session once more confirmed the Committee as the major international policy and technical forum on fishery issues, and as an effective mechanism for appraisal of the world fisheries sector.

I would like to ask Mr Komatsu, the Chairperson of the Committee to introduce the item.

M. KOMATSU (Chairman, Committee on Fisheries)

My name is Komatsu and I am working for the Japanese Government as a Counsellor to the International Affairs, and was very pleased to have served as the first Chair of the Committee on Fisheries for the Twenty-first Century. Its session was extremely active and fruitful to have come to the constructive and guiding agreements and recommendations for the Fishery Management and Conservation, and Sustainable Use of Aquatic Ecosystem and Resources.

The Twenty-Fourth Session of COFI was held from 26 February to 2 March 2001. It showed a record attendance of 105 Members and five other Countries participating, together with the representative from UN Agencies and Observers from 45 International and Non-Governmental Organizations. The Session was attended by approximately 500 people.

The Committee met at a most critical time, with world-wide recognition of the fact that most of the world fish stock was being harvested near or beyond any sustainable level. It was a forum to globally discuss major international policy and technical issues with respect to aquatic resources and aquaculture. It confirmed that the Committee is an effective mechanism to review the world fishery issue, identify their gaps, problems and challenges, and seek solutions.

The Committee adopted by consensus the International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IPOA on IUU Fishing). There was quite a lot of discussion on this matter in various expert consultations before COFI. This IPOA (International Plan of Action) was the most important initiative by COFI. I can assure that with this new plan, the international Community has a powerful tool to fight illegal, unregulated and unreported fishery.

The Committee further agreed to establish the sub-Committee on Aquaculture with the general agreement on the proposed terms of reference. Main issue was, of course funding. But several

countries such as China, Norway, Italy and the United States of America announced their offer to sponsor the event or host the first meeting of the sub-Committee on Aquaculture, thereby reducing the burden on FAO's regular budget.

There was a substantial discussion or presentation on the implementation of *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. There was a request from many developing countries for increased technical and financial support in the implementation of the Code. There was also a concern for the Small Island Development States (SIDS) in that the special programme for SIDS had not materialized due to lack of funding. One comment was made that post-harvest aspects were not as much implemented as the capture or aquaculture aspects of the Code.

Safety at sea was mentioned. This is a huge problem for fisheries especially in developing countries. FAO should work on this matter a bit more.

The study on tuna stock and large scale tuna fisheries were also one of the things that were highlighted during the COFI meeting.

Then the Committee agreed that FAO should conduct a study and review, in particular on the interaction between marine mammals and fisheries.

A serious concern was expressed from Latin American and Caribbean countries with respect to trade restriction on fishmeal for animal feed on the ground of alleged link to BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy). FAO should monitor scientific development on this subject and report back to Members.

There was a discussion CITES criteria for commercially exploited aquatic species. A technical consultation is planned and its proposal will be considered for endorsement at the session of sub-Committee on Fish Trade. If the agreement could not be reached, the June 2000 report will be sent to the CITES as the formal FAO input to CITES review process.

There was also a discussion on international programme for the status and trends of fisheries, which did not get the approval from COFI. Main reason for this was that there have been all ready three IPOAs (International Plan of Action) on the way and in addition IPOA on IUU has come up. Nevertheless, it is an important issue for developing countries and, therefore, capacity building in developing countries in fisheries statistic should be done through the Regular Programme activities. The Committee agreed that future reporting on the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible fisheries and related IPOA may be developed in the future if the Committee is so agreed.

With respect to the issue of subsidies, second expert consultation followed by technical consultation is planned. But as indicated by FAO, there was no budgetary indication for this year. So if there is no sponsor coming up, this meeting will be in the year 2002.

Medium-Term Plan 2002-2007 for Fisheries identified the expected results of the programme and provided a good summary of activities in relation to the FAO strategic framework. The Committee recommended that sufficient resources should be allocated for a number of priority areas. These include management of small scale fisheries in developing countries, ecosystem approach to fisheries management, trade aspects, resource monitoring, fish diseases control and health management and special requirements for Small Island Developing States.

Finally, there were several announcements or presentations on upcoming events, seminars and workshops. I would like to draw the Council's attention to the fact that the Committee welcomed the Reykjavik Conference, planned to be held 1-4 October 2001, to address the matter related to ecosystem-based fisheries management. The other events include a Conference on Sustainable Fisheries in the Antarctic; Mid-and Deep-Water Fishery Conference; Coral Reef Resource Conference; and Sea Turtle Mortality Conference.

Takanori OHASHI (Japan)

Japan considers the Report of the Twenty Fourth Session of COFI to be an accurate record of the meeting. We support its adoption by the Council.

Having said that, I would like to emphasize five issues covered in the COFI Report.

Firstly, Japan would like to express its support for the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. But safety of the products and the impact on the environment should be examined thoroughly when developing aquaculture. Also, the extra-budgetary fund should be committed by the donors expressing their intention to do so at the last session of COFI.

Secondly, let me move on to the International Plan of Action for combatting IUU fishing. While for some delegations the document may not be perfect, we must recognize that this is a political, rather than a legal, document. It responds to an important and troublesome problem that has proven difficult to tackle. We have done a lot of hard work on this issue. It is Japan's position that now is the time to act. Therefore, Japan strongly recommends that the Council endorse this Plan of Action.

Thirdly, Japan would like to support and earnestly participate in the Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem in the coming October. Japan hopes that the Conference will transmit its strong message to the international society, including Rio plus 10.

Fourth, Japan wishes to share the concern expressed by several Small Island Developing States, in paragraph 15 of the Report, that the Special Programme for SIDS had not materialized due to the lack of funding. Japan considers that the special requirements of SIDS should be given one of the priority areas in the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003. As a responsible fishing nation, as expressed in the last Session of COFI, Japan is committed to providing financial assistance in SIDS for their achievement of food security.

Fifth, I wish you to take note of paragraph 39 of the COFI Report regarding the study on interaction between marine mammals and fisheries. We believe that this is one of the priority areas in relation to the development to the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003.

Lastly, but not least, Japan would like to draw your attention to the importance it attaches to international cooperation for the conservation and management of living marine resources. We are engaged in discussions in several fora, including FAO, in which we are stressing the need to strengthen the role of regional fisheries' bodies in light of the 1997 FAO Resolution on Streamlining and Strengthening Regional Fisheries' Bodies. We are also engaged in discussions to create new regional fisheries' organizations so as to ensure the proper conservation and management of marine resources, based on international law and science.

Japan, however, cannot accept certain interpretations of international law put forward on the occasion of the creation of a regional fisheries arrangement for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks. This is a newly concluded Convention for the conservation and management of tuna stocks in the Central and Western Pacific. This is better known as the MHLC.

This Central and Western Pacific Tuna Convention contains several provisions that are incompatible with UNCLOS and, in particular, certain fundamental principles and rights and obligations of States contained therein. These include equality among States of rights and obligations on the high seas, in particular, rights of flag states to fish on the high seas and an obligation to cooperate, as well as the need to include in regional arrangements States having a real interest in fisheries.

I wish to note the fact that many FAO Member States in the FAO regions of Asia, Europe and Latin America, with a real interest in fisheries of the Central and Western Pacific, were excluded from the negotiation process of the Central and Western Pacific Tuna Convention. Their exclusion is a violation of the intention of the relevant provisions of UNCLOS, UN Fish Stock Agreement and FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. This makes the Central and Western Pacific Tuna Convention illegitimate in relation to FAO.

In this connection, Japan is very disappointed with the statement made by the FAO Observer to the Preparatory Conference for this Central and Western Pacific Tuna Convention, to the effect

that FAO welcomes the initiative or the conclusion of establishing this Central and Western Pacific Tuna Convention.

I would like to see this situation rectified by FAO to accommodate the concerns of many FAO Members towards the responsible conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Region.

Finally, just for reference, the Central and Western Pacific Tuna Convention issue was not directly recorded in the COFI Report in front of us. However, in the context of the developing stage of the IPOA on IUU, the Central and Western Pacific Tuna Convention issue was raised in the part of the role of regional fisheries' bodies. Japan proposed that the words "regional fisheries' bodies" should be replaced by the words "relevant regional fisheries' bodies" in the whole text of the IPOA on IUU. Japan's concern that the Central and Western Pacific Tuna Convention was not a relevant regional fisheries' bodies was shared by Mexico, the European Union, China and Korea, at least. The reason is to differentiate relevant regional fisheries' bodies from irrelevant ones. Japan's proposal was accepted.

Having said all that, I would like to conclude my intervention by saying that FAO should help rectify this situation from its technical point of view.

Victor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

Es un gusto verlo presidir este Consejo. Le pido dos favores: que dé la palabra a Venezuela, que hablará a nombre del GRULAC, y que posteriormente me permita hacer una breve declaración.

Carlos POZZO BRACHO (Observador de Venezuela)

En nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe deseo expresar nuestro reconocimiento al Comité de Pesca así como a su Presidente y a los Miembros de la Mesa por la importante gestión realizada en el marco de su 24º período de sesiones, así como por los asuntos que en este informe se someten a la consideración del Consejo, bien sea para su aprobación o para su información.

En esta oportunidad nuestro Grupo regional quiere referirse a tres aspectos concretos. El primero de ellos está relacionado con la propuesta para crear el Subcomité de Acuicultura como órgano subsidiario del Comité de Pesca. Respaldamos esta propuesta porque estamos seguros que aportará una valiosa contribución a los trabajos que viene desarrollando la Organización en lo atinente a la pesca continental, entre otros aspectos. En segundo lugar, reiterar nuestra adhesión al consenso que se logró entorno al Plan de Acción Internacional para prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada, tal como surgió de la sesión plenaria del Comité dedicada a la aprobación de este instrumento. En tercer lugar, reiterar ante el Consejo nuestra preocupación por las restricciones que algunos países han aplicado a la comercialización de productos pesqueros, especialmente la harina de pescado, argumentando una presunta vinculación de este producto con la crisis de la encefalopatía espongiforme bovina (EEB) y a la cual el Presidente del Comité hizo referencia en la presentación que acaba de hacer.

No obstante, en esta materia apreciamos con satisfacción los avances orientados a excluir la harina de pescado de estas restricciones, tal como se desprende del Reglamento 999/2001 aprobado recientemente por el Parlamento Europeo. Sin perjuicio de lo anterior, consideramos que la FAO como organismo especializado, debe seguir realizando un seguimiento permanente sobre la inocuidad de la harina de pescado, especialmente por la presunta vinculación que se pretende establecer entre su uso y la crisis de la encefalopatía espongiforme bovina. En tal sentido, reiteramos nuestra solicitud para que la FAO informe periódicamente a sus Estados Miembros y a los foros competentes sobre este asunto. Recomendamos también que el tema sea incluido en la agenda de la próxima sesión del Subcomité sobre Comercio Pesquero del Comité de Pesca.

Este planteamiento está incorporado en el informe que tenemos ante nosotros, por lo cual tan sólo solicitamos que el Consejo le dé su respaldo.

Victor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

La Representación de México apoya la declaración formulada por Venezuela en nombre del GRULAC. En este sentido exhorta a los Miembros del Consejo a aprobar el establecimiento del Subcomité de Acuicultura y a adoptar por consenso el Plan de Acción Internacional para prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada en los términos en que se presenta en el informe del 24º período de sesiones del COFI.

México se une a la legítima preocupación por las restricciones que se han aplicado a la comercialización de productos pesqueros, específicamente, a la harina de pescado y la vinculación que se da a ésta con el incremento de casos de encefalopatía espongiforme bovina, no sustentada con evidencias científicas. Mi delegación desea resaltar el reconocimiento del COFI a la función que desempeña el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable en el desarrollo sostenible, tanto de la pesca como de la acuicultura, y el apoyo que brinda para fomentar que las políticas nacionales se orienten al incremento de la seguridad alimentaria y el impulso de oportunidades sociales y económicas vinculadas al sector.

Por ello México reitera la petición que durante el período de sesiones del COFI de este año, formularon muchos Miembros que se incremente la asistencia técnica y financiera en apoyo a la aplicación del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, como lo subrayó hoy por la mañana el delegado de Japón.

En el informe que la Secretaría nos presenta se somete a la consideración del Consejo el llamado que la región de América Latina y el Caribe formuló para recibir un trato más equitativo tanto en el programa ordinario como en el de campo. En esta ocasión mi delegación desea retomar este justo llamado.

Para finalizar, México desea reconocer el extraordinario trabajo realizado por el Sr. Masayuki Komatsu como Presidente del COFI y agradece una vez más el respaldo del Comité para que mi delegación ocupe la primera Vicepresidencia.

J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)

I would like to compliment the Committee on Fisheries for its very exhaustive and excellent Report on the fishery sector.

Fisheries occupy a very important place in our economy as it is an important instrument of livelihood, food and nutritional security for a large section of the economy and population of the country. It is a powerful income and employment generator as it stimulates the growth of a number of subsidiary industries. In our opinion, on the one hand, we have to increase production of fish and productivity of fishermen, fisherwomen, fish farmers and fishing industries, generating employment and higher income in the fisheries sector, while, on the other hand, we have to adopt an integrated approach to marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture, taking into account the needs of responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and conservation of aquatic resources and genetic diversity.

We endorse implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. In India a major programme for sensitizing coastal states on this has been launched.

Relating to the International Plan of Action, recommendations on the reduction of fishing capacity, we have already started the exercise for the optimization of a fishing fleet.

The recommendation of an IOPA on conservation of environment of sharks is under examination in consultation with the research institutions, and conservation measures to be taken will be considered after detailed investigation.

The problem of incidental catch of seabirds in long-line fisheries does not occur in India.

We are already processing the UN Fish Stock Agreement and FAO Compliance Agreement for acceptance and ratification. We propose to come out with a comprehensive marine fishing policy for which an expert group has been constituted.

We acknowledge with appreciation the fruitful cooperation of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade with the Common Fund for Commodities. I must express India's concern on the restrictions being imposed on trade in fish products through various discriminatory tariff and non-tariff barriers.

We support the proposal of COFI for setting up a Sub-Committee on Aquaculture which would address priority areas such as aquaculture statistics, implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, environmental aspects of aquaculture development and aquaculture capacity building, etc.

We are in agreement with the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species Criteria to reduce risk in terms of probability of specific extinction through restriction on trade by listing species considered threatened with extinction according to specified criteria.

We support that a Technical Consultation be called by FAO to consider how fisheries' status and trends reporting could be improved effectively, including the possible development of an International Plan of Action.

Regarding FAO's Expert Consultation on Economic Incentives and Responsible Fisheries, we recommend that FAO, as a global multidisciplinary organization, should take a lead role in promotion of such cooperation, and in coordination of work of fisheries subsidies and the relationship with responsible fisheries. However, I would like to emphasize that the need of developing countries, in particular the issues relating to differences between large- and small-scale or artisanal fisheries, must be taken into account when considering economic incentives and responsible fisheries. In the name of fisheries subsidies, there should be no attempt to impose trade barriers.

Chul-goo KANG (Korea, Republic of)

I would like to begin with expressing my sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for providing this excellent report of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Before endorsing this report, which accurately reflects the result of the meeting and contains useful and constructive recommendations and agreements, I would like to emphasise a few points.

First of all, the Republic of Korea welcomes the adoption of the International Plan of Action for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing during the Twenty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

In order to prepare for implementing the International Plan of Action we have translated and distributed the text of IPOA to related government officials and private industries. At the same time, we have held the symposium to explain its implementation plan, as well as conducting the research on how to set up the national implementation strategy for IPOA.

In concluding, I would like to make one more comment on the MHL Convention.

The Republic of Korea fully supports the Japanese position that the MHL Convention itself needs to be improved to become a responsible code or a framework and to attract major stakeholders contributions to obtain our common goal for the conservation and management of the global fisheries resources for the present and future generations.

As one of the major players in the Western and Central Pacific fisheries, and a responsible fishing State, Korea has improved its capacity to conduct responsible fisheries in accordance with various international conventions, agreements and codes. Implementation and the subsequent compliance, however, requires compromise beforehand, among the relevant stakeholders. In order to obtain a compromise, the negotiation process, in the beginning stage, requires efficient time to discuss fully individual opinions of one another.

Unilateral enforcement, without the compromise, based on the multitude logic, shall be internationally unacceptable for a full participation. The problems and defectives of the MHLC Convention and negotiation process has frequently been raised throughout the MHLC meetings and also during the first Preparatory Conference. During the first Preparatory Conference, a small opportunity of opening a working group meeting is now scheduled to discuss again the main problems that the Convention has, prior to the second Preparatory Conference.

Korea welcomes this opportunity and expects this meeting to be a benchmark for a better Convention, so that all participants comply with the improved Convention. In this sense, we support the Japanese intervention on this matter.

Dato' ABI MUSA ASA'ARI MOHAMED (Malaysia)

We would like to congratulate FAO and the Secretariat under the able Stewardship of Mr Komatsu on the successful completion of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, where many important decision were made.

Malaysia has limited marine fisheries resources within our EEZ. Our coastal resources are sustainably exploited at its maximum and our potential deep-sea resources are quite limited. Therefore, the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) is welcomed as we are hopeful that, with the commitment of all nations, there will be less intrusions of foreign fishing vessels in the EEZ of States.

Although Malaysia already has a well established fisheries management system, the IPOA on IUU fishing will help us further in refining our approach to marine fisheries management in our EEZ and to be in tandem with international norms on common issues facing the fishing industry. However, we would like to urge FAO to fully implement the recommendations that special technical assistance be provided to developing countries to promote an implement the IPOA-IUU.

In view of the limited potential resources in marine fisheries, Malaysia has embarked on an ambitious plan to promote aquaculture development to supplement the fishing requirements for the country. We are very encouraged that the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture will be established to look into the issues on aquaculture development, especially on environmental sustainability, codes of practice and quality and safety standards of aquaculture products. This will greatly assist in ensuring our approach to aquaculture development, in Malaysia, is sound and Malaysia can export its aquaculture products in the international markets. We look forward to the first session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

On the matter of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), Malaysia has placed great emphasis on the Code and has translated it into Bahasa Malaysia for distribution to the target groups to promote awareness and a greater understanding of present fisheries management policies. We are also utilizing the Code for our aquaculture and post harvest technology development. However, Malaysia and other developing countries will need assistance from FAO and donor countries on the aspects of post harvest and processing technology, including fish quality and food safety aspects to help us produce safe fish products for major fish importing countries. Malaysia is also working closely with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) in the regionalisation of the Code to suit the multi-species fisheries of the tropics.

Malaysia would like to thank FAO for undertaking projects under its Technical Cooperation Programmes, the most recent being the FAO Fishcode Project on strengthening the Management of the Small Pelagics off the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia and an upcoming project on the implementation of a Sustainable Development Reference System for the Penang coastal fisheries.

In our efforts to meet the future fish requirements for our people, Malaysia is treading very carefully and implementing programmes after much thought and consideration based on the various guidelines and IPOAs of FAO. We strongly support the good work of COFI and look forward to more fisheries projects through FAO.

Mohammed A. KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for having presented this document on this important item. We have taken note of the Fisheries Department contribution to the drafting of the Strategic Framework for the period 2001-2015. We have taken note of the progress achieved in the four fisheries programmes, which have contributed to the global fishery development department on a sustainable basis.

We have also taken note of the stagnation in funding for fisheries. That is why the Organization has to consider the possible increase of the budget regarding this important activity. Many countries have called for the increase of the financial and technical assistance provided to the countries with a view of implementing the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

It is very difficult to assess the success of countries in implementing the Code of Conduct without the resources. The Committee has recognized the role played by the Code of Conduct in developing the fisheries and in sustainable aquaculture.

Indeed, accommodation and praise have been levelled to the International Plan of Action regarding fishing capacities. We have also taken note of the great importance acquired by aquaculture in the developing countries. It is important to also strengthen the institutions and build capacities.

There has been reference to the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Seventh Session of the Sub-Committee regarding trade in fishing. COFI has also recommended the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

We have taken note to the reference made to the criteria and the provisions of the International Trade Convention on animal and land plant species that are subject to extinction and regarding the marine species that are used in trade. We have also seen the progress as regards to the IPOA-IUU.

We recommend that attention should be given to the developing countries regarding fisheries, with a view to building their capacities and helping them exchange information, expertise, training and transfer of technology.

On the basis of the aforementioned, we believe that the COFI report, on its Twenty-fourth Session, is quite a good one and its recommendations are sufficient to provide incentives to all responsible units, with a view to soundly implement those recommendations, with a view to effectively contributing to improving food security for our people.

Rudolph HINKSON (Barbados)

Barbados is pleased to add its voice to recommend for the Council's consideration to this excellent report. In doing so we want to join previous speakers in acknowledging the quality and the accuracy of this report. We join, also, with the delegate from Venezuela, who spoke on behalf of GRULAC.

I would like just to say a few words on behalf of the Small Island Developing States, particularly those of the Caribbean.

We welcome the initiatives that are proposed, particularly the International Plan of Action for Unregulated and Unreported Fishing. We do so because we are situated, as it were, at the crossroads of the Atlantic. We are not able to police our economic zones adequately. In 1999 we suffered the effects of a very significant fish kill, which devastated many of our coral reef varieties.

We, therefore, see the work of the Committee on Fisheries as important. We have no hesitation in recommending this report for the Council's acceptance and would like to do so and wish them speed in implementing the IPOAs and also the post harvest provisions that were mentioned early in the report.

Christopher RICHARD (United States of America)

The United States joins other delegations in endorsing the report of the Committee on Fisheries. We would particularly like to comment on three issues that were discussed during the Committee's meetings.

First, the United States commends the Committee's adoption by consensus of the Plan of Action for Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing. We note the key roles played by the Government of Australia – as host of the experts consultation – of Canada and the European Commission – who provided funding support – and, of course, FAO's Secretariat, who staffed and supported the initiative from the start.

We also acknowledge the exemplary leadership of Mr Andrew Jackson of the United Kingdom. His excellent leadership as Chair of both sessions of the technical consultations resulted in the high quality of the Plan of Action which is before us today.

We call upon this Council to endorse the Plan of Action and strongly support additional work by the Fisheries Department to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

Secondly, the United States supports the fisheries activities proposed in the Medium-Term Plan. In particular, we commend the work proposed in support of Corporate Strategies B, D and E to: coordinate and monitor the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* and the *Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures*; coordinate and strengthen regional fishery bodies and arrangements; reduce by-catch and discards and the environmental impact of fisheries; promote ecosystem and environmental management; strengthen marine resource assessment; contribute to the conservation, rehabilitation and development of environments at risk; and finally to improve the quality, timeliness and access to fisheries information.

We feel strongly that the role which fisheries plays as major contributors to increased global food security should not be downplayed. We point to 1997 estimates, which placed about two billion people living within 100 kilometres of seashores around the world, almost half of whom depended upon fish as their primary source of protein.

We feel that given FAO's critical importance in developing sustainable fisheries, we are disappointed that proposed funding for fisheries in the 2002-2003 biennium, and over the course of the Medium-Term, does not reflect the recommendations made by COFI 23 and 24.

The countries at COFI 24 urged FAO to allocate an increased share of its programme budget to fisheries. We agree and firmly believe that such an allocation might be made from existing, undesignated Technical Cooperation Programme funds.

We stress that the reallocated funds could be used to respond to calls for direct technical assistance from developing countries which are struggling to build a capacity to undertake sustainable fisheries initiatives.

Our third point is that the United States of America would like to stress that it supports ecosystem research but only so long as it is balanced and takes account of all factors, including environmental and human factors. We do not support a programme that examines any one of these factors in particular.

Thus, while we support the overall goal of paragraph 39 of the COFI report, to do ecosystem research, we do not support any effort to study, in particular, the interactions between marine mammals and fisheries. For these reasons we insist that the Council make clear that any study conducted by FAO on ecosystem considerations in fisheries must be a balanced and holistic assessment and must not, in particular, be a study on interactions between marine mammals and fisheries.

Finally, I have to say that our delegation was somewhat surprised when the issue of the Multilateral High level Conference (MHLC) was raised today. To the best of our knowledge, FAO played no role in the negotiation of this agreement nor was the matter discussed during the COFI meeting, and it is definitely not referred to in the COFI Report. We could suggest that perhaps this Council meeting is not the best place to raise, discuss or take any position on questions regarding this agreement.

I am not fully briefed on the matter but I would like to tell the Council what I do know. The Multilateral High Level Conference is a regional conservation and management agreement which was negotiated in line with the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*' admonition to strengthen existing regional and sub-regional agreements and to negotiate new agreements where none currently exist.

Renaud COLLARD (France)

Je vous prie de bien vouloir donner la parole au délégué de la Suède, qui parlera au nom de l'Union européenne.

Rolf ÅKESSON (Observer for Sweden)

Speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, I am very pleased to endorse all matters requiring Council attention in the Report of the Committee on Fisheries, in particular, the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fisheries. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee should be taken into due account when establishing the Programme of Work for the next biennium, and we have already addressed this matter under Agenda Item 12. We therefore refrain from commenting further on that aspect under this Agenda Item, neither do we intend to repeat the other positions taken by the European Community and its Member States at the COFI meeting, all in order to save the Council's valuable time.

However, I have two more comments to make. First, with reference to the Japanese comment, and we have heard other Member Nations also comment on the same subject, namely the MHLC – the Multilateral High-Level Conference – regarding tuna fishing in the Central and Western Pacific. The European Community and its Member States find it necessary to underline the importance of open regional fisheries organizations. There can be no exceptions, since such organizations are the basic idea behind the international order established by the United Nations Straddling Stocks Agreement and the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, agreed upon in this particular building and this Organization. Consequently, support in any form or shape from FAO to a regional fisheries organization or arrangement that does not allow the participation of states having a real interest in the fisheries concerned is unacceptable to the European Community and its Member States.

Secondly, regarding one particular point that has been dealt with in at least two, maybe three, earlier interventions regarding paragraph 39 in the COFI Report on ecosystem considerations. The European Community and its Member States note that not much discussion took place in COFI in that respect, but find that the Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem in October of this year is a more suitable venue for such a discussion than this Council meeting.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

Australia is pleased with the report of the Twenty-fourth Session of COFI. Globally, many important fisheries, and the marine ecosystems of which they are a part, are under threat. FAO, through COFI, therefore has a crucial role to play in strengthening international cooperation aimed at developing and fostering responsible fishing. There are many instruments and mechanisms available to us: the Law of the Sea and the whole family of related regional agreements and arrangements, as well as the FAO Compliance Agreement, the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* and, of course, the related International Plans of Action. In

general, what is lacking is the international world to fully and effectively implement these instruments.

The Twenty-fourth Session of COFI has taken some important steps in the right direction, and Australia urges Council to take note of this progress and to approve and endorse, as appropriate, the outcomes from this session of COFI.

In particular, Australia strongly supports the establishment of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and we welcome the offers of several FAO Members - China, Italy, Norway and the United States of America - to contribute financially and in-kind to the early meetings of the Sub-Committee and thus ensure its initial activities are not constrained unduly by a lack of resources.

As FAO's most recent summary of world fisheries shows, aquaculture continues to increase its relative share of global fish resources and its contribution to food security. It is essential that FAO, through COFI, be more actively engaged in the full range of aquaculture-related issues, identified by COFI as requiring global action.

In supporting this important new Sub-Committee, Australia agrees with COFI that the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee should be kept flexible and revised as necessary as the aquaculture sector continues to develop.

Secondly, and I am sure this will come as no surprise, Australia warmly welcomes COFI's adoption of the new International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing. IUU Fishing is a serious threat to responsible, sustainable fishing all over the world, on the high seas and in waters of coastal state jurisdiction. Accordingly, Australia was very pleased to be able to take the lead in proposing that this IPOA be developed, and then to play a strong role in all the work that led to COFI's adopting the text now set out as an Appendix to the Report before us. We urge other Members of the Council to join us in endorsing COFI's adoption of this new IPOA.

We are very grateful for the comments made by the United States, and we would like to echo their praise for the key role that Andrew Jackson played as the Chair of these negotiations, and we would like to add our thanks to those of the United States of America, to Canada, the European Union and others that contributed to the process.

With regard to the matter raised concerning paragraph 39 of the COFI Report, we would like to support the points that have been made by the United States, concerning the study of marine mammals and fisheries. Such a study needs to be balanced and holistic, and must not focus in particular on a study of the predator/prey relationship.

We are very surprised with the issue that has been raised by Japan and some others in this Council, concerning the MHL. This agreement is not an FAO agreement, the matter was not raised at COFI, and was not covered in the Report before us. So we do not feel that this is the proper place to be discussing this matter. We are not in a position to debate it, we do not have the necessary briefing on this subject, but we would like to make just a couple of points. We know that Japan was involved in each of the negotiation sessions with regard to this Agreement, but changed its position in the final session, and did not attend the PREPCOM meeting. This signed Agreement is fundamentally important to the many small island developing countries in the region covered by the Agreement. This Agreement encompasses the fundamental real interest of these countries who have limited or no other opportunities for earning income. We are concerned by the criticism that has been levelled at the FAO Observer to these negotiations.

Finally, Australia notes and supports the other elements of the COFI Report. We draw attention in particular to the importance of ensuring fisheries work in FAO is adequately and properly funded, and we support the call for fisheries to receive a higher share within FAO's total Regular Programme resources than is presently the case.

Pililippe MOUMIE (Cameroun)

La délégation camerounaise voudrait d'abord féliciter le Comité des pêches et le Secrétariat, pour l'excellent travail qui a conduit à la production du rapport soumis à notre examen.

Notre pays a participé aux travaux de la vingt-quatrième session du Comité des pêches, et en recommandant son adoption par le Conseil, nous voulons souligner particulièrement quelques recommandations contenues dans ce rapport.

Il s'agit d'abord de la proposition relative à la création d'un sous-comité de l'aquaculture. C'est une très bonne chose, car les préoccupations liées au développement de ce secteur vital, pour les pays en développement, pourront être mieux examinées pour recevoir de bonnes solutions.

Mais au-delà de la création de ce sous-comité, nous voulons souligner qu'il sera autrement plus important de donner des moyens au Département des pêches de la FAO, pour aider véritablement les États Membres à mettre en œuvre les recommandations de ce comité.

En effet, le développement de l'aquaculture constitue une bonne réponse aux problèmes d'insécurité alimentaire dans de nombreuses régions de pays en développement, à l'instar du nôtre.

Il constituera également un moyen de lutte contre la pauvreté, car les paysans, sous réserve d'un encadrement adéquat, seront et sont les principaux acteurs de ce secteur.

Nous appelons donc le Conseil, non seulement à adopter le rapport du Comité des pêches, mais aussi à dégager, à travers le budget du prochain bienium, les moyens pour mettre en œuvre les actions concrètes devant permettre l'atteinte des objectifs visés, qui ne sont autre, à ma connaissance, que l'amélioration de la production du poisson et la réduction de l'insécurité alimentaire.

C'est pour cela que notre délégation est particulièrement d'accord avec le contenu du paragraphe 57 de ce rapport.

Efraín PALTI SOLANO (Perú)

Respaldamos la declaración de Venezuela a nombre del GRULAG. Apoyamos el establecimiento de un Subcomité sobre Acuicultura el cual tendrá un efecto muy positivo considerando el rol cada vez más importante que tiene esta actividad en la producción pesquera y la seguridad alimentaria. En relación a su mandato, estamos de acuerdo que el mismo sea de carácter flexible, pero que tenga como base los resultados de la consulta de expertos realizada en Tailandia en febrero de 2000. Este tema es de particular importancia para mi país. Deseo informar que, recientemente, el Congreso peruano aprobó la Ley de Promoción de Acuicultura que introduce elementos de simplificación administrativa, promoción de la investigación y transferencia de tecnología, y un marco promocional para la inversión y estabilidad jurídica. En este sentido, la creación del Subcomité de Acuicultura permitirá a muchos países, como el mío, establecer nuevos vínculos de cooperación con la FAO en esta materia, en beneficio del desarrollo de dicha actividad económica, teniendo en cuenta sobre todo que, tal y como lo ha predicho la FAO, el aumento del consumo mundial por persona alcanzará de los 19 a 20 kg. para el año 2030, lo cual significa que el exceso de los 100 millones de toneladas de captura tendrán que venir de la agricultura.

Mi delegación también desea apoyar lo señalado por la Delegación de Venezuela, a nombre del GRULAC, en relación a las restricciones para la comercialización y uso de la harina de pescado para la alimentación animal en algunos países. Reiteramos que no existe prueba técnica ni científica que vincule a la enfermedad de la encefalopatía espongiiforme bovina (EEB). En este marco, acogemos con satisfacción los avances en esta materia, especialmente el Reglamento 999/2001 del Parlamento Europeo al que se ha referido la Delegación de Venezuela.

Deseamos también apoyar el párrafo 45 del informe del COFI cuando se refiere a la preocupación que causan las restricciones al comercio de productos pesqueros mediante diversos obstáculos arancelarios y pararancelarios.

Por último, apoyamos la labor de seguimiento y de información a los Países Miembros y a los foros adecuados como, por ejemplo, las comisiones competentes del Codex Alimentario sobre la inocuidad de la harina de pescado con respecto a la presunta e inexistente vinculación con la encefalopatía espongiiforme bovina (EEB), y también la inclusión de este tema en la agenda de la próxima reunión del Subcomité sobre Comercio Pesquero.

Suthiporn CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

On behalf of Thailand, I endorse the proposed International Plan of Action on IUU Fishing, consistent with the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. However, attention should be paid to the differences in the level of development among Member Nations. Some flexibility should be allowed for the implementation of the International Plan of Action. More importantly, I would like to stress that the International Plan of Action on IUU Fishing should be implemented along with the National Plan of Action. I feel that if any Member Nations does not have its National Plan of Action in full pace, it will be quite difficult for that Member Nation to undertake international obligations. I urge the Council to devote a substantial part of FAO resources to assist Member Nations in the implementation of their National Plans of Action as well.

I agree with Japan on the issue of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention, or MHLCT. Thailand did not participate, nor was it invited to participate in the April 2001 meeting, although Thailand is within the Convention areas. In fact, the tuna processing industry is the second most important in terms of fishery export earnings, apart from prawn and prawn products, as far as Thailand is concerned.

May I remind you that regional fishing arrangements such as the MHLCT that I mentioned earlier do play a central role in controlling and monitoring IUU Fishing activities, through the International Plan of Action. Under these circumstances, may I request that dialogue be made among all countries in the Western and Central Pacific Region. Without their effective and complete participation, such regional fishing arrangements cannot be viable, and this will only defeat the purpose of reducing the IUU Fishing activities that it set out to achieve.

Jiri MUCHKA (Czech Republic)

As a new Member of the Council, let me make some remarks on the COFI Report. At the outset, I would like to express endorsement of the Report and our support to the statement of the European Union.

The Committee on Fisheries has an irreplaceable function in the field of world fisheries, that is, especially in fishing and aquaculture. A predominant part of the negotiations dealt with the issue of sea fishing, especially responsible fishing in relation to exploitation of some species, illegal and not regulated fishing, including prohibited systems of sea fishing. COFI stated its standpoints concerning this area and adopted relevant measures at international level.

Although the Czech Republic does not perform sea fishing, the interest of Czech subjects in its realization cannot be excluded in the future. In that case, it will be necessary for the Czech Republic to provide all relevant measures of an administrative as well as a practical nature, in compliance with the international legal regulations which apply to this issue. That is why all information concerning sea fishing is very valuable for us.

Since fishery in the Czech Republic is concentrated almost exclusively on freshwater aquaculture, especially breeding fish in ponds and special facilities, we consider the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture a very important step made by FAO, and we are very interested in active cooperation in this body. We stress the field of freshwater aquaculture, because sea aquaculture does not concern us on territorial grounds.

Priorities to be solved by the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture are predominantly, as mentioned at the session; development of aquaculture, statistical monitoring, the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries, environmental aspects of aquaculture development, regional cooperation, etc. They are in compliance with our ideas for this field of fishery.

As Czech fishery, especially fishpond cultivation, has a long history and has reached the top world level in the field of research, cultivation and fish-breeding technology, we are offering a possibility to establish a centre for freshwater aquaculture of FAO in the Czech Republic. This specialized workplace might perform relevant programmes of the FAO Sub-Committee on Aquaculture under field practical conditions and circumstances.

Ms Sgrídur Ásdís SNÆVAR (Iceland)

Iceland has listened with great interest to discussions on the COFI Report. In relation to some issues raised concerning the COFI report, we would like to briefly state our position and add some comments.

Firstly, we support what was said by Sweden on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, on paragraph 39, and that the Council should endorse the COFI Report without any changes.

Secondly, we would like to thank the European Community and its Member Nations and others for bringing to the Council's attention that we will have the opportunity, at the Conference in Reykjavik, to assess and discuss the ecological approach to fisheries management. However, we think it is important, in this regard, to repeat the objectives of the Conference.

The Reykjavik Conference is an inter-governmental meeting with a scientific symposium, held to meet the growing interest in, including, ecosystem considerations in fisheries management. There is, as is widely known, a great uncertainty about how to implement such management in practice. Therefore, the very objective of the Conference is to use the best scientific knowledge available to review the experience of applying ecosystem considerations in fisheries management and to assess the prospect of future implementation of ecosystem management.

While all relevant components of the marine ecosystem must, of course, be considered, including marine mammals, this Conference is not aimed at drawing specific conclusions on the role of whales or other marine mammals in the marine ecosystem.

Finally, as host country, we would like to encourage all Member Nations of FAO to participate in this Conference and to contribute to the discussions on this highly important matter.

M. S. WICKEMARACHCHI (Sri Lanka)

We, the Sri Lanka delegation, are happy to see you in the Chair this afternoon and we congratulate you on this new position.

I think, as you may be aware, we are a small country, an island surrounded by the sea, and fisheries play a major role in our agriculture sector. Especially when you talk about food security, 90 percent of the protein content is provided to our population through fisheries products. However, we still remain a net importer of fisheries products so, therefore, we fully endorse the recommendations made in this COFI Report, especially the recommendation to establish a Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, which can foster more resources for the fisheries sector.

I think we have no problem with the terms of reference of this Sub-Committee, but we propose that it should be a little flexible to meet the requirement of various Member Nations and the future development.

János KOVÁCS (Hungary)

Hungary can support the excellent report of COFI. As you probably know, Hungary has no seas so we developed our aquaculture and have good experience of it. So we are sure that aquaculture can have a very important role in the fight against hunger. The point of environment is acceptable also.

We fully support all efforts of FAO targeted at raising aqua-production and we strongly support the Sub-Committee of Aquaculture. We are interested in the work of the Sub-Committee.

In connection with paragraph 60, I would like to ask the Secretariat to clarify whether Observer Countries can be members of the Sub-Committee or not.

Takanori OHASHI (Japan)

I apologize for taking the floor again but I have to make a brief and short response to what was said by the United States and Australia. This relates to interaction between marine mammals and fisheries.

First, I wish to refer to an interaction between marine mammals and fisheries. At the last session of COFI, there was widespread support of the issue on the study of marine mammals and fisheries. I would just like to let you know that fish consumption by marine mammals is three to five times the amount of a marine capture fishery. We cannot ignore this figure. The Committee indicated in paragraph 39, the last sentence, where it clearly says, "The Committee agreed that such studies and reviews by FAO should be conducted to encompass these characteristics, in particular interaction between marine mammals and fisheries".

I know Australia and the United States said that the study should be balanced in a holistic manner. I have no objection but, concerning paragraph 39, what was agreed by the technical committee is clearly said, in particular interaction between marine mammals and fisheries should be focused. It must be understood that ecosystem study must be balanced in a holistic way, in particular focus on interaction between marine mammals and fisheries.

Having said that, the next point relates to MHLC. It is our intention to make known to the FAO participant presenting, in this room, that MHLC, Central and the Western Pacific Tuna Convention, did not follow due process for the establishment of a regional fisheries body. The MHLC was developed in an irresponsible and discriminatory manner and what FAO has done is not in line with FAO's *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

My point is very clear, FAO should accommodate several of the Members concerned with respect to the responsible fisheries management in Central and Western Pacific.

Simon J. DRAPER (Observer for New Zealand)

I would like to add New Zealand's voice to those who have spoken on paragraph 39. We, of course, were in the Drafting Committee of COFI. We, like others, support the call that any study conducted by FAO on ecosystem considerations and fisheries must be balanced and a holistic assessment, and must not in particular be a study on just interactions between marine mammals and fisheries.

I will also take the opportunity to quickly comment finally on the MHLC, which has been of some discussion today. All I can really say is that I have no instructions on this particular issue. This indicates to me that my authorities will be very surprised when they hear that the issue has been raised here in this meeting. I can only assume that they will not see this meeting and the discussion of the COFI report as the appropriate forum to discuss the MHLC.

Johannes TENSUE (Observer for Eritrea)

First I would like to extend my congratulations to the Chairman of COFI, Mr Komatsu for handling the COFI Meeting in an excellent manner and the presentation of this document which is the outcome of his effort.

My comments will be starting from paragraph 39. Similarly, myself I was in the Drafting Committee, and the conclusion what we arrived at was, while extending our appreciation for the different information provided by Japan, by displaying the relationship between the mammals raised as predators, which is an important issue of the ecosystem, we appreciated their contribution to this one, and we requested FAO to make further studies in a balanced nature, which paragraph 39 has summarized.

Similarly, other countries which expressed their concern about the deterioration of coral reef resources, which constituted an important ecosystem, was also appreciated. Though there was some difference and division in the house, such studies or problems are local in nature and should be solved locally before addressing them to FAO. However, many of us expressed our appreciation if the resources could allow FAO to touch side programmes or to study. This was the understanding of the Committee and that is what I am repeating, what was said at that time. It is, as I mentioned, also in paragraph 120.

In paragraph 115, which reflects the comparative advantage of FAO in fisheries and the need for a higher share of the FAO budget to be allocated to fishery programmes, is well explained in it and

different countries have emphasized the importance of allocating more resources to the Fisheries Department, this morning, yesterday and also at other times.

In paragraph 113, the Committee reviewed a number of areas where changes or improvements in the orientation of work planned – this is in the Medium-Term Plan which we have been discussing since yesterday – could enhance the utility of the Medium-Term Plan. Several Members expressed serious concern about the lack of balance among regions in resource allocation and stressed the need for increased allocation to developing countries for policy and technical assistance. This should be repeated at this meeting and should be addressed and be adopted as it is in paragraph 113. We hope such a balance will be made by the Fisheries Department.

Another important aspect was the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. This was strongly supported and we would like the Council to endorse this.

In the economic incentive, which is the impact of subsidy in fisheries – though the title is misleading –there was only one consultation which was conducted, on the impact of subsidies by professors. It was felt that the consultation should be on technical aspects of the policy debate and further consultation was recommended if resources are available. At that time, it was said that resources were not available and may not be revealed before November. Therefore, it was suggested that it may require extra budget, but such a study is very important.

These are the main points I would like to emphasize and to remind the Council.

Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)

Cyprus has no particular comments to make, though silence means endorsement. We also wish to thank the Chairman of the Committee for his introduction, and the Secretariat for the selection of the matters brought up for the attention of the Council.

We join others in endorsing the findings and recommendations contained in the Committee's Report.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

My Japanese colleague has referred to some of the points I made in my earlier statements so I just felt the need to respond to that.

With regard to his point about the study on marine mammals and fisheries, I welcome what he says, that Japan is interested also in a balanced and holistic text. He did draw attention to this concern that Japan seems to have, that whales eat more fish than humans. I would just like to record that any FAO study that takes, as its starting point, that marine mammals, whose long-term abundance has been seriously depleted by human action over the past two centuries, should have their numbers kept well below long-term natural levels through further human intervention, in order to limit their natural depredation of fish, such a study would be discredited as theoretically, methodologically and scientifically useless. So we certainly want to ensure that any study remains balanced and holistic.

With regard to this issue of the MHLC, I certainly do not want to prolong the debate here. As I said, I am not fully briefed to respond in detail on the matters that have been raised but I would just like to record our concern about the words that Japan used about the irresponsible and discriminatory way in which this Agreement has been developed. That concerns us deeply and we would just like to record that here at this meeting.

Christopher RICHARD (United States of America)

Again, I apologize for intervening a second time but I would just like to add my full support to the statement made by my Australian colleague in response to what the Japanese responded to in earlier interventions.

Takanori OHASHI (Japan)

It seems to me that Australia and the United States did not understand what I said. I said, studies should be carried out in a more balanced way. There are some sentences in paragraph 39 where it is said, "conducted to encompass these characteristics". If I understood correctly, the major component affecting fisheries resources is over-fishing and other environmental factors, and the other component could be fish consumption by mammals. So that is what I am trying to say: studies should be carried out in a more balanced manner, but in paragraph 39, there are sentences that clearly mention that the major component for the study is interaction between marine mammals and fisheries. Also, you suggest that FAO study what human beings have done in the past. I think that it is quite a technical remark, so I suggest you should take up that remark at the coming COFI Meeting.

CHAIRMAN

I think that both sides of the debate agree that the studies should be holistic and balanced, so that is what is contained in paragraph 39. All of the speakers have agreed to the report so I do not think there is any disagreement on that.

Are there any other requests for the floor?

Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Observateur de l'Angola)

Je profite de l'occasion pour vous féliciter pour l'excellent travail fait à la dernière session du Comité des pêches et pour féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'excellent rapport qu'il nous a présenté. Je voudrais faire quelques considérations sur ce document.

Nous sommes d'accord pour la création d'un sous-comité des pêches pour l'aquaculture et nous félicitons les États-Unis d'Amérique, la Chine, l'Italie et la Norvège pour la décision de financer les réunions de ce sous-comité.

Ma délégation a noté une contradiction entre les activités de la FAO dans le domaine de la pêche et le budget disponible pour satisfaire ces activités. A cet effet, nous sommes d'accord pour le relèvement à la hausse des crédits budgétaires alloués au programme des pêches.

Nous pensons qu'il devrait y avoir une redéfinition de l'équilibre entre les activités de terrain et les activités normatives de la FAO. En effet, il n'est pas logique de créer de nouveaux plans d'action. Je me réfère par exemple au Plan d'action des requins et des oiseaux marins et à la pêche artisanale qui est une priorité pour la plupart des pays. Il devrait se développer d'une façon responsable et durable et constituer une des grandes contributions pour éradiquer la pauvreté dans la plupart des pays du monde qui ne reçoivent pas encore l'assistance technique nécessaire.

Nous sollicitons l'approbation du Plan d'action international pour la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée, mais il serait opportun d'aider les pays qui rencontrent des difficultés dans la mise en œuvre de ces plans. Autrement, ces plans ne seront que des documents en plus sans effets pratiques.

En ce qui concerne le Sous-comité du COFI pour le commerce, ma délégation reconnaît l'importance des informations sur le marché et les prix des produits de la pêche, compte tenu des différents bulletins qu'il publie et sa participation dans la formation pour garantir la qualité des produits.

Pour terminer, nous sommes d'accord pour que la FAO commence l'examen des problèmes et des solutions liés aux listes des ressources halieutiques. Nous appuyons la réalisation d'une consultation technique pour améliorer la présentation des rapports sur la situation et la tendance de la pêche au niveau mondial et nous pensons que les aspects soulignés dans les divers chapitres, malgré leur importance, ne doivent pas avoir d'incidence sur les programmes de travail et budget, compte tenu des ressources très réduites.

CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank all the speakers for their very rich contribution to the debate. I once again come to Mr Komatsu to highlight the main points and to answer the questions.

M. KOMATSU (Chairman, Committee on Fisheries)

I am very pleased to hear that you appreciated the very active discussions of our Committee and the useful recommendations and agreement contained in the Report. I understand that the Council adopts the Report as it is, by consensus. In particular, I extend my deep appreciation and thanks to the Secretariat for its work. It is a great honour for me to serve as the first Japanese Chairperson to this very important and active meeting.

I also recognize that you gave full support to the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. This is very important. You discussed what should be the priority area as already reflected in our Report and your comments are more or less along the same lines as what we discussed.

Concerning the IPOA on IUU Fishing, I was very much afraid that some nation might challenge it; that is why I am here, actually. However, I am very pleased that this Plan of Action was also adopted by consensus, so once again I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of you. I am sure that most of you know to which country I am referring to but nevertheless, I never mentioned it – but I must include my appreciation for that particular country.

Concerning item 39, the sentence was adopted as it is, so that it may be discussed in an appropriate forum, including as suggested by you at the Reykjavik Conference or whatever else you may consider as appropriate. However, I also recognize your very sincere demand and request about technical assistance for the developing nations, particularly for the SIDS and Latin American and Caribbean nations. Even though voices from these regions are not very strong, it does not necessarily mean that they do not need technical and financial assistance in implementing the Code of Conduct and the International Plans of Action which we now have, including the one which the Council has just adopted.

Concerning trade matters, in particular the Latin American countries mentioned a possible misuse of trade in respect to BSE. I think you have fully recognized from the Report that this matter will be taken up at the next Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. We appreciate that although only the United States made comments on it, paragraph 115 is very important in terms of mid-term prioritizations, therefore I believe that the Council will endorse the contents of paragraph 115.

As Chairperson, concerning MHLC, I am refraining from making substantive comments. Of course, I listened to both sides of the arguments – this matter of international cooperation is relevant for discussion because it was touched upon in the process of the formulation of the IPOA, and the point is that many countries with a real interest were excluded. However, some Members have mentioned that this was not covered in the Agenda and the formulation of the Conventions was not undertaken under the Constitution of FAO. So I do not want to get into any sort of summarization; rather, I try to simply state what was debated here on these touchy issues.

Concerning paragraph 60, I understand that some questions have been asked by some delegations. I shall now hand the floor over to you.

Thank you once again for adopting the Report as it is.

CHAIRMAN

It is nice to see such a mutual understanding and happiness on both sides, so I will ask Mr Nomura to take the floor and grace us with his remarks.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department)

The Chairman has mostly covered and addressed the issue so I will limit myself to two issues which I understand were directed to the Secretariat, and one particular legal question put forward by the delegation of Hungary, which I will later deliver to our expert in legal affairs.

About the question of MHLC: even though we have heard a lot of statements from various delegations, we basically observed that they are addressing their national position. This undertaking has been a collective understanding by states concerned outside the FAO framework, so at this moment our Department is not in a position to give any value judgement to substantive provisions of the Agreement or respective positions of each country.

We have sent an observer to all negotiating sessions for the last five years to monitor the development of the process, simply because it is a very important area with the most amount of tuna being caught in the world and its implication to the world fishery environment is enormous. That is why we sent observers all the time.

FAO has not engaged in any negotiation process. For the sake of argument, if, in the future, you would like us to do that, then you have to tell us.

I think I have to exercise the right of reply as the Secretariat about a particular statement, a critical statement, about our observer. I can assure you we sent a professional staff member who is most knowledgeable on the issue and about whom we are confident that he exercised his duty as an international public servant of the UN staff. His remark, if any, should be nothing more than congratulating the hard work of those countries concerned. Some of them happened also to be FAO members and nothing more than that. It should not be interpreted in any way to have given any opinion of FAO on the position of the respective states concerned. Having said that, we will keep the comments we heard this afternoon in mind.

The second question I would like to raise is that many countries requested additional resources from our Department to many areas, in particular implementation of the newly adopted International Plan of Action on IUU Fishery, as well as the execution of the operation of the newly-created Sub-committee.

Those two issues, among others, are the main menus to which we would like to allocate more resources based upon a Real Growth budget. When you look at paragraph 115, to which the Chairman of COFI just referred, we were also given instructions for more resources to be allocated to other menus. If we have to face limited resources, which is not totally unlikely to happen, that paragraph as well as what we heard today would be our guiding principle.

As the Chairman of COFI rightfully said, we heard many requests for more technical assistance from the area of the nations who did not speak today but spoke explicitly in COFI, and I can assure you that we will not forget that either.

Lastly, as to the question of the legal matter which was put forward by the distinguished delegate from Hungary, I would like to give the floor to Mr Edeson, with your permission, Mr Chairman.

LEGAL OFFICE

The correct approach to be adopted in respect of an observer wishing to become a Member of the sub-committee in question is for it to make a formal request to the Director-General, giving the reasons in writing as to why it wishes to participate in the work of that Sub-committee. The Director-General can then make a study of the matter and can bring a recommendation to a meeting of the Council for a formal decision on the matter.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much for your answer to the question.

Are there any other requests from the Floor? I see none, so I can say that the Secretariat has taken due note of your concerns and your deliberations and would act accordingly. As was emphasized by both the Chairperson of COFI and the Assistant Director-General, they will not be forgotten.

With this, I conclude that the Council approves the report of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
21 June 2001

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 00
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONTINUED)
III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)
III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)

6. REPORT OF THE 15TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY
(ROME, MARCH 2001) (CL 120/8)
6. RAPPORT DE LA QUINZIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DES FORÊTS
(ROME, MARS 2001) (CL 120/8)
6. INFORME DEL 15º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE MONTES
(ROMA, MARZO DE 2001) (CL 120/8)

CHAIRMAN

We will begin this morning with Item 6, the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry, which was held in Rome in March 2001. The relevant document is CL 120/8. I would like to ask Mr El Lakany, Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department to introduce the report.

M. Hasny EL-LAKANY (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

The Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) was held from 12-16 March 2001 with 324 participants from 101 Members of the Committee and Observers.

The Agenda incorporated suggestions received from Member Nations on policy-related topics.

Advanced SOFO - the state of the World's Forests 2001 - was launched, and the preliminary results of FRA 2000 were presented. Policy-related topics discussed, in addition to regular agenda items, included: forest knowledge management; criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, and implications for certification and trade; FAO support to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests (CPF); and proposals for future forest resource surveys.

Information was also provided on the *International Year of the Mountains* and Forestry issues related to Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

A particular innovation for COFO-15 was the introduction of informal technical sessions in advance of plenary sessions to facilitate and enrich discussions. Many side meetings were also organized by countries, sister organizations and other interest groups. A meeting was also held with NGOs and the Private Sector.

The Committee recommended *inter alia* that FAO continue to develop partnerships with other organizations and international institutions to facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of information, and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of knowledge management. In regard to Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, the Committee recommended that FAO, in collaboration with national, regional and international partners and processes, help streamline concepts, terms and definitions to foster common understanding and facilitate national, regional and international reporting. It was also recommended that the Regional Forestry Commissions, in collaboration with regional processes, taken an active role in facilitating the input of regional perspectives to the UNFF.

The Committee requested FAO to assist the United Nations Forum on Forests in its work related to monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress for the implementation of the IPF and IFF proposals for action. The leading role of FAO in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests was recognized.

The Committee recommended that FAO continue its efforts to carry out broad assessments of various aspects of forest resources, such as biological diversity, forest health and resource use,

and requested FAO, in collaboration with other agencies and conventions, to provide technical input for elaboration and reconciliation of terms and definitions.

Recognizing FAO's leading role in global forest resources assessment, the Committee recommended that the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme continue to be a priority for the Forestry Department, and that FAO continue to support national forest programmes with emphasis on assisting countries to develop or strengthen national and institutional capacity and improve policies and conceptual frameworks for integrated forest sector development. Other priorities recommended included Forest Fire Management, Support to the UNFCCC - the Convention on Climate Change - and the role of forestry in supporting livelihood systems.

The feedback from COFO Member Nations was very positive. We plan to continue to develop COFO and the Regional Forestry Commissions as important global and regional fora for policy-related discussions and technical reviews.

Kyeong-kyu KIM (Korea, Republic of)

Before going to the agenda, I am very pleased to inform you of one thing. This morning, I have a delegation of observers from my capital. They are sitting behind us, they are some members who work in international affairs in several ministries. They would like to see how the international organization Governing Bodies work. I sincerely welcome them, and I hope that you join me in welcoming them.

Turning to the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry, on behalf of the Republic of Korea, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for providing this excellent Report. Before endorsing this Report, let me very briefly point out one issue, regarding the development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forestry management. For example, many Member Nations have used different terminology on forestry, and there is no standard form of report. I would like to suggest that FAO should fully support various activities such as workshops and seminars at national and/or regional level to search for an appropriate approach in an effort to overcome this kind of difficulty.

Conclusively, this Report accurately reflects the results of the meeting and contains useful and constructive recommendations I would like to suggest that this Report be endorsed by the Council.

Mohamed Abd El Hamid KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing this excellent Report. The Forestry Department has collaborated in preparing the *Strategic Framework* of the Organization 2001-2015, and the progress made in programmes in this Department have been reported.

In giving us this Report, we have taken note of the various points and would like to emphasize some of the points that drew our attention. The importance of improving information and knowledge for sustainable management of forestry; to provide assistance to developing countries in technology transfer; to overcome the difficulties in making use of available information; to increase efforts to improve knowledge so that countries can avail themselves of this knowledge. Furthermore, strengthening the establishment of exemplary forests and taking account of the inter-dependency between the Forestry Department and other departments of the Organization, especially the Agriculture Department and to work jointly to attain the objectives of the Organization to strengthen the role of FAO and support the United Nations Forestry Forum.

Also, take account of the very serious dangers which arise out of the difficulties of forest. First and foremost, forest fires and collaborating with the secretariats of the international conventions to control forest fires, and for the sustainable development of forests. To have interest for all the activities carried out in the area of forestry internationally. The importance of mountain areas and the living conditions of the people who dwell in those areas.

The need that FAO have a plan to strengthen the Forestry Department, taking special account of the role it plays in food security and to eradicate food insecurity and poverty in the world.

Finally, once again, after discussing this item in the Committee on Forestry, I would like to draw attention to the forest situation in our countries, which was not given sufficient support and interest in this Committee in the past few years. You know that a major share of the budget and programmes and activities of the forestry sector focus on rich countries that have the necessary resources to develop the sector. Only a marginal part is earmarked for drought and desertification-affected areas of the world, which also require a share of the budget and more activities and efforts, so that these countries can deal with their situation and the difficulties they encounter in the sector, such as lack of services provided in the environmental sector and development of forestry.

I would like to stress some points which I hope you will take into account, especially with regard to Near East countries that are suffering from drought and desertification. Firstly, the importance of forest farms as producers of timber and products that help improve the environmental situation and the living conditions of the population.

Secondly, to provide resources so that the inhabitants of these areas may carry out activities in the forestry sector. To strengthen the capacity of these countries to establish farms in the forestry areas.

On the basis of all this, Egypt and Sudan had made proposals for the attainment of the objectives I mentioned. We also hope that these projects may be studied, and that the Committee step up its action to implement these programmes.

Finally, I hope that Council, FAO, and the Forestry Department, will give all the necessary attention and attach importance to the forestry situation in Near East countries.

Flavio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)

I would like to ask you to give the floor to the delegation of Venezuela who will be speaking on behalf of the GRULAC countries.

Carlos POZZO BRACHO (Observador de Venezuela)

Permítame expresar en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe nuestro agradecimiento por la labor desarrollada por el Comité de Montes durante el período de sesiones recientemente celebrado y cuyos resultados están recogidos en el informe presentado a la consideración y aprobación del Consejo. Nuestro grupo regional desea expresar su respaldo al informe y, por supuesto, reiterar algunos comentarios sobre los asuntos que en él se señalan a la atención de este órgano.

Tal como manifestáramos durante el examen de la situación mundial de los bosques para América Latina y el Caribe desde el punto de vista de la seguridad alimentaria, las actividades de silvicultura revisten un particular significado como fuentes de alimentos e ingresos para diversas poblaciones de la región. Ante el Comité pusimos en relieve la importancia del manejo, conservación y desarrollo sostenible de los bosques así como la protección que ellos dan a los ecosistemas frágiles.

Uno de los fenómenos que contribuyen a la degradación de los bosques son los incendios forestales, los que han afectado recientemente y de manera alarmante por su frecuencia e intensidad, importantes zonas de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, región que concentra una parte importante de los recursos forestales a nivel mundial. A nuestro juicio, es fundamental que se formulen estrategias nacionales y regionales que incluyan una amplia gama de políticas y medidas de prevención y combate de incendios, respaldadas por una eficiente cooperación internacional que bien puede ser aportada por nuestra Organización.

Hemos manifestado ante el Comité de Montes la necesidad de hacer esfuerzos para mejorar la presentación de datos e información relativos a la cobertura forestal, las causas y las tasas de deforestación de los bosques, pues el proceso de desertificación que se deriva de ello tiene una incidencia directa en la seguridad alimentaria. En tal sentido, el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe ha venido expresando su interés por que la FAO mejore el actual sistema de información

sobre bosques y programas nacionales forestales, pues, a nuestro juicio, la Organización puede jugar un papel destacado facilitando la creación de este tipo de programas o reforzando los que ya existen, mediante proyectos nacionales o regionales de cooperación técnica.

En cuanto a los criterios indicadores de la ordenación forestal sostenible y los esquemas de certificación, el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe reconoce la contribución de la FAO mediante su promoción como herramientas útiles en la ordenación sostenible de los bosques, tanto a nivel nacional como regional. No obstante, consideramos importante reafirmar que su elaboración e instrumentación dependen de la dotación de recursos técnicos y financieros, así como de la adecuada valoración de productos y servicios forestales.

Nuestro grupo regional estima que los esquemas de certificación pueden apoyar la ordenación sostenible de los bosques, en la medida que ellos tengan un carácter voluntario, transparente y no discriminatorio, y que por tanto, no se constituyan en barreras al comercio internacional de productos forestales. En todo caso, consideramos que la relación entre los criterios, los indicadores y la certificación requiere una discusión más detenida, sobre todo con respecto a los posibles efectos sobre el comercio internacional de tales productos.

Con relación al cambio climático y al Protocolo de Kioto, asuntos sometidos a la consideración del Comité de Montes, en esa ocasión reconocimos las dificultades que se han venido encontrando en las negociaciones internacionales que, sobre cambios climáticos y el tema de los bosques, se desarrollan en la Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambios Climáticos, el foro intergubernamental indicado para examinar esos asuntos. No obstante, este enfoque no menoscaba el aporte técnico que puede otorgar la FAO para coadyuvar a que dichas negociaciones marchen con mayor fluidez.

Manifestamos también nuestro apoyo firme y decidido al Protocolo de Kioto cuya instrumentación consideramos fundamental para hacer frente a los efectos adversos del calentamiento global del planeta, derivados de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. Reiteramos nuestra esperanza por que la próxima ronda de negociaciones del Convenio sobre Cambios Climáticos, prevista para julio próximo en Bonn, aporte ideas que permitan avanzar en los asuntos pendientes de la Conferencia de La Haya y, por tanto, alcanzar el consenso que facilite la pronta entrada en vigor de tan importante Protocolo.

Para concluir, los países de América Latina y el Caribe deseamos reiterar ante el Consejo la importancia que le otorgamos al tema del Desarrollo Sostenible en Zonas de Montaña, así como a la ejecución de las seis áreas programáticas que establece el Capítulo 13 de la Agenda 21, sus respectivos objetivos y acciones. En este contexto, brindamos particular respaldo a la convocatoria efectuada por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas para celebrar el año 2002 como el "Año Internacional de las Montañas".

Consideramos que se trata de una iniciativa que brinda a la Comunidad Internacional la oportunidad de conocer y concientizarse aún más de la importancia que, para el futuro de la humanidad, tienen estos ecosistemas frágiles y de los cuales depende, en gran medida, la diversidad biológica del planeta.

Richard J. HUGHES (United States of America)

The United States applauds FAO on its critical role as a neutral facilitator and convenor of the diverse and challenging issues facing the global forestry community, and supports this Report. It is important for FAO's role to be clear and consistent with its comparative advantage in information and knowledge generation, management and dissemination. In particular, FAO should continue to take the lead in facilitating and forming new partnerships that advance the codification and harmonization of terminologies to provide the basic foundation for policy development and programme implementation.

We would note, however, that FAO should refrain from taking active positions of framing dialogues on topics that they do not enjoy widespread consensus.

The United States encourages and supports FAO to continue to exhibit desired leadership in sustainable forest management, particularly in the following areas: monitoring and assessment of the world's forest; criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management; implementation of the internationally agreed upon Intergovernmental Panel on Forest and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests; proposals for action and leadership in UNFF Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Within the constraints of an overall Zero Nominal Growth budget scenario, more strategic financing in the forestry programme would allow FAO to expand and improve many vital functions in the area of information and knowledge management, to maintain its leadership role in the global forestry community and to positively address needs in significant forests around the world.

Even a small redirection of resources within the overall FAO budget towards forestry would have significant impact. As an example, the Fifteenth Session of COFO found strong consensus among Member Nations for FAO to conduct interim five-year assessments of global forest resources and to improve the accuracy and scope of the ten-year Global Forestry Resources Assessment.

The FAO forestry data bases and resource assessments are unique and valuable sources of data on global forest resources that are critical to today's development and implementation of forest policies. Without adequate funds for forestry programme activities, FAO will be hardpressed to collect and disseminate quality and timely information. The United States strongly supports action by the Council to adjust budgetary allocations within existing FAO's resource levels to represent a five percent allocation of the FAO overall budget for the Forestry Programme.

The principles of sustainable development and many of the components' sectorial developments that affect sustainable development achievements require cross-sectorial cooperation and strategies. FAO currently contains a portfolio of programmes that require a level of synergy and effective implementation of overlapping goals, objectives in food, fisheries and forestry sectors. The results of the Fifteenth Session of COFO highlight the need for consideration of the overlapping issues, in order for the objectives in the forestry sector to be effective and accomplished.

The United States supports increased emphasis on the cross-sectorial linkages among FAO's portfolio of programmes. We recommend that this emphasis be reflected in budget adjustments in the forestry and fisheries programmes, as well as strategic planning among agriculture, fisheries and forestry. FAO should continue also to provide technical data and information in order to inform other related international processes that have overlapping linkages in the achievement of sustainable forest management. Such processes should include the Conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Desertification.

Miguel BARRETO (Perú)

Permítame, en primer lugar, adherir y apoyar absolutamente la declaración realizada por Venezuela a nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

El esfuerzo que realizan los Países Miembros del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica destinados a sentar las bases de un manejo sostenible de los bosques se enmarca en la Propuesta de Tarapoto, aprobada en 1995, que define 12 criterios y 77 indicadores con una iniciativa que guíe sus acciones y sus políticas hacia el desarrollo sostenible y la conservación de la biodiversidad en la Amazonia. Consideramos que ella constituye una herramienta multidisciplinaria de planificación del desarrollo sostenible que sienta la base de los criterios e indicadores de sostenibilidad del bosque tropical amazónico, los cuales vienen siendo desarrollados a través del valioso apoyo de la FAO y de algunos otros países donantes, como el Gobierno de Finlandia. Hacemos un llamado para que esta cooperación se incremente en el futuro como parte de los compromisos aprobados en el Comité de Montes.

En referencia al tema de bosques y cambios climáticos, consideramos que es un tema muy sensible que viene siendo abordado en la Conferencia de Estados Partes de la Convención sobre Cambios Climáticos, cual foro competente.

Sin perjuicio de lo anterior, y reconociendo y apoyando el importante aporte técnico de la FAO, nos preocupa que, en el marco de su labor de recopilación y presentación de información y de asesoramiento, los documentos que elabore la Organización puedan reflejar juicios de valor que carezcan de comprobación científica y que trasciendan el debate internacional. Tal es el caso de la vinculación entre la conservación de carbono y la mitigación del cambio climático que figura en el Informe Mundial SOFO 2001.

Mi delegación presentó oportunamente a la Secretaría de la FAO una propuesta alternativa que indica que la conservación del carbono almacenado en los bosques es una de las medidas para mitigar rápidamente el cambio climático, siempre que se afronten también las causas subyacentes de la deforestación y los problemas de la utilización insostenible para asegurar la conservación del carbono. En este sentido esperamos que la reacción final del SOFO pueda reflejar equilibradamente las diferentes posiciones que tomen en consideración también otros debates como, por ejemplo, los realizados en el Panel Intergubernamental sobre Cambios Climáticos, y aspiramos a que lo anterior se refleje en dicho documento tal como nos lo ha hecho saber la Secretaría de la FAO.

No por menos importante, deseo reiterar en este tema nuestro permanente apoyo al Protocolo de Kioto y a su adecuada ejecución.

En relación al tema de las montañas deseamos indicar que, en el marco de su compromiso con el Año Internacional de las Montañas que se llevará a cabo el próximo año, se realizó recientemente en la ciudad de Cuzco el Taller Internacional sobre Ecosistemas de Montañas, en el cual se aprobó la Declaración de Cuzco que ustedes podrán encontrar en la página Web del Año Internacional de las Montañas. Este documento constituye el resultado de un esfuerzo conjunto y multidisciplinario en el cual participaron más de 60 expertos y estudiosos de diversos países del mundo. En ese marco, con una demostración adicional de nuestro interés y de nuestro compromiso con el Año Internacional de las Montañas, el grupo de trabajo nacional viene organizando un Segundo Taller Internacional sobre Ecosistemas de Montañas, las Montañas Tropicales, Agua, Vida y Producción, que se realizará en la ciudad de Huaraz, Perú, del 5 al 7 de junio del año 2002.

Considerando la importancia que adquieren los ecosistemas de montaña a nivel mundial, mi delegación desea apoyar la iniciativa de la FAO de establecer un fondo fiduciario para promover mayores actividades en esta materia, para cuyo efecto hacemos un llamado a la comunidad donante internacional a fin de que participe en este esfuerzo conjunto.

Claude CHEREAU (France)

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir donner la parole à la délégation de la Suède pour une déclaration au nom de l'Union européenne.

Rolf ÅKESSON (Observer for Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Members States.

We would like to endorse the report of the Committee on Forestry which had its session in March of this year. We refrain from repeating our comments made at the Committee on Forestry, but they still remain valid. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee should be taken into due account when establishing the Programme of Work and Budget, which is why we would have appreciated considering this item before Agenda Item 12, where we made our detailed comments.

Victor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

La delegación de México respalda la aprobación del informe del 15º período de sesiones del Comité de Montes. En esta oportunidad, ante esta importante Asamblea, desea enfatizar algunos elementos que son de importancia fundamental para el desarrollo sustentable y para las labores de la Organización.

El estudio sobre la *Situación de los Bosques en el Mundo* señala de manera clara que anualmente se pierden más de 10 millones de hectáreas de bosques, la mayoría en los trópicos. La destrucción forestal mundial coincide lamentablemente con la geografía de la pobreza. Todos tenemos el deber ético y material de detener y revertir esta tendencia. Ello demostrará nuestro compromiso con el desarrollo sustentable.

En la Reunión Ministerial sobre actividades forestales auspiciada por la FAO, la delegación de México propuso tres estrategias que continúan siendo pertinentes para lograr la sustentabilidad: disminuir las tasas de deforestación, valorar los servicios ambientales que los ecosistemas forestales prevén y mejorar las prácticas productivas forestales de recursos maderables.

Durante los trabajos del Comité en marzo pasado, mi delegación agradeció a la FAO el impulso que ha brindado en México a la gestión de la información y los conocimientos forestales. Sin embargo, a pesar de las facilidades que las nuevas tecnologías proporcionan, el costo aún es muy alto, por lo que es necesario que la Organización continúe apoyando de manera decidida a todos los países que así lo requieran. Un tema relevante para mi país, por el impacto que de manera periódica tiene, es el de los incendios forestales. La cooperación internacional en esta materia y una participación más activa de la FAO son indispensables.

La delegación de México considera que la certificación es uno de los instrumentos voluntarios, basados en el mercado, que pueden dar un incentivo para una ordenación mejorada de los bosques; pero no es necesariamente una garantía de ordenación forestal sostenible. Los planes de certificación deben ser voluntarios, no discriminatorios y transparentes, pero sobre todo, no deben ser barreras al comercio internacional de productos forestales.

México le da toda la importancia y respaldo a la reunión que, sobre criterios e indicadores de la ordenación forestal sostenible y sus repercusiones para la certificación y el comercio, será organizada por la FAO en la primavera del 2002. En ese sentido quiero respaldar el llamado que acaba de realizar Egipto para que la FAO refuerce aún más su coordinación con el Foro de Naciones Unidas sobre Bosques.

México reafirma su compromiso con el Protocolo de Kioto, por la importancia que tendrá para mejorar las condiciones ambientales del planeta, y respalda el contenido del párrafo 66 del informe de la Secretaría.

Asimismo, esta delegación expresa su apoyo a la iniciativa de Naciones Unidas para celebrar en el 2002 el Año Internacional de las Montañas bajo la coordinación de la FAO e insta a que se incremente el apoyo extrapresupuestario para esta celebración en los términos del párrafo 77 del mismo informe.

Mi delegación respalda plenamente el contenido de la declaración del GRULAC, que fue expresada por la Delegación de Venezuela.

Jiri MUCHKA (Czech Republic)

Focused on FAO's Medium-Term Forestry Plan (2002-2007), the Czech Republic supports the following programme priorities, in the relevant order.

Firstly, information on forestry sources and their utilization; secondly, national forestry programmes; thirdly, procedures dealing with criteria and indicators of permanently sustainable forestry management, including capacity building and development of human resources - education, science and research; fourth, technological development allowing protection of resources parallel to friendly exploitation; fifth, promotion of equality of social and economic contributions of forests to human welfare; sixth, fulfilment of the IPF and IFF proposals; seventh, survey sector studies; and finally, eighth, cooperation with other sectors.

In the context of the last point, the Czech Republic intends to stress one of the conclusions of the Rome Declaration of the last meeting of ministers responsible for forests (Rome, COFO 1999); the fact that the responsibility for forests is an intersectorial, common matter which does not concern only the sector formally responsible for forests. That is why close cooperation is

necessary to implement interdepartmental strategies and activities supporting permanently sustainable forestry management, because many relevant problems or even sources lie out of the relevant sectors' responsibilities and possibilities to solve them.

The Czech Republic supports the recommendation that FAO should continue in revision and harmonization of forestry terms and definitions. FAO should also continue in development of partnerships with other organizations and international institutions so as to make collection, evaluation and distribution of true information easier. Knowledge and education should be improved at all levels.

Besides other things, in connection with the intended action - Global Forest Survey - the Czech Republic intends to participate in activities of the European Forestry Commission.

As far as the issue concerning forests and climatic changes is concerned, it is possible to state that climate affects the condition of forests and it is useful that FAO shall incorporate this topic into this working programme. We also appreciate the fact that the Interdepartmental Working Group on Climate, which might help eliminate duplication of activities, will be reinforced. However, here again, it is important to stress the necessity of clarification of definitions and terms, support of relevant institutions and their cooperation. Readiness for possible impacts arising from changes and setting the relevant strategies are suitable and desirable, even though so far many theories are mere speculation.

In connection with the recognition of the importance of mountain regions and observance of the International Year of Mountains, we would like to announce that the Czech Republic will organize an international study tour in the frame of Pan-European Process activities in 2002.

The Czech Republic supports recommendations arising from the sessions of the regional forestry commission, especially the following ones.

The role of regional forestry commissions should be further supported, both by FAO and at national level, and, in this context, the support should also apply to "institutional building" and "capacity strengthening"; and the recommendation for support of private sector and non-governmental organizations' incorporation into forestry procedures or activities of relevant commissions - these organizations are important for general and consensual development of forestry.

The Czech Republic is interested in the regional prospects of the United Nations Forestry Forum and supports the idea of establishing the UNFF Headquarters in Europe.

In conclusion, I would like to inform that Czech experts, working under the FAO umbrella, successfully finished a pilot project dealing with sustainable management of wildlife and nature in Morocco.

Simon HEARN (Australia)

Australia supports the report of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry, and we continue to support FAO's efforts in carrying out assessments that include various aspects of forest resources.

In particular, Australia supports the statement made in paragraph 79 of the COFO report, where it was agreed that the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions should be given a greater coordinating role in implementing the United Nations Forum on Forests' proposals for action in their respective regions. However, Australia would emphasize that the strengthening of the Regional Forestry Commissions' capacities and role in this regard will entail additional funding for the RFCs, and that priority needs to be accorded to ensuring that appropriate resourcing is available.

Australia would also like to re-emphasize the need for FAO to work closely with other CPF members of the UN Forum on Forests, and the UN Forum on Forests itself, and welcomes FAO's role especially, I should say, through the Regional Forestry Commissions, in assisting to implement the UNFF proposals for action on the ground.

Finally, Australia encourages FAO to actively support country efforts and international initiatives to improve access to forest information, taking into account the role that international cooperation can play in this regard. To this end, specific paragraphs in the COFO report - I should mention paragraph 10 - make reference to disseminating guidelines, handbooks and case studies. Similarly, in paragraph 22, reference is made to studies on environmentally sound harvesting in selected tropical countries.

Australia is concerned to avoid duplication in this work, and therefore notes a recent, June 2001, decision taken by the International Tropical Timber Council, at its Thirtieth Session held in Cameroon, concerning the development of "guidelines for management of secondary tropical forests, tropical forest restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forest lands" that were to be developed in close collaboration with FAO and the IUCN. It is therefore important that any FAO work in this area is done with recognition of this work and that duplication is avoided.

Shoji SATO (Japan)

Japan welcomes the report of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry. While endorsing it, I would like to make one comment on the issue of climate change.

As stated in paragraphs 66 and 67 of the report, we appreciate FAO's collaboration with other relevant institutions such as the UNFCCC, IPCC, CBD, CCD, CIFOR and ITTO in providing technical input.

Nevertheless, we should bear in mind that international discussions on climate change are still underway, including the resumed COP6 meeting to be held in Bonn within the month. Also importantly, among the collaborating institutions listed in this COFO Report, only the UNFCCC and IPCC have a direct mandate for climate change issues. Therefore, we would like to remind that on climate change issues, FAO should carefully take into account on-going international negotiations, and avoid unnecessary duplications and confusion when working collaboratively with other relevant institutions.

Ghebre-Medhin BELAY (Ethiopia)

The Ethiopian delegation highly appreciates your wise management in chairing our Council's meeting and, through you, all other Members of your Bureau.

The Ethiopian delegation also very much welcomes the comprehensive and concise document CL 120/8 of the Committee's Report on Forestry. To this effect, I would like to congratulate the Committee and its Chairperson.

Further, Ethiopia would like to emphasize that a few paragraphs of the document, such as paragraphs 38, 41, 44, 56, 57, 58 and 87, should be top priorities. These paragraphs deal much more with action on the ground. Many other paragraphs in the document, however, have given attention to information collection and dissemination of forest resources. Therefore, in terms of both resource allocation and priority, the Ethiopian delegation would like to submit for the Council's consideration the need for keeping a balance between information availability and actual forestry development implementation. We regret to indicate reference be made on document CL 120/3, the Summary of Programme and Budget 2002-2003, page 74; in particular, the table on that page.

There are countries in the globe which have experienced forest fire. Ethiopia's forest area is currently about 3 percent of the total area compared to about 30 to 40 percent of the land cover by forests about fifty years ago or so. At this very low level of forest area, my country had experienced forest fire in the recent period, the management of which was, of course, very difficult. We thank those donors who had granted us funds, materials and technical assistance for managing and controlling the fires in our forests. Thus donors will still play an important role in fire management in forests. In addition, however, the Ethiopian delegation would like to see FAO's capacity be built for us to get more support in forest fire management.

Moreover, to allocate an increased share of FAO's Regular Programme budget to forestry, in view of the forestry's critical contributions to sustainable food security and poverty eradication, as well as to a better environment, cannot be over-emphasized, I believe. Therefore, the Ethiopian delegation endorses the Committee's recommendations.

Let me take this opportunity to extend our appreciation of FAO's efforts in general in supporting Ethiopia through technical assistance, yearly crop and food supply assistance, emergency control operations, and projects through trust funds, Telefood and South-South Cooperation.

Further, regarding the South-South Cooperation, Ethiopia is grateful to the People's Republic of China for providing us with technical experts.

Flavio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)

I would like to express the total support of my delegation to the statement made by Venezuela on behalf of the GRULAC countries.

Brazil fully endorses the conclusions of the report of the last session of COFO. We have listened very carefully to the Japanese delegate and we agree entirely with his remarks. We do recognize that FAO can play and should play an important role in providing technical inputs to the discussions on climate change. However, as was recognized in paragraph 64 of the COFO Report, this work should take fully into account what was agreed in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as well in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Mehdi HAJIKAZEMI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate you and wish you full success to achieve the goals of this Council meeting.

Regarding document CL 120/8, Report of the Fifteenth Session of COFO, I am going to mention a few points as follows.

Firstly, in paragraph 39, we also request FAO to strengthen its role in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, UNFF, and we hope FAO will keep Member Nations informed about international processes in relation to forests in order to assist countries in the participation in the international policy dialogue.

Secondly, in paragraph 60, we support the idea of a Global Forestry Survey in general, and request FAO to assist Member Countries as requested for capacity building and enable them to implement this survey.

Thirdly, paragraph 71, my delegation is also in agreement with highlighting the importance of mountains through the International Year of Mountains, IYM, and has recommended that a day be nominated as International Mountain Day to raise greater awareness and action on mountain issues.

Finally, in paragraph 81, regarding the Low Forest Cover Countries, LFCC, we thank FAO and Member Countries for their support in the establishment of Tehran process. We request FAO and Member Countries to continue this support and active participation in one way or another.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

Our delegation welcomes the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Our delegation would like to underscore the relationship between sustainable forestry management and sustainable agricultural practices. The degradation that is attendant from forest exploitation, that is above the regeneration rate, is highly linked to the sustainability of the agricultural practices that are employed.

When communities are empowered through training programmes to derive benefits from agriculture and interlinkages between forestry resources, soil fertility and the maintenance of soil resources at productive levels, the support of the maintenance of forestry resources is then enhanced. We believe that the problems of deforestation, forest fires and the attendant difficulties

that are associated with these practices would be very much reduced. Poverty, food insecurity and deprivation are at the heart of the problem of degradation in many countries. People in the periphery of metropolitan centres are often reduced to cutting and selling of firewood to the cities to earn a living.

We welcome the statement made in paragraph 10, which calls for the support of country efforts and international initiatives to improve access to forest information. We further add that this would be complemented with the support of afforestation programmes through FAO.

I. Nyoman ARDHA (Observer for Indonesia)

The Indonesian delegation would like to add its voice of support for the Council to adopt the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry, including its recommendations.

We noted that COFO continues to play a significant role in determining major forestry policy processes and in providing guidelines to this Organization and its Member Nations for immediate follow-up actions addressing the strategic programmes in the sector in the near future.

Having said that, our delegation would also like to highlight some salient features of COFO Meeting, as follows.

First, in respect to Forest Information and Knowledge Management, we appreciate that the Committee recommended FAO to actively support improving access to forest information.

Our delegation also supports the opinion that FAO should assist its Member Nations with training and technology transfer to overcome constraints and difficulties in this subject. As a Member of ITTO, Indonesia also expects support to enhance the existing Forest Information Centre through collaboration between ITTO and CAB Forest Compendium.

With regard to Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, we welcome the recommendation that FAO should have pertinent collaboration with national, regional and international related institutions, as stated in Item 6, para 20, of this Report.

We are pleased to inform the Council that the Indonesian Ecolabelling Institute has closely cooperated with the Forest Stewardship Council in developing a forest certification system towards sustainable forest management in Indonesia. In this context, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of the United States of America for its facilitation role in this matter.

We will be very grateful to participate in the upcoming international Conference on Criteria and Indicators, as well as in any dialogue fora that are organized by FAO on this subject. We sincerely hope that FAO could address several issues and problems related with application of criteria and indicators, including certification compliance costs, premium price for certified forest products, and uncertainties surrounding the impacts of certification on market access of forest products.

As one of the signatories of the Rio Declaration, including the related document Agenda 21 and Forest Principles, Indonesia has always participated in implementing the IPF proposals for action and followed up by the development of national forest programme and formulation of forestry strategic plan, taking into account the decentralization process in the country.

We are now facing problems of illegal logging, the negative effects of forest fires and land tenure, and security on land forests in our areas. This is causing the Government to formalize a policy to ease the pressure from the national and international community, particularly in implementing the decentralization process. With this opportunity, we would like to inform you that a Ministerial Level preparatory meeting of the Rio + 10 Conference will be conducted in Indonesia in May 2002. We expect all delegations to come to Indonesia to participate in this meeting.

Furthermore, during the the official visit to Indonesia last month of Dr Diouf, the Director-General of FAO, the Indonesia Minister of Forestry has expressed his special request to FAO for the development of *Amarphophallus campanulatus* in the agroforestry area and in developing the urban forest. Regarding the Medium-Term Plan 2002 to 2007, we strongly urge that the

developed countries and potential donors increase their financial support to FAO to enable the implementation of the adopted plan accordingly.

Indonesia, as the party to the environment conventions, namely CBD, CCD, FCCC, would like to continue its efforts for the implementation of the conventions' activities in the country.

With regard to the Kyoto Protocol, Indonesia is consistently committed to implement the convention. As the party to the UNFCCC, Indonesia, under the principle of "common" but differentiated responsibilities, has committed to contribute the ultimate goals of the Convention. We are aware that climate change is an issue that must be addressed by the world community as it affects every corner of the world. However, we also realize that the developing country communities are the most vulnerable group to the negative climate change impact.

As a tropical forestry country, with a high biological depository on one side, and with the fourth highest population in the world and a high rate of dependency on the forestry sectors in the national economy, Indonesia has both potential for "sink" enhancement and threat of deforestation and biodiversity losses. Considering these conditions, Indonesia fully supports the inclusion of sink in CDM at the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol implementation.

To conclude, Indonesia also supports Negotiations for the Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in Harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. Indonesia expresses many thanks to FAO for its support in undertaking plant genetic resources management in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this context, Indonesia also applies the equity both gender and level of various stakeholders. This is important to harmonize and synergize the plant genetic resources management involving related parties and other parties interested in plant genetic resources. The improvement of local community is significant in order to support the management of plant genetic resources.

Salem AL-LOZI (Arab Organization for Agricultural Development) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to greet you at the start of my statement. It is an honour to be with you today in Rome, the Headquarters of the UN Organization for Food and Agriculture and participate in the work of the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the Council of this Organization.

I was extremely happy to be given this opportunity to address you on behalf of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. I am the General Director of this Organization but I have only been a Director for seven weeks.

The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, ever since it was established over thirty years ago, has endeavoured to increase and improve agricultural production and fill the production gap in Arab countries. With God's assistance, we have been able to attend most of our objectives but there are many challenges which still remain ahead of us. We cooperate with FAO and we work jointly in many different areas. We work in the same geographical area which is, are interdependent. This also requires cooperation and coordination with FAO, so that our efforts are complimentary in all our areas of activity in agriculture. In particular, to take account of all the changes that have occurred internationally, such as: globalization; development of information technology; communication technology in trade negotiations; the liberalization of international trade; changes in the area of genetic resources; the appearance of new diseases of plants and animals; the encroachment of desertification in many Arab countries or the drought cycles which have occurred in succession; the weak and limited extent of pasture areas; the scarcity of water in our countries. These are all changes that have occurred very rapidly and requires of us a strengthening of cooperation and coordination with regional and international bodies, so as to meet these challenges. Within the framework of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development we have adopted a new strategy, which will start being implemented at the start of 2002, to deal with all these difference changes and introduce new practices which take account of all these changes on the basis of cooperation and coordination with other organizations working in Arab countries. FAO is certainly at the top of this list of organizations that we cooperate with.

Despite the cooperation relations tying our organizations for decades, these relations are well below our expectations.

As Director of the international Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, with hope to improve further our relations with FAO to avoid overlapping activities and make the best use possible of the financial resources at our disposal and at the service of agriculture in Arab States. We hope that the cooperation between our Organization and FAO will become a model that could be followed by other organizations.

I also wish to inform you, I met the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, and I found him ready to expand this cooperation in all the areas I mentioned. Therefore, we wish to extend our thanks to Mr Diouf for his understanding of the importance of the two Organizations cooperating. May the peace of God be with you.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

La Delegación de Guatemala desea manifestar su felicitación por el excelente informe del 15º período de sesiones del COFO y respalda la declaración del GRULAC expresada por la presidencia de Venezuela. Deseo también manifestar nuestro agradecimiento por el Proyecto "Bosques y Cambio Climático en Centroamérica", el cual iniciará este mes gracias al apoyo de la FAO y del Gobierno de Holanda. Este proyecto representa un importante aporte para el desarrollo forestal de los países centroamericanos tomando en consideración la protección del medio ambiente. Deseo además reiterar la importancia de que se establezcan estrategias nacionales y regionales respaldadas por la comunidad internacional para evitar la fuerte degradación del ambiente producida por los incendios forestales.

M. Hosny EL-LAKANY (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department) (Original language Arabic)

I think most of the comments were related to our role in information, our role in terminology and support for some international processes, plus sustainable forest management and the related issues.

I will attempt very briefly, to answer some of the questions and queries from the distinguished delegates.

I think the first enquiry was about our role in terminology. This is well recognized and I think we are putting some considerable resources in developing the harmonization of terminology. I will come back to this when we talk about specific issues.

Let me now turn to the issue related to our work in the Near East Region and especially with the low-forest covered countries. If you will allow I will speak in Arabic.

All the information that we have received and that has been developed by the Forestry Committee are being translated into the official languages of the Organization, including Arabic, to keep countries informed on statistics. This is the first year in which statistics will be provided in Arabic to the Member States of the Organization.

We would also like to say that we support the countries of the Near East Region, and especially the North African countries, for the Convention to Combat Desertification and also for everything that has to do with the adoption of a national action plan in Africa and the Near East.

(continued in English)

We also support the low-forest covered countries and we had a statement about this yesterday. The Secretariat of the low-forest covered countries in Iran is receiving support to which are the countries involved.

Some of the questions were raised by GRULAC, related to forestry and food security. This subject is receiving considerable attention from the Department now. We are talking about forestry and food security but on a larger scale, related to poverty alleviation and livelihood system. We are having an Expert Consultation in September supported by DFID of the UK.

Then there was the issue of support to the national forest programmes. I am pleased to inform the Council that we have established a facility in FAO to support the national forest programmes. The initiation was by the Netherlands and we expect support from the European Union, Finland and DFID of the UK, and some other countries. This facility was developed with full involvement of developing countries as well.

Now for the climate change and Kyoto Protocol. Allow me to reiterate the role of the Forestry Department and FAO. Our role is not to be part of the negotiations but to provide information for the countries, work with the conventions and other partners - stakeholders, NGOs and others - on terminology. As you can appreciate there is a lot of problems with terminology in this field. As a result, we are having a Conference pretty soon, with the involvement of the Secretariat of the Conventions, to look at the terminology, so that any information we produce in FAO, or other organizations, could be used by the Conventions without too much difference. This is our role.

The US asked about our work on the monitoring, which is also very important. We are already supporting this work. We are developing our forestry resource assessment. We are trying to make it an interactive process such as providing the data on Internet or in a printed form, with the option that the countries themselves can interact and supply new data. Therefore, it is not going to be a one shot proposition. It is going to be an interactive process available and will be updated almost on a monthly basis.

We are also addressing the cross-sectorial issues and if you look at our PWB will find some of the PAIAs where Forestry is taking the lead at least in four of them.

We thank the delegation of Peru for mentioning their contribution to the International Year of the Mountain. We contributed to the Conference in Kyoto on this. They also have a leading role in supporting the International Year of the Mountain regionally.

The European Union raised the issue of the recommendation of COFO related to the incorporation of the recommendations into our PWB. The detailed version will soon be available. We are presently working on it.

The role of the Regional Forestry Commissions was raised several times. We inform the Regional Forestry Commissions on the development of the international forestry debate periodically. The countries are informed through the Commissions. We intend to give a stronger role for the Regional Forestry Commissions in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and contribution to the United Nations forum on forestry.

Our role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests mentioned by Australia. It is now meeting in New York - it has been meeting for the past two weeks - and FAO chairs the CPF, or the Partnership. I am glad to inform that we started with eight members, based on the Interagency Taskforce on Forests and now three more members joined: the Convention on Desertification, the Global Environmental Facility; and the Convention on Climate Change is in the process. We are negotiating with a major Intergovernmental, Non-governmental Organization related to environment to join us. I can also report that in the last two meetings, held last week in New York, there was a very good spirit of cooperation among the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Our support also of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is going to be materialized once the Secretariat is formally established; we will second the staff.

Our cooperation also with ITTO and other organizations is well recognized, especially in issues related to certifications and criteria indicators.

The issue raised by Ethiopia on forest fire is very well taken. We had an Expert Consultation and now we are working on a regional programme to address the Management of Forest Fires. In this regard, I would mention the recently implemented TCP of approximately US\$300 000 for Forest Fire Management in Ethiopia.

I believe these are most of the salient issues of the discussion but I will be happy to answer other questions.

CHAIRMAN

If there are no further comments on this Item, we can conclude this Agenda Item and move to the next one.

5. REPORT OF THE 63RD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (ROME, MARCH 2001) (CL 120/6)

5. RAPPORT DE LA SOIXANTE-TROISIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DES PRODUITS (ROME, MARS 2001)

(CL 120/6)

5. INFORME DEL 63° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE PROBLEMAS DE PRODUCTOS BÁSICOS (ROMA, MARZO DE 2001)

(CL 120/6)

CHAIRMAN

Distinguished delegates, we now turn our attention to Item 5, Report of the Sixty-Third Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems which was held in Rome in March 2001.

The Council has before it the relevant document CL 120/6. The Report highlights the need to continue monitoring protectionism in agriculture, agricultural trade among developing countries, and agricultural and international commodity agreements, as well as decisions taken by the Committee, regarding intergovernmental groups and the impact of the Uruguay Round on agricultural markets.

I should like to invite the Chairman of the Committee on Commodity Problems, Mr Kostov, to introduce this Item.

K. KOSTOV (Chairman of the Committee on Commodity Problems)

It is a great pleasure to be here with you in this refreshing atmosphere on the first day of the Roman summer. I hope that we are all going to enjoy a good summer, judging from the first day of it.

The report of the Sixty-Third Session of the CCP is circulated as document CL 120/6. The CCP met from 6 to 9 March 2001 and was attended by 78 of the Member Countries of the Committee. The first Vice-Chairperson was Mr B. J. Allawi of Iraq and the second Vice-Chairperson was Mr Moussa Bocar Ly of Senegal.

The Committee was assisted by a Drafting Group composed of Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Chile, Ecuador, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand and the United States. The Drafting Group was chaired by Ambassador Gangotena of Ecuador and we all received invaluable support from the Secretary of our Committee, Ms Paola Fortucci.

The Committee had an agenda which was in line with its role of serving the world commodity situation, reviewing international commodity problems and providing a report to the Council on appropriate policy recommendations. The Session took place at a time when international prices of many commodities were relatively low. Following a detailed discussion of the situation, the Committee outlined the programme of work which would contribute to timely monitoring of the market situation.

In reviewing reporting activities on Conference Resolution 2/79, on Commodity Trade, Protectionism and Agriculture Adjustment, the Committee identified the elements of the Resolution which continued to be of relevance and for which continued monitoring was required. These areas are: protectionism in agriculture; agricultural trade among developing countries; and agricultural international commodity agreements. In its future reporting to the Committee, the Secretariat was requested to pay particular attention to these matters.

With regard to trade policy issues, a central part of the Session's agenda, the Committee again reviewed experience with implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture. This review complemented that which had been undertaken at the previous Sixty-second Session of the Committee. It is a matter of significance for future work in this area that the Committee requested that the implementation experiences of developing countries continue to be assessed, including with respect to food security, agricultural productivity, competitiveness and farm employment. This subject is closely related to FAO's trade related technical assistance activities, which were also reviewed by the Committee.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the technical assistance related to the Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Agriculture being provided by FAO. In fact, the Committee indicated that there is a need to strengthen these activities and speed up the delivery.

I should draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the Committee suggested that additional resources, either from Regular Programme or from extra-budgetary funds, would be necessary for FAO to provide the required assistance in this important phase of negotiations.

Also in the trade policy area, the Committee considered possible options for further expanding trade as well as new and emerging issues affecting agricultural commodity markets. In both of these areas, the Committee provided guidance for future programme activities.

Lastly, another major block of work of the Committee related to the review of the work of its subsidiary inter-governmental groups and the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal. In reviewing the role and functioning of the groups, the CCP expressed general satisfaction with the reforms which had been implemented and made some further recommendations aimed at further rationalising and strengthening the groups, as well as bringing their programmes into line with the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

The Committee recommended that the mandates of certain groups, for example meat and grains, should be extended to cover other significant related commodity groups – dairy, pulses and roots, and tubers. Furthermore, the innovations made in the operating procedures of the groups should be pursued, for example the holding of joint meeting and other multidisciplinary activities.

Finally, the Committee endorsed the programme of work on important commodities not covered by governmental groups, to be undertaken in cooperation with other competent organizations, thereby building on synergies to achieve comprehensive results for Member Countries.

This is, in a nutshell, the report on the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Solamente para pedirle tenga usted a bien ceder el uso de la palabra a la Delegación de Venezuela, quien pronunciará una alocución en nombre del GRULAC.

Carlos POZZO BRACHO (Observador de Venezuela)

El Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe agradece al Comité de Agricultura el informe adoptado en su 63º período de sesiones y a su Presidente por la presentación que acaba de hacer para que el Consejo lo examine y lo apruebe. Nuestro grupo regional está de acuerdo con la aprobación de este informe y tan solo desea reiterar algunas consideraciones que formuló durante las deliberaciones que sobre los aspectos más importantes se suscitaron en esa oportunidad.

Como bien destaca el informe, durante el examen de la situación mundial y las perspectivas mundiales de los productos básicos, un importante número de países, entre los que se cuenta nuestro grupo regional, señaló claramente que el impacto de las altas tasas de interés sobre los costos de producción y, por ende, sobre los precios internacionales de los productos básicos, es sumamente perjudicial para la competitividad de dichos productos en el mercado internacional. Sostuvimos en esa oportunidad y lo reiteramos, que el criterio expuesto por la Secretaría de que el precio internacional del petróleo es un factor determinante del precio internacional de los productos básicos no es correcto, ya que es el valor agregado a los derivados del petróleo por vía

de los impuestos, refinación y mercadeo, entre otros, el que incide sobre la estructura de precios de nuestros productos básicos, en particular, y sobre la economía mundial, en general.

Ese criterio de la Secretaría sirve igualmente para encubrir la dura realidad del comercio global: el deterioro de los términos de intercambio traducido en el constante incremento de los precios de los productos manufacturados, de un lado, y la reducción continua de los precios de los productos básicos, por el otro.

Ante el Comité reafirmamos la permanente preocupación de nuestros países por el considerable incremento, en los últimos años y por parte de los países desarrollados, de los subsidios y de la protección totales a sus agriculturas, lo cual introduce una grave distorsión al comercio y, por supuesto, a los precios de los productos básicos a nivel internacional. Esto, sin duda alguna, afecta principalmente a los países en desarrollo.

Con respecto a las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales relacionadas con la agricultura, los países del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe han encomiado la asistencia técnica que ha otorgado la Organización a sus Estados Miembros, en particular a los países en desarrollo, mediante diversas actividades regionales y reuniones informales de carácter intergubernamental, relacionadas con estas negociaciones y tienen como objetivo la necesidad de fortalecer nuestras capacidades nacionales, de manera que participe en esas negociaciones en pie de igualdad con los países desarrollados.

Como es conocido, las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales sobre agricultura y servicios continuarán en el marco de la Organización Mundial de Comercio, con base en un cronograma de trabajo cuya segunda fase, a iniciarse en el transcurso del presente año, estará determinada por las negociaciones propiamente dichas. En virtud de ello, los países del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, respaldan la iniciativa de la FAO encaminada a intensificar su Programa de Asistencia Técnica, de forma que coadyuve a los países en desarrollo a fortalecer sus propias capacidades institucionales, mediante la compilación y suministro de información y estadísticas, su análisis permanente y adecuado, y, sobre todo, mediante el apoyo a la capacitación de recursos humanos que nos permita concurrir a una negociación en mejores condiciones.

Estimamos importante, por consiguiente, que la FAO realice una evaluación permanente del Programa de Asistencia Técnica, de manera que los Estados Miembros podamos determinar su situación y proponer las medidas correctivas que se juzguen necesarias para fortalecerlo.

Hemos insistido en que la gestión de la información es de particular relevancia en los asuntos relacionados no solo con los productos básicos, sino también en todas las materias que examinamos en la Organización. Estamos al tanto que la Secretaría de la FAO ha venido haciendo grandes esfuerzos para sistematizar la información que se encuentra disponible en tantos departamentos como áreas de competencia tiene la Organización, para ponerla a disposición de los Estados Miembros y otros usuarios de la forma más eficiente posible. El fortalecimiento del Centro de Información Agrícola Mundial (WAICENT) es, en este contexto, una medida correcta, orientada a satisfacer las necesidades de información que tenemos, no solo en los países de la región sino en todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización.

Para concluir, permítame referirme a los órganos auxiliares del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, es decir a sus seis grupos intergubernamentales. Respaldamos la decisión del Comité de alentar a la Secretaría para que realice esfuerzos que estimulen una mayor participación de todos los sectores interesados en los asuntos que son de competencia de esos importantes órganos auxiliares. Así mismo, nos parece conveniente que la Secretaría continúe su labor con respecto a los productos básicos no abarcados por dichos Grupos Regionales, concretamente, los relacionados con el algodón, el azúcar, el café, el cacao y la yuca (o mandioca).

Dato' ABI MUSA ASA'ARI MOHAMED (Malaysia)

Malaysia supports the proposal that the Secretariat needs to balance their approach to analysing trade in agriculture commodities of developing countries by estimating their foreign exchange

earnings from the export of agriculture commodities, in addition to estimating their food import bills and to explore the effects of government support to agriculture in high income countries on food securities in developing countries.

Malaysia would also like to add that the effects on the agriculture export trade of developing countries should also be studied. We also support the development of a price index for a basket of major food commodities to be used in evaluating food security developments.

We agree that the existence of non-tariff barriers as another impediment to their access to commodity markets. Therefore, we support the call for the Secretariat to continue monitoring development related to those aspects of protectionism. Malaysia would also like to urge the Secretariat to develop programmes that assist the developing countries to overcome these aspects of protectionism.

We support the observation of delegations that the high levels of domestic support in some countries and their concern that this undermined potential gains from the reform process for others that do not subsidise their agriculture. The Secretariat, in their study on the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, should monitor and highlight the high levels of domestic support provided by countries and its impact on the potential gain to countries, especially developing countries, that do not support their agriculture.

Malaysia also congratulates FAO for the trade-related technical assistance programme it had delivered in a very short time and with limited resources.

Malaysia fully supports the observation that while the regional training workshops were useful, they were not sufficient to achieve the necessary level of in-depth technical capacity at the country level. Malaysia feels that in-depth technical capacity building should be achieved for a larger number of officials, if FAO can provide resource persons and training materials to support workshops organized at a national level by a country. Therefore, Malaysia would like FAO to consider a programme for supporting national workshops aimed at technical capacity building in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTNs).

Malaysia agrees that there is a growing need for technical assistance in trade-related issues regarding biotechnology, plant variety protection and the development of national technical standards. Malaysia also agrees that there is a need for technical capacity building to enable countries to assess the competitiveness of their agriculture sectors and the potential impacts of further liberalisation.

Again, while Malaysia acknowledges that regional workshops can play a useful role in providing technical assistance and capacity building in these areas, national level workshops organized by a country and supported by FAO in terms of resource persons and training materials are more effective in giving in-depth training to a larger group of officials from the country.

Malaysia also congratulates the Secretariat for identifying organic agriculture as one of the areas that has growing potential for commodity trade. Malaysia recognises organic agriculture as a potential enterprise for the small farmers and has drawn up programmes to encourage small farmers to participate in the cultivation of organic food crops, mainly vegetables and fruits. The endorsement by the FAO/CODEX Alimentarius Commission of Guidelines for Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Food is a welcomed development. Malaysia shall follow the guidelines for the development of organic farming.

Malaysia also supports the observation that technical assistance is of utmost importance to allow developing countries to engage actively in export markets, especially as organic agricultural products are subjected to the same sanitary and phytosanitary requirement as applied to conventional products. Here again, Malaysia would like to propose that FAO provide assistance in terms of resource persons, training materials and sponsoring of foreign participants to countries such as Malaysia that would like to organize national workshops for technical capacity in organic farming.

Malaysia concurs with the Committee on the need to monitor development in the field of biotechnology and agriculture and to strengthen countries' capabilities to conduct risk assessment on GMO products. Here again, developing countries like Malaysia need technical assistance from FAO to strengthen their capacity to conduct risk assessment on GMO products, to conduct study on the need to set up molecular laboratories and to conduct case studies on GMO planting materials.

Malaysia also agrees that FAO should concentrate on activities which more readily assist developing countries to meet their obligations and pursue their right under SPS and TBT agreements, and that FAO should provide technical assistance to developing countries in these areas in close collaboration with WTO. In this respect, FAO should also assist developing countries to conduct workshops for enhancing capacity building in these areas, by sponsoring resource persons and training materials.

Segfredo SERRANO (Philippines)

The Philippines compliments and commends the Committee and the Secretariat for their efforts in reviewing and analysing the World Commodity Situation and Outlook. And also expresses its thanks in evaluating the attendant Trade Policy issues, which we feel, are most important at this particular time. We thank the Committee and endorse its Report and recommendations.

The Republic of the Philippines, however, would like to stress and emphasize an important point, which we feel that on the run up to the negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture, will be very important in relation to the mandate of the FAO and the targets that we have set for the World Food Summit.

The Philippines notes, that while the Uruguay Round's most significant achievement is to put agriculture and, significantly, most developing and least developed countries under the unified disciplines of the multilateral trading system, much further reform in view of the valuable lessons from the Uruguay Round implementation experience, need to be achieved. Such reform, which the Philippines advocates and exhorts all Members to support, and for the Committee to examine, necessarily calls for the turn of the developed countries at agricultural trade policy reforms, specifically: trade distorting domestic support at recent historical levels and export subsidies, for as we emphasize, the tariffs are just the tip of the protection iceberg; and the giving of deeper and fuller meaning to the special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries in the agreements of the WTO, beyond tariff and market access issues. Such further reform is necessary to the mutual beneficial participation of developing countries in the multilateral trading system.

More importantly, such reform will define the sustainability of the world agricultural trading system and its crucial role in the eradication of poverty and hunger as per the levels we have targeted in this Organization in the developing world.

All our efforts at increasing productivity and thus eradicating poverty and hunger need to be complemented and accompanied by a system of true fairness in trade, otherwise such excellent efforts and hard-earned achievements are laid to waste.

We therefore encourage the Organization to further strengthen technical assistance for developing countries, on the multilateral trade negotiation efforts and prepare studies on protection for agricultural commodities.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

Mi delegación fue enfática durante los trabajos del Comité, en que no era conveniente dar en el análisis de la situación mundial de los productos básicos, un peso enorme al efecto que podría tener el precio elevado del petróleo y desestimar otras variables y condiciones estructurales que afectan aún más la pérdida de valor comercial de dichos productos. México no puede aceptar que, al lamentable bajo precio de los productos básicos, deba también sumarse un bajo precio para el petróleo; por ello, esta delegación apoya firmemente el contenido de la declaración que, a nombre de todos los países de América Latina y el Caribe, ha pronunciado el distinguido Representante de Venezuela.

México reitera su preocupación de que varios países hayan incrementado la ayuda y la protección agrícola de tal magnitud que han introducido factores distorsionantes en el comercio, ya que generan una situación de mayor competitividad por medios artificiales; por ello, es conveniente que la FAO mantenga y fortalezca su análisis sobre la amplitud del proteccionismo agrícola y le dé la mayor difusión posible.

Mi delegación apoya la aprobación del informe que la Secretaría nos presenta sobre el 63° período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos. Desea resaltar el contenido del párrafo 46, en el sentido de una mayor asistencia técnica en cuestiones relacionadas con el comercio con respecto a la biotecnología y a la protección de las variedades fitogenéticas.

La FAO debe seguir de cerca las novedades y evolución en materia de biotecnología en la agricultura, también debe participar en el incremento de la capacidad de los países para realizar evaluaciones de riesgo en relación con los productos obtenidos a partir de organismos modificados. Es fundamental que la FAO ponga especial cuidado en el estudio de los efectos de la biotecnología en la salud humana, el medio ambiente y el comercio, como lo indica de manera clara y enfática el propio informe.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

En primer lugar nos sumamos y apoyamos la declaración de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe presentada por Venezuela como Presidente de nuestro grupo regional.

Permítame agradecer a la Secretaría por el documento preparado para las deliberaciones en este punto; con relación a su contenido, la Delegación Cubana desea trasladar al Plenario de este 120° período de sesiones del Consejo las siguientes consideraciones.

En el párrafo 38, que se refiere a la Decisión de Marrakech para paliar los posibles efectos negativos del proceso de liberalización comercial en los países en desarrollo importadores netos de alimentos y los Países Menos Adelantados (PMA), es nuestro propósito subrayar que, en el análisis de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, no solo se debe prestar atención a su aplicación, sino intentar frenar la tendencia negativa de la ayuda alimentaria a través de medidas concretas al respecto.

En el párrafo 41, merece llamar la atención sobre el hecho de que las crestas arancelarias y la progresividad arancelaria son dos importantes factores que ponen obstáculos al acceso a los mercados de los productos provenientes de países desarrollados, así como dificultan la diversificación de la producción hacia productos de mayor valor agregado. En este sentido, también es notable el papel que juegan actualmente las barreras no arancelarias como la aplicación de medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias, etiquetado de alimentos, etc., en la disminución de oportunidades de acceso de los productos de esos países a los mercados de los países desarrollados.

En el párrafo 42 del documento, sería útil señalar que el análisis de la incidencia arancelaria debe propiciarse por grupo de países, asimismo, en correspondencia con lo expresado en el párrafo 43, resulta importante en el contexto de este Consejo, señalar la intención del grupo de países que le ha brindado acceso libre a los productos de los Países Menos Adelantados; resultaría de mucha utilidad contar en fechas futuras con un mecanismo que pueda garantizar la presencia de esa voluntad.

En correspondencia con lo señalado en el párrafo 44 sobre el apoyo de la FAO a las actividades relacionadas con el comercio a través del amplio programa de asistencia técnica, como complemento de la Ronda Uruguay, Cuba desea felicitar el trabajo realizado por la Organización, y al mismo tiempo, promover la continuación del auspicio de la FAO para la celebración de seminarios subregionales de este tipo que resultan tan provechosos para nuestros países. En este sentido, Cuba señala su disposición a celebrar un evento similar para la subregión geográfica con los auspicios de la Organización. Solicitamos se tome, por parte de la Secretaría, debida nota de esta disposición.

También quisiéramos hacer referencia a la asistencia técnica en sentido general, relacionada con las organizaciones agrícolas multilaterales. Es nuestra consideración que este esfuerzo se debería potenciar a través de su combinación con otras acciones de organismos internacionales como UNCTAD, OMC y otros.

Finalmente, Cuba aprueba este informe.

J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)

The Indian delegation commends the Committee's initiatives to organize the deliberations on WTP Agreement on Agriculture and undertaking various studies to assess its impact, particularly on developing countries. The food security, which is one of the focal subjects of FAO, is increasingly becoming more vulnerable to the dynamics of trade. The experiences of the implementation period of WTO Agreement of Agriculture has underlined the vulnerability of food security and equally important linked issue of livelihood security in a trade regime which could not effectively control the prevailing distortions within it. In the wake of liberalization of trade, countries have witnessed a surge in import of several commodities. The resultant glut has eroded the farm income of domestic producers. There have been situations when farmers suffered on account of production as well as prices.

The disciplining effect of WTO-Agreement on Agriculture on the trade of agricultural commodities has not been as expected in the implementation phase. The domestic support and export subsidies continue to remain at a very high level in the developed countries. Instead of decline in subsidies, there has been a trend of increase in subsidies, thus leaving little scope for reduction in trade distortions. The several subsidies under the "green box" are not really non-trade distorting and hence also have to be brought under reduction commitments.

We, therefore, agree with the recommendation that Secretariat should continue to monitor the implementation of WTO-Agreement on Agriculture with a special emphasis on consequences for food security. We would like to add that this monitoring may also cover the issue of livelihood security, since it is directly impacted by the vulnerability of farm incomes of resource poor farmers who occupy a major space in the agrarian socio-economic landscape. India has already highlighted the issue of food and livelihood security in its proposal for mandated negotiations under WTO-Agreement on Agriculture. India has sought the creation of "Food Security Box" seeking more flexibility in domestic policies and special safeguards for the developing countries to protect the food and livelihood security of their people.

The market access opportunities have not opened enough for developing countries, particularly in gaining market access in developed countries. The Indian proposal has flagged the issue of tariff quota (TRQ) administration by stating that tariff trade quotas should be abolished or should be expanded to make them ineffective. The issue of tariff also needs to be flagged with reference to support policies of dominant commodity exporting countries. The tariff studies should also take into account these aspects.

We agree that the least developed countries (LDCs) do indeed need a favourable safeguard mechanism in the trade. However, it may have to be borne in mind that there is not much difference in the agrarian social and economic structure of developing and least-developed countries.

The application of biotechnology in agriculture, particularly the issue of GM Crops and products, is a matter of widespread debate in many countries of the world. The impact of such crops on health and environment, food security, biosafety and agricultural sustainability are matters of widespread public concern. Hence, the need to monitor developments in the field of biotechnology and to strengthen countries' capabilities to conduct risk assessment on GM products, as well as projects to assess environment biosafety of GMOs in Asia should be supported, and efforts in this direction should be strengthened.

The proposal that the Secretariat should continue analysing the economics of organic production and trade and continue monitoring biotechnology development in developing countries is

welcomed. With regard to the SPS and TBT Agreement, this is an area where developing countries need to strengthen their capacities. Technical assistance to developing countries in these areas may further be enhanced.

We continue to support the initiatives taken by FAO to consolidate and disseminate the information for wider utility of Member Nations. The scope and coverage of these informations can be extended to cover certain key agri-business statistics, so that the countries can frame their policies in the context of emerging market environment.

We have sent a proposal in the past, that the studies on comparative cost of cultivation of important commodities may be conducted so that the countries can evaluate their comparative advantage of growing specific crops. The utility of these studies will help in setting in the priorities of research and development.

Andrew BYRNE (European Community)

I welcome this opportunity to speak on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. We will refrain from repeating our comments made at the Committee on Commodity Problems, but which still remain valid.

We would like to endorse the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems, which had its session in March of this year. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee should be taken into account when establishing the Programme of Work and Budget, which is why we would have appreciated considering this item before Agenda Item 12, when we made our detailed comments.

Chul-goo KANG (Korea, Republic of)

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Secretariat for providing this excellent report of the Sixty-Third Session of CCP.

Before endorsing this report, let me raise a couple of points in this item. Regarding the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, I would like to emphasize that the Republic of Korea has been fully implementing the tariff reduction according to the scheme set up by the Agreement.

In addition, I would like to urge FAO to put much efforts for food security and various roles of agriculture to be reflected in the next WTO negotiation. From FAO's point of view, the next WTO negotiation for agriculture should be proceeded toward improving the world food security and promoting the various roles of agriculture by analysing the past experience on implementing Uruguay Round Agreement.

In conclusion, this report accurately reflects the results of the meeting, and contains useful and constructive agreements. I would like to suggest that the report be endorsed by the Council.

Efraín PALTI SOLANO (Perú)

Mi delegación aprueba plenamente lo expresado por Venezuela en nombre del GRULAC. Asimismo, indicamos que los trabajos del Comité de Productos Básicos Agrícolas nos parecen de mayor relevancia dada la importancia que estos productos tienen para la economía y la seguridad alimentaria de esos países en desarrollo. En este sentido, en cuanto al examen de la situación y perspectivas mundiales de los productos básicos, coincidimos en que los factores que determinan los precios internacionales de dichos productos son múltiples y no se pueden reducir exclusivamente a los precios del petróleo; se deben considerar otros factores como los subsidios que otorgan los países desarrollados a sus agricultores, los que ocasionan serias distorsiones en los precios del mercado internacional, así como las tasas de cambio, los niveles arancelarios y hasta los aspectos climáticos que definitivamente tienen incidencia en los niveles de producción y en los precios de los citados productos.

Sobre este particular hacemos un llamado para que se dé mayor acceso al mercado a los productos en los países en desarrollo considerando su importancia en la economía, al ser fuente de divisas y de trabajo, así como por su peso específico en lo que a la seguridad alimentaria se refiere.

Destacamos la labor de los distintos grupos intergubernamentales sobre productos básicos, foros donde se analizan las tendencias en el comercio, así como la labor de la Secretaría al prestar atención a otros productos básicos no considerados en los grupos intergubernamentales pero de igual importancia para la economía y el comercio.

Por otro lado, deseamos referirnos a la cooperación técnica que la FAO está brindando en el tema de las negociaciones multilaterales relacionadas con la agricultura y la Ronda Uruguay como preparación para la nueva ronda de negociaciones multilaterales sobre el tema.

Perú y otros diez países latinoamericanos hemos sido beneficiados de la valiosa cooperación de la FAO en este campo a través de un proyecto que tuvo como actividad central la realización de un taller en el cual se analizaron los aspectos más importantes de las citadas negociaciones comerciales. Las orientaciones recibidas nos permitirán tener una mejor comprensión de los compromisos asumidos, así como aprovechar las oportunidades comerciales que se derivan de dichos acuerdos y, por lo tanto, contar con una mejor capacidad negociadora para colocar nuestros productos agrícolas en diversos mercados.

Simon HEARN (Australia)

Australia welcomes the Committee on Commodity Problem's report to the Council. Australia considers that the future work programme of the CCP is generally a sensible one that appropriately reflects a range of international commodity issues of concern to its Members.

Australia commends the discussion in the Committee on the monitoring of alternative measures of support and protection to agriculture. Australia particularly supports the Committee's continued focus on support indicators such as the Producer Subsidy Equivalent (PSE) and the Aggregate Measurements of Support (AMS) measures that can be used usefully to analyse agricultural support and protection. Monitoring such trends in protection should remain an important area of activity for FAO. Indeed, the size of the PSE in many OECD countries shows how far we still have to go in achieving less distorted international agricultural markets.

Australia strongly believes that further trade liberalization in agriculture will considerably benefit FAO Members and, particularly, that the WTO agriculture negotiations provide an important opportunity which should not be missed to enhance the food security of developing Member Nations. As my colleague from Argentina pointed out during the debate on an earlier item at the Council, there will be two major events occurring in November this year that will affect the international agricultural community, namely the World Food Summit: *five years later* and the WTO Ministerial conference in Qatar. It will be important that the WTO Ministerial conference reflect concrete outcomes on agricultural trade. It will also be important that the World Food Summit: *five years later* include a focus on evaluation of commitments for the World food Summit Plan of Action on Trade – and that it should also focus on progress within the WTO negotiations.

Consistent with the importance Australia attaches to this, we are also strongly supportive of further development of FAO's trade-related technical assistance activities, particularly technical assistance for developing countries focused on multilateral trade negotiations and their implementation. In this regard, Australia commends the CCP's proposal to channel additional resources into these programmes.

Australia also welcomes the CCP's continued analytical work on a range of market access issues. In particular, Australia welcomes the CCP's contribution to the discussion on issues such as the high incidence of tariff peaks and escalation and the difficulties they pose to many developing countries in their attempts to develop their domestic agricultural sectors.

This is an important area for further analysis by FAO. Indeed, there is a shortage of analysis on these issues in other fora and such analysis is particularly relevant to debates and future

discussion on the nature of reductions in support and improved market access arrangements in the WTO Agriculture negotiations. It does not duplicate work being done elsewhere.

Australia also welcomed the recent CCP discussions on reform of the Intergovernmental Groups and Australia believes that the expanded coverage of the groups to include semi-processed and processed products is a positive and realistic step. We would also wish to see continue efforts to engage commercial industry interests directly in the IGG deliberations. Such initiatives can only improve the relevance of the IGGs to respective Member Governments.

Finally, Australia wishes to explain why we continue to have some practical reservations that the CCP agreed to pursue the proposed studies on the impact of the SPS and the TBT agreements on the foreign earnings of developing countries. While we understand the reasoning behind the call for such studies, we remain concerned in a practical sense that trying to classify the impact of different types of SPS and TBT measures, that countries use according to commodity, will be a large, resource-intensive and ultimately fruitless task; because each measure, in effect, reflect a commodity and country-specific approach to a particular issue that varies between countries based on their respective appropriate levels of protection and pest and disease status; drawing meaningful results from such an approach would be highly problematic given the lack of a basis for comparison and assessment of such measures; Australia therefore believes that in the SPS and TBT areas, FAO would be better off concentrating on capacity-building programmes that assist developing countries in meeting their obligations and indeed pursuing their rights under the SPS and TBT Agreements.

We hope the Secretariat will take note of this view in carrying out the studies proposed.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Bien évidemment, nous nous félicitons de ce rapport du Comité des produits qui est très bien fait. Le Comité a appelé l'attention du Conseil sur un certain nombre de questions. C'est ce qui nous vaut cette déclaration de ma délégation.

Le Comité des produits a, à notre avis, fournit une évaluation de la situation et des perspectives mondiales concernant les produits. A cet égard, nous souhaiterions revenir sur le fait que l'augmentation du coût des importations dans les pays en développement, comme il a été souligné au cours de ce Comité, a été plus rapide que l'accroissement des recettes d'exploitations agricoles, surtout pour les pays les moins avancés et notamment les pays importateurs nets qui ont été les plus touchés.

Au paragraphe 8, nous nous félicitons de ce que le Comité ait donné suite à une requête de l'Afrique, à savoir qu'il a été demandé au Secrétariat de tenir compte, dans l'avenir, d'autres facteurs macro-économiques, comme la dette extérieure des pays en développement.

Nous soulignons les conséquences négatives des mesures de protection de l'agriculture de certains pays de l'OCDE sur les recettes d'exploitation et la sécurité alimentaire des pays en développement, tout en soulignant le fait que ces derniers ont signalé, lors de ce Comité, les difficultés qu'ils ont à affronter la libéralisation de l'agriculture. A cet égard, nous notons avec satisfaction que certains pays, comme l'Union européenne, et d'autres pays de l'OCDE ont pu faire un effort en direction des exploitations des pays en développement et nous encourageons ces pays et d'autres à se joindre à cet effort.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 15, nous nous permettons de revenir sur une question également africaine. Le Comité s'est, en effet, félicité de l'effet positif des accords commerciaux régionaux et il a été demandé au Secrétariat qu'à l'avenir, les futurs rapports fournissent plus d'informations sur les flux commerciaux des groupes commerciaux régionaux ainsi qu'entre ces différents groupes. De même, nous constatons avec plaisir le bilan de l'application de l'accord de l'Uruguay sur l'agriculture, paragraphes 36 à 39, dans la mesure où les pays en développement ont signalé au cours de ce Comité, tout comme d'ailleurs dans l'étude faite par le Secrétariat sur le cas de 14 pays, les problèmes de compréhension, d'application et donc d'adaptation de cet accord. C'est

pourquoi, il est bon que le Secrétariat puisse poursuivre ce bilan et puisse continuer à assister les pays en développement dans ce domaine.

Nous nous arrêtons sur l'importance de l'assistance technique aux pays en développement, notamment dans le cadre des négociations commerciales multilatérales sur l'agriculture qui vont s'ouvrir prochainement au Qatar, et nous adressant au Secrétariat, nous souhaiterions relever l'urgence qui s'attache à cette activité d'assistance technique dans le cadre des négociations commerciales multilatérales. Nous espérons ainsi qu'au titre du prochain PTB, on pourra tenir compte de cette demande du Comité des produits, de même que de l'assistance dans le domaine des biotechnologies abordé au paragraphe 46.

Sous le bénéfice de ces différentes observations, notre délégation est prête à appuyer l'adoption du rapport du Comité des produits qui nous est soumis.

Jiri MUCHKA (Czech Republic)

Allow me to present some short remarks on selected issues concerning conclusions of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP).

Cooperation with Intergovernmental Groups (IGGs) as well as non-Intergovernmental Groups, when examining the world market, especially less important commodities may certainly bring about substantial saving of costs. However, the studies have certain commercial objectives, which may be different from FAO's objectives. That is why it is necessary to assess the submitted materials from FAO's objectives and interests point of view, and possibly complement them.

Concerning future prospects of organic agriculture development. Developing countries conceive organic agriculture as one of the possibilities on how to make a break into the world market. Developed countries consider organic agriculture products super-standard goods and their requirements for goods exported from developing countries declared as organic agriculture products will correspond to that fact.

As far as the issue of biotechnology is concerned, we consider it very sensitive. On one hand, there is a real threat to human health and natural environment; on the other hand, enlargement of plant breeding possibilities may mean a great contribution.

FAO's principal task is to try to provide food for all people in the world. It was stated that the number of undernourished people in the world is dropping more slowly than is FAO's set objective. At the same time the earth is obviously able to produce a sufficient amount of food for all.

The problem of the undernourished obviously goes beyond the possibilities of FAO itself and it requires participation and cooperation of other United Nations institutions. We feel that as far as this issue is concerned, FAO should reinforce mutual cooperation with relevant United Nations institutions.

The Czech Republic, as one of the donor countries to the FAO technical assistance activities related to the multilateral trade negotiations on agriculture, supports the strengthening of these programmes.

Both subregional workshops, which took place in our capital, Prague, showed the necessity of technical capacity-building within a number of countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Building upon the already-delivered training activities will contribute considerably to achieve the necessary level of indepth technical capacity at the country level.

M.S. WICKEMARACHCHI (Sri Lanka)

The Sri Lankan delegation endorses the recommendations made in the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems. While endorsing the recommendations, we would like to make some observations which we feel are pertinent to the subject, especially, with regard to the action taken by FAO for Intergovernmental Commodity Groups. We appreciate that this will make provisions for countries like Sri Lanka to participate and benefit from the discussions. We especially thank

Member Countries Malaysia and India for the action they have taken in organizing the Intergovernmental Commodity Groups, one on Tropical Fruits and the other one on Tea.

Coming on to page 6, Possibilities for Further Trade Expansion, I think this is area where developing countries will be interested, especially in the case of Sri Lanka we feel that we should be able to get into this area if the support of FAO is received.

Then the most important section in this paper as far as Sri Lanka is concerned is on page 7, Technical Assistance for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, especially with WTO. With the opening up of the economies of our countries, we have faced some problems which are having negative effects on the food security situation.

We believe that an institution like FAO will have to help us in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations so we can work on these difficulties. We are not net exporting countries but, when we produce certain products, we run into problems in certain years when the weather permits good production, etc.

Another area is biotechnological development and production of new products. I think we have to be assisted by an institution like FAO, especially in developing the capacity for maintaining standards, the current time regulations and phytosanitary conditions. These are new areas where we have to have more investment and develop our capacities so that we can compete with other countries on the international market.

Suthiporn CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

The delegation of Thailand wishes to endorse the Report of the Sixty-third Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

I also wish to raise a few observations. From the Report, much of the issues discussed at the meeting of the CCP were centred around the question of trade. For example, they involved international commodity agreements, the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, market access and trade barriers. There is every reason to believe that these matters would be better dealt with in other international and regional fora which are more focused on these trade issues.

Thailand fully supports, among other things, the FAO commitment to providing technical assistance to developing countries in multilateral trade negotiations, but such a programme could be implemented within the mandate of, say, COAG. I would like, in particular, to draw your attention to the last paragraph, para 57, of the Report, in which the delegates requested FAO to shorten the length of the session in future CCP meetings. The Sixty-Third Session took four days, and most of the participants were based in Rome. If there had been a single commodity with problems of a truly international nature, the time needed would have been longer and the composition of the participants would have been more diverse.

It should also be pointed out that even in the Intergovernmental Groups, or IGG, on crops such as bananas, tropical fruits, grains, rice, etc., the attendance at some meetings was disappointing. This is noted in para 17 of the Report. What is more, most of the International Commodity Agreements that had been set up in the 1970s had either been dissolved or had lost their original commodity market management functions, as can be seen in para 16 of the Report.

Because the role of this CCP is 1) to review commodity problems of an international nature; 2) to prepare a survey of the world commodity situation; and 3) to develop appropriate policy recommendations for the Council, I would like to propose to the Council to review the structure of, and the mandate given to, the CCP in the light of present, ever-changing conditions of food and agriculture within the framework of the FAO.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

Our delegation welcomes the Report of the Sixty-third Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. It is a comprehensive coverage of the subject and presents an excellent basis for examining the way forward.

As has been echoed by many delegations on many occasions during this meeting, the sustainability of agricultural programmes is deeply rooted in the availability and exploitation of markets by countries. Our delegation expresses concern at the continuing practice of protectionism by some countries, as expressed in paragraph 13. Our countries have opened markets but this is not being sufficiently reciprocated by trading partners on the world markets.

We note also, with concern, the difficulties faced by the Committee in reporting on the levels of support in developing countries due to insufficient data. We call support of FAO in improving the collection and reporting of data to enable a complete analysis of the trading pattern for developing countries.

We also endorse the use of foreign exchange earnings from export and the disaggregation of commodities in the reporting process in future. We further note, in paragraph 14, that non-tariff barriers continue to be used against developing countries. We deplore the fact that all that was said was that the Committee, and I quote "...urged the Secretariat to continue monitoring developments relating to those aspects of protectionism". If this is all we can do, then we shall be meeting again next year only to make the same observation and continue to express our concern about the low agricultural output and food insecurity and hunger. We will remain further and further away from the target that was set by the WFS five years ago.

Our delegation welcomes support by FAO to developing countries for WTO negotiation processes as stated in paragraph 44. We look forward to participation in these programmes, which would empower our market specialists to negotiate useful agreements to enhance marketing and enabling our countries to realize increased foreign exchange earnings through the increased volumes of international trade.

I would like to conclude by stating that my delegation endorses this report.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

La Delegación de Guatemala respalda la declaración del GRULAC en la presidencia de Venezuela y felicita a la Secretaría por el informe presentado por el Comité de Productos Básicos.

Deseo encomiar a la FAO por la asistencia técnica que brinda para las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales relacionadas con la agricultura y felicitarla por los seminarios que se han llevado a cabo en la región y sub-región Centroamericana y el Caribe, con los cuales debe reanudarse tomando en consideración los aportes de los países en la preparación de las agendas temáticas para garantizar el éxito de los objetivos que busca esta asistencia técnica, gracias al apoyo de los donantes en colaboración con otras organizaciones internacionales y regionales.

Deseo, también, compartir con ustedes nuestra complacencia por la celebración en Costa Rica de la reunión del Grupo Intergubernamental del Banano y Frutas Tropicales en el mes de diciembre de este año, que sin duda será provechoso para todos los países tanto productores como importadores. Así mismo, me complace alentar a la FAO en la realización del Proyecto Regional sobre Cítricos para los países de la Región Centroamericana, República Dominicana y Cuba.

Deseo, también, reiterar lo manifestado por el GRULAC sobre el fortalecimiento del Centro de Información Agrícola Mundial WAICENT como medida acertada a satisfacer las necesidades de información que tenemos, no solo en la Región, sino en todos los Países Miembros de la Organización, reforzando el uso de los idiomas oficiales de la FAO de manera igualitaria.

Para finalizar, me permito manifestar en nombre de la Delegación de Guatemala, su agradecimiento a la Secretaría por el trabajo que está conduciendo de manera interdepartamental en el estudio de la Lista Vida y sus criterios de clasificación.

Masato ITO (Japan)

I will be very brief. While joining others speakers in endorsing the report of CCP, my delegation hopes that FAO will continue to analyse the world commodity situation in a wide, comprehensive and balanced manner.

My delegation would like to fully support the intervention of the delegate from the Republic of Korea.

My Government supports FAO's work in the areas of trade negotiation related technical assistance to developing countries and we will continue its support.

Ms Jocelyn BROWN (United States of America)

The United States supports the adoption of this Committee's Report. We strongly believe in a broad range of programmes need for developing countries and a new Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and Agriculture.

We would like to remind Members that the United States Government adheres to the principles of FAO's Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal and the Food Aid Convention, and believes that these principles provide sufficient transparency and oversight on food assistance.

The United States Government takes steps to ensure our food assistance does not undercut local producers in recipient countries, as required by US food aid law.

We endorse the sentiments expressed by many of our colleagues that the Secretariat strengthen technical assistance efforts in multilateral trade negotiations and biotechnology.

K. KOSTOV (Chairman, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I would only comment on one part of the comments of our colleague from Thailand, who made a very interesting suggestion. In fact, I have a correction to make, the Committee worked for three days only. In the view of this Chairman, it was mainly thanks to the fact that the Secretariat had prepared excellent documents that were highly appreciated by other Members of the Committee, but the people who sat and participated in the work of the Committee were extremely knowledgeable, organized and disciplined. It happened that we had the most beautiful day during the time of the work of our Committee. However, the proposal made by Thailand is worthwhile, at least in my personal view, I will try to discuss it with the Secretariat of FAO and there might be a possibility to include a similar item on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Committee.

With your permission, I would like, now to ask Dr de Haen to make some comments from the point of view of the Secretariat.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

I would like to add my thanks on behalf of the Secretariat for the many very constructive and interesting remarks. There were very few questions but maybe a few issues were raised which I should comment upon.

First of all, I should like to confirm the Secretariat's willingness and readiness and engagement in the continuation to monitor and analyse the impact of trade liberalization and generally the development of markets in a wide, comprehensive and balanced manner, as was just stated by the distinguished delegate of Japan. This is, in fact, the way we tried to proceed and if that was successful, as obviously several of you found in your complimentary remarks, then we are obviously helpful and that is our main intention, of course. I will not emphasize the very specific aspects that were mentioned and that are in the report, but the general direction is clear, I think, of our monitoring and analysis.

Many of the speakers have mentioned the Umbrella Training Programme on Trade Related Technical Assistance that we have conducted, and that was held through 14 workshops in subregions and you have called for a continuation. I should like to confirm that we are working on a next phase of this Programme because the WTO negotiations are continuing and there is a demand for a next phase of this Umbrella Programme. Of course, this will again depend on extra-budgetary resources and we are grateful for those donors who are supporting us now, have supported us and we look forward to possibilities to continue. I confirm again, we are ready to continue with this kind of training.

There was a specific recommendation by the distinguished delegate of Malaysia to supplement this programme of subregional workshops by a programme of national workshops. I can note this but I cannot confirm yet what we can do with this recommendation because it is, of course, much more ambitious, it would be more costly and even if we had the extra-budgetary resources, it would also be a burden on our regular staff. Although we are already involved selectively in national workshops, to do it on a systematic basis will require further study on our part.

Several of you spoke about specific priority areas for future work in the commodity and trade domain, in particular organic agriculture was mentioned, GMOs and biotechnology in general. In all these fields, the Organization is active and this is so beyond the mandate area of the CCP. Codex Alimentarius as you know is active in the field of standard setting and guidelines for organic agriculture. On GMOs, I only refer you to the work of the Intergovernmental *Ad Hoc* Task Force on foods derived from biotechnology. An interim report of this work which is aiming at an internationally harmonized set of guidelines and standards of risk assessment will be presented to the forthcoming session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the first week of July in Geneva.

I would like to use this occasion to announce here that FAO has offered to establish a food safety standard facility to begin with LDCs but also beyond, in order to help developing countries to take a more active part in standard setting in the field of food safety. I am also improving the capacity to implement standards. This will require technical assistance to countries. We have invited interested parties to discuss this with us and we will do this with sister agencies in the next month, so that countries can participate more actively, especially where market access is granted but they now see difficulties in adhering to the standards that are to be adhered to if they want to enter those markets.

We have had a number of symposia and workshops not only in subregions and here in FAO, but in particular in Geneva, so that the delegations and negotiators representing your countries in the negotiations in Geneva are better prepared and have a forum for discussion of agricultural specific issues. This has also included a debate of the Marakeesh decision on measures concerning the possibility of negative effects of the reform programme on net food importing developing countries and least developed countries. I take this example, but I could take others, to say we see a reflection of some of these workshops and symposia in various proposals on the table in Geneva, so I do think that these efforts have borne some fruit in that countries have used this in their own negotiations in Geneva. I think that was one of the purposes of it. As I said, we will continue to do this in collaboration with agencies. Several of you emphasized the need that FAO does not work alone in this field, and certainly agencies such as the WTO itself, the World Bank, WHO, UNCTAD, OCD and others have participated in the training workshops as well as in symposia or in expert consultations in this field.

I want to conclude this part by thanking again donors and host countries, including countries like Cuba who have offered to host future training workshops again if the opportunity arises.

I think I would conclude with this without going into details. The Chairman of the Committee has already referred to the distinguished delegate of Thailand. Of course, to review the overall mandate of Committee on Commodity Problems is a major effort and would certainly give the Committee itself opportunity to discuss in which direction it wants to go in future. If this is the wish of the Council, we are certainly prepared to arrange for this, if that is wanted for the next session of CCP.

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours

La séance est levée à 12h50

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA
21 June 2001

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONTINUATION)
III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)
III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)

7. REPORT OF THE 16TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(ROME, MARCH 2001)

(CL 120/9)

7. RAPPORT DE LA SEIZIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DE L'AGRICULTURE
(ROME, MARS 2001) (CL 120/9)

7. INFORME DEL 16° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE
AGRICULTURA (ROMA, MARZO DE 2001) (CL 120/9)

Paul ROSS (Chairman, Committee on Agriculture)

I am very pleased to be able to present to the Council the Report of the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture. It was a personal honour for me to have the opportunity to chair this Session.

The Committee met from 26 to 30 March 2001. In addition, a Multistakeholder Dialogue on SARD was held on 29 March in conjunction with the COAG Session, as a preparation for the Rio plus 10 event next year.

At this recent Session of COAG we had a full and very interesting Agenda and our discussions covered some very important issues, as you have already mentioned. I will not attempt to highlight everything that is in the COAG Report before you. The main matters for attention by the Council are summarized in pages iii to v of the document.

I would just like to mention a few aspects of the meeting that stood out for me.

Firstly, I draw your attention to a consistent theme that ran through a number of the items we covered and that is the large strides that FAO is making in adopting a multidisciplinary approach to the issues of agriculture. In our discussion on the Programme Implementation Report, the Committee welcomed the increasing interdisciplinary approach to programme implementation both within and between Departments of FAO.

In our discussion on the Medium-Term Plan we learnt how the Agriculture Department has a leadership role in the majority of the PAIAs - the Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action - that have been established in FAO and that the Department is organizing its structure as necessary, to best respond to each of these PAIAs.

Under the item on Climate Change, the Committee supported the proposal of the Secretariat to develop an integrated Climate Change Programme and it supported the view that the *ad hoc* Interdepartmental Working Group on Climate Change should be formalized, so as to strengthen the cross-sectoral coordination and implementation of the FAO Climate Change Programme.

The Committee also expressed full support to the PAIA on disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness and the Committee acknowledge the scope for in-house coordination through the PAIA on biosecurity.

I just wanted to give those examples to emphasize the efforts being taken in FAO to improve their cooperation across Departments and to implement an interdisciplinary approach to issues as appropriate. I would also note that the item on Climate Change was the first such item that had been on the Agendas of both the Forest and Agriculture Committees, again showing the close interrelationship on such issues affecting agriculture.

I also want to mention some key outcomes for the Council to note. On Climate Change, the Committee stressed the need for FAO to continue to be a neutral forum on this issue and to

provide technical inputs focussing on such issues as data, definitions and methodologies related to agriculture and climate change.

On the issue of reducing agricultural vulnerability to storm-related disasters, the Committee endorsed measures for countries, FAO and the international community to undertake to reduce the vulnerability of agriculture to storm-related disasters.

The Committee agreed that each vulnerable country or region needed a strategy which effectively incorporated long-term measures for reducing vulnerability as part of its overall development programme.

On biosecurity, the Committee emphasized that full use should be made of existing relevant organizations and agreements rather than establishing a new overarching international framework on biosecurity. The Committee strongly supported coordination among those organizations having mandates in biosecurity.

The Committee also stressed that the ability to implement agreed international standards was of great importance to all members to be able to participate in international trade and to protect human health and animal and plant resources. The Committee emphasized the importance of capacity building in developing countries in this regard. There was also a call for adequate resources for two international standard setting bodies in which FAO has the leadership role, namely CODEX and the IPPC.

I would also like to highlight the constructive involvement of NGOs and civil society organizations in the Item On the Way Forward on SARD. The Committee agreed to allow these representatives to speak along with Members on this Item - with creating a precedent. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the valuable contribution made by these representatives.

The Committee agreed that SARD should be placed on the Agenda of COAG each four years and there was strong general support for the key role FAO is playing as Task Manager for Chapters 10 and 14 of Agenda 21.

As I mentioned earlier, a Multistakeholder Dialogue on SARD was held on 29 March. NGO and civil society groups, along with government representatives, participated in this forum and the Committee received a report from the chairs in the forum on the discussions that took place.

Finally, I would just like to mention that use was made during COAG of the FAO Atrium to be present a display on FAO's work and issues related to the matters under discussion at our meeting. I believe this was a very good innovation and I congratulate the Secretariat for making good use of this very effective exhibition space. This space was also used for similar displays during the other Technical Committee Meetings this year.

I look forward to the debate and commend the Report of the Sixteenth Session of COAG to the Council and hope it can be endorsed in full.

Mohammed A. KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for this excellent Document. I would like to thank Mr Ross for his presentation.

Having read the Report of the COAG, we have to focus on a number of points, that should be given the highest priority, in addition to the points raised in the Report.

Human resources development and institution building, the conservation of land and water and national resources in general, research, extension and training. In this respect, many research worker does not include the extension service and the application of the results of those researches and the training of those who benefit from these results. Without an extension service system and better training for those involved, the research will not lead to achieving the objectives. I think this is very important and we should focus on it, from now on, in all FAO programmes and especially those in the agriculture sector.

As the integrated agricultural management and sustainable agriculture providing adequate technology and information; the post-harvest programme in strengthening the capacities of the developing countries so that they may participate, in a better way and on an equal footing, in the Multilateral Trade Negotiation on agriculture; implementing programmes on human health, which has an agricultural dimension; strengthening the biosecurity and gender equality; combatting animal and agricultural diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, which threatens the animal resources; and the negative impacts of HIV/AIDS virus and its impact on food security.

As for a climate change; we should provide the definitions regarding agriculture and climate change. This should be given priority in order to avert the catastrophes and disasters.

Investments in agriculture should be included because this is an obstacle in the face of achieving SARD. Cooperation between all the UN Agencies, relevant to agriculture, so that their activities will be coordinated.

We think that optimization of these priorities will benefit agriculture and will achieve the objectives of the Organization of providing food for the poor and hungry.

I would like to refer to an important element in this respect, a Field Follow-up in order to implement those objectives: to solve the problems faced while implementation is going on; and to have a progress report on the problems faced in order to deal with them as they appear. This report should be put to COAG in its regular meetings and it should also be put to the Council for discussion.

These are the most important matters I wanted to refer to so that agriculture will play its role.

J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)

I would like to compliment the Secretariat, the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and the Members of the Committee for a very competently prepared Report on agriculture.

We welcome the Report of the Committee on Agriculture which contains decisions on some very important issues discussed during the meeting of COAG. While endorsing the Report, we would like to highlight the following.

We reiterate the need for continued emphasis on productivity improvement programmes, especially in marginal and rainfed areas. Mobilizing investment for value addition and establishment of linkages between farm and agri-business are also important priority areas.

We would like to support the work of FAO in the area relating to biotechnology and its applications and in the field of transfer of technology in this area. FAO's role in the development of techniques and protocols for crops having high nutritive value, but hitherto neglected is also important.

With regard to climate change, we see a role for FAO in sensitizing the industrialized countries, which are responsible for more than 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, of the immense harm that will be caused to poor nations by global warming. Climate change can reduce crop yields and has very serious implications for the food and livelihood security for tropical and sub-tropical areas.

We endorse the intensification of efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of plant and animal pests and diseases. Capacity building and infrastructure development in developing countries for plant and animal quarantine need to be given the highest priority. We would strongly urge support from regular budgets for these activities instead of total dependence on extra-budgetary resources.

In the field of capacity building in sanitary and phytosanitary measures, a time-bound intensified effort on a regional basis should be undertaken by FAO. This could be done in two stages: need-assessment in the first instance and mobilizing resources and expertise for filling knowledge and infrastructural gaps.

India had suggested during CODEX Committee meeting in Paris that FAO should undertake studies on the possible adverse affects of exports to developing countries of certain commodities following the setting up of CODEX Standards and Guidelines. We would urge FAO to undertake such studies and share the results with Member Countries.

We have also consistently argued for CODEX Standards to be more representative in the sense that the Standards very often do not reflect the conditions prevailing in developing countries. There is a problem in data collection in developing countries and some assistance from FAO/WHO in the generation and compilation of data for identified commodities and standards can be taken up. We would like to know whether FAO has considered this aspect of capacity building and taken any measures.

Richard J. HUGHES (United States of America)

We would like to recognize the hard work of the COAG Chairman, Mr Paul Ross, during the Technical Committee Meeting. We congratulate the Secretariat in doing an excellent job on bringing those issues of most importance to the attention of this Council. Before I begin our intervention it is important that COAG continues to have a major role in giving FAO its direction for food and agricultural programmes. We have the responsibility to make sure that COAG plays a role as an important Technical Committee of FAO to foster the Strategic Framework of the Organization and the Programme of Work and Budget within a Zero Nominal Growth budget. We must continue cost-saving measures and prioritize and eliminate programmes, a difficult task at times, which do not help achieve the goals of the World Food Summit to half hunger by 2015.

With regard to the COAG, we have the following remarks. We have intervened many times on the Programme Implementation Report and agree that greater attention must be given to targeting field-testing and evaluation of the large number of methodologies and guidance produced by FAO. We would be remiss if we did not point to the need for an adjusted resource allocation between the programmes of agriculture, fishery and forestry to achieve food security.

With regard to the Medium-Term Plan, we need better linkages between past performance and future outputs. We strongly endorse the priority areas for interdisciplinary action, the PAIAs, and agree that they address emerging issues such as irradiation of food insecurity, world poverty, sustainable agriculture and the modern use of biotechnology. We encourage continued cooperation between FAO and the civil society organizations. In fact the Multistake Dialogue form on SARD was most informative. We believe that these types of dialogues should continue to be part of COAG and other FAO committees.

In relation to the Agriculture Department, we would like to highlight the priority we give to the development of phytosanitary standards to the IPPC and the technical assistance needed for their implementation.

In relation to the Economic and Social Department, we recognise the need for FAO to strengthen capacity building aimed at enabling developing countries to participate as well informed and equal partners in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Agriculture. We must also intensify efforts to promote food safety, particularly through CODEX, and give priority to the new uses of modern biotechnology.

In relation to the Sustainable Development Department, we agree on the importance of sustainable rural development, with a particular focus on small-scale farmers and the very serious negative impact of HIV/AIDS on food security. We also look forward to working with the Sustainable Development Department in their new role as Task Manager of Chapter 14 of Agenda 21, SARD, and we will follow with interest the preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, not just in this Department but throughout FAO, as part of the *World Food Summit: five years later*.

On the subject of climate variability and change, which is clearly an interdisciplinary issue, we believe that FAO should continue to foster partnerships in order to build upon the synergies of other UN agencies, IFIs, regional organizations, Member Nations and the private sector in dealing

with climate variability and climate change activities undertaken by the Organization. FAO should serve as a neutral forum for these issues and support FAO's role in capacity building, as a conveyer of and sponsor of meetings, discussions and disseminator of information on agriculture related climate change issues. We again caution FAO about going beyond its role of providing technical expertise in the international dialogue regarding climate change, particularly when dealing with the issue of carbon sinks.

Reducing agriculture vulnerability to storm related disasters, we endorse paragraphs 51 through 59 of the Secretariat paper, relating to how the parties can reduce the vulnerability of agriculture to storm related disasters, which have a devastating impact on rural societies.

The Council should also take into account COAG's view that the *Ad Hoc* Inter-Departmental Working Group on Climate Change Variability in Relation to Food Security should be formalised to strengthen cross-sectorial coordination and implementation of the FAO Climate Change Programme, and urges closer collaboration between the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Sustainable Development.

An important yet confusing item discussed at COAG was the topic of biosecurity in food and agriculture. We believe that it needs to be better defined if we are to ensure that agriculture concerns have sufficient political stature in on-going discussions on environmental issues. We believe that the term is still unclear and recommend that FAO activities should not be aimed at creating new international regulatory frameworks, because setting environmental standards is outside the mandate of FAO. Again, we would like to take the opportunity to note the leadership role of FAO in the international standards setting mechanisms such as CODEX and IPPC.

On the subject of the consultation of biosecurity, we request additional information on the proposed consultation.

On the subject of the place of agriculture in sustainable development, we support FAO's work and sustainable agriculture and rural development in its role as Task Manager for Chapters 10, 11, 13 and 14 and major contributors to Chapters 12, 15, 17, 18 and 19 of Agenda 21. This work is especially important in preparation for CSD 10 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and ensuring that the role of SARD, in food security, is on the world agenda summit.

With a shift in FAO Task Manager responsibilities, as noted earlier, special care will be needed to ensure that SARD continues to be integrated into FAO's work on agriculture, such as the work currently being developed on good farming practices.

Finally, with regard to the revised International Undertaking on Plant Genetics for Food and Agriculture, we recommend that the Director-General place the IU on the Conference agenda for decision only if the Extraordinary Session of the Commission, which takes place next week, produces an agreed text.

We look forward to participating with FAO as a Member Nation committed to helping countries move from the stage of food insecurity to food security and then as a member of a global trading community.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

Quiero solicitar que gentilmente le conceda la palabra a la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Presidente del GRULAC.

Carlos POZZO BRACHO (Observador de Venezuela)

El grupo de países de América Latina y el Caribe desea expresar su reconocimiento al Comité de Agricultura por el informe que adoptó como resultado de su 16º período de sesiones, llevado a cabo recientemente, y por ello da su consentimiento para que el Consejo lo apruebe en toda su extensión. Quisiera también agradecer la gestión que realizó el Sr. Ross al frente de la Mesa.

Nuestro grupo regional mantuvo una participación activa en los asuntos examinados en esa oportunidad y que hoy se traen a la atención del Consejo. Es por eso que nos permitimos reiterar algunos de esos asuntos y sobre todo los elementos que dieron contenido a nuestra posición con respecto a cada uno de ellos. En primer lugar, debemos reafirmar nuestro apoyo al desarrollo sostenible, en general, y en este caso, al desarrollo sostenible en el ámbito rural como medio para aliviar la pobreza y, por tanto, erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición. En esa oportunidad insistimos en la importancia que el Comité de Agricultura percibiera con claridad ese respaldo político, que hemos reafirmado una y otra vez en todos los organismos de las Naciones Unidas donde se debaten asuntos relacionados con el desarrollo sostenible.

Fue también, y sigue siendo, interés del grupo de países de América Latina y el Caribe dejar claramente establecido su rechazo a la intención de fijar lineamientos y de dar orientación a los estados sobre cómo formular, aplicar y desarrollar sus políticas agrícolas nacionales con base en criterios no agrícolas. A esta intención se le ha querido dar empuje exaltando las supuestas bondades de las "diversas funciones" que puede cumplir la agricultura. Hoy reafirmamos nuestro desacuerdo de que este asunto se examine en los órganos políticos y técnicos de nuestra Organización, bajo cualquier denominación que persiga este objetivo, pues no compartimos el criterio de que existe una comprobación creciente en cuanto a que las políticas y programas nacionales deberían abarcar una gama de cuestiones económicas, ambientales y socioculturales más amplia que la limitada a las esferas tradicionales de la productividad y producción agrícolas y la seguridad alimentaria.

El Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe se asocia a la opinión del Director General de la FAO quien ha señalado reiteradamente, y con toda razón, que aunque a nivel mundial se están produciendo más alimentos que nunca, 800 millones de personas siguen padeciendo malnutrición crónica. El respaldo a esta afirmación resulta de nuestro convencimiento de que el problema del hambre y la malnutrición no solo se contrae a las deficiencias de la producción en la agricultura sino también en el acceso y en la distribución de los alimentos.

Con relación a los otros aspectos incluidos en el informe, permítame referirme brevemente a los puntos siguientes: en cuanto al Plan a Plazo Medio 2002-2007, acertadamente el Comité reafirmó que en la planificación debía tenerse en cuenta, entre otros aspectos, la importancia de la conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos y zoogenéticos, y por tanto, a la pronta conclusión de la revisión del Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos antes del 31º período de sesiones de la Conferencia; a mejorar la calidad y la cobertura de la información y estadísticas mediante el perfeccionamiento del Centro de Información Agrícola Mundial (WAICENT), y tanto el Programa Especial de la Seguridad Alimentaria como el Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO.

En cuanto a las cuestiones climáticas y otras relacionadas con catástrofes naturales, respaldamos la labor que ha venido realizando la Organización para que los países en desarrollo fortalezcamos nuestras capacidades nacionales, sobre todo en la prevención, así como en la recuperación y rehabilitación de los sectores agrícolas afectados por las catástrofes.

Sobre los asuntos del informe, debemos destacar el planteamiento de nuestro grupo regional relacionado con el Foro Consultivo sobre Semillas para América Latina y el Caribe. Como se recordará, la FAO efectuó una reunión técnica en la Ciudad de Mérida, México, en marzo del año 2000, sobre el mejoramiento de los sistemas de producción, multiplicación y abastecimiento de semillas de buena calidad y de variedades adaptadas a las condiciones agroecológicas encontradas en la región.

Allí se convino establecer un Foro Consultivo sobre Semillas para América Latina y el Caribe, de carácter intergubernamental y bajo la égida de la FAO, con la función de apoyar la producción sostenible de semillas y materiales para la siembra en la región. En virtud de ello, el GRULAC propuso al Comité de Agricultura, y ahora lo reitera al Consejo, que dicho Foro Consultivo sea reconocido como un cuerpo específico dentro de los estatutos de la FAO.

Para concluir quisiera manifestar que, con respecto a la clasificación de la FAO de los Países de Bajos Ingresos con Déficit de Alimentos (PBIDA), el grupo regional ha manifestado que la clasificación actual no considera las desigualdades internas del país ni la profundidad o extensión de la desnutrición que puede existir en algunas zonas de un país determinado, así como tampoco logra medir, en toda su intensidad, los riesgos para el abastecimiento de alimentos. En ese contexto, la lista PBIDA vigente puede conducir a la formulación de juicios equivocados y distorsionar la situación real de los países al presentar una visión poco profunda y parcial de sus realidades.

Por esto hemos propuesto a la FAO que adelante una revisión de los criterios de la clasificación PBIDA a través de un proceso de consulta transparente que incluya la participación efectiva de los países, tomando en consideración, tanto el mandato que ha dado origen a la Organización, como lo acordado en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996.

Mame Balla SY (Sénegal)

J'avais pris la décision de ne pas vous soumettre à la corvée de m'entendre à nouveau, mais c'est mon devoir, pour deux raisons, de prendre la parole pour examiner cette question.

La première, je l'indiquerai tout de suite en examinant le document CL 120/9. La seconde je vous la livrerai plus tard en conclusion.

Puisque c'est ma première intervention, notre délégation tient à vous redire le plaisir constant que nous avons à travailler sous votre conduite très éclairée et votre sagesse. L'examen du rapport d'un organe subsidiaire par un organe supérieur est toujours une formalité parce que nous sommes les mêmes Etats qui ont élaboré ce rapport et nous l'avons fait sous la conduite du Président d'un Comité très compétent qui nous a permis la rédaction d'un excellent rapport.

Essayer d'imaginer qu'on puisse faire autrement que d'approuver ce rapport est un jeu intellectuel auquel ma délégation ne souhaiterait même pas se livrer. Je tiens tout de même, à l'instar des autres délégations qui ont approuvé ce rapport, souligner quelques points très importants. Le Sénégal approuve l'approche des domaines prioritaires vers une action interdisciplinaire et pense que ces domaines prioritaires proposés répondent aux besoins nouveaux hautement important pour notre pays ainsi que pour les pays comme le nôtre. Notre délégation a également pu noter l'importance accordée à la planification, à la gestion intégrée des terres et des eaux.

Naturellement, un pays sahélien ne peut que se féliciter d'une telle initiative qui requiert une aide, un engagement formel de la part d'une organisation comme la FAO.

En même temps, nous nous réjouissons des travaux d'amélioration de l'utilisation de l'eau en agriculture, surtout la petite irrigation et la promotion de techniques agricoles de conservation pour accroître la fertilité des sols et lutter contre l'érosion. Au Sénégal ces actions sont d'une grande acuité, surtout dans les zones où il y a plus de variabilité des changements climatiques.

Nous accordons un intérêt tout particulier au rôle de la FAO, un rôle de tout premier plan d'ailleurs, pour deux mécanismes normatifs internationaux reconnus par l'Accord sur l'application des mesures sanitaires et phytosanitaires de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce, à savoir, le CIPE et le Codex Alimentarius. Il est vrai que chaque fois que l'on parle de normes, un débat qui nous paraît inopportun est souvent soulevé pour rappeler que la FAO n'a pas un rôle normatif mais plus un rôle de terrain. Nous croyons que c'est un débat désormais dépassé puisque l'interaction qui existe entre les actions de terrain et les actions normatives requièrent un dosage, et je suis sûr que la FAO, avec son expérience, sait bien faire la part des choses pour se consacrer essentiellement à son rôle, sans pouvoir s'impliquer dans la normalisation de ces activités. Pour promouvoir et appliquer les normes internationales sur les mesures phytosanitaires, le Sénégal pense qu'il est urgent de renforcer les capacités surtout des pays en développement.

Le Sénégal appuie également, et de manière tout à fait singulière, le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, parce que nous croyons que ce Programme joue un rôle très important dans la lutte contre la pauvreté. Nous savons également que ce Programme participe efficacement à la formation des populations. C'est pourquoi nous profitons de l'occasion pour remercier d'abord la

FAO, puis le Viet Nam pour le cas du Sénégal, car ils ont donné un exemple assez intéressant, appuyé par d'autres pays, plusieurs pays donateurs, dont je ne citerai pas le nom. J'illustrerai seulement cette solidarité des pays occidentaux par l'assistance d'un état comme l'Italie, où nous nous trouvons, par courtoisie. Nous voulons également dire que plusieurs organisations du monde rural et de la société civile pensent, comme nous, qu'il faut développer ce genre d'initiatives parce qu'elles permettent d'aider les exploitations familiales à progresser et à mieux faire face aux problèmes de pauvreté et de misère. Comme je l'ai déjà dit, nous soutenons le rapport du Comité, nous insistons sur votre appui, notamment pour les paragraphes 52 à 54, et souhaitons faire la jonction avec le Plan Oméga, souvent mentionné dans la presse et élaboré par le Président du Sénégal. C'est un Plan qui vise à adopter une démarche beaucoup plus intégraliste pour régler les problèmes de l'Afrique, qui sont des problèmes d'ensemble intimement liés.

Nous voulons dire ainsi que c'est en réglant les problèmes de manière globale que l'on pourra résoudre certains problèmes liés à une meilleure commercialisation des productions agricoles, des exploitations familiales, et peut-être permettre, au moins aux paysans les plus affectés par la pauvreté, d'accéder à des revenus plus élevés.

Nous pensons également que c'est un moyen de rattraper certains retards importants dans le domaine de la santé, et étant donné que l'homme doit être au début, au milieu et à la fin de toute action, l'éducation est un secteur très important pour toute forme de lutte vers le développement et l'accroissement de la production. Nous croyons aussi qu'il faut améliorer les infrastructures pour que tout puisse, dans un ensemble intégré harmonisé, profiter aux populations pour lesquelles nous faisons tous ces efforts de réflexion.

Enfin, je voudrais conclure sur les critères de classification des pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, pour dire, avec la Communauté européenne, que nous sommes d'accord sur l'accent qui est mis sur les critères en vigueur au niveau du système des Nations Unies. C'est vrai que la pauvreté existe dans tous les pays du monde, même les puissances les plus développées ont des poches de pauvreté. Mais je crois que lorsqu'il s'agit d'un domaine aussi sensible, le plus important c'est d'avoir une vue d'ensemble pour atteindre le plus grand nombre de personnes qui souffrent de manière inégale et incomparable d'un phénomène particulièrement préoccupant et dangereux.

Je vous disais qu'il y avait une seconde raison et vous livrerai en conclusion pourquoi je vous impose cette corvée de m'écouter: c'est peut-être la dernière fois que j'interviendrai au Conseil puisque ma mission comme Ambassadeur du Sénégal en Italie est arrivée à son terme. Je dois dire qu'il est toujours difficile de quitter des amis et des figures que l'on connaît, mais je crois qu'il y a toujours la joie d'avoir appris, d'avoir amélioré son expérience, pour pouvoir affronter l'avenir avec beaucoup plus d'assurance parce que mieux armé.

En tout cas, cela a été un plaisir pour moi de travailler sous votre direction, de travailler avec tous les Membres du Conseil, et je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour m'excuser auprès des uns et des autres si parfois j'ai été un peu provocateur, mais c'est la vie de notre profession. Je voudrais leur dire que l'esprit a toujours été un esprit de recherche de compromis, de négociations amicales et fraternelles et j'espère que la carrière me conduira toujours à croiser mon chemin avec certains d'entre vous, puisque d'ailleurs dans ma carrière, je suis revenu deux fois à la FAO; il est possible qu'il n'y ait pas de troisième fois, même si on dit souvent "jamais deux sans trois", mais en tout cas cela a été un plaisir pour moi d'être encore ici avec vous.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much, Senegal. I am sure that the Member States join me in wishing you success and thanking you for all your services.

Renaud COLLARD (France)

Je souhaiterais que vous donniez la parole au représentant de la Suède qui parlera au nom de la Communauté européenne sur ce point.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Observer for Sweden)

I am indeed speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

We would like to endorse the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, which had its session in March of this year. We refrain from repeating our comments made at the Committee on Agriculture, but which still remain valid. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee should be taken into due account when establishing the Programme of Work and Budget, which is why we would have appreciated considering this item before Agenda Item 12, where we made our detailed comments.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

De manera clara y contundente el Presidente del GRULAC ha expresado la posición regional sobre el informe del Comité de Agricultura. Mi delegación respalda plenamente lo expresado por el distinguido Representante de Venezuela.

El tema sobre la reducción de la vulnerabilidad agrícola a los desastres relacionados con las tormentas es de suma importancia y por ello apoyamos a la FAO para que continúe brindando asistencia técnica a los países, en especial, a los más vulnerables a las catástrofes, para estar mejor preparados y capacitados para enfrentar las contingencias ambientales y mitigar sus efectos en la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo agrícola.

Mi delegación reafirma su respaldo y compromiso invariable con el desarrollo sostenible y, de manera específica por ser materia de este organismo, con el desarrollo sostenible agrícola; lo que no puede aceptar es que se invoquen y apliquen medidas extrasectoriales para encubrir un mayor proteccionismo que finalmente repercute en los términos de intercambio comercial.

De especial relevancia es el asunto del Foro Consultivo sobre Semillas para América Latina y el Caribe. Como lo recordó el Presidente del GRULAC, el año pasado se efectuó una reunión técnica en Mérida, México, para tratar el tema de mejoramiento de los sistemas de producción y abasto de semillas y se decidió crear el Foro intergubernamental citado, bajo los auspicios de nuestra Organización, que tendría como finalidad apoyar la producción sostenible de semillas y materiales para siembra. Mi delegación exhorta al Consejo a reconocer dicho Foro como un cuerpo específico dentro de los estatutos de la FAO.

De manera reiterada, los países que conformamos la región de América Latina y el Caribe, hemos solicitado que la FAO realice una revisión de los criterios de clasificación de los países PBIDA, mediante un mecanismo transparente y participativo. Mi delegación hace también un llamado para que se atienda esta petición y desea dejar constancia de su reconocimiento a la forma decidida, pero sobretodo, inteligente con que ha liderado esta posición la representación de Guatemala.

Un tema fundamental que ha sido tratado por otras delegaciones durante los debates de este 120º período de sesiones del Consejo es el recurso del agua, al que debe dársele una importancia prioritaria como elemento fundamental de todo sistema de producción agrícola. Es indispensable lograr la sostenibilidad de este recurso.

La organización de productores es también un asunto de prioridad para México, ya que es un medio para lograr una agricultura sostenible, eficiente y de alta productividad. La capacitación y la divulgación técnica, agrícola, ambiental y económica, y la vinculación que se logre de estos productores con los institutos de investigación agrícola deberán ser cada vez más intensas. Debe incentivarse también la capacitación masiva y el uso de nuevas tecnologías en la información.

El acelerado desarrollo de la biotecnología es, sin duda, diferente a cualquier otra etapa previa del desarrollo tecnológico. Cualquier innovación biotecnológica aplicada a la actividad agrícola debe perseguir los siguientes objetivos: reducir la pobreza en el medio rural, al permitirse el acceso de productos biotecnológicos a los campesinos; reducir los efectos que perjudican el ambiente y la salud humana; y, reducir los costos de producción; en suma, sentar las bases para un verdadero desarrollo.

Finalmente, mi delegación reconoce el excelente informe presentado por la Secretaría y el trabajo consistente del señor Ross como presidente el Comité.

Oswaldo DEL AGUILA (Perú)

La delegación de Perú agradece a la Secretaría por el detallado informe relativo a las sesiones del Comité de Agricultura realizado en marzo pasado y expresa su apoyo a los conceptos vertidos en él. Asimismo, apoya lo expresado por la Delegación de Venezuela en representación del GRULAC. Dicho informe trata de asuntos de suma importancia para el desarrollo del sector agrícola; es por ello que, en consonancia con el párrafo 20, respaldamos la afirmación de que la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición es un elemento clave para la estrategia de lucha contra la pobreza, elemento que debe ser incorporado en sus programas por los organismos internacionales, instituciones financieras y gobiernos. En este sentido, es muy positiva la prioridad que el organismo brinda a la difusión del Sistema de Información y Cartografía sobre la Inseguridad Alimentaria y la Vulnerabilidad SICIIV, como herramienta fundamental para identificar a los sectores de la población que requieren mayor apoyo de los gobiernos y de los organismos internacionales.

Asimismo, coincidimos con el aporte del Programa Especial para la Seguridad Alimentaria (PESA) en países en desarrollo; sin embargo, consideramos que los criterios para la inclusión de beneficiarios en este programa deberían variar para que sus beneficios lleguen a grupos humanos en otros países donde también existe una grave inseguridad alimentaria.

Por otro lado, nos parece importante que la FAO preste atención a los efectos del cambio climático y los desastres naturales en la agricultura, y por lo tanto, en la seguridad alimentaria.

Perú no escapa a esta realidad, y se pueden observar las consecuencias de los cambios en el clima; por ejemplo, el fenómeno del Niño se presenta hoy en día con mayor regularidad, lo cual repercute negativamente, no sólo en la agricultura, sino también en la pesquería, actividad que es gran fuente de ingresos para el país.

Finalmente, queremos apoyar las propuestas del GRULAC contenidas en el apartado "otros asuntos del informe" relativas a los criterios para la clasificación de países pedida y al reconocimiento oficial de la FAO al Foro Consultivo sobre Semillas en América Latina y el Caribe.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Permítame, en primer lugar, agradecer la presentación de este informe, el trabajo que ha realizado tanto el Presidente del Comité de Agricultura, como la Mesa que lo acompañó.

Mi delegación no reiterará aquí los conceptos que hemos ya vertido en oportunidad de dicho Comité. En este sentido, quería expresar que Argentina tiene, entre sus preocupaciones no comerciales, el objetivo de promocionar el bienestar humano. En este sentido, la pobreza rural, el desarrollo rural, el desempleo y la protección del medio ambiente son sus preocupaciones no comerciales más apremiantes.

Ha sido ampliamente reconocido que la pobreza rural es una de las principales causas de la degradación del medio ambiente en los países en desarrollo; la pobreza rural es, además, responsable de los flujos migratorios hacia ciudades ya superpobladas, lo que aumenta los índices de desempleo y el malestar social. Desde que comenzó la crisis asiática, los países de la OCDE han incrementado la ayuda a la agricultura en un 9,95 por ciento. De cada 100 dólares americanos que gana un productor de la OCDE, 40 son aportados por los consumidores y contribuyentes. ¿Cómo repercuten estos hechos en el bienestar de la población mundial? Desde 1997 la crisis ha ocasionado la disminución de la demanda de los principales productos básicos de cuya exportación dependen muchos países en desarrollo. Generalmente, la contracción de la demanda lleva un descenso de los precios, y si ello va seguido de una reducción de la oferta, se llega a un nuevo precio de equilibrio. Desgraciadamente, desde 1997, algunos de nuestros socios comerciales más ricos en lugar de reducir la producción han aumentado las subvenciones y ello se ha traducido en excedentes cada vez mayores que inundan el mercado internacional a precios

subvencionados. Peor aún, en 1997-98 algunos países consideraron que había llegado el momento de utilizar las subvenciones a las exportaciones acumuladas, es decir, aquellas que no se habían necesitado utilizar en 1995-96 gracias a los elevados precios internacionales. El caso del azúcar, producto del que dependen numerosos países en desarrollo, es un ejemplo paradigmático.

La OCDE ha estudiado algunos de los efectos que tendría la suspensión de algunas subvenciones; por ejemplo, si los países no subvencionaran sus exportaciones de trigo, el precio por tonelada sería en la actualidad un 4 por ciento más elevado, y si no se subvencionara la exportación de maíz, el precio por tonelada de este producto sería un 9 por ciento más alto. De igual manera, si otros países no hubieran aumentado las subvenciones internas, el valor de la soja sería entre un 6 y 7 por ciento mayor. Naturalmente, la presión a la baja sobre estos productos también influye en los precios de los productos sustitutivos.

Con relación al desempleo, es sabido que los países en desarrollo tienen una gran dependencia de la agricultura y, en la mayoría de ellos, hay una población rural muy numerosa. Como nuestros productos deben competir contra los aranceles y las subvenciones que aplican los países más ricos, esa población es crecientemente forzada a abandonar el campo; en síntesis, la pobreza rural hace que aumente sin cesar el número de emigrantes que acuden a las ciudades; nuestras industrias no pueden crear un número suficiente de nuevos empleos para integrarlos adecuadamente y nuestros gobiernos no disponen de los recursos necesarios para mitigar las consecuencias sociales de su ingreso a ciudades ya superpobladas. El resultado es un mayor desasosiego social y una menor estabilidad política.

Argentina, como muchos otros países en desarrollo, tiene un gran interés en la preservación de sus recursos naturales; son ellos la riqueza sobre la cual se basa nuestra agricultura. Somos un país que produce productos agropecuarios y, por tanto, tenemos que tener un cuidado especial en la protección de la tierra y los recursos hídricos; para ello, necesitamos aplicar políticas ambientales adecuadas. Mucho se ha escrito sobre las consecuencias ambientales del apoyo a los precios y otras subvenciones distorsionantes de la producción en los propios países que otorgan esas subvenciones; sin embargo, lamentablemente, se ha prestado poca atención a los efectos negativos que esas políticas transmiten vía precios, particularmente hacia los países en desarrollo.

Cuando un gobierno subsidia masivamente la producción y/o la exportación, está también distorsionando los precios internacionales. Cuando las políticas gubernamentales distorsionan los precios internacionales, sus efectos se sienten internacionalmente. En efecto, las decisiones que hacen a las inversiones, los métodos de producción, el comercio y el consumo, se hacen en función a los precios, y si los precios resultan distorsionados, las decisiones, aún las adoptadas en lugares distantes al origen de la subvención, pueden resultar afectadas. Así, los subsidios fomentan nuevas inversiones en el sector subvencionado y esas inversiones no se realizarán en otros lugares, por ejemplo, en países en desarrollo, donde la producción agropecuaria es menos intensiva y donde la pobreza, especialmente la pobreza rural, es la principal causa de degradación ambiental en el medio rural y urbano. En síntesis, todo resulta distorsionado: la asignación de los recursos, el comercio internacional y la protección del medio ambiente. Hay varios pretextos no comerciales a mano para mantener estas políticas de subsidios, pero lo cierto es que las mismas dan por resultado montañas de excedentes cuya exportación requiere nuevas subvenciones a la exportación. El resultado es que los productores agrícolas de los países en desarrollo deben afrontar las consecuencias con muy poca o ninguna ayuda del gobierno.

Permítame recordar nuevamente, como ya lo hicimos en otra reunión, que recientemente el Secretario General de la ONU, Koffi Annan, declaraba que 630 millones de personas, el 10% de la población mundial, quiere entrar en el mercado global como productores y consumidores; asimismo, recordamos que el Director General de la FAO, en el marco del Foro Mundial sobre Agricultura efectuado en Misouri el 20 de marzo pasado, subrayó la necesidad absoluta de nuevas inversiones en la agricultura y deploró que las políticas agrícolas y comerciales en varios países industrializados no hayan constituido un ambiente propicio para el desarrollo de la agricultura en los países en desarrollo.

El Dr. Diouf afirmó que, sólo en 1999, los subsidios totales a la agricultura por parte de los países de la OCDE, se estimaban en 361.500 millones de dólares, que corresponden al 1,4% del total de su producto bruto interno. Como bien afirmó el Director General, esta ayuda es conforme a los acuerdos de la OMC, pero no hay duda de que proporciona a los países desarrollados un margen de competición que los países pobres no pueden alcanzar. Es interesante, también, comparar esta ayuda con la cifra total de asistencia total al desarrollo, que alcanzó los 7.400 millones de dólares en 1998.

Mi delegación se permite agregar otro elemento compartivo: la cifra que acabo de mencionar representa el producto bruto interno total de Africa. Por otra parte, la FAO recientemente ha presentado documentos técnicos sobre los países pobres a la Conferencia efectuada en Bruselas en mayo pasado que destacan, entre otros, las recomendaciones para la acción nacional e internacional, la necesidad de mejorar el acceso a los mercados internacionales señalando como restricciones que sufren los países en desarrollo en general, la persistencia de picos tarifarios, crestas arancelarias, y los altos estándares de medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias, EPCS en los principales mercados de importación. Por otra parte, en dichos informes técnicos se destaca que para mejorar la productividad y la competitividad de los países en desarrollo en general y los países PBIDE en particular, son necesarias una serie de medidas combinadas a tales fines. Se cita, entre ellas, proveer a sus agricultores con fuertes incentivos de precios.

Mi delegación interpreta esto en su sentido lógico, es decir, no la instrumentación de subsidios sino que el incentivo de precios debe provenir de mercados transparentes y no distorsionados. Los actuales precios de los *commodities* marcan una acusada tendencia a la baja en los últimos años y los subsidios antes aludidos no juegan un rol inocuo en esta tendencia, sino que contribuyen a profundizar la baja de los *commodities* producidos por nuestros agricultores, y con ello la continuidad en la profundización de la inseguridad alimentaria y la pobreza rural de nuestras poblaciones.

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brasil)

Esta es la primera vez que intervengo en este Consejo, de modo que le pido indulgencia por abarcar aquí asuntos que no sean de exclusiva discusión en el ámbito del COAG. Sin embargo, todos ellos son interligados. En el primer día del Consejo, cuando analizamos la situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo, en el documento CL 120/2, la Secretaría nos sugirió evitar la duplicación de documentos que tratan el mismo tema, como por ejemplo el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. La propuesta nos pareció lógica: se ahorra trabajo y papeleo, se ahorrarían también horas de intervenciones. Después de haber oído, sin embargo, a tantas delegaciones, algunas más de una vez, me pregunto si realmente abundan papeles, intervenciones, cuando el asunto es encontrar fórmulas para combatir el hambre.

Esas fórmulas, a su vez, presentadas para discusión casi siempre a través de los documentos producidos por la Secretaría, una Secretaría seria y de gran utilidad, dejan muchas veces de abordar problemas que son intrínsecos de la problemática del hambre. Quiero decir que los mismos son producidos por grupos de técnicos competentes y abordan, por eso, problemas técnicos. Los otros problemas, los políticos, en muchos de los casos más importantes o sensibles que los técnicos, parecen muchas veces escapar de la percepción de la Secretaría. Uno de los puntos que subrayó el Director General de la FAO para la *Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación*: cinco años después es justamente la voluntad política. Lo técnico es la evidencia, lo político la conveniencia; ésta, a su vez, oscila según los intereses de cada uno o de cada grupo. Lo que se pretende alcanzar en la Cumbre más cinco es un consenso, una sola voluntad política colectiva, para que encontremos el camino hacia la victoria en esa lucha contra el hambre, más allá de las fórmulas técnicas correctivas. Clemenceau, el viejo tigre francés, con toda pertinencia lo dijo cuando la conflagración del 1914 al 1918: "La guerra es algo muy serio para que se la dejemos en manos de los generales". Por lo tanto sería demasiado, por decir lo mínimo, declarar por ejemplo que los problemas del comercio agrícola, como ya se hizo en el pasado, deben ser tratados solamente en la OMC, opinión de técnico ya emitida aquí, opinión de general.

En la discusión de la situación de la alimentación en el mundo y del informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, oímos dos brillantes intervenciones de la Delegada de Argentina, en una de las cuales llama la atención el hecho de que, dependiendo cómo se abordarán los problemas del hambre con relación a la agricultura en la Cumbre más cinco, la reunión ministerial de la OMC en Qatar podrá decidir o no una nueva rueda de negociaciones. Si dejamos de tratar el problema del comercio de productos agrícolas en la FAO y, en particular, en la Cumbre más cinco, si seguimos jugando a los avestruces, no solamente estaremos prestando un mal servicio a una importante parte de la humanidad que pasa hambre, sino que estaremos contribuyendo a agravar el problema.

Está cada vez más claro el cuarto compromiso del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación cuando dice: "Nos esforzaremos para asegurar que las políticas de comercio alimentario y agrícola y de comercio en general contribuyan a fomentar la seguridad alimentaria para todos a través de un sistema de comercio mundial, leal y orientado al mercado".

El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el Comité de Productos de Base y el Comité de Agricultura están íntimamente asociados, como lo están los Comités de Programas y de Finanzas. De esta forma, no encuentro que sea fuera de lugar el hecho de volver a recordar discusiones de hace dos días que se conectan a los asuntos del COAG. Que se repitan, que se dupliquen los documentos, para que podamos duplicar y repetir las denuncias contra prácticas ilegales del comercio, contra los subsidios, contra las barreras no-tarifarias, para que podamos repetir lo que en 1991 Margaret Thatcher denunciaba: "una vaca comunitaria costaba anualmente al contribuyente 2.000 dólares de subsidios", valor en muchos casos superior al ingreso per-cápita de una gran parte de países. Para que podamos igualmente repetir la noticia que salió en primera página del Herald Tribune del 28 de mayo de este año, y que contaba la historia de esa mujer en Nouakchott que, munida de moderna tecnología, pasó a producir queso de camella para exportación, tenía mercado, tenía un importador alemán para toda su producción, pasteurizada y embalada dentro de las normas y exigencias establecidas, pero le faltaba algo, le faltaba queso de camella en las normas de la burocracia de Bruselas; éstas a su vez, para existir, deben de ser aprobadas por consejos y parlamentos, y los documentos traducidos en once idiomas. Un detalle apenas. El proyecto de producción de queso de camella de Nouakchott fue totalmente instruido y financiado por la FAO.

El comercio agrícola, sus prácticas, diferendos, contenciosos, barreras y subsidios, deben ser discutidos ampliamente en la FAO, que es el foro político por excelencia. Lo político se ocupa de lo social, tonifica con el factor humano las frías negociaciones puramente técnicas y subordinadas apenas a los intereses económicos y financieros de organizaciones representadas por países o bloques de países en Ginebra.

Como ejemplo, asistimos hasta hace poco tiempo a una guerra bananera, donde los intereses de los agricultores, plantadores del plátano, jamás estuvieron en discusión pero sí los intereses de las empresas bananeras para las cuales trabajan, en uno y otro de los dos grandes bloques económicos y comerciales en litigio.

Con referencia a los subsidios, además de haber oído contar hace algún tiempo a un delegado africano que el huevo importado en su país era más barato que el producido por las gallinas nacionales, escuchamos en este Consejo lo que dijo como ejemplo nuestro amigo Representante de Nigeria: el derecho al acceso a la alimentación en países como el suyo dependía mucho del suministro de productos importados más baratos por los subsidios y, completaba, que lo ideal sería lograr la autosuficiencia de la producción agrícola para que su pueblo se alimentara totalmente con recursos propios y a precios competitivos. Pues bien, yo diría más: autosuficiencia y producción en exceso para poder aún exportar e intercambiar, pero también a precios competitivos de igual a igual con los demás y en operaciones comerciales sujetas a prácticas leales y justas.

La autosuficiencia no existe en términos absolutos porque la producción agrícola nunca es estable; la prueba es la negociación en que estamos embarcados todos, hace más de seis años, para llegar a un compromiso internacional para el acceso facilitado a los recursos fitogenéticos. Esa negociación, en realidad, se está basando en el entendimiento de que existe una interdependencia global de recursos.

Volviendo a los dictámenes técnicos en otros sectores de la seguridad alimentaria, no se puede imaginar que se quiera transferir al ámbito exclusivo de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) el problema del SIDA que, si por un lado afecta a la economía de los países en desarrollo por el costo de su tratamiento, por el otro lo agudiza con el alto costo de la mano de obra, principalmente rural, fuera del mercado de trabajo.

Finalmente, la discusión, la producción aparentemente inagotable de papeles, las duplicaciones, dan lugar siempre a nuevas oportunidades de perfeccionar un tema o de instituir un proceso de convencimiento a veces sutil, para introducir un principio, una idea, un concepto o una teoría, como hemos asistido desde hace dos años al ejemplo de una región empeñada en hacer valer por otros medios la admisión y la discusión de un asunto ya descartado por Resolución de la Conferencia de 1999. En ese intento, con el respaldo de la Secretaría, el ahorro de papel y de tiempo no existe.

Como hubo también una sugerencia técnica en la última reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, la discusión sobre los alimentos como instrumento de presión política debería ser de exclusiva responsabilidad de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

We would like to commend the Committee on Agriculture for the comprehensive Report that they have produced. In general we endorse and agree with the issues that have been raised therein.

We welcome paragraph 17 in which the Committee supported the Programme to Promote Entrepreneurship in Agriculture Support Services. It is only through successful entrepreneurship that sustainable agricultural production can be revitalized, especially in developing countries where we are often talking of the food deficit and the hunger figures that we have been so worried about since the beginning of this month, literally.

Our delegation notes, with interest, the fact that the Committee underlined the importance of sustainable rural development as noted in paragraph 24. We consider, among other things, that the focus, particularly on the small-scale farmers is the key to the success of agricultural production in Zimbabwe and, indeed, in the Southern African Region.

The serious nature of HIV/AIDS on agricultural productivity in the Southern African Region has been discussed widely during this meeting. While we are cognisant that this issue is better dealt with by a health organization, we realize that the magnitude of the problem requires joint efforts. We look forward to the continued support from FAO as we brace ourselves to deal with this endemic problem.

We fully agree that there is a need to increase investment in agriculture, again as noted in paragraph 53, especially in the rural areas, in order to improve agriculture productivity. This will improve greatly our chances of meeting the WFS objectives set forth in 1996.

Finally, the development of markets regionally and internationally cannot be over-emphasized in our effort to promote productivity so that we may reduce by 50 percent, the number of hungry people by 2015.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

La delegación de Guatemala respalda la declaración del GRULAC pronunciada por Venezuela en todos sus puntos y se complace por el informe presentado por la Secretaría del COAG que refleja el excelente trabajo del Presidente del Comité y su Mesa.

La delegación de Guatemala desea manifestar su complacencia por el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria que se lleva a cabo en Honduras, Nicaragua y Guatemala, gracias a la cooperación de España con la FAO, junto a los países participantes, haciéndolo un PESA propio.

Con la colaboración interagencial en el terreno se espera poder contar con el apoyo del WAICENT para aprovechar todos los beneficios de la información y el mapeo de vulnerabilidad del PMA y el SICIIV de la FAO.

La delegación de Guatemala desea destacar la necesidad de aumentar el nivel de apoyo a los programas de cooperación técnica y demás instrumentos con que cuenta la FAO para ponerse a disposición de los países de la mejor manera y de forma equilibrada.

En relación a la clasificación PBIDA, la delegación de Guatemala participa de los razonamientos que ha formulado el GRULAC en su totalidad. La clasificación PBIDA fue creada por la FAO en los años setenta con propósitos analíticos, propios de una agencia especializada como la FAO tanto en relación a su mandato como, ahora, a los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. Los criterios de la lista PBIDA no han sido nunca estáticos sino que se han adecuado en el tiempo para atender, de la mejor manera, las necesidades de los países beneficiarios de asistencia, sobre todo, de ayuda alimentaria. Por ello me complace alentar a la Secretaría para que continúe con su labor técnica y objetiva en el análisis de las interrogantes que hemos planteado sobre la clasificación. No es una discusión sobre desatender a los más necesitados, sino hacer llegar la asistencia a todas las personas que sufren hambre y malnutrición. No es para excluir poblaciones. Por ello el cuestionamiento y propuesta que hemos realizado de los criterios que guían a la lista PBIDA no tiene otro propósito que orientar de manera efectiva el trabajo de la FAO hacia los grupos pobres y que sufren hambre en el interior de los países. La FAO se ha enriquecido siempre con los aportes que brindan los Estados Miembros de esta Organización y, por ello, no podemos permitir precisamente que se caiga en el equívoco de excluirlos.

Yohannes TENSUE (Observer for Eritrea)

I have a big problem in understanding what sustainable development means. Environmentalists always talk about sustainability but as far as I understand that only means things do not get worse. But things are getting worse; sustainability is not inadequate. It is important to get the planet on a pathway to environmental enhancement, but not in a sustainable way

If we look ahead and start to worry about how the world could fit in the rapidly growing populations - rapid environmentally, degradation, deforestation, climate variability and change - then we soon realize that sustainability is not enough. That conclusion should set us thinking in a new direction.

In the forthcoming forum on sustainable development if FAO could come up with a better understanding or interpretation of sustainable development, with that challenge they have to look for enhanced development, not only sustainable development. If there is a different interpretation, I would be glad to hear about it.

Yukio KAWAUCHI (Japan)

First of all, my delegation highly appreciates the Chairmanship of Mr Ross.

I join other Members in endorsing the COAG Report which covers, a wide range of discussion in a balanced manner. I will not repeat my statement in the COAG for the sake of efficiency, but it is still valid.

Having set that, I would like to touch upon one point with respect to sustainable agricultural rural development. I highly appreciate the document COAG/0117 prepared by the Secretariat. We strongly support FAO's work as a Task Manager for chapter 10 and 14 of Agenda 21.

Based on the discussion in the COAG, I would like to urge FAO to continue its work in all related areas.

CHAIRMAN

We have had a very rich debate and endorsement to the Report by the Committee on Agriculture.

I would like to point out however, that there were at least two or three delegates who also touched upon the topic that will be discussed in the agenda immediately following this agenda item, namely the renegotiations of the international undertaking on plant genetic resources.

Mr Ross I would like to invite you to respond on the issues raised and the questions asked.

Paul ROSS (Chairman, Committee on Agriculture)

I think my task is a relatively easy one. It is clear from what has been said that certainly the Council endorses the Report of the Committee on Agriculture in full.

Those countries that spoke and took the opportunity to amplify aspects of the Report of particular importance to them I will not attempt to try and repeat all that has been said because I do not think I would adequately reflect the points made. May be I could just highlight some of the things that I heard come through as key points.

It seems that there was certainly a welcoming of the interdisciplinary approach that FAO is taking with regard to its work within its comparative advantage and with its partners in the various areas addressed by COAG, namely, biosecurity climate change, vulnerability to storm related disasters and of course SARD. The strong support expressed for the role of FAO in SARD and also in its role as Task Managers for chapters 10 and 14 of Agenda 21.

Some countries emphasized strongly the need for capacity-building with regard to CODEX; there were a range of comments with regard to important aspects reflected in the report concerning sustainable agriculture, such as, soil and water conservation, small scale production and the importance of value-adding and agri-business support services, research extension and technology transfer. Some Members mentioned the very fundamental issue of HIV aids and its impact on rural development; a number of countries emphasized the importance of trade and access to markets.

There was a number of specific questions raised that I do not really feel I am in a position to answer myself, and I would like to pass those to the Secretariat. The ones that I heard are specifically: India asked a question related to capacity-building in Codex; the USA requested more information with regard to an Expert Consultation on biosecurity; GRULAC and number of Members of that region referred to a Seed Sowing Consultative forum becoming an FAO body, I will leave those matters to the Secretariat and anything else I may have missed.

Louise O. FRESCO (Sous-Directeur général, Département de l'agriculture)

Pour changer un peu le ton, je me permets de vous m'adresser à vous en français pour une fois. Laissez-moi tout d'abord vous remercier pour les débats très riches que nous avons eu et qui sont très utiles au Secrétariat. Je vais passer en revue deux ou trois points généraux avant de répondre aux questions.

Nous avons pris note de votre appui en ce qui concerne les thèmes pluri- ou interdisciplinaires et des priorités dans ces domaines, et je voudrais vous assurer que certainement au niveau du Département de l'agriculture, nous avons mis en œuvre un changement assez important dans cette direction d'interdisciplinarité.

En deuxième lieu, pour ce qui est de la bio-sécurité et le souci qui a été répété concernant la clarification de ce terme, nous prenons bien note de cela. Egalement, je prends note de votre souhait de renforcer la coopération entre les organismes et les accords internationaux dans ce domaine, afin d'améliorer la synergie et d'éviter tout chevauchement.

Plus spécifiquement, en ce qui concerne la Convention internationale de la protection des végétaux, je voudrais vous assurer que nous faisons tout le nécessaire pour améliorer l'appui aux pays en voie de développement, en terme de formation et de préparation à l'application des normes ainsi que la préparation aux débats internationaux.

Si vous me permettez, je répondrai aux deux points spécifiques et je laisserai la question de l'Inde sur le Codex à mon collègue Monsieur De Haen.

(Continued in English)

Now in reply to the United States of America. Your specific point is with respect to the Consultation on Biosecurity which I believe refers to point 47 in document. I would like to let you know that we have started some initial planning on this area to get together the different

regulators for food security, plant health and animal health. In the first instance, to consider what kind of approaches will be required. All this is still in the initial stage but we will be very happy to interact with you and the other Members on this specific area and I think a dialogue in this respect is very important.

Again, I want to assure the Members that we have a very close collaboration with the ES Department in this respect and Mr de Haen may give you some additional elements.

(Continuado en Español)

Para el Grupo del GRULAC quiero solamente hacer referencia al punto específico del Foro Consultivo sobre Semillas y a la última Conferencia Regional. La Secretaría toma nota de la propuesta presentada por el GRULAC, a fin de dar una mayor consistencia institucional a las reuniones sobre semillas que se están realizando no solo en la región latinoamericana, sino en todas las regiones.

Efectivamente, la Secretaría está realizando consultas técnicas como seguimiento a estas conferencias. La misma inquietud ha sido presentada en las otras regiones sobre el estatuto de este foro sobre las semillas. Les puedo informar que actualmente algunos comités técnicos están estudiando la forma de institucionalizar el foro sobre semillas en la región del GRULAC así como también en otras regiones. Una vez que estos comités técnicos comuniquen sus propuestas, el punto podrá ser discutido a nivel del Consejo por los Países Miembros. La Secretaría dará todo su apoyo en este aspecto; somos conscientes de la necesidad de tomar en cuenta los cambios sumamente rápidos en un tema tan importante como el de las semillas y, vinculado también a otros temas que discutiremos más adelante.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

After this exhaustive reply by my colleague Ms Fresco there is not so much that I need to add other than thanking the Committee also on behalf of the Economic and Social Department for the debate.

I believe that all those comments made with regard to trade and commodity work need no reply especially since we debated them already earlier today under the Item of the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems. Here I refer to the statements made by Brazil and Argentina.

Regarding Guatemala's reference to the LIFTC list and its use as a classification of countries for eligibility of food aid; this was a reference to the debate that took place during the session of the Committee on Agriculture. Subsequently, to the Committee on Agriculture, you will recall that the Committee on Food Security went further and instructed FAO to analyze this list for its suitability as a classification for the eligibility of countries for aid. I will just confirm that FAO is now mandated to supply such evaluation of the LIFTC list and we will have to submit that to the next session of the Committee on World Food Security.

This leads me finally with the question posed by the distinguished delegate of India. The question was what was FAO doing about capacity-building in developing countries with regard to SPS standards, in particular in the area of food safety. Distinguished delegates again, I will not repeat what I said under this item this morning but I will just highlight the main areas in which we do provide capacity-building. One is the entire umbrella programme of trade-related assistance and its subregional programmes in which five delegates from each developing countries and country transition participated. This covered also analysis, training and information on the SPS and TPT agreement among other WTO agreements. I also said that we would continue on this umbrella programme.

Secondly, I want to repeat but not go into detail about what I said on FAO's initiative taken at the Third UN Conference on LDCs to establish a food safety standard facility for least developed countries that aims at capacity-building and more active participation of developing countries in Codex Alimentarius sessions, including the subordinate committees of Codex Alimentarius.

Thirdly, FAO has a number of field projects both funded by TCP and other sources which are aiming mainly to strengthen national food control systems; help countries in the establishment of national Codex committees which are the institutional base for countries to participate in Codex standard-setting; and also in standard implementation. Just to give you an example, the Indian Government itself is currently implementing a TCP project with us on strengthening the Codex Committee of India. There is a longer list and we have projects in every developing region in this type of activities.

Furthermore, the Secretariat of the Food and Nutrition Division has been developing guidelines and manuals on various aspects of food control. For example, on the well-known Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System that many of your countries implement in order to do proper risk assessment and risk management; on import and export inspection and certification systems. There are other topics too. We try through manuals, publications and guidelines to provide assistance.

Of course under the SPS, FAO is also working with countries in the field of phytosanitary standards and, also in the field of animal disease control, but this is not under the responsibility of my Department and most probably not the focus of the question by the Indian delegate.

J.P. ECKEBIL (Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development Department)

A few Members spoke about FAO's involvement in the preparation of the Summit of Rio plus 10. A few also endorsed the involvement of FAO in the Agenda 21 process. I would just like to brief Council Members on how FAO is preparing for this event.

You know FAO is involved in four chapters of Agenda 21, Chapters 10, 11, 13 and 14, which deals with SARD. The ten-year review of these Chapters is being done. Part 1 of the Review has been sent. We are now finalizing Part 2 of the four chapters, for which FAO is the lead Agency.

We also have constituted internally an ADGs' meeting on Agenda 21. It deals with the policy issues FAO may encounter in preparing for Rio plus 10. We had an *Ad Hoc* Technical Working Group which is considering the task managers for the four chapters and we shall look at the technical issues.

We prepared and organized a briefing for the Permanent Representatives to FAO. It was to brief them on how FAO is preparing in addressing Chapter 14, specifically on SARD. As you well know, when the CSD-8 Session took place, the preparation for the ten-year review of SARD was interested to FAO but with the recommendation that FAO should do that in close consultation with the groups, NGOs and others. I would just like, again, to state that we started this dialogue in the framework of COAG, which took place last March. That dialogue is being pursued. The conclusion of that dialogue was that we should look at every opportunity in pursuing that dialogue in the field, not just to be held in Headquarters, but to be fully adapted in the field. We feel that the Regional and Sub-Regional Prepcoms, which are the organizers, will provide an opportunity.

CHAIRMAN

If there are no more comments from the floor, this concludes this Agenda Item.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Asi se acuerda

**9. NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
UNDERTAKING ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES, IN HARMONY WITH
THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**
**9. NÉGOCIATIONS EN VUE DE L'HARMONISATION DE L'ENGAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL SUR LES RESSOURCES PHYTOGÉNÉTIQUES AVEC LA
CONVENTION SUR LA DIVERSITÉ BIOLOGIQUE**
**9. NEGOCIACIONES RELATIVAS A LA REVISIÓN DEL COMPROMISO
INTERNACIONAL SOBRE LOS RECURSOS FITOGENÉTICOS, EN ARMONÍA
CON EL CONVENIO SOBRE LA DIVERSIDAD BIOLÓGICA**

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

En el documento CL 120/INF/16, presento a ustedes un informe sobre las negociaciones del Compromiso Internacional revisado, en armonía con el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica, con la finalidad de permitir una mejor comprensión, por parte de los Gobiernos y de los señores Representantes Permanentes, de cuanto acaecido hasta ahora y de cuáles son los pasos a dar para que el texto sea aprobado por la Conferencia de la FAO que tendrá lugar a principios del próximo mes de noviembre.

En esta oportunidad, permítaseme recordar la decisión del Consejo, adoptada en su 119º período de sesiones, de que el texto del Compromiso Internacional revisado sea presentado a la Conferencia en su 31º período de sesiones en noviembre de 2001. Igualmente el Consejo me solicitó convocara, en consulta con el Director General y siempre que hubiera fondos disponibles, otras reuniones del Grupo de Contacto establecido por la Comisión en su octava sesión, según fuera necesario, a las que seguiría una reunión de negociación de la Comisión para finalizar y acordar el texto del compromiso internacional. Además, el reconocimiento que hiciera el Consejo de que las negociaciones habían alcanzado una fase decisiva y por eso alentó a los negociadores a concentrarse intensivamente y con la flexibilidad necesaria en las cuestiones pendientes para hallarse en condiciones de adoptar las decisiones políticas pertinentes a fin de concluir la revisión del compromiso.

Como consecuencia de lo anterior se efectuaron dos reuniones más del Grupo de Contacto. La primera tuvo lugar en Roma entre el 5 y el 10 de febrero del presente año, y la segunda en la ciudad de Spoleto, Italia, entre el 22 y 28 de abril pasado; esta última, como consecuencia de una generosa oferta del Gobierno italiano. A raíz de los avances alcanzados hasta la quinta reunión del Grupo de Contacto, y tomando en cuenta las distintas decisiones expresadas a lo largo del proceso, ya sea por las regiones o países, y tras consultar a los miembros de la Mesa Directiva de la Comisión, de quienes mayoritariamente recibí sugerencias, presenté, bajo mi responsabilidad personal, una propuesta simplificada de texto del Compromiso Internacional revisado. Esta propuesta de texto simplificado demuestra que es posible el consenso y recibió el apoyo de las distintas regiones que entendieron su valor intrínseco al usarlo como base de negociación a partir de Spoleto. En esta ciudad hicimos importantes progresos; no tan sólo en el articulado, con todas las anotaciones de carácter jurídico realizadas a los artículos 19 al 32 en el Grupo Técnico establecido para tal fin y que así lo demuestra, sino también, y de manera particular, en el grupo encargado de precisar las definiciones, así como en el otro encargado de la elaboración técnica de la lista de cultivos que serán cubiertos por el sistema multilateral. Como consecuencia del excelente trabajo realizado por este grupo, hoy se cuenta con una lista de 30 cultivos, entorno a los cuales existe un consenso, y otra de 17 aún bajo discusión, pero con la esperanza de que un número importante de ellos pase a ser parte de la primera lista, al igual que los cultivos forrajeros.

Como resultado, el Grupo de Contacto me solicitó que convocase una sesión extraordinaria de la Comisión que se celebrará la semana próxima para ultimar el proceso negociador y presentar, cumpliendo con los correspondientes requerimientos, el texto del Compromiso acordado para la aprobación y adopción por parte de la Conferencia.

En un mundo sometido a un rápido proceso de globalización e integración económica, la cuestión de la agro-biodiversidad pone de manifiesto varios tipos de interdependencia que nos deben hacer reflexionar y que sin duda tienen implicaciones importantes.

En general, podemos decir que ningún país del mundo es hoy autosuficiente, en lo que respecta a la biodiversidad agrícola, y que la dependencia media entre países, para los cultivos más importantes, es del 70 por ciento. Paradójicamente, muchos países que son pobres desde el punto de vista económico, por estar en general localizados en zonas tropicales y subtropicales, son ricos fitogenéticamente y en diversidad genética que son necesarios para la supervivencia de la humanidad. La cooperación internacional en esta materia no es, por tanto, una posibilidad, sino una necesidad. Dicha cooperación debe contribuir a una distribución más justa y equitativa de los beneficios derivados del uso de los recursos fitogenéticos proporcionando un incentivo imprescindible para asegurar que los países sigan desarrollando su diversidad genética, conservándola y manteniéndola a disposición de la humanidad.

Existe también un tipo de interdependencia generacional, la biodiversidad agrícola es un tesoro precioso, heredado de las generaciones que nos precedieron y que tenemos la obligación moral de transmitir en su integridad a las generaciones venideras para que puedan mantener sus opciones frente al futuro. También podemos hablar de dependencia entre recursos fitogenéticos y biotecnología; en general, los recursos fitogenéticos constituyen la materia prima a la que se aplican las biotecnologías, por lo que, para la industria que aplique estas tecnologías también es fundamental que los países conserven y mantengan a disposición su riqueza fitogenética.

Lo expuesto avala la importancia de concluir satisfactoriamente las negociaciones sobre el Compromiso Internacional de manera tal de contar con un instrumento internacional que regule el acceso a los recursos fitogenéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación, la distribución justa y equitativa de los beneficios derivados del uso de estos recursos y la realización de los Derechos del Agricultor.

En el año 1995 dimos inicio a las negociaciones para revisar el Compromiso Internacional en armonía con el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica. Ciertamente, al principio fue un proceso lento. Las dificultades se han encontrado por lo novedoso de muchos de los temas ahí tratados. Por ello, hasta el presente, hemos realizado dos reuniones ordinarias, cuatro extraordinarias de la Comisión y seis reuniones del Grupo de Contacto. Todo esto ha significado gastos por un monto de aproximadamente tres millones y medio de dólares americanos, sin incluir la reunión de la semana próxima, lo cual aumentará la suma a alrededor de 4 millones de dólares, procedentes, en parte, de los presupuestos ordinarios de la Organización y, mayoritariamente, de aportes extrapresupuestarios. Lo que es fundamental subrayar son los años dedicados a estas negociaciones, los esfuerzos intelectuales y los costos monetarios.

Las posiciones son ampliamente conocidas por lo que no hay razones para nuevas y fatigosas argumentaciones. Ha llegado el momento de ser concretos y precisos. Abrigo la firme esperanza de que todos participarán en la sesión negociadora de la próxima semana con la mayor voluntad política que permita, tal como previsto y solicitado por este agosto Consejo, concluir satisfactoriamente con nuestras negociaciones para bien de las actuales y futuras generaciones. Nuestra responsabilidad es inmensa. Actuemos con grandeza de espíritu.

CHAIRMAN

I think we should realize what a very difficult task the Commission has. I would like to encourage that we should not go into debate on the substance. I think we should leave it up to the Commission first. We are encouraged indeed that the latest meeting of the Contact Group really succeeded in breaking through and there is advance there. We also know that next week the Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission will take place. With this, I would like us to focus on how we should help the negotiations to be really productive.

With this I would like to open up the floor and welcome interventions.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Pronunciaré una declaración a nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe que, permítame adelantarle, la Delegación Argentina apoya y hace suya.

Es para mí sumamente grato, en nombre de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, expresar nuestro total respaldo a lo expuesto por el Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, Embajador Fernando Gerbasi, y, muy particularmente, a la excelente y dinámica labor desarrollada al frente de las negociaciones para la revisión del Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos en armonía con el Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica. Hace tan sólo algunas semanas, el Grupo de Contacto realizó su sexta reunión en la ciudad de Spoleto; en esta ocasión, el Presidente sometió a la consideración de los miembros de dicho grupo una propuesta de texto simplificado, conteniendo una estructura revisada más lógica y coherente con los artículos, sin ningún corchete y fundada en la búsqueda del consenso posible, tratando de encontrar siempre un equilibrio entre las opiniones expresadas y evitando colocar, por lo tanto, a cualquier región o país en una situación que no le permitiese compartir el consenso. Esta propuesta de texto simplificado del Presidente, recibió el apoyo unánime de todas las delegaciones miembros del Grupo de Contacto para que fuera utilizada como base para continuar las negociaciones. Hoy el GRULAC desea ir más allá y expresar su apoyo a dicho texto que, aunque no satisface plenamente todas nuestras aspiraciones, representa la mejor opción y la que puede brindar los mayores beneficios a todas las partes.

Estamos convencidos, después de tantos años de esfuerzo y dedicación, que ha llegado el momento de concluir de manera positiva la revisión del Compromiso Internacional permitiendo a la Conferencia, tal y como lo decidió el Consejo en su 119º período de sesiones, recibirlo y aprobarlo para que entre en vigor lo más pronto posible.

Es cierto que aún quedan algunos asuntos para resolver, pero estamos plenamente convencidos que con voluntad política y decisión, y con base al texto que nos presentó el Presidente, nos encontramos en las mejores condiciones de resolverlos positivamente durante la sexta sesión extraordinaria de la Comisión convocada para la próxima semana.

En Spoleto tuvimos avances sustantivos que tienen que ver con el manejo de las conexiones *ex situ*, los elementos de carácter institucional del Compromiso Internacional, las definiciones de los términos esenciales usados en el Compromiso y en los avances técnicos en la elaboración de la lista de cultivos a ser cubierto por el sistema multilateral. El trabajo realizado por el grupo encargado de elaborar técnicamente la lista de cultivos, en el cual estaban representadas todas las regiones, fue encomiable y por ello logró adoptar, por consenso, una lista común que contiene 30 cultivos, teniendo otros 17 adicionales bajo discusión y posible inclusión, así como una lista importante de forrajeras. Ello demuestra, sin que quede la menor duda, que los países en desarrollo encontramos bastante adecuadas las provisiones del actual artículo 13 relativo a la distribución de beneficios en el sistema multilateral y, más importante aún, en la parte correspondiente a la distribución de los beneficios monetarios derivados del uso comercial de los recursos fitogenéticos a los que se accede a través del sistema multilateral. Estamos convencidos que el actual artículo 13, tal y como está redactado, representa una solución posible en esta materia para la gran mayoría de los países miembros de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos. Sin embargo, estamos dispuestos a escuchar las inquietudes que algunas partes de este artículo aún suscitan en unos muy pocos países, los que, lógicamente, no pueden esperar que el consenso se mida a partir de sus posiciones originales. El consenso debe reflejar la posición del grueso de los países aquí representados; si no fuera así estaríamos imponiendo el veto de unos pocos países, que no se cuentan ni siquiera que los dedos de una sola mano, y así desvirtuar totalmente cualquier decisión de querer compartir los beneficios monetarios del uso comercial de los recursos fitogenéticos a los cuales se acceda a través del sistema multilateral.

Para nosotros, existen dos principios fundamentales que son la piedra angular del Compromiso Internacional y que se sustentan en lo establecido en el convenio sobre la biodiversidad biológica. El primero de ellos, es la soberanía de todos los países sobre sus recursos fitogenéticos; el

segundo, es la repartición justa y equitativa de los beneficios que se obtengan del uso de esos recursos.

Tenemos la firme esperanza de poder concluir satisfactoriamente nuestras negociaciones la semana próxima. Será la oportunidad para demostrar, de manera unívoca, que los esfuerzos realizados durante todos estos años pueden concretarse. Para ello, pensamos, se requiere tan sólo la voluntad política y que la misma se exprese a través de fórmulas que permitan alcanzar el consenso. Nuestro grupo hace un llamado a todas las delegaciones para que nos acompañen en esta postura.

Dato' ABI MUSA ASA'ARI MOHAMED (Malaysia)

At the last Council meeting, Malaysia reiterated FAO Conference Resolution 7/93 on the Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The Conference requested the Director-General to provide a forum for negotiations among governments for: the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity; the consideration of the issues of access on mutually agreed terms to plant genetic resources, including *ex situ* collections not addressed by the Convention; as well as the issue of realisation of Farmers' Rights.

Malaysia would like to repeat that, over the last eight years since the Conference decision, the negotiation process has gone through eight meetings of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, CGRFA, one expert group meeting and six meetings of the Chairman Contact Groups. Of the above three main areas that Conference requested governments to negotiate, the only agreed text was on Farmers' Rights. It is time for the CGRFA to conclude the negotiation on the revision of the IU and bring its decision to the next FAO Conference for consideration.

Malaysia would like to reiterate, that the successful conclusion of the negotiation on the revision of the IU is very important for food security. We recognise that the revised IU can provide a new equitable global partnership in access to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, PGRFA, in the form of information exchange, technology transfer and funds. This partnership should commit 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 should also recognise that, for the success of this new partnership, it is important to foster a climate for private sector investments in biological innovations. In this regard, we have to 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.

Recognising that the IU'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 IU. We are willing to provide facilitated access of germplasm in the proposed multilateral system. We noted that the potential financial benefits arising from such a system would probably be minimal but the principle of sharing commercial as well as other benefits has to be incorporated in the revised IU, since this principle is already agreed to in the CBD.

This principle is absolutely necessary in the revised IU in order to provide for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits as well as the incentives to those that conserve and maintain agrobiodiversity and those that innovate and improve such biodiversity for food and agriculture. This principle will provide the necessary framework for the implementation of the IU in a manner that is fair and equitable to all countries, whether it is a poor developing country, whose farmers are conserving agrobiodiversity, or a rich developed country whose entrepreneurs are using such biodiversity for new product development.

We note the outstanding difficult issues of sharing monetary benefits arising from the commercial use of genetic resources and the intellectual property rights protection of plant genetic resources or their genetic parts and components in the proposed Multilateral System. Since the first meeting in September 1999, the Chairman Contact Group has met six times to negotiate on these issues but was not able to resolve them. It is now timely and appropriate that these issues and other outstanding issues be brought to the Commission for consideration.

Therefore, Malaysia supports an extraordinary session of the Commission immediately following the Council meeting to bring the negotiation process to conclusion, and forward the text on the revision of the IU to the next FAO Conference for consideration and decision.

J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)

The Indian delegation wishes to express its appreciation of the progress in the negotiations towards the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. In fact, we have been participating in this discussion very actively.

The efforts of the Contact Group, and particularly of its Chairman, need to be commended. Understandably, the issues before the Contact Group have been the matter of long and hard debate but it now appears that overall consensus is around the corner. We hope that the forthcoming meeting of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will be able to arrive at an understanding which can be presented to the FAO Conference in November for final adoption.

Agriculture in India, which supports 65 percent of the population, is the product of several millennia of on-farm experimentation and innovations by farmers. Any system which addresses the concerns of agricultural development and food security must recognise the traditional pool of knowledge that is inherent in farming. We are happy that broad consensus has been reached on the critical issue of farmer rights. We are glad that Article 9 recognises the contribution of local and indigenous communities and farmers, of all regions of the world, towards the conservation and development of plant genetic resources, which constitute the basis of global food and agriculture production.

India strongly believes that facilitated access to plant genetic resources presupposes a fair and equitable benefit sharing arrangement. Especially from the point of view of gene rich countries, sharing of benefits arising from the use of plant genetic resources accessed from their genetic resources is essential for the viability of the multilateral system.

India has constantly emphasised the importance of an effective benefit sharing arrangement and funding mechanism and we expect this to form a key element of the revised IUPGR. The Contact Group has made significant progress on the contentious issue of benefit sharing, despite the opposition of a handful of countries. Even the seed industry, by and large, is amenable to an appropriate benefit sharing arrangement.

The issue of Intellectual Property Rights on plant genetic resources, accessed under the multilateral system, has been contentious. Our position broadly is that Intellectual Property Rights should not be taken on accessions, including their parts and components received from the multilateral system, that limit facilitation access to the plant genetic resources as this would restrict the scope of future research and plant breeding.

Once again, I wish to reiterate our appreciation of the progress made in the Contact Group during the past few months towards reaching a consensus on the outstanding issues of the IUPGR. The Government of India will extend its full cooperation in moving towards an agreement that will form the basis of an effective instrument for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, while ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Renaud COLLARD (France)

Je vous prie de bien vouloir donner la parole au représentant de la Suède qui s'exprimera au nom de la Communauté européenne.

Per WRAMNER (Observer for Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The European Community and its Member States note the report of the Chairman of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We would like to strongly commend the work of Chairman Gerbasi, which has enabled us to make substantial progress. We will continue to give him our full support in the search for an agreement.

The European Union and its Member States believe that a legally binding International Undertaking, including a Multilateral System for Access and Benefit-Sharing with broad application, will provide a vital contribution to world food security. Significant progress has been made in the negotiations over the last two years, in defining the International Undertaking. This leads us to believe that there is now a window of opportunity to conclude these negotiations, but we do not underestimate the difficulties. There are a number of very difficult political problems still to be overcome. To achieve this, we will need inventiveness and political will.

The European Union and its Member States have already shown that they have the political will and desire to reach agreement and hope that this can be achieved at next week's Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, so that we can meet the objective we share, that a decision be taken at the FAO Conference in November 2001. We would strongly urge all other delegations to be prepared to take pragmatic decisions so that this can be achieved.

Ms Jocelyn BROWN (United States of America)

FAO has undertaken to revise the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity for the purpose of facilitating access and defining benefit sharing for research, breeding and training that involves plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The United States fully supports these objectives. We have participated constructively and positively in the negotiations and very much hope to reach an agreement that would address the special needs of global agriculture, serving the cause of global food security and recognising the interdependence of all regions of the world for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Negotiations have been underway for more than seven years. Under the able Chairmanship of Ambassador Gerbasi, much progress has been made. The Hundred and Nineteenth Session of the Council recommended that the Conference, at its next session, consider an approved, finalised text, but the text is neither finalised nor approved by the Commission on Genetic Resources. The major outstanding issues, although few in number compared with previous years, are significant and difficult ones.

A flawed agreement could create serious problems, not only for existing systems of genetic resource dissemination and exchange, but also for public and private sector crop improvement programmes and agricultural research worldwide. As the experts at FAO and delegations to Council have recognised, food security can be threatened by anything that weakens efforts to conserve and exchange crop genetic resources. Thus, it is crucial that the Commission ensure that the Undertaking is supported by the largest possible number of countries and regions. Low income food deficit countries with under-funded agricultural research and germplasm programmes would be the most vulnerable to disruptions in germplasm flows.

The United States has long practised the very objectives of these negotiations. The United States Department of Agricultural Research Service maintains one of the largest single collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the world. Our policy is to make samples of

this material available, at no cost, for teaching and research programmes worldwide. The United States is also a major donor to the International Agricultural Research Centres and provides technical assistance to countries to improve management of national plant genetic resource collections.

The International Agricultural Research Centres are the backbone of the current international system for conservation, use and exchange of plant genetic resources. These entities hold *ex-situ* germplasm collections in trust for the entire international community. We seek an agreement that is congruent with their mandate, enshrined in their current agreements with FAO and, further, one that permits them to participate fully in the new multilateral system being established.

The United States of America believes that it is critical that the substantial progress made by the Commission over the last seven years, and particularly through the efforts of the Contact Group, so ably led by the Chairman, be consolidated and communicated to the larger FAO and international communities. Since, however, an agreed text has yet to be reached, it is important that the FAO Council make recommendations that preserve the progress already made and which provide the Conference with a positive basis for reviewing and advancing the development of the International Undertaking.

For these reasons, the Council should recommend that the Director-General place the Undertaking on the Conference agenda for decision only if the Extraordinary Session of the Commission, which meets next week, produces an agreed text.

Should a complete agreed text not be forthcoming from the Commission at its next session, it would be very important for the excellent progress made thus far to be documented so that the FAO Conference can take it fully into account. In the case of a text with disagreements outstanding, Council should ask the Chairman to prepare, in consultation with the Bureau, a statement which communicates the core elements of the International Undertaking to the Conference for information. Such elements could include the structure of the agreement, such as headings of parts and articles. They could also include text agreed by consensus that is unlikely to be affected by resolution of outstanding issues.

The main benefits of this approach are conservation and documentation of the substantial progress that has been made by the Commission and its Contact Group, on major components of the eventual International Undertaking, which can be finalized soon thereafter.

It is appropriate for the FAO Council to take into account potential contingencies – such as a text with some areas of disagreement outstanding, in view of the Hundred and Nineteenth FAO Council's recommendations, which dealt only with an approved, finalised text. A positive report on progress made, emphasising key elements of agreement, would be a sound and timely alternative to actions that will be seen as premature in the absence of an agreed text.

Ms Sigríður Ásdís SNÆVAR (Iceland)

Iceland speaks here on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We wish to reconfirm our position on the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We welcome the report made by Ambassador Gerbasi and would like to congratulate him on the progress he and the Contact Group have achieved.

In November, we said that there was not much time left and that the negotiations needed to reach a conclusion. At the moment, there are still unresolved issues to be dealt with. We would like to reconfirm our position, that what is needed is a real multilateral system for facilitated access to PGRFA. This system should include as many agricultural crops as possible. To be in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, such a system also needs solid provisions for benefit sharing.

The upcoming Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will be crucial. If there is political will, it will be possible to reach consensus on a revised IU in this meeting. The next step is for the Members of the Commission to endorse the text and send it to Conference for final adoption.

Let me add here that we do not favour any further continuation of these negotiations, neither do we support any idea of postponing the process. If there is sufficient political will, we can finalize this year. If such will is lacking, more time and more negotiations will not help us anyway. We would, therefore, like to encourage all Members of FAO to do everything they can do to make it possible, after all these years of negotiations, to finally adopt a multilateral system for plant genetic resources. It is our firm belief that by doing so we are doing our duty for current and future generations, enabling development of agriculture and food production.

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

Chul-goo KANG (Korea, Republic of)

Before making comments on this Agenda Item, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the honourable Ambassador Gerbasi 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 Chairman's simplified text at the last Contact Group Meeting. However, there are still key issues left undone for additional revisions.

Support from Member Countries is much required in order to arrive at the final agreement on each revision. Since commencing the revision, the Republic of Korea has been closely involved in the negotiations and we will continue to cooperate and help finalize the revision process next week.

In this matter, I would like to make our position clear. Basically, we are seeking open access to 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. Relevant international organizations and institutions 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 be looked upon, too.

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 plant genetic resources for food and agriculture will contribute to the improvement of world food security.

Handi GUO (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation would first of all like to thank Ambassador Gerbasi, the Chairman of the CPGR FAA. He has played an instrumental role in the negotiations for the International Undertaking. His upholding of principles with flexibility, his diplomatic skills and coordinating ability, all combined, enabled the negotiations, both in the Commission and in the Contact Group, to have achieved the result today.

The Chinese delegation noted that during the Sixth Contact Group Meeting, important progress was made among the major Members in the Undertaking's mandate, farmers rights, setting up of a multilateral system to facilitate access, etc. We welcome and appreciate this progress. Nevertheless, we noted with concern that divergences still exist among major Members in benefit-sharing, financial resources and multilateral systems. In this context, we strongly appeal to the countries concerned to make a political commitment, necessary compromises and concessions with a view to concluding the negotiations.

Regarding the scope of the multilateral system, the Chinese delegation believes that the number of crops covered should start from a few and then expand, and its operational mechanism should also follow an approach of gradual exploration and progressive improvement, for this will serve the interests and needs of all Member Nations. China has always actively participated and tried to facilitate the negotiations for the International Undertaking. We are ready to continue negotiations on the revision of the Undertaking with other Member Nations, and strive to reach to reach agreement and conclude the negotiations at an early date, so that the result will be adopted at the Thirty-First Session of the FAO Conference in November this year.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

Le agradezco que me dé nuevamente uso de la palabra.

La extraordinaria riqueza fitogenética que posee México nos obliga a estar atentos a su protección responsable y a su utilización racional. Con este ánimo, bajo el principio de compartir los beneficios y en el marco de la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo que caracteriza a nuestra política exterior, mi país ha participado en las negociaciones para la revisión del Compromiso Internacional.

Queremos dejar constancia de nuestro reconocimiento y aprecio a la excelente labor emprendida por el Embajador Fernando Gerbasi, como Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos, y su trabajo eficiente en las reuniones para negociar la revisión del Compromiso Internacional.

La próxima semana tendremos la oportunidad de dar un paso definitivo en este arduo proceso. Mi país participará con un espíritu abierto y constructivo, y espera de todas las partes una voluntad política efectiva para llegar a un consenso satisfactorio y equilibrado. Si existen las condiciones para concluir las negociaciones no sería conveniente para nadie posponer el proceso. Esperamos, en consecuencia, que la Conferencia de este año pueda efectivamente examinar y aprobar el Compromiso revisado de los Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Blair HANKEY (Canada)

Canada believes that, since no country can expect to preserve all the genetic diversity required for all of its crops for all time, the best way to ensure the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to facilitate their use, is through an appropriate international agreement.

It is important to Canada that compromises are found, so that the final agreement resulting from the current negotiations is acceptable to the greatest possible number of States.

In order to facilitate the conclusion of a consensus text that can attract the largest possible number of signatories, we would hope that the negotiations will not be concluded prematurely. In the event the International Undertaking is placed on the agenda of the November Conference, Canada believes that the agenda item should be worded so as not to pre-empt any decision the Conference may take with respect to whatever text may be placed before it.

Simon HEARN (Australia)

Australia would like to add its appreciation to the significant progress made in the last two years, under the guidance of Ambassador Gerbasi. The negotiations for the revision of the Undertaking have, without doubt, been slow and difficult, which is a clear indication of the importance and the complexities involved. It is no reflection, the time taken, on the capacities of the Contact Group and the Chairman.

Australia, as with other parties here today, is committed to finding a solution to the outstanding issues in ways which will help to deliver a viable, workable and effective new multilateral system for plant genetic resources. In the lead-up to the Extraordinary Commission meeting next week, we still have, however, critical issues outstanding. It is not clear yet whether we will have an agreed text on which all countries can concur, in time for consideration of the revised Undertaking by this year's Conference.

Australia will, however, enter the discussions at the Extraordinary Commission Meeting in good spirit, and we look forward to the discussions. That said, an Agreement with ambiguous provisions, or provisions which have not been tested against practicalities in some cases, could be to the detriment of all countries. We cannot risk recommending to Conference a revised Undertaking ready for adoption while there are key outstanding issues remaining. Important future goals flowing from the World Food Summit are also at stake.

It is clear the revision process has been a trailblazer. Underlying elements of the unresolved issues we are now confronting, are now also being examined in other fora, and I wish to stress that point.

It is also necessary to take stock, in the week ahead, and thereafter if necessary, and find innovative solutions to help overcome current problems and points of disagreement. We believe that we should be looking to solutions to our problems, taking into account parallel developments in fora such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, which may help us find a way forward. There is no doubt that a revision to the International Undertaking will involve consideration of parallel agreements and other bodies. We must do that.

Outcomes flowing from processes such as work being undertaken in the recently-established Inter-Governmental Committee on Traditional Knowledge, for example, will help to develop a better and shared understanding in the underlying issues of concern in these negotiations. We should, therefore, look for solutions which protect the significant progress made and help lay the foundation for a long-term strong and revised Undertaking to which all countries can commit, and which delivers its goals.

In conclusion, let me say that given the efforts and progress made to date, which are considerable, it would be regrettable if the Commission or the Council were to lose patience and to falter in the final outstanding issues, thereby risking a counter-productive result if a non-agreed text were presented to the Conference. This could undo much of what has already been achieved and the hard work of the people involved. There is considerable agreement on the principles, but the wider implications and practicalities still need attention. We are willing and able to give those matters attention.

Renaud COLLARD (France)

Je vous prie une nouvelle fois de bien vouloir donner la parole au délégué de la Suède au nom de l'Union européenne.

Per WRAMNER (Observer for Sweden)

On behalf of the European Community and its Member States, I would like to make the following additional comment.

As previously stated, it is our opinion that the negotiations on a revised International Undertaking should be concluded in time to take a decision at the FAO Conference in November this year. This is important to us and also for FAO, as the leading Organization in the field of food and agriculture.

All partners should mobilize political will and capacities so that we can finalize negotiations this year. We would therefore like to encourage all Members of FAO to do everything they can to make this possible.

Next week's session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will be an important occasion to test this will and ability. We trust, in any case, the Director-General to assess, at the end of this negotiation phase, whether the resulting text is suitable under the FAO Procedural Rules for submission to the Conference in November, or not. We think that it would be inappropriate, thus, to consider a recommendation along the lines of the proposal made by the United States.

Shoji SATO (Japan)

Japan recognizes that the completion of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is extremely important for the benefit of present and future generations, through the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Gerbasi for his positive leadership. Under his chairmanship, we have achieved much progress since the Hundred and Nineteenth Session of the Council. However, we recognize that there is a large divergence of major countries' views on some key points in the Chairman's currently negotiated simplified text.

There are fundamentally conflicting views among the major countries on the coverage of the multilateral system and monetary benefit sharing. No compromise has been found so far. I understand that we were not able to discuss the article of the monetary benefit sharing sufficiently in the series of the Contract Group meetings. I reiterate my concern about insufficiencies of clarity in the article of the monetary benefit sharing. Further clarification is required.

Accordingly, Japan thinks it is difficult to agree at this stage on the current text and we have reservations on including it as an agenda item to be agreed at the coming FAO Conference in November.

Finally, my delegate supports the statement made by the distinguished delegate of the United States, that wider possible participation in a new International Undertaking is crucial.

During the forthcoming Sixth Extraordinary Commission on Genetic Resources, we think that the differences of views among the major countries should be narrowed and that further clarification should be made in response to our aforementioned concern.

For these purposes, the Government of Japan is willing to participate constructively and positively.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

Our delegation welcomes the Report by the Chairman of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We commend the Chairman for bringing the parties closer and closer together to an agreement on an international multilateral system for exchange of genetic resources. We realize it is a complex issue with wide-ranging ramifications, among them Intellectual Property Rights, farmer rights and, indeed, all the other parties who, for one reason or another, may lay claim to given sets of plant genetic resources. Clearly, germplasm resources constitute the basis of food production the world over. Regardless of the importance of this agreement, we do not think the timing of this Agreement should necessarily be tied to the November Conference. We would like to see a lasting agreement and, by tying it to the November Conference, we are pre-empting what may be required in the negotiations. We would like to express confidence in the Chairman of this Committee and we would ask this Council to allow them the necessary time to go through all the delicate negotiations until we can arrive at an equitable and agreeable International Undertaking.

Hubert POFFET (Suisse)

Je serai bref. Je tiens seulement à relever que la délégation Suisse soutient la position exprimée par la Communauté européenne. Nous sommes également en faveur d'une conclusion la plus rapide possible des négociations.

Simon HEARN (Australia)

I will also be very brief, because I have already had the chance to speak. However, I would like to stress one point which has come out of these discussion, and that is that, next week, we will enter, all of us no doubt, into these discussions with good guidance from the Chairman, and all proposals will be on the table.

I do not think it would be wise for anybody, at this juncture, to exclude the proposals that have come forward from various delegates and, in that regard, I would also like to add my weight to the fact that the United States' proposal is worthy of equal and full consideration.

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brasil)

He escuchado con atención todas las intervenciones que se han llevado a cabo con relación a esta reunión que empieza la próxima semana. La Delegación de Japón habló dos veces de "major countries"; el "major country" aquí es Brasil que tiene el 25 por ciento de todos los recursos fitogenéticos del mundo. No conozco otro "major country" en esta negociación, y si en cambio un bloque de "major countries" formado por los cinco países del Tratado de Amazonas que tiene más del 50 por ciento de los recursos fitogenéticos. Digo ésto con énfasis porque deploro con tristeza profunda, que después de todos los esfuerzos que hemos hecho para llegar a un entendimiento, el compromiso internacional no es negociado solamente en armonía con el CDB. En primer lugar, es negociado en armonía con los intereses de los distintos países en pro de la humanidad y, mi tristeza se debe al clima que va a reinar en esa reunión y que sospecho se está imprimiendo en el Consejo. Nosotros que hemos tenido tanta paciencia durante seis años y, principalmente, durante todas las reuniones del Grupo de Contacto de 41 países que se reunieron aquí en Roma, en Teherán, en Neuchâtel, en Spoleto, y que estamos pacientemente trabajando en eso, antes de la reunión crucial de la próxima semana, tenemos que escuchar en el Consejo delegaciones que dicen que si no pasa eso pasará tal otra cosa. No es positivo iniciar una reunión en este clima y este no es el mejor ejemplo de voluntad política, así que espero que todos recapaciten.

Bernardo Gutiérrez ZULUAGA BOTERO (Observador de Colombia)

He esperado hasta lo último porque mi país es Miembro Observador. En primer lugar quería, en nombre de mi Delegación, felicitar al Presidente de esta negociación, a la Secretaría, y valorar el informe que ha presentado el Presidente, Embajador Fernando Gerbasi, y la capacidad intelectual y de negociador internacional y diplomático que ha puesto en esta negociación. Mi país ha participado en esta negociación desde el inicio por los intereses que países como el mío tienen en esta negociación, en el marco de los intereses del futuro de la humanidad. Hemos participado siempre con la disposición de aportar, de tener la voluntad política de llegar a un compromiso. Con la misma seriedad consideramos que se debe llegar a un texto consensuado, maduro, que nos permita resolver las diferencias que existen.

El propio informe del Presidente y las diferentes opiniones que se han expresado aquí, muestran la complejidad de esta negociación. Colombia apoya y hace suyas las palabras del Embajador de Brasil y creemos que, en la reunión de la próxima semana, vamos a actuar con madurez y con la voluntad política de poder llegar a un acuerdo. Si no se llega a este compromiso revisado, le tocará a la Conferencia tomar una decisión, sobre la base de los importantes acuerdos a los que se ha llegado hasta el momento, de como puede continuar esta negociación para que finalice seria y maduramente.

CHAIRMAN

We have had a very good debate and I think, from the debate, it is clear that we still think that it is very important that we should come to an end, to a conclusion, on this renegotiation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We compliment Ambassador Gerbasi on his leadership that has been successful in taking the process, and we are encouraged by the progress so far that has been reached, but the debate also. I note how crucial the Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources will be next week. The Council would like to appeal to all parties that we should do everything that we can in order to make this renegotiation successful.

I think we still hope, and we are still working on the expectation, that we will have something that the Conference in November will be able to act upon, on the results of the renegotiation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We wish Ambassador Gerbasi and the Commission every success and we hope, and we appeal strongly,

that all parties enter this meeting next week with a strong political will to resolve, to conclude, successfully.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA
22 June 2001

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.30 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La Neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 30
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la Novena sesión plenaria a las 10.30 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONTINUED)
III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)
III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)

10. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
10. PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL
10. PROGRAMA MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS

10.1 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2000 (CL 120/13)

*10.1 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2000
 (CL 120/13)*

*10.1 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2000
 (CL 120/13)*

CHAIRMAN

I would like to call the Ninth Meeting of the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the Council to order. I would also like to apologise, especially to the Deputy Executive Director of World Food Programme, Mr Ngongi, because we are starting so very late today.

Before we go to the Item on WFP, I would like you to look at the Order of the Day. You may note that, after Item 18, the Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies, we have inserted part of Item 16. You may recall that there are outstanding issues there that have to be resolved.

Consultations have been conducted with the Secretariat and the Committee of Finance and we are ready to report it to the Council.

With that, I would like to call upon Mr Ngongi, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme, to introduce Item 10.1, the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in the year 2000. The relevant document is CL 120/13-Rev.1.

A. Namanga NGONGI (WFP)

The document submitted to the Council by the Executive Board of WFP comprises the Executive Director's Annual Report for 2000 and the Executive Board's Decision on that document. The Council also has, for information, the Decisions and Recommendations of the Four Sessions of the Executive Board during 2000.

The Annual Report of the Executive Director describes what the World Food Programme did in the year 2000 as a contribution to the struggle against hunger and malnutrition and also to meet the World Food Summit targets and goals of the Millennium Declaration.

2000 was a very active year for WFP. WFP reached nearly 83 million beneficiaries throughout the world with some 3.7 million tonnes of food. Resources contributed to the Programme were also maintained at a very high level, almost US\$ 1.75 billion.

Of the beneficiaries reached, 22 million received food in support of development activities; 18 million received assistance in the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations; and 36 million victims of natural disasters were also assisted with food. Seven million victims of man-made disasters - unfortunately man-made disasters - also received assistance from the World Food Programme.

Compared to 1999, WFP support for victims of sudden natural disasters, such as floods and earthquakes, rose by 19 percent, while drought- and crop-failure related disasters rose by 12 percent. The last few years have seen an increasing tendency in natural disasters. Therefore, WFP and other humanitarian agencies have to develop disaster mitigation strategies, plans and projects, and contingency plans to face up to the future problems in this area.

In terms of tonnage, the World Food Programme utilized some 650 000 metric tonnes of food for its support of development activities; 1.9 million tonnes for emergency operations; about 940 000 metric tonnes for PRROs; and 180 000 or so metric tonnes for bilateral operations.

These figures hide a very worrying long-term concern, as resources for development activities continued to decline over the last few years. In fact, last year we reached the lowest level of overall resources in the last 20 years.

In the year 2000, the Executive Board of WFP approved the recommendations of the Working Group on Governance and also expressed appreciation for the initial efforts made by the Secretariat in their implementation,

The Board endorsed WFP's Strategic approach for disaster mitigation; it approved the time frame and rating system proposals for the selection of the new External Auditor, which will be selected this year.

The Board discussed and agreed on a resource mobilization strategy.

Also, the Board was engaged in a very animated, I would say, and interesting debate on several issues of emerging interests for the World Food Programme. It also took part in consultations on internally displaced persons.

The President and Vice-President of the Executive Board participated in the Joint Session of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP in New York. This is an increasing tendency, an annual joint meeting of all the Boards of the Funds and Programmes of the United Nations.

In the year 2000, staff security continued to be a matter of concern. Although physical losses were low compared to previous years, two locally employed staff of WFP in Mozambique and Rwanda lost their lives. However, WFP was involved in active discussions within the United Nations system on improving staff security. The Executive Director participated in this in a Security Council discussion on the subject.

The Secretary-General's proposals to the General Assembly for central funding to ensure minimum security coverage was not endorsed by the General Assembly. The General Assembly opted for a system of cost-sharing. Although not the preferred option, WFP will participate in discussions and cooperate with other operational agencies to ensure successful implementation of the General Assembly's decision, as directed by WFP's Executive Board.

In Rome, collaboration with the Rome-based agencies has gone from strength to strength and is particularly important in advancing our shared food security objectives. Twenty-seven WFP country offices worked with FAO during the year 2000 and 13 with IFAD on projects that benefited some 8.7 million people. This is almost four times the number of beneficiaries from joint projects in 1999.

The World Food Programme wishes to express deep appreciation for the support that it receives from the International Community, from the donors, recipients and sister agencies of the United Nations system in carrying out its mandate.

Masato ITO (Japan)

Thank you, Mr Ngongi, for introducing the Annual Report of the WFP.

Japan by all means endorses the Annual Report of WFP.

At this opportunity, we would like to make one suggestion. The document in front of us is exactly the same as the one we considered just one month ago in WFP's Executive Board. Moreover, many of our colleagues in this room are the same Members as those who had a fruitful and comprehensive discussion in WFP. In addition, we Members adopted WFP's Governance Policy last year to streamline the procedure of meeting and conferences.

Therefore, we may as well seek a time efficient procedure of FAO on this Agenda Item to be applied, starting next year, in order to minimize the time spent on this Agenda Item.

It might result in a silent consent, unless some Members feel it necessary to make specific comments.

Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARRÚE (Cuba)

Quisiera que le concediera la palabra al Delegado de Venezuela, a nombre del GRULAC, y que, por favor, volviera a concedérmela porque quisiera decir algunas palabras en nombre de Cuba.

Carlos POZZO BRACHO (Observador de Venezuela)

El Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe agradece el Informe Anual presentado por la Junta Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos sobre las actividades realizadas en el año 2000.

Como señala el Informe, el presupuesto total del Programa alcanzó la suma, de 1.700 millones de dólares, lo cuales resultan insuficientes cuando se observan las necesidades del Programa Mundial de Alimentos para cubrir, de manera adecuada y satisfactoria, los gastos que implican todos los proyectos, programas y actividades que tiene en marcha.

Nos causa particular preocupación la dramática caída en la captación de recursos para las actividades de desarrollo, que llegó a tan sólo el 14 por ciento del total del presupuesto para ese año, siendo el nivel más bajo que se ha registrado en la historia del Programa. Da la impresión de que como la asistencia alimentaria para el desarrollo no tiene una repercusión de gran impacto en la opinión pública internacional, como la que tienen los programas dirigidos a las emergencias y el socorro, el interés de los donantes se reduce y, así también la capacidad de respuesta del Programa en esta área.

Es evidente que las acciones a favor del desarrollo no reflejan sus resultados de manera inmediata, sino que muestran sus efectos en el mediano y largo plazo, pero cuando alcanzan sus objetivos, debe reconocerse que ha valido la pena esa asistencia. Cabe reiterar la importancia de mantener un equilibrio adecuado entre las actividades de desarrollo y aquellas de emergencia, así como la necesidad de respaldar, de manera efectiva, el doble mandato de la Organización. Debemos reconocer, asimismo, los grandes esfuerzos que ha llevado a cabo el Programa para reorientar sus proyectos de desarrollo conforme a las nuevas políticas para la rehabilitación del desarrollo que aprobaron los Miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva hace dos años, y ser coherente con el mismo, no sólo a través de discursos sino de hechos, aumentando los aportes a favor de los programas de desarrollo.

Sin duda, una de las causas de esta tendencia es la falta de cumplimiento del compromiso de asistencia oficial al desarrollo por parte de algunos donantes. Por lo tanto, el problema que enfrenta el PMA estriba en la falta de voluntad política para cumplir con los compromisos asumidos. El Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe hace un llamado a los Estados Miembros para que cumplan ese compromiso.

Las situaciones de emergencia, sean por causas naturales o provocadas por el hombre, se verían reducidas, tanto en su frecuencia como en sus efectos, si las comunidades más pobres estuvieran preparadas para prevenirlas, enfrentarlas y mitigar sus efectos. Las medidas preventivas siempre son menos costosas.

Estos son aspectos sobre los cuales debemos trabajar de manera intensa en los organismos internacionales de carácter agrícola-alimentario, si deseamos alcanzar y cumplir las metas fijadas en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. En esta línea de pensamiento, el GRULAC está convencido de que el PMA es un brazo fundamental con que cuenta el sistema de Naciones Unidas para dar cumplimiento a las metas que nos fijamos en 1996.

Para concluir, nuestro grupo regional espera que la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después* refrende el papel del PMA en la consecución de las metas del Plan de Acción adoptado en 1996.

Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARRÚE (Cuba)

Agradecemos al Sr. Ngongi la presentación del Informe Anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre las actividades realizadas en el año 2000, que demuestra, una vez más, la manera en que el PMA ha fortalecido su capacidad de respuesta ante emergencias, al tiempo que mantiene un fuerte compromiso hacia los programas de desarrollo. Felicitamos muy sinceramente al PMA por la encomiable labor realizada.

La Delegación de Cuba apoya ampliamente la declaración realizada por el distinguido colega de Venezuela a nombre de nuestro grupo regional, el GRULAC.

Repito que compartimos ampliamente esa declaración y sobre todo compartimos las mismas preocupaciones cuando observamos el descenso en los recursos que se suministran para actividades de desarrollo, que en el 2000 sólo han representado, como ya bien lo han dicho el Sr. Ngongi y la propia declaración del GRULAC, solamente el 14 por ciento de los gastos totales del PMA. Estamos hablando del nivel más bajo de financiación para el desarrollo en 23 años.

Nos preocupa también algo que se manifestó con mucha fuerza en la pasada Junta Anual, que quisiera compartir con ustedes y que tiene que ver con la falta de recursos disponibles para una serie de proyectos en ejecución. Hay zonas donde se ha producido un estancamiento en el desarrollo de los proyectos y su lenta ejecución ponen en peligro el impacto que se espera de los mismos.

Llamamos la atención sobre las dificultades que, en Centroamérica, se encuentran las operaciones relativas a la rehabilitación de los desastres naturales del Mitch y terremotos posteriores, como también la operación para los desplazados en Colombia. Aprovechamos esta oportunidad para solicitar a la comunidad internacional de donantes que siga contribuyendo de manera efectiva en el PMA para que pueda cumplir con los objetivos trazados.

Creemos oportuno este marco del Consejo de la FAO para plantear nuestra preocupación con vistas a que se mantengan estrechas las consultas entre los Estados Miembros y entre los organismos del sistema sobre los indicadores que analizan la idoneidad y la justificación de la clasificación de los países PBIDA como base para determinar la asignación de ayuda. Este tema ha sido planteado anteriormente por nuestra región en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y también en la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA.

No quisiera extenderme en el análisis de este informe, el cual tuvimos también la oportunidad de discutir en la Sesión Anual el pasado mes. Conocemos que, al igual que en años anteriores, el PMA trabajó en muchas situaciones difíciles y peligrosas. El personal del PMA demostró una vez más su coraje y se expuso a riesgos y penurias, por ello no queremos dejar pasar por alto esta oportunidad para expresarles nuestra gratitud. Sabemos, además, la profunda preocupación de la Directora Ejecutiva por garantizar todas las condiciones de seguridad de su personal.

Es oportuno felicitar a la Sra. Catherine Bertini por su consecuente actuación al frente de un Programa tan importante como es el Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Por las responsabilidades a ella conferidas en el curso de ese año, que le han dado un enorme prestigio así como al Programa que dirige.

Otro aspecto que mi delegación planteó en la pasada Junta Ejecutiva y hoy quiero manifestarlo en el seno de este Consejo de la FAO, es que el próximo 19 de diciembre el PMA cumple cuarenta años de haber sido aprobado en el seno de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Mediante la Resolución 1714 quedó plasmada la decisión de su creación, habiendo previamente examinado el informe de la FAO como el del Consejo Económico y Social y la propuesta conjunta de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO sobre los procedimientos y disposiciones para el empleo multilateral de excedentes alimentarios.

De este acontecimiento, repito, se cumplirá este año, en diciembre, cuarenta años. Cuba planteó la necesidad de recordar esa fecha como una oportunidad para resaltar la contribución del Programa en el alivio del hambre en el mundo, por su contribución a nuestros países en su marcha hacia un

desarrollo sostenible. Esperamos sinceramente que este aniversario, más que un recuento de lo que se ha hecho, constituya un momento de compromiso de todos ante el gran flagelo del hambre.

Finalmente, mi delegación quiere señalar la importancia que tiene el Programa Mundial de Alimentos en el marco de los preparativos de la Cumbre más cinco convocada por la FAO para el próximo mes de noviembre. En el pasado Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el Sr. Ngongi planteó, acerca de los esfuerzos del PMA ante los compromisos y metas que la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación en 1996, reducir a la mitad el número de personas desnutridas en el mundo no más tarde del año 2015. Para ello el PMA ha intensificado su labor tendiente a emplear los recursos alimentarios de manera más estratégica, para lograr la mayor repercusión posible en la seguridad alimentaria a largo plazo.

Hay otro aspecto que nos parece muy importante a la luz de la próxima Cumbre más cinco, para que los esfuerzos se traduzcan en áreas concretas de acción y en una programación efectiva en los países donde se requiere abordar los problemas de manera coordinada, aunque sea por organismos separados. Resulta imprescindible el intercambio de resultados y mejores prácticas entre los distintos organismos, como también lo es la elaboración de una serie de indicadores coherentes para medir los progresos alcanzados.

Somos conscientes del papel que el PMA puede jugar en el cumplimiento de estos acuerdos, pero se requiere respaldo político y recursos financieros para ello. Hasta el momento, el apoyo recibido no ha alcanzado para cumplir con las expectativas. Esperamos muy sinceramente que esta interrelación se realice de manera más efectiva.

Por último, agradecemos al PMA la posibilidad que nos brindó recientemente de integrar la Delegación de la Junta Ejecutiva que visitó Mozambique. Allí, una vez más, constatamos la profesionalidad del personal del Programa y observamos la buena marcha del Programa en el país con todas las variantes, desarrollo, rehabilitación, prevención de catástrofes naturales, etc.

Timothy LAVELLE (United States of America)

In the year 2000, as Mr Ngongi every eloquently stated earlier this morning, the World Food Programme assistance programme reached approximately 83 million people around the world. We find this a laudable achievement – 83 million people fed by the World Food Programme.

The United States takes this opportunity to thank the WFP Executive Director and her staff for a comprehensive and readily readable Annual Report.

The Report places special emphasis on security for humanitarian relief workers. This is a point that was touched on earlier also by Mr Ngongi. The United States strongly supports the United Nations' efforts to extend protection to humanitarian personnel.

We look forward to the Secretary-General's developing, in coordination with the Executive Heads of the UN Specialized Agencies, an effective mechanism for funding an enlarged and more comprehensive security system in the field for the 2002-2003 biennium. As five months have now elapsed since the passage of General Assembly Resolution A/55/238, we underline the need for forward movement among the Specialized Agencies, funds and programme in coming quickly to closure on an updated and equitable cost-sharing arrangement.

We further suggest the need for on-going discussion among donors and between donors and agencies on this critical issue.

Finally, we fully endorse the position taken by the World Food Programme's Executive Director in her appearance before the United Nations Security Council in February 2000 where she stated that "...host countries must be responsible for the security of humanitarian workers and must act to punish the perpetrators of crimes against those humanitarian workers".

We heard the call from our GRULAC friends and from the eloquent statement of our delegate from Cuba. I can only mention that the United States is presently contributing nearly fifty percent of the World Food Programme's annual budget and, given the ever increasing humanitarian needs

around the world, we would call on other donors to step up their contributions to this efficient and effectively run United Nations agency.

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

It is very nice once again to see Mr Ngongi on the podium, you are welcome to our meeting, MrNgongi.

During the year under consideration, the year 2000, I had the honour to be President of the Executive Board of WFP. I therefore had the opportunity to be closely involved in activities of WFP and to be informed about what is going on there. I am proud to say that WFP is doing an excellent job. The duties of WFP are not easy; they have to be present all over the world when there is a disaster, man-made or natural. Usually these occasions are highly risky, but fortunately WFP has shown a high degree of potency and skill.

The year 2000 was a record year. Eighty-three million people were fed, about four million tonnes of food was distributed and US\$1.7 billion was raised and spent on the food needs of the needy people. I want to congratulate WFP and the Executive Director for managing a very efficient, transparent and accountable organization. I would also like to commend Executive Director Madam Bertini for her role as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Horn of Africa, when it was a very difficult situation.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran fully endorses the Report of the Year 2000 of WFP, but we would also like to join GRULAC in pointing the development activities of WFP. We know that WFP is involved in both development and emergency activities. If we want to categorize these activities, we could say that development activities are more of a nature of preventive measures, the effect of which would be decreased emergency needs in future years. Unfortunately, the allocation to the development part has decreased and we once again appeal to WFP, and especially to the generous donors of WFP, to pay attention to this very critical point and increase their support to the development activities of WFP which have been very successfully performed during the past.

Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun)

La délégation camerounaise voudrait d'abord remercier M. Ngongi pour la présentation de ce rapport, une présentation très claire d'un rapport tout aussi clair.

L'activité du PAM, à travers le monde, traduit mieux que tous les discours la notion qui nous est si chère ici, à savoir, le droit à la nourriture. Ceux qui ont, un jour seulement dans leur vie, soit par accident, soit par une contrainte quelconque, fait la triste expérience de la faim, savent qu'il s'agit d'une situation intolérable et inacceptable. Quand on sait également que des milliers de personnes se retrouvent dans cette situation pendant de nombreux jours, à cause des catastrophes naturelles telles que les inondations, les tremblements de terre et autre, on mesure encore mieux son caractère injuste et le sens du mot solidarité; car ces personnes n'y sont pour rien.

Que dire des victimes des conflits provoqués par les hommes qui, malgré eux, se retrouvent du jour au lendemain dans la misère totale, alors que ceux qui ont provoqué ces conflits, parfois pour des raisons injustes, égoïstes, continuent à boire et à manger sans se soucier de ceux qu'ils ont abandonnés dans la nature et qui errent parfois dans les forêts pendant plusieurs jours sans avoir de quoi nourrir leurs enfants, qui meurent parfois dans les bras de leurs mères.

C'est pour cela, que l'examen du rapport du Conseil d'administration du PAM pour l'an 2000 nous donne l'occasion de rendre un grand hommage au Directeur exécutif de cette Institution, à ses collaborateurs du Siège et à tous ceux qui opèrent sur le terrain, pour l'important travail qu'ils effectuent chaque jour, pour sauver des vies humaines.

Nous saisissons également cette occasion pour remercier tous les donateurs du PAM et les encourager à poursuivre leur soutien et à l'intensifier.

Notre pays a régulièrement, dans sa partie septentrionale, des déficits alimentaires graves, à la suite soit des sécheresses intenses prolongées, soit des inondations, soit des invasions de

prédateurs de plusieurs sortes. Ces situations nécessitent parfois des interventions d'urgence, comme c'est le cas en ce moment.

Nous désirons réitérer nos remerciements au PAM qui est souvent intervenu pour soutenir les efforts du Gouvernement, pour atténuer les conséquences de ces fléaux sur les populations.

Permettez-moi également d'exprimer notre appréciation et notre grande satisfaction pour certaines activités menées par le PAM en l'an 2000. Nous apprécions tout particulièrement le travail de décentralisation qui s'est poursuivi et qui permet de rapprocher du terrain des hauts responsables du PAM, qui peuvent ainsi réagir plus vite aux côtés des gouvernements, connaissant mieux les problèmes.

Nous voulons également encourager le PAM à poursuivre sa politique d'achats locaux, chaque fois que cela est possible, afin d'encourager les agriculteurs des régions concernées, à augmenter leur production. Il s'agit là, d'une bonne contribution à l'atteinte des objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, car ces opérations constituent un moyen de lutte contre la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire. Elles permettent également au PAM de répondre plus vite aux demandes d'intervention, notamment en cas d'urgence.

Cela suppose, bien entendu, que le PAM dispose des ressources financières en temps suffisant pour pouvoir mener à bien leur action. Nous encourageons par conséquent les donateurs à accroître leurs contributions en espèces pour faciliter ces opérations. Quant aux opérations de développement menées par le PAM, nous apprécions particulièrement les programmes d'alimentation scolaire dont l'impact est si visible, notamment en ce qui concerne l'éducation des petites filles.

Nous voulons, pour terminer, réitérer à l'endroit du Directeur exécutif du PAM et son staff, nos félicitations et nos encouragements, ainsi qu' à l'endroit de tous les Etats Membres. Nous lançons un appel à soutenir cette Institution afin de lui permettre de remplir sa noble mission avec plus de sérénité.

Mohammed A. KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank Mr Ngongi very much for the excellent presentation of the WFP report now before us. I would like to take advantage of having the floor to thank Ms Catherine Bertini, the Executive Director of WFP, and also extend these heartfelt thanks to all those who gave a helping hand in preparing this detailed report.

The WFP in 2000 provided food aid to 83 million people who suffer poverty and likewise are the victims of natural catastrophes, as well as other conflicts. Quite obviously, this has improved the situation of these 83 million, that is, the food aid which was supplied so rapidly and promptly by the Programme in the wake of natural catastrophes. It constitutes practically one third of the Programme's resources and, even at 20 percent, that is very important. This is much more than what WFP provided in 1999. In addition, the food aid which was provided through the food programme to the victims of natural catastrophes, victims of conflicts or victims of civil strife. They have also worked with the increasing number of people who are suffering natural catastrophes such as drought. The drought in Africa, for example, has affected more than 16 million people out of the 100 million people who suffered a drought throughout the world.

In this regard, we would like to express our thanks to Ms Bertini for the efforts which she did deploy in this regard, and also for having accepted to be the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the UN in Africa. We would also like to thank her very much for the efforts which she fielded in mobilizing resources in favour of WFP and for the increased aid which was granted by WFP this past year. Ms Bertini told us about the ways and means which were necessary to ensure a proper level of financing to cover relief activities in the year 2000. Relief emergency activities were extremely high.

Famine is getting worse day after day throughout the world. It is for this reason that we would call upon the donor countries to respond favourably to the requests for financing WFP. We are not going to have the time here quite obviously to touch upon all the pleas for the activities and the

assistance provided by WFP in the year 2000. However, I would just like to say that WFP has done its job well and has carried out extremely important activities in campaigning intensification in the areas of decentralization, capacity building and improvement of assistance that they provide throughout the year to the countries concerned.

In addition, WFP did a lot to implement the reform programme, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, within the context of the operation of examination activities every three years, plus the monitoring of emergency aid for humanitarian needs.

The Executive Director of WFP, at the the meeting of the Executive Board, touched upon the decline in activities under the development programme of WFP (-14 percent). That is quite a cause of concern for us when we consider the importance of those activities, thus we would ask donors to dedicate sufficient resources to cover the development activities of WFP. In this regard, we would like to thank all donors who shall contribute to the financing of the WFP development programme.

As Ms Bertini stated during the aforementioned meeting of Executive Board regarding HIV/AIDS and the school feeding programmes, these have had important impacts in developing countries.

There are so many people in WFP who never appear on the scene but work behind the scenes and they too deserve our thanks and our recognition so, through the Executive Director, we would like to extend our thanks to the staff of WFP who work day after day and, at times, are in very dangerous situations, carrying out their appointed tasks to alleviate the hunger of people. We are extremely satisfied, extremely pleased to hear that WFP, for the first time in the last nine years, has been able to provide aid and assistance without there having been a single member of the staff having to give up his or her life.

We would like to launch an appeal to Ms Bertini, that no efforts be spared so that the WFP staff throughout the world who do carry out this noble mission of fighting against poverty and hunger in very difficult situations, may be able to do so in the best possible conditions for their own safety. We have said this on other occasions and, in the past, the Council has supported the activities undertaken by WFP to protect the safety and security of UN personnel throughout the world.

Hence, we would like to launch an appeal to Ms Bertini, the Executive Director of WFP, to implement everything which was decided at the last meeting of the WFP Executive Board, which took place last month in Rome. That is, to send an observation mission to take a look at the food situation in the Palestinian Territories in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and to provide assistance in the form of food aid and in the form of medicines to all those people who are suffering and where the farm land has suffered, so that it would be possible to save these people from a daily tragedy. We are quite certain that WFP will be able to play a most effective and efficient role in that area. We would hope that Mr Ngongi would keep us briefed on what takes place in that area.

Egypt approves the report of the WFP which is for consideration today.

Lastly, once again, I would like to thank Ms Bertini, Executive Director of WFP for this extremely important and eloquent report and to her and her staff at WFP we do wish a full success that they can carry out their noble mission.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

Our delegation would also like to thank the World Food Programme Executive Board for presenting a comprehensive Annual Report for the year 2000. We want to register our appreciation to WFP for coordinating food-aid so effectively.

Our region, that is the Southern African Region, is one of those regions that has its fair share of droughts, floods, and man-made disasters. On our own we would not have been able to cope with these tragedies. For example the scale of flooding that took place in Mozambique, last year, was of such a magnitude that without international assistance the disaster would have been much more

than it was. Indeed the massive scale of humanitarian assistance by the international community alleviated a lot of suffering. But it should be remembered that it was not only Mozambique that was affected, several other countries in the region were also affected, though to a lesser extent than Mozambique. WFP played a very critical role in organizing this aid.

We agree with other delegations that more resources should be made available or be put in place, in order to start programmes for mitigating measures. These measures will indeed assist in achieving what we set out to do at the World Food Summit in 1996, that is, to reduce poverty and hunger in all the regions of the world. We would like to commend the work of WFP and endorse the views expressed in the Report.

SHENGYAO TANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, I would like to thank Mr Ngongi for the presentation of the Report from WFP.

During the past year, WFP has done an important job, especially it has carried out activities so well received in developing countries. This, among people suffering conflicts, in order to help those countries and regions to alleviate the affects of catastrophes and to assist in eliminating poverty in rural areas. This has helped many people, displaced persons and refugees to cope with situations of poverty and famine.

We very much appreciate the work done by the Executive Board of WFP and the Secretariat thereof. I would like to focus particularly on the following points in that regard.

First of all, we noted, and this I must say with some concern, that for some years now the proportion of assistance to development activities has really declined or is on a declining trend and especially so in the year 2000. This assistance reached the lowest level of the last twenty-three years. This is a subject which has been very much the core of our concerns and at the centre of quite lively discussions.

In our opinion, development assistance is of undeniable importance and is a profound matter and quite obviously has a long term affect on agriculture and farmers in developing countries. Therefore, we do feel that the downward trend in this area has to brought under control, and turned around so that WFP's development activities can be increased and rendered concrete where they are needed.

Secondly, regarding the mobilization and allocation of financial resources, all of WFP work depends on the funds received, the funds collected. For the Chinese delegation, there are still unsatisfactory elements regarding mobilization of funds. For example, some development activities did not receive the required funding. We trust, and hope, that the Executive Board, Secretariat and the donors concerned will work more actively in that domain.

By way of conclusion, I would like to reiterate our appreciation to the Secretariat for the work it carried out during the year 2000 and extend our most heartfelt thanks to all donors for their generosity and for the important support they do provide to the World Food Programme.

We do agree that this Council approve the Annual Report of WFP.

Abdoukarim DIOUF (Sénégal)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier Monsieur Ngongi pour l'excellente présentation d'un document, clair, lisible et riche en informations fort intéressantes. Qu'il me soit également permis d'exprimer notre fierté de voir Monsieur Ngongi, ressortissant de notre région, exercer, à un poste si important, ses fonctions avec compétence, professionnalisme et un sens élevé des responsabilités.

L'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour donne à la délégation sénégalaise, au nom de laquelle j'ai l'honneur de parler une fois de plus, l'heureuse occasion de rendre hommage au Directeur exécutif du PAM, Madame Catherine Bertini, pour son engagement constant et sa détermination sans faille dans la lutte contre la faim et pour l'amélioration les conditions de vie de millions d'êtres humains

à travers le monde, notamment dans ma région l'Afrique, et en particulier au Sénégal. Qu'elle trouve ici l'expression de la profonde gratitude du Gouvernement du peuple sénégalais.

A ces remerciements nous voudrions également associer tous les membres du personnel du PAM dont le dévouement à la noble cause de l'Organisation n'a d'égal que l'engagement de leur chef, qui chaque jour, sur le terrain en particulier, risquent leur vie dans l'accomplissement de leur noble mission.

A cet égard, la délégation sénégalaise a noté avec satisfaction, tout au moins d'après le rapport, que le PAM n'a pas eu à déplorer de pertes de vies humaines parmi son personnel au cours de l'année écoulée, mais par ailleurs elle regrette la mort de plusieurs agents d'autres organisations humanitaires. C'est pourquoi je tiens à affirmer le soutien ferme du Gouvernement de mon pays aux mesures tendant à renforcer le système de sécurité des Nations Unies.

Ma délégation se félicite de l'augmentation significative des contributions versées par les donateurs pour les opérations d'urgence qui ont permis de sauver des millions de vies humaines partout dans le monde. Cependant, nous sommes préoccupés par la tendance à la baisse continue des ressources versées pour les activités de développement au cours des cinq dernières années. Car nous sommes convaincus que les programmes de développement contribuent à créer les conditions pour atteindre la sécurité alimentaire et améliorer ainsi, de manière durable, les conditions d'existence des pauvres. C'est pourquoi, tout en remerciant les donateurs dont la générosité a permis de répondre aux situations d'urgence, par définition imprévisibles, nous lançons un appel en faveur d'un accroissement des ressources pour les activités de développement.

Le Sénégal souhaite également réitérer son attachement au caractère multilatéral du PAM dont le mandat est de lutter contre la faim partout dans le monde. Aussi ma délégation est-elle d'avis qu'il faut donner à l'Organisation les moyens adéquats pour s'acquitter de sa mission universelle.

En particulier, il est important que le PAM reçoive des contributions non liées, dont l'utilisation souple lui permettrait d'intervenir dans les pays qui ont besoin de son aide selon son mandat dans le respect strict des principes directeurs dictés par les organes de gouvernance, notamment en ce qui concerne l'allocation des ressources. Je me permettrai aussi de vous signaler que sur ce point précisément j'ai reçu le mandat du Président du groupe africain pour parler au nom de notre région. A ce propos d'ailleurs, nous aimerions savoir du Secrétariat du PAM quelle est la pratique en vigueur dans les autres organisations des Nations Unies en matière d'allocations de ressources.

En ce qui concerne les activités d'alimentation scolaires, ma délégation se félicite des efforts déployés par le PAM en vue d'obtenir des contributions importantes pour ses activités de nature à favoriser la fréquentation scolaire. A cet égard, nous tenons à remercier le Gouvernement des Etats Unis d'Amérique pour son importante contribution en faveur des activités d'alimentation scolaire dans tant de pays tout en encourageant les autres donateurs à soutenir cette importante initiative qui devrait s'étendre à tous les pays qui en ont besoin.

Ma délégation souhaite cependant que les pays bénéficiaires puissent être associés au choix de l'agence d'exécution du processus des programmes d'alimentation scolaire de même que nous appelons au renforcement de la collaboration sur le terrain entre le PAM et toutes les autres institutions d'exécution de programmes d'alimentation scolaire, afin de créer des synergies et d'optimiser les résultats.

Dans ce cadre nous appuyons les recommandations contenues au paragraphe 69 du document tout en nous félicitant de l'exemple de coopération fructueuse qui existe entre la FAO et le PAM dans le cadre du Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire au Sénégal.

En ce qui concerne la décentralisation, ma délégation note que ce Programme a été exécuté dans le respect des délais impartis. Le Sénégal est à cet égard reconnaissant de l'honneur qui lui a été fait d'abriter un des bureaux régionaux de la région Afrique. Mais ce choix traduit à nos yeux l'engagement ferme du Gouvernement du Sénégal dans le combat contre la faim et la pauvreté en même temps que sa foi dans l'Organisation et ses dirigeants qui, plus que par le passé, trouveront auprès des autorités de mon pays une disponibilité totale et un soutien sans faille.

En ce qui concerne les achats locaux, nous félicitons le PAM pour les efforts réalisés en vue d'acheter des produits dans les pays en développement, mais nous souhaitons que ces achats se fassent surtout dans les pays bénéficiaires même ou, à défaut, dans la région concernée. À cet égard la région du Sahel constitue un terrain d'expérimentation assez intéressant. Par ailleurs, les achats devraient être réalisés même lorsque les produits locaux sont un peu moins compétitifs que ceux importés, afin de stimuler la production locale, et pour autant, que cela ne perturbe pas les marchés intérieurs. Pour terminer le Sénégal approuve l'adoption de ce rapport qui nous a été soumis.

Miguel BARRETO (Perú)

Voy a ser muy breve porque los temas específicos que nos interesan fueron ya expresados en ocasión del período anual de sesiones en mayo pasado; pero insistimos en uno de ellos que consideramos de mayor importancia.

Deseamos, en primer lugar, adherir y apoyar la declaración realizada por la delegación de Venezuela, en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe; agradecer el informe del señor Ngongi y rendir homenaje a la Directora Ejecutiva y a todo el personal del PMA por la excelente, eficiente y eficaz labor que cumplen en todo el mundo.

Al manifestar nuestro apoyo a la aprobación de este informe, deseamos reiterar nuestra profunda preocupación por la disminución de los recursos destinados a proyectos de asistencia alimentaria para el desarrollo. Desde nuestra concepción, la labor que cumple el PMA en esta materia es muy importante por el impacto que tiene en la seguridad alimentaria de las poblaciones beneficiadas y por las ventajas que reporta para su desarrollo humano sostenible.

Reiteramos nuestro interés en que los recursos para el desarrollo se incrementen paulatinamente, con miras a que el PMA pueda seguir teniendo un rol activo y decisivo. En este marco, consideramos que uno de los temas que deben abordarse para la decisión que adopte la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, debe estar vinculado, precisamente, a la necesidad de un mayor nivel de recursos hacia la ayuda alimentaria para el desarrollo, especialmente por la importancia que tiene la misma., como mecanismo que coadyuve al cumplimiento de las metas de la Cumbre Mundial de 1996.

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

Allow me to thank Mr Ngongi for his excellent presentation of the Executive Board's Annual Report for 2000.

From the figures placed before us, that is, WFP assisted 83 million people during the year of which 43 million were victims of disasters, about 18 million were helped in recovering from emergencies and approximately 22 million were helped in creating assets for them. This is a reflection of high quality of work of WFP. We can only congratulate the Executive Director and her team for an outstanding job done.

We would further like to congratulate the Executive Director on her personal performance as the Secretary General's Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa, in which capacity she was able to mobilize substantial resources for this drought stricken region.

We note that this is the Report of the Executive Board to the FAO Council and to the ECOSOC. We would be remiss if we did not compliment the Executive Board, the Bureau and its President in the year 2000, Ambassador Nouri-Naeeni, for efficiently conducting the business of the Executive Board and providing relevant policy guidelines to the Organization to enable it to discharge its functions better.

We also thank the donors, who have generously contributed, voluntarily contributed to WFP to meet almost 80 percent of its resource requirements during the year.

We note the performance outlined in the Report on various aspects of WFP, ranging from implementation of the Reform Programme of the Secretary-General, follow-up to international

conferences and humanitarian and disaster relief assistance. We support the recommendations listed in various paragraphs spreading across the Report.

I would now like to turn to the matter, so eloquently raised, initially by the Latin American and Caribbean Group, and supported by many other countries. This is the issue of the dwindling level of resources for development.

On a philosophical plane, we debated the issue of the role of food-aid in development. The Membership spent over a year and a half debating this issue and reached the conclusion that there was a distinct role for food-aid in development and a complete policy outline was prepared, which is now called Food-Aid and Development Policy Guidelines. It was expected that once such a consensus had been achieved that there would be an increased resource flow for development. Unfortunately, that has not been the case, except for the US Global School Feeding Initiative for which we thank the US Government of which Pakistan is a beneficiary. We feel that the donors have not come forth in the spirit of the policy that was approved by the Membership. We can only call upon the donors to join in and contribute more.

On an efficiency plane, we calculated, from the figures presented in this Report, the cost per beneficiary in terms of development expenditure. We saw it as being very favourable as compared to cost per beneficiary and naturally so, in terms of other relief and recovery activities that WFP was undertaking. So even on an efficiency plane we think there is justification for contributing more to development.

I would now like to come to another element which I think is very important, which was very lucidly brought out from our trip to Mozambique, and that is that if WFP resources for development are reduced, WFP's presence in countries would not be economically justifiable. If country presence is not justifiable then WFP's ability to respond to emergencies would be curtailed so severely that the steps that we are loading, for instance, decentralization, these will all become meaningless. We would have to think of a different kind of organization for responding to emergencies. WFP would not be able to remain in its present shape. If it is important for the donors to look at WFP as a relief giving Organization, which can respond quickly and efficiently, they have to look at WFP as an Organization with local presence, with decentralized presence. On that plane, you can justify decentralized presence if you have a country programme there in the local area. Therefore, I think it is an important consideration that the donors should be mindful of, that they must finance development, so as to ensure that WFP remains efficient in its relief activities.

With these few words, we support the adoption of this Report.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Agradecemos la información que el Señor Ngongi nos ha ilustrado esta mañana donde se refleja claramente la situación en que se encuentran las labores del PMA. Asimismo, deseamos refrendar en su totalidad la declaración efectuada por el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

Compartimos las preocupaciones expresadas por Cuba en cuanto a la falta de recursos suficientes para ejecutar de manera adecuada los programas, lo que inhibe su impacto y los resultados en el mediano y largo plazo. Tales son el caso, muy claro, de las operaciones que se llevan a cabo en Centroamérica como resultado del Huracán Mitch, y en Colombia con los desplazados internos; y es, sin duda, la situación que prevalece en muchos otros programas, no solamente de nuestra región, sino en todo el mundo.

No obstante el elevado número de beneficiarios que cubrió el PMA en el 2000, México comparte las inquietudes expresadas por quienes nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra, al referirse al bajo porcentaje que han alcanzado los recursos dirigidos a la ayuda alimentaria al desarrollo, y la importancia que tiene mantener un adecuado equilibrio entre las actividades de desarrollo y aquellas de emergencia y la necesidad de respaldar el doble mandato con que cuenta el PMA.

Debemos recordar que el Programa es el brazo fundamental del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para dar cumplimiento a las metas de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

El desarrollo es la manera más eficaz para prevenir y enfrentar con menor impacto los desafíos de los desastres naturales y evitar conflictos, lo que redundaría en la disminución de acciones de urgencia. Esto debe evaluarse y tenerse presente por parte de los donantes al decidir sus políticas y hacia dónde dirigen sus recursos. Por lo tanto, si en realidad deseamos reducir los efectos de las catástrofes deben hacerse mayores esfuerzos y compromisos con la ayuda alimentaria al desarrollo.

Esta es la única vía de asistencia internacional que beneficia directamente a las poblaciones más necesitadas. De ahí su importancia y la razón por que los donantes deben reforzar el doble mandato del PMA. Es por esto, que mi delegación apoya firmemente la propuesta del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe de refrendar en la resolución, que en este momento se está elaborando para la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, el papel del PMA en la consecución de las metas fijadas hace cinco años y la importancia que, en este sentido, tiene su doble mandato.

M.S. WICKEMARACHCHI (Sri Lanka)

The Sri Lankan delegation endorse the Report of the WFP Executive Board on activities in the year 2000. We make a request that there should be an increase of funds and resources for WFP, for them to expand their programmes in the year 2001 and thereafter.

We believe that WFP is one of the major sources of assistance to the poorest of the poor in our countries, because of its full-centered approach in development, especially in the countries where we have natural disasters, as well as man-made disasters. The poor are not the cause of these problems but they are victims of circumstances. Therefore, it is the responsibility on the part of the national governments, as well as the international community, to have some programmes at least to ensure that the poor are not suffering from starvation or malnutrition.

I think, in this context, what has been done by WFP is really commendable and appreciable, especially in the present context in Sri Lanka, where we have some internal conflicts. The Government has taken the responsibility of feeding people in the conflict-affected areas. We have dry ration distribution programmes, covering almost all the population living in conflict-affected areas. We appreciate the support given by WFP to extend their programmes to give some food assistance for this civilian, non-combatant population.

Apart from these emergency projects, we have a number of development projects implemented by WFP in our country, especially in the agriculture sector, giving a main focus on irrigation systems, rehabilitation of minor irrigation in rural areas. I think that what we have achieved up until now is satisfactory in any evaluation.

I take this opportunity to record our appreciation of the commitment of the WFP staff, both here and in the country office, in their programme.

Tourad Ould Mohamed AHID (Mauritanie) (Langue originale arabe)

La délégation mauritanienne félicite le PAM du rapport clair et précis qui nous a été présenté. Nous apprécions les interventions de terrain qu'effectue cette Organisation d'une façon continue, et parfois dans des conditions difficiles, toujours pour atteindre les personnes qui souffrent de la faim partout dans le monde. A cet égard, nous remercions Madame Bertini pour les efforts constants déployés pour une mobilisation intelligente des fonds, sans lesquels l'Organisation n'atteindrait pas ses nobles objectifs, à savoir sauver des vies humaines de la faim dans le monde.

Ma délégation félicite aussi le PAM pour sa recherche constante, dans la clarté de ses méthodes de gestion et de travail et dans l'exécution de ses programmes. Dans cette optique, des tables rondes ont été créées au PAM pour encourager des méthodes participatives des pays Membres à ce genre de réflexion en présence des grands orateurs et spécialistes de la faim dans le monde. Ce genre d'initiative ne peut être qu'enrichissant et donc très appréciable. Ma délégation approuve le rapport dans sa totalité.

Michael ELLIS (United Kingdom)

We too would like to thank Mr Ngongi for his very useful introduction to this item.

I would just like to make one point. We have heard a lot of interventions today about the question of resources for food aid for development. I must confess, we are slightly surprised that we have heard so many today because we had a very rich debate during the Executive Board of WFP, which covered this ground extensively. In fact, it cropped up several times during the Executive Board. We note that, during that debate, some views which were not all supportive of increase resources for food aid for development were expressed and, indeed, the United Kingdom is one country that provides very few resources for food aid for development.

We are not proposing that we run through that debate again and capture all of the richness of that debate, covering the range of views on this issue, at this stage. We think the most appropriate place to capture those views is during the Executive Board itself. We would just like to register that a very full debate took place, with a range of views, and that we would not be in favour of this Council perhaps gaining the impression or leaving the impression that there is one view and one view only on this issue.

Rolf GERBER (Observateur pour la Suisse)

Tout d'abord, je voudrais féliciter le PAM, et en particulier Madame Bertini, Directeur exécutif, pour cet excellent rapport. Ce dernier met en évidence la bonne gestion de l'Organisation, nourrir 83 millions de personnes en 83 pays représente un effort qui mérite notre admiration.

Je voudrais aussi souligner le dévouement exemplaire de tout le personnel du PAM à la cause de la lutte contre la faim. Je ne vous cache pas, selon notre haut responsable d'aide au développement, que le PAM est l'Organisation la mieux gérée du Système des Nations-Unies, d'où notre volonté de contribuer si possible davantage à l'avenir. La Suisse peut donc approuver ce rapport en sa totalité.

Ahmed HACHEMI (Observateur pour l'Algérie)

Je vous remercie de nous avoir donné l'occasion d'intervenir en notre qualité d'observateur à ce Conseil. Je voudrais tout d'abord faire part de notre plein appui au rapport qui nous est soumis pour examen. Je voudrais saisir cette opportunité pour remercier Monsieur Ngongi à qui nous devons toute notre reconnaissance et notre respect pour le travail louable et l'effort considérable qu'il ne cesse de déployer au sein du PAM.

Si nous avons un mot à dire sur l'activité du PAM au cours de l'année dernière, c'est certainement dire que c'était une année charnière pour son activité. Nous avons pu le constater non seulement lors des sessions du Conseil d'administration qui se sont tenues au cours de l'année écoulée, mais surtout dans le cadre de l'effort de suivi qui a été réservé aux actions et recommandations des sessions de cette année.

Je voudrais ensuite dire que nous partageons pleinement les préoccupations qui ont été exprimées ici, dans cette salle et au cours des réunions qui ont eu lieu et, notamment la récente réunion du Conseil d'administration du PAM et celle de sa session annuelle, en particulier pour ce qui concerne les activités de développement. Nous avons exprimé ainsi que les membres du Conseil d'administration avec une large priorité, nos préoccupations quant au tarissement des ressources affectées à l'activité de développement du PAM. Je pense que nous devons tous de la reconnaissance à Madame Bertini qui a attiré notre attention, d'une manière assez courageuse, sur la baisse record des ressources allouées aux activités de développement. Cette préoccupation a fait l'objet de plusieurs interventions appuyées par la majorité des délégations qui ont participé aux sessions du PAM. Et c'est aussi l'occasion de lancer un nouvel appel aux donateurs surtout, et à la Communauté internationale de façon générale, pour qu'un effort plus conséquent soit fait afin que le PAM puisse reprendre son activité et réaliser ce type d'opérations qui répondent à une nécessité de développement.

Je voudrais également saisir cette opportunité, puisque l'occasion m'est offerte, de réitérer l'appel lancé par mon pays, à l'occasion de la récente session du Conseil d'administration du PAM concernant le tarissement des ressources allouées aux IPSR et notamment pour l'IPSR-Algérie. A cette occasion, l'Algérie a attiré l'attention sur la situation alimentaire critique des réfugiés sahariens qui reçoivent de l'aide dans le cadre de l'IPSR-Algérie, donc dans le cadre de l'action humanitaire du PAM et je voudrais réitérer cet appel.

Je voudrais également finir en disant que nous devons tous notre reconnaissance à l'Ambassadeur Nouri-Naceni, Représentant permanent d'Iran, qui a eu à diriger les travaux des sessions du Conseil d'administration au cours de l'année 2000 avec beaucoup de professionnalisme, d'efficacité mais surtout avec beaucoup de tact et de diplomatie.

Jeroen STEEGHS (Observer for Netherlands)

I just ask for the floor to support the intervention made by the United Kingdom.

During the recent meeting of the WFP Board, we had a long and substantive debate on many of the issues raised today in the Council. We should not repeat these discussions because the WFP Board is the place to discuss these subjects.

The Netherlands has made its position clear during the recent WFP Board meeting and, therefore, I will not elaborate on this any more in this instance.

Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Our thanks go to the Secretariat for the documents that were prepared and to you for the wisdom that you have displayed during the last four years, during which you have chaired this Council. We will miss you, indeed, in the coming period, but of course we are being consoled by the choice of the next Independent Chairperson.

The report presented by Mr Ngongi is supported by us, since we have been Members of the Executive Board for three years. I am still a Member until the end of this year. We have organised a visit, as was said by the Pakistani delegate, to Mozambique. It was very successful but the report on the mission has been postponed until we hold our meetings regarding the mission and the preparation of the report.

We would like to express our appreciation of the activities of the Programme. As we have seen first hand during our mission, the activities are being organized in a very smart and intelligent manner. Indeed, they have now pulled the rug from under the feet of the other organizations working in the field, and it has become the pioneering one as regards humanitarian activities and help to the needy.

We are discussing the 2000 Report. However, I have to mention the work of WFP, especially in the conditions prevalent in the Bahala region, where the war broke out. We see that many other relief agencies are exiting from the city of M'au. It is quite an ugly example and it makes us really distressed because those voluntary organizations which were in the walled city are now exiting from the city.

Now that we are talking about WFP, we have to praise its role in these extremely, exceptional circumstances. The Programme is still there! We would like Mr Ngongi to express to those officials our thanks and gratitude. We hope that officials of the Programme will take into account, these exceptional circumstances, to help the displaced because they are moving from the war-torn regions to Khartoum.

Indeed, our commendation and praise is given to the Programme. We hope the Programme will continue its effort in these circumstances. I hope the Programme will provide adequate assistance to meet our requirements.

Allow me also to express my commendation and praise to His Excellency, Ambassador Nouri-Naceni who chaired the Board. His efforts are manifested in this Report.

Sra. María de los Ángeles ARRIOLA AGUIRRE (México)

Disculpe que haga uso de la palabra nuevamente, pero no puedo permanecer en silencio después de escuchar las intervenciones de dos delegaciones.

Se ha dicho que estamos dando la imagen de que hubiera dos opiniones diversas en cuanto a la ayuda alimentaria al desarrollo. Pero es que esa situación existe y su prueba es la caída de los recursos hacia ella. Por otra parte, se dice que este no es el Foro adecuado para plantear el tema, y que en cambio, el PMA lo es. Y, cuando estamos en el PMA, tratan de aventar la responsabilidad a la FAO; entonces me pregunto ¿es esto un ping-pong? Seamos serios.

Definitivamente, Países Bajos dejó muy clara su posición en el PMA; nosotros también lo hicimos, y recordamos en aquella oportunidad los compromisos de la Cumbre del Milenio a quienes tuvieran dudas respecto a cuáles eran nuestras responsabilidades en esta comunidad de naciones.

No pretendo reabrir un debate, pero considero que, al ser el Consejo de la FAO uno de los Órganos de los que depende el PMA, si no es aquí donde tenemos que reafirmar la fuerza del doble mandato del PMA, entonces que digan mis distinguidos colegas, dónde hay que discutirlo: ¿en la OMC, en la calle? ¿Dónde desean que se emita este llamado, sino en los foros de los que depende el PMA?

Masato ITO (Japan)

The purpose of my intervention is to support the intervention of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. As I stated in my first intervention, there was a very fruitful and comprehensive discussion in the World Food Programme Executive Board just one month ago.

I think that the WFP business should be discussed in WFP. I will not repeat my first intervention, but for the sake of time efficiency, I would like to flag my proposal.

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

I support what has been said by my colleague from Mexico. As I said in my earlier intervention: on a philosophical plane, we debated the role of food aid in development, and we debated it in the Executive Board.

After a year and a half's consultation and debate, we reached a decision, it is an Executive Board's decision: the role of food aid in development has been accepted, the parameters have been set in that policy document. We are not debating the role of food aid in development any more, we are launching an appeal for resources for development and we can launch that appeal in the Executive Board. We can launch that appeal in FAO Council which a parent body of WFP Executive Board. We could also do it at ECOSOC, which is again a parent body of WFP.

I fail to understand, the debate on the policy has been concluded, the debate on rationale has been concluded. It is there, it is documented, we are not reopening that debate. We are just utilizing this forum, and any other forum, to mobilize resources towards a policy that has already been approved and accepted by everybody, without reservation.

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

I would like to join the voice of the representative of Mexico, Pakistan, and all others who took the floor before that. It is surprising for me that we are advised that we should not raise issues of importance to us regarding WFP business here in this forum. I think we are here to discuss the important issues which have already discussed in the Executive Board of WFP, and one very important issue is the development aid.

As was discussed very eloquently by the distinguished representative of Pakistan, and not to repeat it, this is not a matter of opinion, it is a fact. A fact which comes out of a long debate and it is a decision of the Executive Board and I think that, just like all other decisions of the Executive Board, should be honoured by all the Membership.

Therefore, once again, we call on the donors and WFP to pay special attention to the development activities of WFP, because it is of major importance to most of the developing countries. I would express that Iran is not receiving development aid, but it is a matter of fact for most of the developing countries who are receiving development aid, and it has proven to be very effective in fighting hunger and in preventing the future emergencies.

Javier PIERNAVIEJA NIEMBRO (España)

Permítame destacar, con brevedad, dos cuestiones. En primer lugar, la procedencia de que el Consejo de la FAO trate la ayuda alimentaria al desarrollo en este punto del Informe Anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA. Quisiera destacar la importancia que tuvieron las largas reuniones dedicadas a la política de desarrollo del PMA en la que todos tuvimos una intensa participación. El marco en el que se encuadraba la política de desarrollo del PMA no podía ser otro que el Marco de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. En ese contexto, concebíamos la política de desarrollo del PMA articulada con la participación, cooperación y sinergia de otros organismos internacionales, y muy especialmente, los organismos radicados en Roma. Quisiera destacar a su vez que los proyectos que España apoya, tanto en la FAO como en el PMA, sea el PESA con proyectos de ayuda bilateral con el PMA o de ayuda multilateral, inciden en gran parte en la ayuda al desarrollo, que para ser eficaz debe ser articulada, coherente y con la participación y concordancia entre estos organismos, y que para ser una política de desarrollo tiene que ser, como acordamos en el famoso seminario que tanto tiempo nos llevó, una doctrina del desarrollo rural integrado.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

La Delegación de Guatemala no es miembro de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA y la intervención del GRULAC le pareció suficiente, así como las intervenciones de Cuba, Perú y México. Sin embargo, siendo Guatemala Miembro del Consejo, y después de oír la declaración de México, apoyamos fuertemente lo manifestado por este país que, afortunadamente, se encuentra bien secundado por Pakistán, Irán y España.

Hay una decisión de la Junta Ejecutiva respecto al doble mandato del PMA, pero desafortunadamente esa decisión pasa desapercibida, y uno de los elementos de esa doble función no se está cumpliendo. Tenemos que agotar todos los foros idóneos, y este es uno de ellos, para hacer un llamado a que el PMA continúe su labor de ayuda al desarrollo y de emergencia, como bien señalaba el distinguido Representante de Pakistán. Mal podría el PMA desarrollar sus labores de emergencia si no tiene una base en los países donde trabaja y es sobre esa base de funcionamiento que puede dirigirse de modo eficiente a las emergencias.

Apoyamos fuertemente lo dicho por México. Es este el Foro y debe quedar reflejado en el Informe de esta Reunión del Consejo.

Miguel BARRETO (Perú)

A pesar del intento de ser concreto en mi primera intervención, veo que el tema que interesa a 193 países no sea, en cambio, importante para algunos. El tema de ayuda alimentaria para el desarrollo es una materia muy importante para los países en desarrollo. Entiendo perfectamente que hayan delegaciones a las cuales el tema no les sea de particular interés, pero entiendo también que este es un foro donde los países Miembros del Consejo pueden y deben manifestar sus preocupaciones.

Con el mismo criterio, entonces, tampoco deberíamos evaluar los informes de los Comités del Consejo porque, evidentemente, la Junta, no es un Comité del Consejo, aunque depende de él y del ECOSOB; y sin embargo, es normal que también se discutan los temas que se abordan en la Junta Ejecutiva. En este sentido, respaldamos lo que han mencionado las delegaciones de Pakistán, México, Guatemala e Irán porque entendemos que en el Consejo cualquier país tiene el derecho soberano de abordar los temas que desee.

Michael TABONG KIMA (Cameroon)

There is just one important point that I would like to mention, Cameroon been honoured with one of the regional offices of the WFP, which is very highly appreciated by the Cameroon Government because it encourages decentralization.

Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARRÚE (Cuba)

La delegada de México me adelantó presentando la misma preocupación. Apoyo fuertemente su planteamiento que fue después apoyado por los delegados de Pakistán, Irán, España, Guatemala y Perú. Estoy preocupada ante esta situación y algunos colegas estimaban que no se trata de abrir un debate. La decisión que tomó la Junta sobre la nueva política de habilitación para el desarrollo está más que clara; pero tenemos todo el derecho de plantear nuestras preocupaciones y, como bien decía la delegada de México, en la pasada Junta Ejecutiva tuvimos que discutir mucho esta situación. Hubo países que incluso tuvieron dudas sobre la decisión tomada por la Junta y, si se trata de reabrir el debate lo haremos, pues fue una decisión de la Junta y ya cuando discutimos este tema los países en vía de desarrollo perdimos mucho, tuvimos que hacer muchas concesiones, se nos redujo por completo el radio de acción donde podíamos actuar, e igualmente aceptamos porque pensamos que es una manera que tiene el PMA para ayudar a nuestros países en el desarrollo sostenible. Seguiremos muy firmes con relación a este tema y sabemos, además, nuestros derechos: somos miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva y teniendo en cuenta que el PMA tiene dos padres que son la FAO y el ECOSOB, utilizaremos estos marcos para seguir presentando nuestras preocupaciones. No se trata de una cuestión lejana a los asuntos de estos dos organismos, sino por el contrario un tema muy cercano que nos será de mucha ayuda.

Quisiera dejar constancia de mi preocupación ante esta situación. Apoyo fuertemente los planteamientos hechos por mis colegas anteriormente y pienso que estamos en un camino correcto de plantear nuestras preocupaciones ante la baja que se ha dado con respecto a la cuestión del desarrollo.

Mohammed A. KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We have discussed this matter more than once during the debate of the Executive Board, and in my first statement I called for the increase of the resources, and we thank the donor community. Food aid for development is an extremely important issue in the views of the developing countries.

The developing countries request that the donor countries help them by achieving the goal of the official development assistance. We support the statements made by Mexico, Iran, Pakistan, Cuba, Peru, Guatemala, and all other countries that expressed the same position as ours.

Yohannes TENSUE (Observer for Eritrea)

I just want to express my appreciation on the role WFP played in the Horn of Africa. It has averted the disaster but it is still far from over. As we all recall, the Executive Director was elected Special Envoy by the Secretary-General to the Horn of Africa and it is gratifying to learn that her appointment has been extended. The World Bank is playing a lead role in that Task Force activity in the long-term food security development and because of the good jobs that WFP is doing, the Secretary-General has extended her appointment as Special Envoy. We are glad to hear that.

As to the School Feeding Programme, I already explained my disappointment at the Executive Board Meeting. We welcomed the initiative but the way it was decided, where it will go, was very disappointing. It was directed to those countries who used to have School Feeding Programmes, maybe 10 to 20 years ago, but not according to the needs. As I said at that time, while the Horn of Africa is the main attraction of all the problems in the world, there was only one country that was benefiting from the School Feeding. Recently, I was very pleased to learn that they have started up a new undertaking, a survey of the national School Feeding Programme. After that survey, I

hope they will reconsider on how that School Feeding Programme would be managed and how those countries should be qualified in accordance to needs.

I most welcome, just as Cameroon, the location of regional offices. The step taken by WFP to open in Cameroon and in Uganda new offices, is a welcome move. We stress that regional offices should not concentrate in one or two countries but other countries should have their share. So the move they have made is excellent and it should continue this way.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Je voudrais féliciter d'abord M. Ngongi, Directeur exécutif adjoint du PAM, pour avoir présenté le rapport annuel pour l'année 2000 au nom de son Directeur exécutif. Je n'en dirai pas plus sur les qualités de ce rapport puisqu'elles ont été bien exprimées par le Sénégal et l'Algérie. L'Angola comme pays d'Afrique, voudrait aussi remercier ce fils de l'Afrique et appuyer tout ce que ces deux délégations ont dit.

Mon pays a participé à toutes les réunions du Conseil d'administration du PAM depuis sa création. Ce rapport annuel a été approuvé à l'unanimité par le Conseil d'administration du PAM lors de sa session annuelle en mai dernier. Par conséquent, l'approbation du Conseil de la FAO viendrait démontrer le bon travail fait par le PAM.

A l'occasion de sa présentation en mai, et aujourd'hui encore, les pays en développement en particulier, ont présenté quelques préoccupations. Je n'en citerai que deux, la réduction des ressources consacrées aux activités de développement et la sécurité du personnel du PAM. Plusieurs délégations qui m'ont précédé, comme celle du Cameroun, du Sénégal, du Zimbabwe et d'autres de l'Afrique, se sont exprimées sur ces deux préoccupations.

Je voudrais, à mon tour, appuyer le propos, et surtout la deuxième intervention du Mexique et toutes les délégations qui l'ont appuyé, et lancer à nouveau l'appel à la communauté internationale pour accroître les ressources allouées aux activités de développement. Ma délégation se joint à la proposition d'autres délégations d'insérer dans la résolution qui sera représentée au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*, un paragraphe qui va confirmer et renforcer le double mandat du PAM. Je voudrais que ce Conseil se prononce sur cette proposition très pertinente.

Pour terminer, l'Angola voudrait féliciter tout le personnel du PAM pour les efforts consentis, et surtout Mme Catherine Bertini pour la qualité du rapport qui nous donne toutes les informations sur le travail réalisé en 2000. Mon pays approuve ce rapport.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

El Salvador no es miembro de este Consejo, pero sí lo es de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA; no habíamos solicitado hacer uso de la palabra ya que el delegado de Venezuela, como Presidente del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, había expresado cuál era la posición de nuestro grupo regional con relación a este importante tema. Asimismo, las delegaciones de México y Cuba habían planteado una serie de consideraciones con las que nosotros estamos completamente de acuerdo. Sin embargo, ante el curso que ha seguido este debate le pedimos el uso de la palabra para apoyar enérgicamente lo que expresó la delegada de México sobre la oportunidad y conveniencia de este Foro para reiterar el llamado que los países en desarrollo hemos hecho, en función de incrementar los recursos destinados al desarrollo, y así invertir la tendencia de disminución constante de este importante instrumento en el que todos nuestros países creemos y del que estamos plenamente convencidos. Deseo reiterar nuestro total apoyo a esta posición expresada muy claramente por todos los países en desarrollo.

János KOVÁCS (Hungary)

We have an excellent report before us for which we would like to say thanks.

Hungary would like to express an especial thanks to the donor countries for their efforts. I would like them to also search opportunities to increase their support in the next coming years.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Observer for Sweden)

Assuring the Council that we take this important issue very seriously, Sweden would like to concur with previous speakers, such as the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Japan, who have pointed out that this report was extensively debated in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, and then before adoption, and that the views expressed in that forum, which is the appropriate one, still remain valid.

Ibrahim Bocca DAGA (Observateur pour le Mali)

En délégation bien disciplinée, nous avons effectivement attendu le tour des observateurs pour demander à nous exprimer sur ce sujet qui nous paraît d'une importance capitale. Je crois comprendre que le rapport d'activités est soumis à ce Conseil. Il est dit dans ce document "pour examen et/ou décision". C'est dire que nous devons simplement porter une appréciation sur le document qui nous est soumis.

Dans l'ensemble, jusque là, nous n'avons entendu personne, à moins que ce soit pendant la minute durant laquelle nous nous sommes absentés, désapprouver le contenu de ce rapport. Effectivement, il a le mérite d'être précis, clair, et de relater les faits constatés durant l'exercice 2000. De ce fait, nous y adhérons complètement et il a tout notre soutien, et, nous croyons, de ceux qui nous ont précédés.

Nous constatons qu'à la recommandation 83, le Conseil avait effectivement encouragé les donateurs à accroître leurs contributions aux activités de développement, pour faciliter la mise en œuvre de la politique visant à favoriser le développement et aider le PAM à réaliser les objectifs fixés lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. On ne peut pas approuver une telle recommandation et aujourd'hui vouloir soulever encore, ce que je considère, des faux problèmes.

Le problème de l'aide allouée au développement est un problème qui, effectivement, a fait l'objet d'intenses débats au cours du dernier Conseil. Je crois que ce compte-rendu sera soumis ultérieurement. Notre délégation pense que l'occasion sera effectivement donnée de revenir sur ce point fondamental. Il est peut-être prématuré aujourd'hui de défendre cette politique, à savoir accroître les allocations destinées au développement. Il faut peut-être conserver les énergies, parce que le débat ne fait que s'ouvrir. On aura besoin de plus d'énergie dans les mois, les années à venir, pour qu'effectivement le PAM puisse accomplir cette mission, qui fait partie des missions du PAM.

Nous trouvons une contradiction entre ceux qui disent qu'il faut peut-être tarir ce volet et en même temps qu'il faut aider. Nous, nous pensons que la meilleure aide, c'est celle qui conduit à ce qu'il n'y ait plus d'aide. C'est ce que nous souhaitons. Et cela ne peut se faire que par le volet d'aide au développement. C'est pourquoi, nous ne cesserons jamais de lancer un appel à la conscience des gens. Il ne faut pas faire des déclarations et vouloir pratiquer autre chose.

Abdoukarim DIOUF (Sénégal)

Je voudrais préciser que pratiquement tous les orateurs Membres du Conseil de la FAO ont pris la parole deux fois et je voudrais aussi faire usage de ce droit de m'exprimer encore.

Je suis vraiment désolé de reprendre la parole à ce stade de discussions, parce que nous avons au cours de notre première intervention très exhaustive présenté la situation et la position du Sénégal. Nous n'avons rien à ajouter là-dessus. Nous l'avons fait notamment parce que le Sénégal n'est plus membre du Conseil d'administration et n'a donc pas eu l'occasion de s'exprimer pleinement sur ce rapport. Nous réitérons notre soutien à ce rapport et nous voudrions, après avoir écouté certaines délégations, préciser deux choses.

Le Conseil d'administration est un organe de supervision. Le PAM a une double tutelle, le Conseil de la FAO et l'ECOSOC des Nations Unies. Je pense donc que tous les rapports doivent être soumis au Conseil de la FAO pour examen et c'est pourquoi nous estimons que c'est bien le lieu

adéquat pour discuter du rapport du Directeur exécutif. Il faut que cela soit clair une bonne fois pour toute.

Deuxièmement, nous pensons qu'il n'y a pas de dichotomie entre urgences et développement. Là où il faut agir pour les urgences, il faut le faire. Nous avons dans notre première intervention félicité les donateurs pour leur générosité qui a permis de répondre aux problèmes d'urgence. Mais nous disons également qu'il faut accroître les ressources pour les activités de développement, parce que nous sommes convaincus que les programmes de développement contribuent à réduire l'impact des urgences et par conséquent contribuent à créer les conditions pour améliorer à long terme les conditions d'existence des populations. Voilà la précision que je voulais faire. Et je m'associe à toutes les déclarations qui ont été faites par les pays en développement.

A. Namanga NGONGI (World Food Programme)

Well, I think as you have said yourself, the debate has been quite rich, very rich. I think it is very useful to have such a debate from time to time.

First of all, the Programme appreciates the strong support that has come from the Council, encouraging us to carry out our work. We appreciate that very much and, especially, for those of our colleagues who are working on the front lines, who are risking their lives every day. Especially as has been said by the distinguished representative of Sudan, the conditions in the field are clearly quite difficult and, of course, our staff try to stay for as long as it is still safe for them to do their work, so that innocent people will not be exposed to unnecessary hunger and hardship. However, it is understood that, if the conditions become untenable, it is not possible for them to stay.

I am sorry to say, that the Report did not clearly reflect the situation last year because there were - probably unreported due to different instruments of contracting - there were two local staff with contracts which were not regarded as "regular", who lost their lives. This was in Mozambique and Rwanda. That was very very deplorable.

We have taken to heart the concerns of the Members of the Council, especially in regard to the increase of local purchases. We promise to do our very best to do so, however that clearly depends on having cash resources available. In fact, we are doing that more and more in the countries in which we have programmes. They are not just triangular transactions but really local purchases depending on the resources and the availability, of course, of food in the countries in which we are working.

We also wish to say that, on the question of the assistance to Palestine - mentioned by the distinguished representative of Egypt - we have already received contacts from FAO who received contacts from the Palestinian Authorities, to have a joint mission to go to Palestine and carry out an evaluation of the food situation. Under discussion between myself and the Deputy Director-General of FAO, we will jointly, together with other humanitarian assistance agencies, or the development aid partners, who wish to be involved, see what can be done to support the food situation in the Palestinian Territories.

On the question of the anniversary of the World Food Programme, I think that we will be discussing with the President of the Board and the Bureau of the Board, to see the appropriate manner in which this will be organized. It is quite clear that after 40 years of the creation of a Programme is about time to try to reflect on what to do to enhance either the activities, or even change some of the activities of the Programme. This will give us an opportunity to appreciate the work that all of the international community has done through the World Food Programme.

I now wish to faithfully convey to the Executive Director all the praises that have been heaped on her, especially, on her role as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa. I would say that all of us, in the World Food Programme have been very proud to have the Executive Director carry out that function in a very brilliant manner. She has not clearly said it is extended. Her mandate did not have a term limit. However, in consultations with the field offices

and Mr Szynalski, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, they have agreed that she cannot reach the conclusion until some time in September. Therefore, she will continue the functions of Special Envoy until the end of September, until we have an appropriate assessment of the food aid needs, or extraordinary needs, of the Horn of Africa, because, from time to time, there are needs which can be handled through the regular machinery, not necessary through a special envoy. But I will convey to her, of course, the congratulations coming from this Council.

As for on the School Feeding Programme, I am sorry that there seems to be a misunderstanding. The first announcement, which was made by the United States of America for US \$300 million was done. However, the time limit did not permit us to prepare new programmes. Therefore, what was submitted for funding by the Secretariat were existing programmes which had shortfalls and all programmes which had possibilities to be expanded, geographically or in terms of intensity, in the same areas. Therefore, it is not that we just excluded new countries but we did not materially have the time to carry out new evaluations of needs in new countries, to prepare new projects.

In the future discussions, of course, with not only the United States, but with all international community donors who want to contribute to it, we will be presenting programmes and we actually presented quite a few of these expanded programmes to the Executive Board. So it is not just a discussion between the Secretariat and the United States of America.

On the last item on development, which has engaged a lot of discussion, I would only say that I have been in Rome for 21 years as of 2 July and clearly this is the lowest I have seen in the development programme of the World Food Programme. There were times when WFP's Executive Board was approving programmes of maybe US\$ 600, 700 or 800 million in a year. I think it is clearly a matter of serious concern. It is not only a matter of the volume of resource transfers, but the consequences are even much greater because of the great improvements that have taken place in the WFP development programme over all these years that I have been in Rome. Anybody can go back and look at the documents 20 years ago, look at the programmes that were executed 20 years ago and look at the programmes that are being executed today, especially after the discussions of the food aid for development consultations that took place. That is really the greatest source of disappointment but that was not what I was going to focus on.

As a Member of the Secretariat and Deputy Executive Director, I travel quite a bit to many developed countries, many donor countries. I am told over and over by donor countries that recipient countries do not give high priority to food aid for development and they do not ask for it. That is what I am told. So I am rather surprised to hear when developing countries express that need, to say that it should not be expressed. I am only repeating what I am told. I travel quite a bit and the message I get over and over is that it is not reflected as a matter of priority by the developing countries. I do hope that this is an indication of priority by developing countries and I do hope that it will not be only in the FAO Council but also be at ECOSOC and other fora of the United Nations system.

I raised exactly the same problem when I went to see the Iranian Chairman of G-77 in New York two weeks ago. I raised the same question: why is it that discussions of food and nutrition are not also taking place in New York? Why is it only a matter for Rome? Rome, of course, is technical but if you want to include it in the social and economic debates, it has to be also carried out in New York and I think that recipient countries here should also be able to contact their colleagues in New York. This debate is not only a Rome debate. Food, nutrition and malnutrition is a socioeconomic programme which cannot be solved only by FAO, IFAD and the World Food Programme in Rome. It has to be integrated in the overall social and economic debate of the United Nations system.

I would think that it is not only food aid for development itself. It is the linkage between development and emergencies. We are told over and over again, as a Secretariat, to try to make sure we have the linkages between emergency and development. How do we link emergency and development when there is no development? If someone is able to tell me how WFP should be able to have linkages between emergencies and development when we have emergency or we have development, that would be very interesting for us to see.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my own little views about the subject of the Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.

CHAIRMAN

We have thus concluded the sub-Item on the Report of WFP.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

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 Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
TENTH PLENARY MEETING DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DECIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
22 June 2001

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la decima sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONTINUED)
III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)
III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)

**11. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 31ST SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE,
 INCLUDING THE *WORLD FOOD SUMMIT: FIVE YEARS LATER*
 (CONTINUED)**

**11. PRÉPARATION DE LA TRENTÉ ET UNIÈME SESSION DE LA
 CONFÉRENCE DE LA FAO, AINSI QUE DU *SOMMET MONDIAL DE
 L'ALIMENTATION: CINQ ANS APRÈS* (SUITE)**

**11. PREPARATIVOS PARA EL 31º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA
 CONFERENCIA DE LA FAO, INCLUIDA LA *CUMBRE MUNDIAL SOBRE LA
 ALIMENTACIÓN: CINCO AÑOS DESPUÉS* (CONTINUACIÓN)**

11.2 Deadline for Nominations for Independent Chairman of the Council (CL 120/11)
*11.2 Date limite de présentation des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du
 Conseil (CL 120/11)*
*11.2 Plazo para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente Independiente
 del Consejo (CL 120/11)*

CHAIRMAN

We will now consider Item 11.2, Deadline for Nominations for the Independent Chairman of the Council.

Paragraph 12 of document CL 120/11 proposes that 12:00 hours on Friday, 17 August 2001 be the closing date for submissions of nominations and that they be circulated to all Members of the Organization by Friday, 24 August 2001. Again, the closing date will be at 12:00 hours on Friday, 17 August 2001, that is for the submission of nominations, and that they be circulated to all Members of the Organization by Friday, 24 August 2001.

Are there any objections? I see none.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

*11.3 Nominations of the Chairperson of the Conference, and of the Chairpersons of the
 Commissions (CL 120/11)*

*11.3 Nomination du Président de la Conférence et des Présidents des Commissions
 (CL 120/11)*

*11.3 Presentación de candidaturas para los cargos de Presidente de la Conferencia y
 Presidentes de las Comisiones (CL 120/11)*

CHAIRMAN

As regards the nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference, I am pleased to inform you that, further to consultations with the Regional Groups, it has been proposed that the United Arab Emirates chair the forthcoming Conference.

As regards the Chairpersons of the Commissions, I am informed that Commission II will be chaired by Germany and that Commission I will be chaired by a country from the Group of 77. I do not have as yet, at this point, the name of the country in the Group of 77.

As is traditional, the Director-General will approach the candidates designated and report back to our next Session, late October, which will confirm the nominations to be placed before the Conference. Any comments on that?

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

11.4 Nominations of Nine Members of the Credentials Committee (Countries) (CL 120/11)

11.4 Nomination de neuf membres de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (pays) (CL 120/11)

11.4 Presentación de candidaturas para nueve miembros del Comité de Credenciales (países) (CL 120/11)

CHAIRMAN

We now move on to Sub-Item 11.4, Nominations of Nine Members of the Credentials Committee.

As stated in paragraph 15 of Document CL 120/11, the Council will, following the abolition of the Nominations Committee, propose nominations for the Credentials Committee, which comprises nine Member Nations. Following consultations among the Regional Groups, we have the following proposals for the Committee: Australia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

Does the Council agree to this proposal?

Costa Ricky MAHALU (Observer for the United Republic of Tanzania)

There was an amendment from the African countries as to who should now serve in the Credentials Committee. Zimbabwe's name was forwarded to the Secretary-General to replace the United Republic of Tanzania.

CHAIRMAN

There is a proposal here to replace the United Republic of Tanzania by Zimbabwe. Does the Council agree to this proposal?

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)**

17. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (CONTINUED) **17. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (SUITE)** **17. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS (CONTINUACIÓN)**

17.2 Applications for Membership in the Organization (CL 120/12)
17.2 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (CL 120/12)
17.2 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (CL 120/12)

CHAIRMAN

Council now turns its attention to Item 17, namely *Constitutional and Legal Matters*, and specifically to its Sub-Item 17.2, *Application for Membership in the Organization*.

As you will see from the relevant document CL 120/12, Council is requested to authorize the Director-General to invite the Republic of Nauru, the applicant country, 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 it. Does Council agree to this?

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

VI. OTHER MATTERS VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

18. REVISED CALENDAR OF FAO GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER MAIN SESSIONS 2001-2002 (CL 120/INF/8)

18. CALENDRIER RÉVISÉ DES SESSIONS DES ORGANES DIRECTEURS ET DES AUTRES RÉUNIONS IMPORTANTES DE LA FAO, 2001-2002 (CL 120/INF/8)

18. CALENDARIO REVISADO PARA 2001-2002 DE LOS PERÍODOS DE SESIONES DE LOS ÓRGANOS RECTORES Y DE OTRAS REUNIONES IMPORTANTES DE LA FAO (CL 120/INF/8)

CHAIRMAN

The next Item on our Agenda is the Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions for the year 2001-2002, document CL 120/INF/8-Rev.2.

You have all seen document CL 120/INF/8-Rev.2 which, I am informed, has been prepared avoiding overlaps with the dates of IFAD and WFP Governing Body Sessions. Appendix A gives, for information, the *Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions for 2001-2002*. Appendix B gives, for information, the jointly prepared revised FAO/IFAD/WFP Calendar of Governing and Other Bodies for 2001-2002.

Are there any comments on the document?

Having considered the calendar in CL 120/INF/8.Rev.2, the Council has noted that the date of its next Session will be from 30 October to 1 November 2001. There may be a change here and I will come back to this tomorrow. There is a possibility that I will propose to move it up one day, but I will do it tomorrow.

Any comments from the Council?

Since there are no comments, we do have the Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 2001-2002, and Appendix B as well.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

**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)**

**16. REPORT OF THE 96TH SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (ROME,
MAY 2001) (CL 120/15)**

**16. RAPPORT DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-SEIZIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ
FINANCIER (ROME, MAI 2001) (CL 120/15)**

**16. INFORME DEL 96º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE FINANZAS
(ROMA, MAYO DE 2001) (CL 120/15)**

16.4 Scale of Contributions 2002-2003 (continued)

16.4 Barème des contributions 2002-2003 (suite)

16.4 Escala de cuotas para 2002-2003 (continuación)

16.6 Other Matters Arising out of the Report (continued)

16.6 Autres questions découlant du rapport (suite)

16.6 Otras cuestiones planteadas en el informe (continuación)

CHAIRMAN

There was, as Members of Council will recall, a discussion at the end of Tuesday regarding Item 16 of our Agenda, Report of the Ninety-sixth Session of the Finance Committee. At that time, it appeared that a number of issues remain unresolved. I would like now to recapitulate the current situation with regard to this Item.

With regard to the FAO Audited Accounts, the Council has decided to forward Draft Resolution in paragraph 58 of the Finance Committee Report, together with the *Audited Accounts*, to the Conference for adoption.

With regard to the status of *Contributions in Arrears*, the Council has taken note of the present situation and urges the Member States that have not yet made their contributions, or have outstanding arrears, to settle these as soon as possible.

On Budgetary Performance 2000, the Council has taken note of the *Annual Report on Budgetary Performance* and that the Director-General has managed the Appropriation in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Organization. The Council urges that transfers from Chapter 2 of the Budget be minimized in the future.

On the *Appointment of an External Auditor*, the Council adopted the Resolution in paragraph 68 of the Finance Committee Report and unanimously appointed the Controller and Auditor General of India as the External Auditor for the Organization for a period of four years, commencing in 2002.

With regard to the role of the Finance Committee in the Management of Arrears, the general view of the Council was that the Finance Committee should have no direct involvement in the review of the loss of voting rights of individual Member Nations. Furthermore, the Council preferred that no change in FAO's Basic Text on this matter be made. Some Members indicated the preference of the option under which Member Nations that had lost their voting rights would be required to submit a request for restoration to the Conference. Such requests, however, would have to be reviewed in some way prior to their submission to, and consideration, by the Conference as a

whole. As this would be essentially the same as the current procedure of review by the General Committee, I would conclude that the Council recommends that the current practice be retained.

There remain two items on which various Members of the Council have expressed divergent views and that remain open at this time. These are the *Scale of Contributions 2002-2003* and the Incentive Scheme to Encourage Prompt Payment of Contributions. In order to conclude these matters, it was suggested that the interested Members should have informal consultations with the Chairman of the Finance Committee, with a view to reaching consensus. These consultations have taken place over the last two days and I would now like to call upon the Chairman of the Finance Committee to report on their outcome.

A. MEKOUAR (Chairman, Finance Committee)

On the question of the *Incentive Scheme to Encourage Prompt Payment of Contributions*, it became clear that there are divergent views among the Members on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, that the Scheme be suspended for two biennia. However, it is clear that there is considerable support for the Committee's recommendation.

Before reporting on the results of the informal consultation on the *Scale of Contributions*, I would like to ask the Legal Counsel to outline the background regarding the establishment of the *Scale of Contributions* for the year 2001.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I will be very brief, since the circumstances which led to the adoption of Conference Resolution 9/99, *Scale of Contributions 2000-2001*, are described in great detail in Annex III to Document CL 120/15.

Under this Resolution, the Conference adopted for use, in 2000-2001 of a Scale of Contributions as set out in Appendix G of its Report, derived directly from the United Nations' Scale of Assessments in force for 2000. The Resolution also provided, in operative paragraph 2, that, "If the United Nations General Assembly adopts a new United Nations Scale of Assessments for the years 2001 to 2003 before 31 December 2000, the Director-General shall prepare a modified Scale of Contributions for the year 2001 to reflect the Scale of Assessments for that year fixed by the United Nations General Assembly, applying established principles for adjusting the FAO Scale of Assessment to take into account differences in membership between the United Nations and FAO."

In doing so, the Conference exercised its sovereign power under Article XVIII, paragraph 2, of the FAO Constitution, whereby it is required to adopt a scale of contributions for the financing of the budget.

There is no doubt that Resolution 9/99 was a clear decision taken by the Conference and that the Director-General was under a strict obligation to apply that Resolution without any margin of discretion. This emerged very clearly from the debates which took place during two Sessions of the Conference as described in Annex III to document CL 120/15. This happened in 1997 and then again in 1999. In particular, the Director-General was obliged to apply for the year 2001 a revised Scale of Contributions should the United Nations General Assembly adopt a new Scale of Contributions for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 before 31 December 2000.

In this connection, it may be of interest to underline that, in relation to the discussions which led to the adoption of FAO Resolution 9/99, and also in 1997 for the previous Resolution, the Council went as far as considering in document CL 117/4, and I will quote from the Report of the Council, "A hypothetical scale illustrating the potential impact on the assessments of individual Members of a possible reduction in the ceiling rate from 25 percent to 22 percent".

As I said, by Resolution 55/5B, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a new Scale of Assessments for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003. The Scale of Assessments for 2001 is set out in the first column of Annex II of this Resolution. This is the Scale of Assessments in force at the United Nations in 2001 which the Director-General was required to apply in 2001, applying, of

course, the principles for adjusting the Scale of the UN to take into account the differences in membership, as so provided in Conference Resolution 9/99.

The General Assembly, under Resolution 55/5B, also decided that transitional measures, financed from a voluntary donation clearly identified as such in the Resolution itself, would be applied for the year 2001.

An amount of three percent of the amounts assessed on Member States was credited against the assessed contributions of a number of Member States. The General Assembly, in legal terms, could have made these credits an integral part of the scale of Assessments for the year 2001. However, this was not the course of action adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. On the contrary, the United Nations General Assembly decided to establish a specific table providing for the distribution of these credits to some Member Nations. It is thus very clear, from a legal point of view, that such transitional measures do not form an integral part of the UN Scale of Assessment for 2001.

In view of this complex situation, the Director-General had no authority whatsoever to apply any scale different from that adopted by the United Nations for the year 2001.

A. MEKOUAR (Chairman, Finance Committee)

In discussing the Scale of Contributions and the issue of transitional measures raised by a few Members, and given the legal context, the participants in the informal consultations recognized that it would not be possible to make any change for the year 2001. Accordingly, the discussions focused on the Scale of Contributions 2002-2003.

These Members proposed to include transitional measures for 2002 based on those adopted by the United Nations. This would involve the distribution of a three percent credit, in accordance with the table included as Annex I in the UN Resolution 55/5b, or according to some other mutually agreed methodology yet to be determined.

The proponents suggested three possible sources of financing of this credit, which would be about US\$10 million. The first suggestion would be to reappropriate the funds from the Technical Cooperation Programme, TCP, by reducing the appropriation for TCP by US\$10 million. It was recognised that not only would many Member States be opposed to such a reduction in TCP, but also this would be contrary to the Conference Resolution 9/81, which urged that the level of the TCP be restored to 14 percent of the RP budget and, if possible, to 17 percent.

The use of an earmark of TCP funds, without reducing the TCP appropriation, was also suggested. However, this would result in an increase in the accumulated deficit of the Organization, which was already excessive.

Funding the credit from arrears payment was another suggestion. This would be difficult because, firstly, there is no guarantee that sufficient arrears payments will be received and secondly, the Conference has adopted Resolution 3/99, that has set the guidelines for the use of these arrears. These countries also made a proposal to develop and adopt a new scale of contributions for FAO only.

Departure from the current practice would be contrary to the decisions of the Conference, in particular Resolution 42/55. It is also recorded that, in 1983, the Conference decided that departure from the practice of deriving the FAO scale directly from the UN scale would lead to duplication of the work of the UN Committee on Contributions. It would have undesirable repercussions throughout the UN System and would lead to Governing Bodies of FAO dedicating an inordinate amount of time on the administrative matter in efforts to develop a viable alternative.

In conclusion, I recall that the Finance Committee discussed this matter in detail and endorsed the enabling resolution in paragraph 36 of its Report, for adoption of the scale for 2002-2003 by the Conference.

CHAIRMAN

You have heard the Report on the informal consultation between several delegates with the Finance Committee. I would like to have comments from the floor.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

Actually I have two questions.

It was not clear to me in the summing up whether we had made a recommendation regarding accepting the Audited Accounts, as presented to the Committee. I do not think you mentioned that. My reading of the discussion the other day was that there was consensus on that point, so I just wanted to clarify that.

Secondly, in regard to the Incentive Scheme, we did have a long discussion in the informal working group and I thought that there was no consensus. I wanted clarification on the recommendation. Will we continue with the incentive scheme? Will we continue with it for two years? Drop it for two years? Drop it for four years? I would like to request clarification, please.

Ms Lan HOANG (Canada)

Can we address the question of the Incentive now?

To our knowledge, the most recent UN Joint Inspection Unit pronouncements on the Incentive Scheme indicated they were being kept under review and that the Inspector was still confident that such a system would effectively contribute to reducing the liquidity problems of organizations.

The International Civil Aviation Organization found that, even though such incentives have not influenced a large number of states with respect to paying their assessed contributions in full and on time, they have clearly benefited the early payers and, thus, addressed the inequality in cost sharing between early and late payers.

Given that financial incentives for early payments are based on sound business principles, Canada and others urge FAO to maintain this.

One positive effect of the early payment incentive is that it has provided adequate cash flow to the Organization and negates the need for the Secretariat to borrow funds. In this way, early payers are helping to financially carry the Organization's cash flow and there should be some incentive for this.

We would hope that the Membership would insist upon new efforts on the part of the Secretariat to encourage late payers to meet their obligations by paying their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

We look forward to a report from the Secretariat on the steps which it proposes to take to encourage early payment or penalise late payment. We suggest that such a report be presented to the Finance Committee at its next session.

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brazil)

First of all, we are very grateful for the work that has been done; a tremendous amount of effort and time by the small group that gathered in the India Room to come to these suggestions.

Nevertheless, we are not in position now to deliberate about any of these suggestions. We were caught by surprise, more or less. We had in mind that, according to what had been deliberated in the United Nations in the Eighty-Ninth Plenary meeting of 23 December 2000, and I read, the General Assembly stresses that the reduction of the maximum assessment rate, referred to in paragraph 1 of Resolution B above, shall apply to the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations and should have no automatic implication for the apportionment of the expenses of the specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency.

We are sort of embarrassed because we have no instructions and we have no capacity to deal with it right now. We would suggest to leave it for the Council in November, for the final word of everybody here to decide about this. This is our official position.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

We would like to request the distinguished delegate of Tanzania to speak on behalf of the Africa Group.

Costa Ricky MAHALU (Observer for Tanzania, United Republic of)

Probably this matter might be referred to the following Council, but we thought that the Africa Group, on whose behalf I am taking the floor, can also express its views quite briefly.

When it comes to the question of scale of contributions, we believe that this has already been decided by the FAO Governing Bodies, on the basis of the decision of the United Nations General Assembly. We actually support the position as reflected by the Finance Committee.

What is also important to us, when we talk about TCPs, and what the Africa Group wishes to emphasise, is that these Programmes are of fundamental importance to African countries. There is indeed a resolution of the FAO Conference which clearly indicates that TCPs should be increased. We are actually optimistic and we have a lot of expectation on this approach.

Patrick PRUVOT (France)

Je suis un peu perplexe; je voulais vous demander de donner la parole à la Suède qui pourrait parler au nom de l'Union européenne, mais à vrai dire je ne sais pas exactement de quel point de l'ordre du jour nous traitons. Traitons-nous du barème, traitons-nous du Plan d'incitation, ou des autres questions? Si vous pouviez nous éclairer, je reformulerais une demande après.

CHAIRMAN

As I have been asked by the United States of America, we are not only dealing with the Scales but also the Report that I have read on the other matters, arriving at the discussions on the Report of the Finance Committee.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Observer for Sweden)

I am indeed speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

We would like to come back to our wish to support the Finance Committee having private sessions, from time to time, with the External Auditor, which is routine practice at IFAD and in New York, where the Board of Auditor meets with the ACABQ.

We understand that the management of WFP would have no difficulty with this idea.

It is our understanding that Council has now endorsed this idea.

ZHENG DONG LI (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, I would like to underline one point on the scale of contributions for 1999, in accordance with the FAO Conference. Most delegations were against the decision taken at that time. On this point, we expressed our reservation and we have taken note.

In the light of the scale of contributions 2002-2003, we would like to stress the position that we expressed here two days ago.

Just now, the delegation of Brazil gave its view on this issue and we support the declaration of Brazil. We would prefer the Secretariat to give us options so that we could return to our capitals with a list of these options and get advice in order to come to a decision.

Also, when we take into account the scale of contributions, it is also necessary that the level of the budget for 2002-2003 should not be forgotten. I remember that two days ago, when we discussed this item, several delegations said that it was necessary to have three options. First, an increase in the budget level, that is Real Growth, then Zero Real Growth. We also are waiting to see the text of these three options with a view to looking at the options as a whole.

Ariel FERNÁNDEZ (Argentina)

Al igual que la distinguida Delegación de Francia, no está claro si estamos analizando todos los tópicos que se trataron el otro día o simplemente el de la escala de cuotas. El Presidente del

Comité de Finanzas, en su informe reflejó los comentarios y las opiniones que tenían los miembros en la reunión informal, y sobre el tema específico de la escala de cuotas, aparentemente no habría un consenso dentro del Comité. Algunos miembros sugirieron algunas modificaciones al establecimiento de medidas transitorias, etc. Hemos escuchado al Consejero Legal y debemos reconocer que ahora tenemos mayor nivel de información o tal vez de confusión.

Lo que plateó nuestra delegación en la pasada reunión cuando se trató este tema fue que teníamos que introducir un principio de certeza; aparentemente lo que se continúa discutiendo es que éste no existe. En cambio sí está presente para la Organización y para su área jurídica, la resolución de Naciones Unidas, y la Secretaría o el Director General lo han aplicado con su enfoque y su visión de como debería proceder.

Ahora bien, teniendo en cuenta que en principio no hay convergencia sobre estos puntos, hace dos días nuestro grupo regional se reunió para evaluar cuáles serían los posibles escenarios del documento presentado por la Secretaría, de las eventuales reuniones que tuviera un carácter informal en el Comité de finanzas, y realizar una evaluación. Ciertamente, esta evaluación no ha podido hacerse porque el Informe de la reunión informal del Comité de Finanzas lo hemos conocido oficialmente en este momento. Lo que nuestro grupo regional había analizado en estas circunstancias era que necesitábamos contar con un mayor nivel de información, teniendo en cuenta que, los documentos habían sido distribuidos en forma tardía; y que ciertamente, a buena parte de los países de la región la cuota para 2002/2003 registraba un alto impacto, en algunos casos, muy superiores al 50% y en otros del 25%. Como la mayoría de las delegaciones del GRULAC estimaron necesario cursar este cuadro a sus respectivas capitales para que hicieran un análisis puntual del impacto que tendría en el presupuesto para 2002/2003, se concluyó que, si no había nuevos elementos se solicitaba el reenvío de la discusión sobre este punto al próximo Consejo de la FAO. Esa fue la posición que se asumió en ese momento, teniendo en cuenta que no ha habido nuevos elementos que surjan del Comité de Finanzas, de modo tal de informar a nuestras capitales sobre los debates y que pudieran así tomar una cabal decisión, no solamente sobre el tema de las cuotas, sino *vis-à-vis* con los niveles presupuestarios que se propondrán seguramente al siguiente Consejo. Estimamos prudente y, por un principio de certeza básico que deben manejar nuestras propias autoridades, reenviar esta cuestión al próximo Consejo.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

Me referiré exclusivamente al Tema 16.4 Escala de Cuotas 2002/2003. En el Plenario, hace dos días, la Delegación de México indicó que lamentaba la premura con que se repartió el informe CL 120/15; y por lo tanto, requeríamos tiempo para consultar a nuestras autoridades financieras. Es evidente que, esta decisión no la toman ni las cancillerías ni los ministerios de agricultura. En este sentido, quiero señalar el apoyo a la propuesta formulada por el Representante de Brasil, para que este tema se debata en noviembre y que coincide con la posición del GRULAC expresada por la Delegación de Argentina.

Aún hay dudas, aún falta información. Si no son exactamente iguales los miembros en las Naciones Unidas y en la FAO, y eso es evidente, ¿cuáles son, entonces, los parámetros utilizados para efectuar la redistribución de cuotas? Es tan sólo una duda entre las muchas que tenemos. Habíamos pedido también que se clarificara lo expresado por la Delegación de la República de Corea y creo que aún no ha obtenido una respuesta.

Tenemos dudas, nos falta información y, desde luego, requerimos tiempo.

Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)

To avoid any confusion, Cyprus will refer now to the Incentive Scheme and to the arrears only.

Joining an international organization means not only privileges but also responsibilities. Therefore, we all have the responsibility to provide to the Organization the assessed resources, and provide them on time. But how do we differentiate from those who honour this responsibility on time, and those who do not?

Statistics indicate that the present Incentive Scheme urged a much larger number of countries to come forward and settle their dues promptly. Unfortunately, this was not followed by a corresponding increase in the inflow of money because, with some exceptions, only small countries fulfil their duties on time.

Therefore, Cyprus suggests that this issue, along with the issue of the Arrears, be examined again during the next Finance Committee session, bearing in mind the following: the Secretariat should provide a document containing *inter alia* a) the true cost of the scheme, i.e., by subtracting the interest earned by the Organization as a result of the early payments; b) the calculation of the costs of the arrears to the Organization, i.e., opportunity cost lost, including the administrative costs chasing after the issue of the arrears; c) a careful consideration of the possibility of introducing, at the same time, a scheme of incentives for arrears.

Kyeong-kyu KIM (Korea, Republic of)

Particularly I have to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his extraordinary job.

A couple of days ago, I raised a question on the scale of contributions, mainly because I felt this is the basic principle matter, the matter of managing the Organization. Still I have to say that the Governing Bodies of FAO should share this responsibility together. As the distinguished delegate from Argentina pointed out relevantly, we did not have a certainty or expectance on budget matters. I feel that we cannot expect the Secretariat to do our job and our responsibility, instead of us. Confining to this matter, intended or not, the 1999 Conference Resolution had resulted in issuing a blank, white cheque to the Secretariat. I think now we are paying the cost very badly.

Under your allowance of dealing with other matters under Item 16, I am going to briefly touch on another matter which I raised also a couple of days ago. It is about a budget matter. When it dealt with the SPWB, my delegation raised several questions to draw a reform on TCP budget. My delegation made it clear at that time, that they agreed totally with a TCP increase. However, reforming is another matter and I am still awaiting some answers from the Secretariat bilaterally on those questions. However, I am afraid that I missing the chance to reply because today is almost the last session.

We know and expect that about 70 percent of the next biennium's TCP budget shall be carried over to the 2004-2005 period, with or without commitment by the Director-General. This is an extremely inefficient practice, particularly for the Organization, who suffers from the lack of resources.

For better understanding, I would like to go a little bit in detail. My proposal for the efficiency of TCP is as follows: the clue is that we could avail the biennium difference between budget allocation and appropriation time. The point is that we can allocate the money, just when it is necessary.

I propose a procedure or a method as follows.

First, we decide the total budget of TCP for 2002-2003. This shall be decided anyway, as a package, during our process. No special procedure is necessary for this.

The second method or procedure is that, whatever the level shall be of the TCP, we allocate about 30 percent, more or less, of the total amount in 2002-2003, the amount which shall be expected to be implemented during that biennium only.

Third, by footnote or another method on the budget document, we give the Director-General authority to commit the remaining 70 percent of the TCP for use during 2004-2005.

Fourth, in 2004-2005, we allocate an amount which consists of 70 percent committed during the prior biennium and 30 percent of the newly decided TCP budget for 2006-2007, and you also give the Director-General the same authority to commit 70 percent for the next biennium use. This is not a traditional method, this is changing the total budget procedure.

Fifth, if necessary, we can adjust the carryover ratio or it can converge to one side, incrementally with time.

What is the main effect? We have just the one-time saving of 70 percent of the TCP budget, without reducing implementation of the TCP, without halting any implementation of the TCP, as far as FAO exists. It is about US\$70 million which could be used for other urgent priority areas.

What are the possible problems? My delegation would like to ask the Secretariat to review and suggest problems. I think it will take time. My delegation reviewed this matter overnight, but logically could not find any serious problems. I need also the wisdom from Council Members.

If we succeeded in introducing this exercise, we might get actual real growth for the next biennium. We might have enough money timely to Oracle establishment. We might allocate a substantial amount to a so-called Voluntary Trust Fund as needing money, the establishment which is under discussion on the occasion of the WFS: five years later. We might also give more resources even to TCP itself, we might not need to stay overnight to solve the scale problem in front of us. This is not magic, so I suggest to the Secretary to review this proposal carefully again, and I would like to hear the answers in the next relevant committee.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Queremos ser muy concretos en dos aspectos y en tercer lugar una pequeña reflexión. Con relación a la escala de cuotas, lógicamente, estamos totalmente de acuerdo con lo planteado por Brasil, Argentina y México. Esta es una posición regional, discutida, analizada y en base a las argumentaciones hechas por los distintos colegas de Brasil, Argentina y México no es necesario repetir.

En segundo lugar, hemos oído con mucha preocupación lo planteado por la República de Corea. Creo que su apreciación con respecto a que todos vamos a estar de acuerdo está equivocada: no estamos de acuerdo nada de lo que ha planteado. Vemos con mucha preocupación cuando se habla de que el mundo está dividido entre un norte poderoso y el sur pobre, no es una mera retórica, sino que vemos como los países desarrollados ejecutan planes maravillosos a base del hambre de los pobres. Me llama extraordinariamente la atención. Creo que quien plantea esto no sabe lo que representa el PCT para los países desarrollados. Podemos discutirlo, aunque no creo que podamos alargar este problema; pero decimos aquí categóricamente que no estamos en absoluto de acuerdo a lo propuesto por la República de Corea, por considerar que no representa nuestros intereses. Creemos que el ahorro en la FAO puede comenzar por otro lugar y no precisamente con el PCT.

Ms Anchalee OORAIKUL (Thailand)

My delegation would like to support what our friends from Brazil and Argentina proposed: in postponing the decision making on the scale of contribution to the next Council Meeting in October. This would give the delegations a chance to report to the government, since the Scale of Contributions proposed has a great impact on the countries' economy, especially since Thailand faces serious budget difficulties due to the economic crisis.

Masato ITO (Japan)

I appreciate the effort of the Ambassador Mekouar, the Chairman of the Finance Committee. I would like to make very preliminary comments on his oral report.

I understand the difficulty of those countries who face the increase of Scale Contribution. However, I would like to recall that it is a long tradition and the practice of this Organization to use a the United Nation General Assembly scale, with some adjustment and that the scale for 2001 was agreed upon, at the 1999 Conference. Furthermore, many Members have already paid their 20001 contribution.

The scale proposed for the next biennium, in paragraph 33, in the Annex of the Financial Committee Report, is an appropriate one, being based on the practice and tradition, in line with the relevant decision of the Conference.

With respect to the possible solutions proposed, I have three comments. Firstly, that TCP is a cooperation of FAO. The budget allocated to TCP should be fully implemented according to the allocation of the budget for the benefit of developing countries. I may be wrong, but if a portion of TCP is used for other purposes, that may provoke a totally different programme. If it the case, I think that it should be analysed and discussed in an appropriate body. In this regard, I share the concern with the distinguished Ambassador of Cuba.

The second point is with respect to the arrears. We had a discussion yesterday and the Secretariat's proposal was endorsed. A new scale, establishing our own scale would require tremendous time and energy, a huge cost. I have my doubts whether it is the appropriate way. In my opinion, it would be better to follow our tradition and practice. We have our another job to face and help the under-nourished people.

Finally, as you and Members of the Council are already aware, I am very pleased to announce the withdrawal of the reservations of Japan, and join others in endorsing paragraph 36 of this report. In this regard, I appreciate the best efforts of the relevant service of the concerned Ministries in Tokyo.

However, I still have the concern on the late distribution of the document. I would like to remind the Secretariat that the timely distribution of documents is indispensable so as to provide the necessary time for the delegations to consult with their capitals, in particular with respect to the document relating to the obligations of Members, especially financial issues.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

Let me congratulate the Chairman of the Finance Committee for a very brilliant summary, capturing the discussion and the informal dialogue of yesterday.

My comments are based principally on the budget sharing. You might wish to know that Nigeria is one of the strongest advocates for additional resources for FAO. That has been amply demonstrated by our cash contribution to the Special Programme on Food Security. We are a strong believer in the Real Growth Scenario, because we believe it will make more money available to FAO for its operations.

However, the issue of budget sharing has placed some of us in a little bit of an embarrassment. I am greatly educated by the eloquent explanation offered by the Legal Counsel but, with due respect, I still hold the view that that interpretation, in my judgement, is not complete. To start with, if the Resolution of 1999 of the Council says when, and if, the United Nations passes a resolution, reviewing the scale of fees, it should be implemented. The document from the United Nations must be taken as a whole, and not piecemeal and dissecting it and interpreting them to suit our purpose.

To start with - I have read the document - there is a clear statement within that document that says: the United Nations decided to introduce a transitional measure in order to soften the hard effect on the sharp increase on the Member Countries. It decided, that decision was part of what the Legal Counsel is talking about. I, therefore, submit that we still have room to have a look at the issue of the transitional provision, in the context of the United Nations document, as submitted.

Secondly, I did raise the issue at the discussion yesterday that the criteria used for determining the budget sharing was not very clear. I was referred to page one of the document. I did make the required comment that I had read page one before coming to the meeting. I am happy that my Mexican colleague has raised the same issue on the floor today. My interpretation of that is, that there are some people who are probably not as informed as some of the people on the high table about how the criteria were formulated in arriving at a situation where some countries are asked to make a 100 percent increase.

If there is something like that, one of two things must have happened with the scheme in the past. Either the assessment in the past has been faulty fundamentally, or there have been such sharp increases in the well being of the economies of these countries that they have been allowed to

arrive at an increase of 100 percent. There must be something fundamental about that kind of budget sharing formula where some are getting zero, some are getting a hundred.

I have not listened very carefully to the submission from the Chairman of the Finance Committee and, in view of my sympathy for TCPs generally, I am not going to go and tell you we are tampering with the TCPs but, I just want to say, maybe we need to be informed a little bit more on the mechanism of the budget sharing.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je voudrais exprimer notre gratitude au Président du Comité financier, l'Ambassadeur Mekouar, qui a fait un travail très important et qui a permis de continuer à échanger des points de vue dans un esprit positif, sur des questions aussi fondamentales que le Plan incitatif, le Barème de contribution et sur certaines idées assez étonnantes pour lesquelles d'ailleurs notre délégation a décidé d'intervenir.

Je pense que le paradoxe le plus inquiétant qui ressort des travaux des différents organes de la FAO, c'est toujours cette volonté théorique, souvent exprimée avec beaucoup de passion de venir en aide à des populations particulièrement menacées par des fléaux très graves, comme la pauvreté, la famine, et cette autre attitude de vouloir toujours confiner la FAO dans une situation presque d'inertie. Ce qui est frappant, lorsqu'on lit ce rapport, c'est qu'on ne trouve rien à dire sur la manière dont le budget est exécuté, bien au contraire. Je pense qu'il y a même des passages assez éloquents.

Je crois que ce qui devrait être fait, et nous revenons aux trois scénarios sur lesquels on insiste, particulièrement en l'absence d'un scénario en réalité plus ou moins absurde, je suis désolé de le dire, car dans une situation dans laquelle les problèmes sont encore beaucoup plus difficiles et où il est demandé à une Organisation comme la FAO de faire d'autres efforts pour régler les problèmes de sa compétence, on se refuse, d'un autre côté, à vouloir lui donner les moyens conséquents, ou tout au plus, on a l'intention de réduire ou de confiner ses moyens. Je pense qu'il appartient à ceux qui donnent des directives à la FAO de déterminer véritablement le champ de priorités.

C'est difficile de demander à quelqu'un d'obtenir des résultats en lui disant: "Je vous donne simplement les moyens précis que voilà et vous devez vous débrouiller pour atteindre ces résultats". Je pense que c'est un non-sens. Nous sommes là, nous sommes des Etats souverains. Nous pouvons même demander à la FAO de réduire ses moyens de moitié, mais c'est à nous de déterminer dans quelle mesure, on doit parvenir à cette moitié.

Enfin, nous voudrions, hélas, appuyer fermement ce qui a été dit par mon cher collègue et ami, l'Ambassadeur de Cuba, parce que je ne vois pas comment et sous quel éclairage, on pourrait imaginer opérer des économies sur des programmes de PCT qui sont en fait la cheville ouvrière de tous les programmes de terrain intéressant particulièrement les pays en développement. Je crois que tout cela nous ramène encore à ce paradoxe inquiétant sur lequel on devrait réfléchir. Si nous devons vraiment avoir des consultations et nous donner du temps pour mieux étudier ce rapport, ce que nous ne refusons pas, nous devrions aussi nous donner du temps de revenir sur la raison de savoir si ce que nous disons est ce que nous voulons, et une institution comme la FAO mérite d'être davantage appuyée parce que les populations les plus déshéritées y comptent et attendent de nous des actions beaucoup plus concrètes.

Cela dit, nous voulons simplement souligner que nous rejetons absolument toute idée de vouloir faire des "opérations de gymnastique" sur le PCT. Cela est inacceptable et inconcevable et nous espérons que cette idée ne fera pas d'émules dans cet organe.

Kyeong-Kyu KIM (Korea, Republic of)

As the distinguished Ambassador from Cuba mentioned, I would like to make very clear three things. First, the TCP budget should not be used for any other parts; second, TCP should not have any negative impact from any measures; third, the Republic of Korea entirely agrees on the TCP increase, even if it should be sharp.

My proposal is not contradictory against these propositions.

A. MEKOUAR (Président du Comité financier)

Il y a eu un certain nombre de remarques sur les travaux que nous avons faits hier. Je tiens à signaler que les travaux d'hier, c'était une réunion informelle.

En ce qui concerne la question des mesures d'encouragement pour le paiement des contributions, j'ai déjà résumé les travaux d'hier. Je signale que cela a été amplement discuté au sein du Comité financier, à sa dernière session. Et le Comité financier est sorti avec une recommandation. Je ne sais pas si le Conseil souhaite que nous examinions de nouveau cette question. Je pense que nous l'avons déjà largement examinée.

S'agissant du barème des contributions, je crois que là aussi, nous avons amplement discuté de la question au sein du Comité financier. Et la décision devrait être prise au niveau du Conseil ou de la Conférence. Je ne vois pas ce que le Comité financier pourrait apporter de plus s'il examinait de nouveau cette question. Le Conseil pourrait décider de reporter cette question à sa prochaine session, je pense que nous avons tous les éléments d'information; peut-être que d'autres éléments d'information pourront venir plus tard.

Enfin, ma conviction est que désormais la décision revient au Conseil puis à la Conférence. Je ne pense pas utile que cela revienne au Comité financier. Voilà ce que je souhaitais dire. Je vous laisse maintenant la décision.

CHAIRMAN

The reason why we have asked the Finance Committee to conduct informal negotiations with several delegations was that, if at all possible, we would like to have some certainty on several things. This had been brought up very clearly, at least by the United Kingdom, United States and maybe also by some others.

It is clear now that we cannot do that.

There is a proposal by Brazil that consultations still need to be conducted with capitals, at least on the question of scales. For 2001, of course, there is no change. It is already there.

I think there is no other way than what we have tried to do this at this stage; we cannot do that. I think that the proposal of Brazil, which was supported by several other delegates, seems to be the only way to try to resolve it before the Conference. Again, we realize that on what was reported by the Finance Committee, it is no use to go back to the Finance Committee. It has to be something that the Council has to act upon.

We realize that time is not very favourable. The next Council meeting is immediately before the Conference. But we have tried, we have consulted, there is no Resolution, this has not been solved here, there is still need to conduct consultations with capitals. I therefore propose that the Council, regarding scales of contribution and based on what has been reported and recommended by the Finance Committee, consult in such a way that somehow, in the next Council, we will have something to decide upon. But please also consider what has been pointed out by all delegations here.

On the Incentives Scheme and the recommendation on the Incentives Scheme: I think I have to appreciate the recommendation forwarded by the Finance Committee, but again, the fact is that this has not been accepted by all delegates, so that it has no force to be implemented.

I think that is one decision that we have to make.

Ariel FERNÁNDEZ (Argentina)

Haciéndome eco de lo que pronunciamos anteriormente, tal vez sería muy útil para aquellos gobiernos que todavía necesitan mayor información, más allá de la que surja de este Consejo, responder a la pregunta fundamental que cualquier decisor de técnicas administrativas, cualquier decisor en un ministerio de economía o hacienda va a hacerle a cada uno de los funcionarios que le lleven esta información. Si la pregunta es ¿por qué tengo que pagar el 50 por ciento, 100 por ciento...? como en el caso de Nigeria, etc. Sería conveniente que tal vez con un pequeño papel explicativo que se presentara al Consejo, por la vía que la Secretaría entienda mejor, se informara a esos gobiernos cuál es o cuáles son los criterios que hacen que la FAO tenga que, de alguna manera, reasignar la escala de cuotas que viene de Naciones Unidas con la que aplica FAO. Eso seguramente ayudaría y, tengo la certeza de que en el próximo Consejo adoptaremos una decisión positiva, la cual ayudaría a que los Estados Miembros conocieran exactamente cuáles han sido los criterios que han definido un determinado coheficiente. Eso sería un ejercicio que nos evitaría en futuros Consejos o en futuras Conferencias, cualquier tipo de dudas sobre como se reasignan estas cuotas Naciones Unidas – FAO. Es una propuesta proactiva, espero que la Secretaría la tome favorablemente, porque veo que muchas de las representaciones han solicitado una respuesta a esa información.

Karl-Josef WEIERS (Germany)

I agree with your summary because it was obvious, first the introduction from Brazil, that a number of countries need to investigate a little more in-depth about the new scales. Argentina also mentioned now that possibly more information is needed why and how this new scale came about; why is obvious, but how it came about. At the same time, we should congratulate our colleagues in New York that they were able to do such a very difficult job, which I would not like to do at all.

In order to facilitate further process, nevertheless, the Finance Committee feel that they have done their job. I would very much like that, at the next Council, there is again a paper of the Finance Committee also on this question, even if they only repeat what they have said now, in order to structure the process. Otherwise, we will start with a fundamental debate and will never end.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

Again, let me just say that my understanding is that we are discussing the recommendations to this Body that were made by the Finance Committee in their entirety, not simply on the scale of contributions. It is my recollection that there is one more recommendation outstanding that this Body has before it and that is the recommendation to accept the Audited Accounts. As I asked at the beginning of this session, I was wondering if you could state your understanding as to whether there is a consensus on that issue, as well as on the issue of the scale which you have pronounced on and on the Incentive Scheme.

CHAIRMAN

Before I give the floor to another delegate I would like to just read: "...with regard to FAO Audited Accounts, the Council has decided to forward the Draft Resolution in paragraph 58 of the Finance Committee Report, together with the Audited Accounts, to the Conference for adoption". I hope that is clear.

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brasil)

Si Argentina y Brasil hubieran conversado, quizás en otros asuntos, nos hubiéramos entendido mejor durante más de doscientos años. Yo pienso que nada ha podido ser más correcto que la propuesta que hizo la Delegación de Argentina. Realmente la queríamos hacer nosotros también pidiéndole a la Secretaría que, por favor, nos dieran estos elementos, estos criterios que han utilizado para establecer las diferentes posiciones de los países en la escala de contribuciones, para que pudiéramos iluminar a nuestra gente, en nuestras capitales.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

Perhaps I might try to combine some of the ideas that have come forward.

I think that the proposal from Argentina that there should be an explanatory paper is an extremely good one. It is clear from the discussion we have had that many people feel uncomfortable with the explanations and the data that has so far been provided. That is in part a result of the fact that the report of the Finance Committee appeared late and that there was insufficient opportunity for Members of the Council to review it during the course of this week.

I think it has become clear what are the issues upon which Members of the Council would like further information. I do not imagine it should present any great difficulty to draft such a paper. One way in which we might handle it, taking into account the point made by my colleague from Germany, would be as follows: perhaps we could ask the Secretariat to produce an explanatory note which the Finance Committee would simply review, in order to satisfy itself that the issues have been covered, when it meets in September and that the Secretariat would then offer an informal briefing to Permanent Representations in Rome to come and discuss the issues. There would then be a chance for anyone who was interested to come along and question the Secretariat and satisfy themselves that they really do not understand the issues.

If those three steps, the production of the note, the review by the Finance Committee, and an informal briefing could be done before November, as seems to me practicable, then I hope we will be in a position at the Council in November to take a well informed decision. I do not say that it will necessarily be an easy decision, but I think we will all be in a much better position to identify what are the key issues and to try to resolve them.

Ms Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Austria)

I would like to support the Argentinian delegation to produce an explanatory paper and I would also like to support the procedure concerning producing this explanatory, paper as stated by the UK.

Bachar AKBIK (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Near East Group, we would like to express support of what has been mentioned by the African Group as far as the Scale of Assessments is concerned, as well as support of the Technical Cooperation Programme and the non-reduction of the allocations therein.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

J'avais dit tantôt que la demande d'un délai supplémentaire pour poursuivre des consultations sur des questions importantes était toujours une pratique tout à fait noble, acceptable dans une assemblée d'Etats et de représentants civilisés. Seulement, je crois qu'il faudrait aussi replacer les choses dans leur contexte

Un Comité financier comme le Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires (CCQAB) n'a d'ailleurs de raison d'être que parce qu'il doit examiner des questions très complexes, en tout cas, qui n'auraient jamais pu être cernées, résolues à travers un groupe élargi comme le Conseil, comme la Conférence. Nous savons très bien qu'à peu près tous les pays y participent puisque toutes les sous-régions et les régions sont représentées. Il est certain que rien ne se fait sans que les représentants de ces différents organes ne rendent compte aux autres. Si maintenant nous devons, en tant que Conseil, demander au Comité financier de nous donner les éléments, les appréciations, les documents, ma propre expérience du CCQAB aux Nations Unies, et tout comme ici, du Comité financier, je ne pense pas que cela nous amènerait à un travail plus efficace.

Ce que je ne comprends pas c'est que dans ce rapport il y a principalement trois recommandations qui ont intéressé nos débats. C'est: le Plan d'incitation, il y a là pourtant aux paragraphes 50 et 51 du Comité, une recommandation qui n'est pas ressortie à ce niveau. On dit bon, il faut du temps; le barème de contradiction également, on dit qu'il faut du temps, alors que la recommandation du Comité n'a pas été faite à la légère et les représentants y participaient sûrement. On dit aussi: il faut du temps pour comprendre, il nous faut traiter beaucoup de questions, c'est vrai; c'est un objectif. Chaque Etat a le droit d'aller vers le Secrétariat pour demander des explications avant d'informer son gouvernement.

Par contre, pour les comptes vérifiés, je crois que l'on s'empresse en disant qu'il y a un consensus. Naturellement, quand on lit les paragraphes qui concernent les comptes vérifiés, on peut comprendre ce paradoxe qui nous gêne. Ceci dit, nous ne nous opposons jamais à une tentative de prolonger des consultations pour arriver à un consensus si l'esprit de base est un esprit positif très sain qui pourrait nous amener à conforter ce consensus qui a en fait été trouvé au niveau du Comité financier.

Le Président a raison. Quand un organe, que nous avons créé parce que nous ne pouvons pas travailler dans un nombre élargi pour débattre sur des questions aussi techniques et complexes, fait son travail, et qu'on lui redemande de venir nous donner les éléments, les précisions, les informations sur son travail alors qu'on sait très bien dans quelles conditions un tel comité travaille, si l'on se réfère à ce qui a été dit d'encourager des réunions à huis-clos, on se rend compte de la complexité de ce travail. Je ne suis pas contre le fait qu'on fournisse d'autres éléments mais je suis contre le fait qu'une assemblée, un Conseil, se mettent à réexaminer le travail d'un comité. Dans ce cas, il faudrait le faire disparaître, et le Conseil sera en même temps Comité financier et Conseil et on n'en parlera plus.

Pour être clair: d'accord pour continuer la consultation sur les questions pour lesquelles nous devons informer nos gouvernements; d'accord, chaque Etat doit essayer, s'il ne comprend pas, s'il n'a pas les éléments, de les demander au Secrétariat; mais d'accord aussi qu'il faut respecter le

travail d'un comité élu sur une base *in situ personae* parce qu'il s'agit d'experts, de personnes qui connaissent des matières bien précises, qui ont travaillé sur des thèmes que nous leur avons demandés en grand nombre; d'accord que, si on doit aussi fournir ces explications, qu'elles soient à titre tout à fait informel et d'information pour ceux qui le souhaitent, on ne minimise pas quand même un travail important fait par un organe qui mérite toute notre considération.

Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)

Bearing in mind what the UK delegation suggested, Cyprus wishes to endorse it, with the understanding that the issues raised by our intervention are addressed and hopefully a unanimous decision is reached during the next Council meeting.

K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

Just a brief comment on what some of the Members said that they would like to know the criteria on which the Scale is based.

The Scale, in accordance with our Conference Resolutions, is based on a UN Scale which is arrived at by the UN Contributions Committee, which is a specialized committee. They are dealing with this matter and all FAO does is adjust that Scale for the different Membership we have in this Organization.

While I have the floor, I would like to request your indulgence to have the Legal Counsel comment on one of the interventions made by the distinguished representative of Sweden. This concerns the meeting of the Finance Committee with External Audit, because there is a legal view on this.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I think it is my duty to provide some legal elements for consideration by the Council in respect to the intervention of Sweden.

At its Hundred and Nineteenth Session, in November 2000, the Council considered the Report of the Finance Committee which was held in May 2000. Paragraph 5 of the Finance Committee Report reads as follows: "When adopting the Agenda, the question was raised as to whether the Finance Committee could have private meetings with the External Auditor. The Legal Counsel drew the attention of the Committee to Article VII.5 of the FAO Constitution which provided that the Director-General, or a representative designated by him, shall participate in all meetings of the Governing Bodies of the Organization". These are the provisions that we have in FAO. I do not know, and I do not want to enter into, the provisions of the other Agencies of the system, but if you want to accept Sweden's proposal in legal terms, you have to amend the Constitution.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

May I say that we view with great respect the excellent work produced by our esteemed elected representatives to the Finance Committee.

However, I would like to add that the specific points that have been raised, especially in the summary by the UK, are very relevant to our situation as well. Regardless of the fact of the detailed work that has gone into it, we also share the concern that we did not have ample opportunity to examine the detailed Report. Certainly, being accountable, we would like to have some further consultation on the specifics and whatever details that lead to the specific amount which we will need to pay to the Organization.

We submit that the summary which was requested be finalized at the next Council. This would be the best compromise for us.

Patrick PRUVOT (France)

Pourriez-vous s'il vous plaît, donner la parole à la délégation de la Suède, qui parlera au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Observer for Sweden)

We would like to thank the Legal Counsel for giving us this information.

We would also like the Director-General, or his representative, to waive his right to be present at these meetings to be able to follow what happens in other foras to good use. We would hope that the Secretariat could respect the explicit wishes of the Council.

CHAIRMAN

I think we are nearing agreement here, based on many interventions and, in particular, interventions made by Brazil and some other delegates along the same line, and also by the United Kingdom.

We take those interventions into consideration.

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

I did not understand this last intervention by Sweden on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, in the sense that I did not see that there is an express Council request for requesting the Director-General to waive such a right which is in the legal provisions.

If it is the desire of the European Community and its Member States, that is a separate thing, but I do not know whether it is an express desire of the whole Council to request the Director-General to waive such a right.

CHAIRMAN

It is the wish of Sweden, in its capacity representing the Members of the European Community.

Rolf GERBER (Observer for Switzerland)

I just wanted to say that my country supports the EU proposal.

CHAIRMAN

I would like to come back to this, if not, then I am not going to finalize it.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je ne dirais pas, comme mon collègue du Pakistan, que je ne comprends pas, mais cela me surprend parce qu'il n'est pas élégant que lorsque des Etats Membres ont un Secrétariat, qu'ils ont délibérément choisi et mis en place, ils lui demandent de manière crue de renoncer à assister à une réunion de huis-clos avec des personnes travaillant à des activités de la même Organisation. Mais cela dit, est-ce qu'à partir de cela on ne pourrait pas créer un précédent, où le Secrétariat pourrait délibérément, quand sa présence n'est pas requise, se prévaloir du droit de renoncer à quelque chose prévu par les textes.

Je cois que c'est dangereux, c'est un jeu auquel il ne faudrait pas se livrer. Si les Etats Membres ont des choses à dire au Secrétariat, peut-être peuvent-ils le faire à huis-clos comme organe restreint, mais le Secrétariat doit être là. C'est les yeux dans les yeux qu'on peu dire au Secrétariat s'il est incompetent, s'il n'est pas à la hauteur, s'il n'a pas pu faire son travail. Qu'on le lui dise et qu'il le sache!

Je crois qu'une telle démarche n'est pas saine, je suis désolé de le dire. D'ailleurs qu'on nous cite des précédents, qu'on nous dise qu'elle est la hauteur ou la noblesse pour renoncer à sa présence. Je n'ai jamais vu un organe travailler sans secrétariat. Je crois que c'est quelque chose d'extraordinaire et de bizarre.

Donc nous nous opposons fermement à une telle démarche.

Julio Cesar Gomes DOS SANTOS (Brésil)

Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec le Sénégal. Nous pensons que s'il y a une réunion avec les auditeurs indépendants et le Comité des finances, le Secrétariat devrait être aussi présent, parce

que s'il a eu tort ici ou là, il devrait entendre la discussion de ce sujet dont il y a, je ne dirais pas soupçons, mais des points sur lesquels ils ne sont pas d'accord et qui doivent être considérés par les auditeurs et le Comité des finances. Donc je suis tout à fait d'accord avec l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

I fully endorse what His Excellency the Ambassador of Brazil said, following what the Senegalese Ambassador said.

Tourad Ould Mohamed AHID (Mauritanie)

Je ne peux que m'étonner de l'intervention dans laquelle on demande au Secrétariat de ne pas assister à un certain nombre de réunions. Ce sont des décisions que nous avons prises, que nous avons allouées à notre Secrétariat et il est inacceptable de voir cette interruption demandée. C'est tout à fait inacceptable et nous soutenons parfaitement la décision de l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal et l'explication claire qu'il a pu avancer.

CHAIRMAN

We will go back to the decision on the Scale of Contributions. We will accept what has been proposed by Brazil and many other delegates, that is, that we are going to discuss this again and hopefully get a decision on it in the next Council, just before the Conference.

In order to be well informed, we also agree with what has been proposed by the United Kingdom on the three steps, that is; additional information that would be supplied by the Secretariat, reviewed by the Finance Committee and then transmitted to the Permanent Representatives based in Rome, so that consultations with capitals can be conducted in order that, when we meet in the next Council, we can make the right decision.

I think that is our conclusion on the Scale of Contributions at this stage.

I think that concludes our discussion on matters related to the Report of the Finance Committee.

Ivone Alves DIAS DA GRACA (Gabon)

Quelle qu'ait été la conclusion à propos de l'incitation au paiement des contributions: c'est mon premier point. Le deuxième, c'est que j'appuie l'intervention de M. l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal, suite à l'intervention de l'Union européenne.

CHAIRMAN

I believe that earlier I said that the recommendation on the Incentive Schemes, namely that it is recommended to be taken away for two consecutive biennia, did not meet with any consensus in the Council, such that that recommendation cannot go into force.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONTINUED)

III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)

**8. (PART OF) REPORT OF THE 27TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON
WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)**

(ROME, MAY-JUNE 2001) (CL 120/10) (CONTINUED)

**8. (PARTIEL) RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DE
LA SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE MONDIALE (CSA) (ROME, MAI-JUIN 2001)
(CL 120/10) (SUITE)**

8. (PARTE) INFORME DEL 27º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE

SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA MUNDIAL (CSA) (ROMA, MAYO-JUNIO DE 2001) (CL 120/10) (CONTINUACIÓN)

I have just received notes on Item 8, on the Work of the Open-ended Working Group working on the Draft Resolution of the *World Food Summit: five years later*.

Co-Chairpersons of the Open-ended Working Group reported on the considerable progress made in preparing a Draft Resolution on the *World Food Summit: five years later*. They expected to meet all day today, and have done so, to be able to present to Council tomorrow morning the outcome of their hard work this week.

In the meantime, I have requested that they make a progress report available for distribution to Council Members and Observers shortly, at the documents desk. This will not be a completed document but will give all of us a chance to be informed of the progress the Group has made in drafting. The final outcome of the Group's work will be available to all Council Members and Observers tomorrow morning when we complete our work on this Agenda Item, before adopting our Report.

I would like to correct this, because this is part of the Report that we are going to adopt, it is part of the work of the Council. Is this approach acceptable to Council?

Can we agree on this first, that we are going to have a progress report tonight and tomorrow we are going to discuss it. I see we have agreement.

**VI. OTHER MATTERS (CONTINUED)
VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES (SUITE)
VI. OTROS ASUNTOS (CONTINUACIÓN)**

**19. ANY OTHER MATTERS
19. AUTRES QUESTIONS
19. OTROS ASUNTOS**

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Creemos un deber, como Cuba y Presidente del Grupo de los 77 decir algunas palabras. Sabemos que no somos eternos en los cargos, y hemos sabido que nuestro colega y amigo, el Embajador Sy de Senegal, se marcha y quienes hemos tenido el honor de compartir su amistad no quisiéramos despedirnos sin antes manifestarle algunas palabras.

El Embajador Sy, que todos conocemos y, precisamente hoy ha hecho gala de su profesionalidad, se ha ganado el respecto de todos los aquí presentes, sin dejar de ser enérgico, negociador, directo en sus planteamientos pero a la vez conciliador, un gran amigo. Queremos que el Embajador Sy de Senegal lleve consigo la convicción de nuestro respeto por su manera de actuar y de que deja un gran recuerdo entre todos nosotros.

Júlio César GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brasil)

Brasil se une a Cuba en el homenaje al Embajador de Senegal, profesional de los más respetables, con larga experiencia diplomática, su Excelencia nos hará mucha falta. Le deseamos suerte y continuado éxito en sus futuras atribuciones. Quería aprovechar la oportunidad para añadir otro homenaje de despedida a un hombre que no es embajador, ni Representante Permanente de su país y sin embargo, es la cara de su país en la FAO, me refiero al Dr. Profesor Pedro Pinto de Portugal, respetado en los medios científicos de su país y en Estados Unidos donde se dedicó por varios años a la investigación científica en el campo de la biología. El Dr. Pinto se va después de dedicarse con ahínco y devoción a la causa de los más necesitados, más allá de los deberes dispuestos por su país. Como brasileño, país hermano de Portugal, pero además como admirador y amigo que aprendí a ser del Dr. Pedro Pinto, quisiera dejar constancia de que difícilmente tendremos otro delegado que le iguale en su capacidad y profesionalidad. Le deseamos mucha felicidad y un largo camino por recorrer en su futuro.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Ce n'est pas pour répondre à ces gentils mots de deux amis très chers, les Ambassadeurs de Cuba et du Brésil, que je prends la parole. J'ai demandé la parole pour que vous puissiez permettre à notre collègue de la Côte d'Ivoire de parler d'un grand homme, un agronome de la faim, qui a disparu récemment et qui a fait beaucoup pour l'Afrique. Il a fait beaucoup pour lutter contre la faim et pour aider les populations confrontées avec les problèmes que nous cherchons à résoudre ici. Il mérite donc que notre collègue de la Côte d'Ivoire prononce, en notre nom à tous, quelques mots à la mémoire de ce grand homme, René Dumont.

A. Aboubakar BAKAYOKO (Observateur de la Côte d'Ivoire)

Ma délégation voudrait faire une brève déclaration au nom de tous. Vous vous souvenez sans doute que le jour de l'ouverture de cette 120ème session du Conseil de la FAO s'éteignait un grand homme, Monsieur René Dumont, à l'âge de 97 ans. René Dumont, ce haut cadre de nationalité française, était un ingénieur agronome que beaucoup de personnes appelaient "l'Agronome de la faim". Cet écologiste des années 70, ayant un fort penchant pour le Tiers-Monde, a écrit plus de cinquante ouvrages et tenu un nombre incalculable de conférences dans plus de 80 pays. Déjà en 1962, il publiait le fameux livre: "L'Afrique noire est mal partie". Quitte à paraître excessif, René Dumont hurlait ses diagnostics: la famine, la croissance démographique insoutenable, les inégalités croissantes, le mal-développement, les guerres, l'épuisement des sols et des ressources naturelles, le dérèglement des systèmes climatiques et la rupture des écosystèmes. Dans sa parution du 20 juin dernier, voilà ce que le journal français "Le monde" disait de lui: "Il était trop écologiste pour les socialistes, trop rouge pour les écologistes, trop empirique pour les marxistes, trop étatiste pour les libéraux, trop agronome pour les économistes, trop socio-économique pour les agronomes, trop pragmatique pour les scientifiques, trop enflammé pour les universitaires, trop exigeant pour les tiers-mondistes, trop anticonformiste pour les pouvoirs, trop raisonnable pour les rêveurs". Oui, René Dumont était un homme à part. Il aura cultivé cette acception toute sa vie.

Au moment où se terminent les travaux d'un des organes directeurs de cette noble institution qu'est la FAO, chef de file des institutions chargées de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition, il était opportun de rappeler toutes les qualités de René Dumont et de demander à chacun d'entre nous d'avoir une pensée pieuse pour lui.

Pedro PINTO DA SILVA (Observer for Portugal)

First I wish to thank the over-generous remarks of my good friend and a person whom I admire, the Ambassador from Brazil, Ambassador Gomes Dos Santos. I thank him, and I thank all the Permanent Representatives and all present working for the good of FAO, including World Food Programme.

This has been for me an opportunity for which I must thank each one of you, an opportunity to realize the value of cultural diversity, and where we have debated some of the most difficult and pressing points of our time. Therefore, I leave with a very rich experience for which I am most grateful. I would only like to remind you that one is only here for the developing countries. We are here for those who really have so little.

In passing, I have to mention one project, which as all of you know, has been very close to my heart, and that is the School Lunch Programme. That Programme alone can do more for more people than anything else we have in front of us, so I ask you to remember this, for those that are affected by AIDS, those whose suffering and lack of treatment will cause immense distress, and for all the suffering in the world, including in developing countries.

That is all, I wish to thank you again very much.

Costa Ricky MAHALU (Tanzania, United Republic of)

I am speaking on behalf of the Africa Group, in relation to the phrases that have been showered on our dear brother and colleague, the Ambassador of Senegal, who will be leaving us soon for Dakar where we believe he will be given even more responsible assignments.

We wish to show our appreciation to other countries from other regions who have expressed their appreciation to the contribution that he made. We wish we could add more and we indeed have a lot of good things to say about our colleague, over and above what has been said. The only thing I may say at the moment is that we are all going to miss him.

CHAIRMAN

I am sure that all of us join the sentiments voiced by Cuba, Tanzania as we see our colleagues go, and we wish them every success and thank them for all that they have done for our cause.

19.1 Medalla Margarita Lizárraga

19.1 Margarita Lizárraga Medal

19.1 Médaille Margarita Lizárraga

CHAIRMAN

We now turn to Item 19.1, which concerns the Margarita Lizárraga Medal and the relevant document is CL 120/INF/15. This award pays tribute to the late Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Senior Fishery Liaison Officer for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and for her dedication to International Fisheries over almost 40 years. The Selection Committee for the award has unanimously agreed to award the medal for the 2000-2001 biennium to the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and its Secretariat as set out in document CL 120/INF/15. I would like to give the floor to Mr Nomura, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries Department.

I. NOMURA (Assistant Director-General Fisheries Department)

As the Chairman already explained, the Selection Committee met in Rome on 28 February 2001, and unanimously agreed to award the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and its Secretariat for its unprecedented grassroot approach to the development of a national code of conduct based on the FAO code of conduct, which is resulting in responsible fisheries management and new partnerships between industry and Government in the fisheries sector.

You may wish, among other things, to invite the Council to endorse the nomination of the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and its Secretariat and recommend that the medal be presented to the representatives of the Canadian Board by the Director-General as part of the proceedings of the Thirty-First Session of the Conference.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

La medalla Margarita Lizárraga, no es un reconocimiento más. Se trata de un merecido homenaje a una mujer ejemplar, a una talentosa mexicana, pero quizá sea más importante el tributo a una funcionaria internacional que entregó su vocación, su capacidad y, sobre todo, su empeño ético a las mejores causas de esta gran institución.

El Código de Conducta para la pesca responsable marca la cúspide de la aportación de Margarita Lizárraga a favor del desarrollo sostenible y la vinculación entre conservación, ordenación y aprovechamiento de los recursos pesqueros y acuícolas. El Código se ha convertido en un documento fundamental para apoyar las políticas nacionales a favor de la seguridad alimentaria y para presentar las oportunidades sociales y económicas de millones de seres humanos que trabajan y viven de la pesca.

Hoy el Consejo debe ratificar si acepta la recomendación del Comité de Pesca para que este año la Conferencia entregue a la Junta Canadiense de Pesca Responsable y su Secretaría la medalla Margarita Lizárraga, la segunda que se entregará desde su creación.

La Delegación de México estima que la Junta Canadiense reúne todos los requisitos para ser merecedora de este reconocimiento ya que ha contribuido a la elaboración de un Código Nacional de Consulta basado en el Código aprobado por la FAO en 1995, acción que ha impulsado el establecimiento de nuevas asociaciones entre la industria y el Gobierno Canadiense en el sector pesquero.

México agradece a la Organización el apoyo para mantener vivo el recuerdo y la extraordinaria contribución a la pesca responsable de Margarita Lizárraga. Su actividad profesional benefició a numerosas comunidades de África, Asia, Medio Oriente y América Latina; más allá de su trabajo técnico realizó una labor social a favor de numerosos grupos de pescadores de varios países. Justo ahí, ante cientos de mujeres y hombres, dejó su mejor legado, el trabajo por un mundo mejor.

Toural Ould Mohamed AHID (Mauritanie)

Ma délégation appuie l'attribution de cette médaille à cet organisme canadien.

Mark COREY (Canada)

You will be pleased to know that we intervene not to object, but just to thank you for this honour. The commitment that Dr Margarita Lizárraga showed in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as well as her other work of distinction on behalf of FAO, remain a powerful inspiration to us all. Canada is truly honoured by the recognition that FAO has proposed to extend to the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board, and its Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN

You will have noticed that our Agenda includes an information document, CL 120/INF/14, Progress Report on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Millennium Declaration Following within FAO's Mandate.

Are there any comments from the floor on this document?

With this, we have concluded this Item on Other Matters.

We have also concluded our work for today.

I would like to thank all of you for the positive approach that has characterized our proceedings this week. We had a challenging Agenda to work through and I am sure you will agree that our business type attitude helped us get through it.

The Drafting Committee will be meeting in the next room. I wish it success in drafting the report that will be put before the Council for adoption tomorrow morning.

I wish you all a restful evening and look forward to seeing you here at 9.30 sharp tomorrow.

The session is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17.20 hours

La séance est levée à 17h20

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.20 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001</p>
<p>ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING ONZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 11ª SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>23 June 2001</p>

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 11.25 hours

Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 11 h 25
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 11.25 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONTINUED)
III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)
III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)

- 8. (PART OF) REPORT OF THE 27TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON
WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)
(ROME, MAY-JUNE 2001) (CL 120/10) (CONTINUED)**
- 8. (PARTIEL) RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DE
LA SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE MONDIALE (CSA) (ROME, MAI-JUIN 2001)
(CL 120/10) (SUITE)**
- 8. (PARTE) INFORME DEL 27º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE
SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA MUNDIAL (CSA) (ROMA, MAYO-JUNIO DE
2001) (CL 120/10) (CONTINUACIÓN)**

CHAIRMAN

I call the eleventh meeting of the One Hundred and Twentieth Council Session to order.

I would like to welcome the Director-General to participate in this very important session. As announced yesterday, the Working Group has not as yet finalized their report, however, they do have something to report to the Council at this stage.

May I now ask the Chairperson of the Working Group Mr O'Driscoll.

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

Council will recall that on Monday you accepted the recommendation contained in the CFS Report paragraph 41, to establish a Working Group opened to all countries invited to the *World Food Summit; five years later*. You appointed Ambassador Muchada and myself as co-Chairs of that Group.

The Working Group met and decided to establish a core negotiating group of 36 countries to undertake its work. The Group has met throughout the week and I am very glad to report that its work has been characterized by a very positive spirit. The results of our work are set out in CL 120/0EWG/Draft Proposal.

The text in this document has been formulated by the Working Group established by Council to undertake negotiations on the Resolution for the *World Food Summit; five years later*, on the clear understanding that no part of it can be considered agreed until the whole text is agreed.

The Working Group did not address the issue of the order of the paragraphs, so no significance should be attached to the order as it appears in the document. I should also point out that when the CFS proposal to establish the Working Group was considered, it was also agreed at that time by the regional Chairs that the text would be discussed in the Working Group but should not be discussed in the Council itself.

The Working Group did discuss how to continue the negotiations in order to agree and finalize the Resolution text and decided to recommend to Council that it should reconvene the Working Group at the Hundred and Twenty-First Session of the Council. That is our Report.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I believe it is important that I be present in this Session of the Council instead of being represented by the Deputy Director-General. You have given me a task and a responsibility, and I am trying to the best of my ability and my knowledge to fulfil that task. Therefore, when there are important issues, I think I ought to come in front of you and raise them with the frankness that you all know I do not hesitate to use.

First, let me express my appreciation for all the work that has been done by the Working Group. A Working Group negotiating a document has a methodology. The methodology is that when there is an agreement on a text it is left. When there are some disagreements on a text, it is indicated between brackets. Therefore they have done what is right.

We have policy issues and principles on which I need guidance from the Council. I requested, and you kindly agreed, that we call a meeting of Heads of State and Government, because there are 800 million people who do not have adequate access to food, and because everything we have done until today has not given us the results in line with the objectives set out by 112 Heads of State and Government, and delegations of 186 countries.

We all agreed that this was due to two problems: problem of political will, and problem of resources. We therefore decided that we should address those issues. I took the initiative of informally approaching a number of Heads of State and Government of developed and developing countries as well as the private sector, with a view to trying to mobilize resources to be able to implement whatever decision would be taken at the *World Food Summit: five years later*. This process has been moving forward and in many places we have very positive indications.

I cannot leave this Council without a decision on the Trust Fund. We made sure that in proposing this formula we proposed a voluntary, let me repeat voluntary, let me repeat, voluntary trust fund, which means that those who do not want to pay, do not pay, nobody obliges them. However, I do not think it is right that they should prevent those who want to pay or who are willing to pay, to pay.

Since 1994, the budget has been going down. We have had to cut six hundred posts. In the different meetings that were held recently, we have been told that our financial system is in shambles and we do not have the staff. This is recognized by the Auditor, this is recognized by the Finance Committee. You all have the observation that our field programme is going down. You all recognize it, in the Programme Committee, in the Finance Committee, and that should be corrected. You all know what is going on in the discussion of the budget. It should be Zero Nominal, Zero Real and so on. So I proposed something voluntary – can I not, at least get the support for something that is voluntary? What am I supposed to tell all the Heads of State and Government I have been contacting over the last months regarding the decision taken in this Council, if we leave with the conclusion that we have not taken a decision in the Council?

I really think we cannot, on the one hand, elect a Director-General, give him responsibility, expect him to achieve goals and, when it comes to giving the means, even of creating something that is voluntary, there is a debate. I must say intellectually I have difficulty in understanding why someone should be against something that is voluntary. If someone wants to pay, he pays. If a country is willing to contribute, it contributes. If a country does not want to contribute, it does not contribute. But I have to tell you that when I need to do something in fulfilment of the mandate you gave me and the instructions you gave me, I think I need to come to you and tell you that if you do not allow me to do this, then I am not in a position to achieve my goals.

We are not bringing Heads of State and Government of the whole world to make speeches without any consequence. We are bringing the Heads of State and Government to make sure that we have the means to achieve the goals of the World Food Summit and we all know that at the rate we are going, we will reach this goal by the year 2030 only, not 2015.

I would therefore really like to appeal to you to take a decision. It is up to you to take whatever decision you like, but I would not like to leave here without a decision and with something between brackets. It does not mean a thing. You are either for it or you are against it, but I need to have clear guidance on the part of the Council.

CHAIRMAN

I would like responses to the point that has been raised by the Director-General.

Mohammed A. KHALIFA ((Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We are very grateful to the Director-General for his address.

As regards the Trust Fund, we would like to remind you that we referred to this during our speeches in Plenary this week. Over and above what I already said in my statement, I would like to call upon Council to give its approval to this matter because we believe that this Trust Fund would be of tremendous assistance to the least developed countries. Especially, it would help them deal with diseases and the treatment of diseases, plant diseases, animal diseases. This is something that would enable countries to obtain food security. This is after all the main objective of our Organization. Consequently, Egypt supports the words of our Director-General concerning the setting up of a Trust Fund, a Trust Fund that has been explained which would be voluntary to help agricultural development and food security in developing countries.

B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe)

When we went through the various deliberations there were three things that kept on ringing in my mind, at the Twenty-Seventh Session two weeks ago, and now at Council. We are moving way too slowly towards the achievement of the objectives which were set forth by the WFS 1996 where the various difficulties and causes were outlined. What I may refer to is a litany of submission of things that require funding. I have serious difficulties in appreciating that, since over the past - I guess eight years we have maintained a stagnant budget. It is very clear, that there is a need to inject funds to enable the whole budget to achieve the objectives that have been set forth.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Solamente para pedirle tenga a bien ceder el uso de la palabra al señor Representante de Venezuela que hará una declaración en nombre del GRULAC.

Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela)

Quisiera hablar en nombre de los países de América Latina y el Caribe. Cuando sobre este tema tomamos la palabra, fuimos favorables y propusimos la creación de un fondo fiduciario a financiarse con contribuciones voluntarias por un monto de 500 millones de dólares EE. UU. para que desempeñara una función catalizadora, acelerando la producción alimentaria y mejorando el acceso a los alimentos en los países en desarrollo en general, y particularmente en aquellos menos adelantados como los países PBIDA y los países insulares.

Queremos reafirmar el planteamiento en esta ocasión. Queremos apoyar plenamente la tesis del Director General, y darle las posibilidades de llevar adelante las medidas que han sido acordadas en la Cumbre para alcanzar los objetivos que nos propusimos en el año 1996. Si aquí estamos convocando una Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno es porque somos conscientes que los objetivos que definimos en el año 1996, al ritmo en que vamos, no se podrán alcanzar. Lo que ocurre es que para algunos la Conferencia de noviembre no es otra cosa sino una Conferencia más y quieren incluir en ella esta reunión de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno. Para el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, la Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y Gobierno es una Cumbre y como tal se debe respetar, y tomar en cuenta que no se movilizan Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno simplemente para dar discursos de siete minutos, sino para que tomen decisiones que vayan en el camino correcto como aquellas que se acordaron en el año 1996. Por eso, le reitero, apoyamos la creación de este fondo de manera enfática.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba)

Como todos recordaremos en la reciente reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, como Presidente del Grupo de los 77, me referí muy específicamente sobre este aspecto de la creación de un fondo fiduciario de la FAO. Hoy reitero, como Presidente del Grupo de los 77, la propuesta en este 120º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO.

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

We listen to the Director-General's statement with interest and we do believe that the statement came from his heart with a great deal of excitement. He is excited because he cares about 800

million hungry people the world over. He is excited because he feels the heavy burden on his shoulders, because of the very great task ahead of him. This is the feeling that we all have and we have had it especially since the World Food Summit five years ago.

This is why, wholeheartedly, I strongly support this proposal for having a Trust Fund which, as was explained by the Director-General himself, is voluntary and nobody is obliged to pay anything without interest or will.

Bachar AKBIK (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

The question of the creation of a Trust Fund within FAO is not a new matter. We know that more than twenty Trust Funds have been created during the life of our Organization. As our Organization has handled so many Trust Funds very skilfully and efficaciously, it can be expected to do so in the future, it has proved its skills.

No one has the right to object to an opportunity being given to developing countries and poor countries to improve their food situation, especially as the Fund we are referring to is a Trust Fund, a voluntary Trust Fund. No one, therefore, is obliged to contribute to it. That being so, why are the countries that do not want to contribute to this Fund, why are they objecting to and raising obstacles to the countries who wish to create such a Fund?

I am speaking on behalf of the Middle East Region when I say this and I can assure you that we wholeheartedly support the Director-General's initiative on the creation of a Trust Fund, to amount to as much as US\$500 million, to help the Organization fulfil its responsibilities. Our support for the creation of such a Fund does not in any way prejudice the decisions to be taken in the future. This is simply an appeal which we are making in general terms.

Ahmed AFAILAL (Maroc) (langue originale arabe)

Pour répondre à l'intervention de M. le Directeur général concernant le projet de création d'un Fonds fiduciaire, je voudrais au nom de mon pays, dire que je soutiens totalement cette initiative puisqu'on nous a expliqué clairement quelles sont les causes et les raisons qui poussent à la création d'un tel Fonds fiduciaire.

Voilà pourquoi nous ne pouvons donc qu'appuyer cette proposition. Nous n'attendons pas que le Sommet de 1996, cinq ans après aboutisse à autre chose qu'à des propositions concrètes et nous pensons que le Fonds fiduciaire doit nous permettre de transformer nos ambitions en réalités et d'atteindre nos objectifs.

Durant cette semaine, lors des débats qui ont eu lieu et en entendant les interventions d'un grand nombre de représentants de régions et en particulier du représentant du Groupe des 77 il est apparu clairement que beaucoup sont convaincus de la viabilité et de l'importance d'un tel projet et je crois qu'il n'y a qu'un petit nombre de pays qui aient exprimés des réserves concernant la création de ce Fonds.

Voilà pourquoi je voudrais lancer un appel ici, pour demander que nous soyons tous conscients de la nécessité d'agir concrètement afin que nos résolutions ne soient pas lettres mortes. Ce que nous voulons, c'est réaliser les objectifs définis par le Sommet dans un esprit de solidarité et d'entraide entre tous les membres de la Communauté internationale. Il ne faut pas qu'on ne rende responsable que les pays pauvres.

Segfredo SERRANO (Philippines)

We would request that the floor be given to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for a statement on behalf of the developing countries of Asia. After which, we would request the floor again for a brief remark.

Ri Hyong CHOL (Observer for Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of)

I am speaking on behalf of the Asia Group.

The developing countries of Asia, in solidarity with the Group of 77, would like to express our support to the proposal to establish a Trust Fund, to be financed by voluntary contributions, in order to allow FAO to fulfil its mandate.

Mme Ivone Alves DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

La délégation gabonaise, qui a déjà appuyé la proposition de la création d'un Fonds fiduciaire pour la sécurité alimentaire, désire réitérer fermement cette position. Nous voudrions également faire nôtres les paroles du Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf. En effet nous ne pouvons comprendre ce qui peut motiver une opposition à la création d'un Fonds à contribution volontaire. Par conséquent, nous demandons aux délégations qui se sont exprimées contre la création de ce Fonds, de revoir leurs positions et de permettre au Conseil, dont la majorité des pays est en faveur de cette initiative, de décider formellement de cette création dès à présent.

Miguel BARRETO (Perú)

Hay ocasiones en la cuales reiterar es necesario, como es este caso. Por eso tomamos la palabra: para apoyar absolutamente lo dicho por el Representante de Venezuela en nombre del GRULAC y por el Representante de Cuba en nombre del Grupo de los 77. Apoyamos firmemente la propuesta de establecer un fondo fiduciario financiado por contribuciones voluntarias.

Ms Rachel Refiloehepe NTS'INYI (Lesotho)

I wish to request you to allow Tanzania, the Chair for the Africa Group, to take the floor on behalf of our Region.

Costa Ricky MAHALU (Observer for Tanzania)

I will speak on behalf of the Africa Group.

I would like to express Africa's support for the establishment of a Trust Fund, within FAO, for promoting agricultural development and investments in agriculture and, therefore, foster food security. We strongly support the initiatives outlined by the Director-General of FAO.

Maybe I should go a bit further on this. Agriculture means food to us. It is, at the same time, the mainstay of our economies. It is the very foundation upon which the existence of our communities is based. Its decline, therefore, spells disaster by deepening poverty. As we all know, there is a decline in agricultural production in many African countries. There are many reasons behind such a decline, which leads to food insecurity. There are serious efforts to revive agricultural production at a national level. These efforts are almost invariably futile because of the lack of sufficient budgets with which to finance the required agricultural development. National budgets have been allocating less and less finance, not only for recent development in agriculture but also, as I have just stated, in agricultural development programmes, which, as I said, would assure food security.

It is common knowledge now that Official Development Assistance ODA has been on the decline since the 1990s. Exports from developing countries are subjected to high tariffs and non-tariff restrictions. This reduces export earnings which our countries need in order to increase budget allocations for agricultural development. A large part of the incomes of such countries is now being used to service external debts, since they are mostly heavily indebted. Scarce resources are, therefore, allocated for agricultural development and we know very well the position, or the current situation, within FAO. It cannot fully assist us in agricultural development projects because of the current Zero Nominal Growth. It is in respect to this that the African Group expresses its optimism and, therefore, strongly supports the establishment of a Trust Fund which is voluntary. We request and we urge the Council to provide for its establishment.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

My intervention has nothing to do with the merits of this proposal. It is a procedural point. Could you please clarify for us the Item on the Council Agenda under which we are discussing this proposition.

CHAIRMAN

It is the Report of the Committee on World Food Security and all the documents that are relevant to it.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

It is my understanding that this matter was discussed in the Working Group. However, we have not seen any formal proposal before the Council explaining some of the modalities and I have no instructions. We have discussed several other issues this week and many other countries said that they were not instructed. While it was discussed in the Working Group, it is my understanding no consensus was reached. Therefore, I would have to say that we would not be able to join any consensus giving a mandate for the creation of such a voluntary fund.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Après l'intervention du Président du Groupe des 77 et des quatre Présidents des différentes régions composant ce groupe, je pense néanmoins, que l'intervention du Burkina aurait pu en ressortir. Je voudrais m'associer à tout ce qui a été dit, parce que nous aussi nous ne comprenons pas. Il semble qu'il y ait une contradiction entre tous les discours que nous prononçons, un manque de logique dans tout ce que nous disons et ce que finalement nous entendons faire. Or on ne peut pas, il me semble, vouloir une chose et son contraire. On reconnaît qu'on n'arrive pas à faire autant de progrès qu'on l'aurait souhaité. L'insécurité alimentaire ne fait que s'étendre; les ressources ne font que diminuer, nous lançons des défis et nous refusons de prendre des décisions concrètes pour faire face à ces défis.

C'est pourquoi je pense que si, de plus en plus, on jure à gauche et à droite sur la nécessité de réduire la pauvreté, et on reconnaît en même temps que la faim est cause et effet de cette pauvreté là, il faudra pouvoir trouver des ressources additionnelles pour aider la FAO dont le mandat principal est de faire face à cette situation.

Nous savons comme au cours de ces dernières années, le Directeur général a dû avoir recours à des ressources additionnelles hors budget, pour permettre même ce peu de progrès que nous avons pu réaliser, sans lesquelles on aurait encore fait moins. Je pense donc que la création du Fonds fiduciaire va dans le même esprit de trouver des ressources hors budget, qui ne sera pas alimenté uniquement que par les Etats Membres, mais également par des privés, par des sociétés, par des banques. Je pense qu'à travers ce Fonds, on pourra faire un appel de ressources à tous les niveaux et, comme il est volontaire, je ne comprends pas qu'on puisse s'opposer à la création d'un Fonds dont les ressources proviendront de contributions volontaires.

C'est pour dire que la délégation du Burkina soutient la création de ce Fonds.

Masato ITO (Japan)

I would like to support the intervention of the distinguished delegate of the United States. I have no mandate either.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

Let me start by congratulating the Working Group and particularly the Chairpersons. I had the privilege of attending several of their sessions and I must admit that I am thoroughly impressed that they are able to come out with a document at all, at this stage. Please accept my congratulations.

Having said that, you will recall in my intervention during the Plenary Session on this subject, I did not actually present any facts with respect to the document of the Finance Committee. However, I put forward a very personal plea that the Membership of this Council should take cognisance of the fact that FAO has been effectively operating on less and less resources over the past few years, and they are going to continue to operate on less and less. With a Zero Nominal Growth, everybody knows the import of that in practical terms.

I am really hard put to appreciate the difficulties we are facing with this subject. It is a request to set up a fund that nobody is obliged to. I would have thought may be that the question that would be put to the floor is how does the Director-General intend to mobilize the resources. That is left to him. There is nothing I see that is so objectionable in setting up a fund. We go and move forward. If there are no funds put into the coffer, the Director-General will know what to do with his empty shell. Our expectation is that there are those who do have some resources who are willing to do. The optimism being exercised by the Director-General is clearly indicative. Surely, a man of his calibre and his level could not be putting forward a suggestion that he has no room whatsoever to expect will come out with some positive results. If at the end of the day, those expectations are not met, we shall look, but I find it difficult to appreciate the difficulty in endorsing a simple request that we should create a fund and that those who are willing should please contribute. If you are not willing, stay out.

In summary, as my Peruvian colleague said, sometimes repetitions are useful. This is one such occasion that I think we need to re-emphasize this point. I have the full mandate of my Government to give full support to this. Therefore, the Nigeria support goes fully with what the Chairman of the Africa Group has said.

Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)

Comme beaucoup d'entre nous le savent, mon Gouvernement a pris ses nouvelles fonctions il y a quelques jours, mais je peux déjà faire certaines remarques. La première c'est que j'ai toute raison de croire que mon pays est fidèle à sa tradition de pays hôte et réserve une attention particulière aux attentes et aux espoirs des pays en voie de développement. Je pense donc rassurer tous les collègues de ces pays qui ont pris la parole, parole qui a été prise dûment en considération. Nous sommes très ouverts à ces attentes.

Je pense aussi que les collègues et les pays qui ont exprimé des réserves ont suivi ce débat avec la même attention que la nôtre et je pense en tout cas que le débat est d'une grande utilité. En ce qui nous concerne, en tant que pays hôte, nous n'avons pas de difficultés à atteindre un consensus par lequel toute proposition faite par les pays Membres sera considéré comme un instrument utile pour atteindre le but commun.

Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)

We took our time in raising a flag, basically for two reasons: one, that the chairperson of our region made a statement regarding the regional position, the position of the developing countries of the Asian region; and two, because our position on the matter is well recorded in document CL 120/10-Sup.2, on this subject, where we have expressed our clear support to the concept of a trust fund. Therefore, we are already on record in this matter.

Having been on record, the reason why I am taking the floor this time is to highlight one point. I believe, under the Basic Text, the Director-General has the authority to create trust funds and the Director-General could have created this trust fund of his own accord, too. We appreciate the Director-General coming to the Council, coming to us, coming to the Membership, for political support, for a political backing behind this concept. It is incumbent upon us to provide the Director-General that kind of political support, that kind of backing, so that the Director-General can go to the donors, go to institutions and talk to them from a position of strength, from a position of full political backing. Therefore, I urge upon all the Members of this Council to support the Director-General in providing him that kind of backing, and providing him that kind of support which would embolden him to plead the case of raising more resources.

In that spirit, I think the whole Council should actually support this initiative. I urge those Members who have expressed their inability to join in the consensus at this point in time to maybe reconsider their position in the larger interest of providing the Director-General with political backing and political support.

Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)

Me alegro profundamente que el Sr. Diouf, Director General de esta Organización, haya venido esta mañana y se haya dirigido a nosotros en esta Plenaria con la claridad que lo ha hecho.

Respaldamos plenamente la declaración hecha por el Embajador Fernando Gerbasi, Representante Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, en Representación del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, GRULAC, claro y contundente. Esta es la voz de nuestra región y por lo tanto es nuestra voz.

Respaldamos así mismo lo expresado por nuestros antecesores, especialmente por el Embajador de Cuba Juan Nuiry, Presidente del Grupo de los 77, que es la voz de los países en desarrollo.

Su Santidad Juan Pablo II nos dijo, en Guatemala, en su visita pastoral: "No debe existir divorcio entre fe y vida", se dirigía no solamente a los católicos, sino a todos los hombres de buena voluntad; no podemos tener un discurso distinto a la acción. Creo que sería lamentable que, al salir de esta reunión, alguien pudiese preguntarse cuál es la dirección a la que queremos llegar y que es lo que estamos dispuestos a hacer para alcanzarla y que no hubiese algo positivo en esa respuesta.

Este Consejo, en una u otra forma, como lo ha dicho el Embajador de Pakistán, siempre mesurado, juicioso y atento a introducir luz donde no la hay con su llamado al consenso, ha invitado a reconsiderar lo dicho. Las voces son unánimes respaldando la creación del Fondo Fiduciario Voluntario. No existe una sola voz que se haya opuesto, y aquellos que han expresado no tener instrucciones específicas de sus gobiernos, creo que deberían escuchar la voz del Embajador de Pakistán, deben reconsiderar y pensar lo que es el concepto de consenso, aquello con lo cual puedan convivir, como la creación de un Fondo Fiduciario Voluntario.

Finalmente, y, como dijo el Embajador de Pakistán ha propuesto, está dentro del ámbito de las funciones y atribuciones del Director General y lo que se busca es, simplemente, la fuerza política precisa para que su voz sea acogida con el respaldo de todos los países.

Creo, pues importante llamar a esa reconsideración a los Estados Unidos de América, Japón y otros países. Sé que pueden convivir con una Resolución de este Consejo que determine la creación de un Fondo Fiduciario Voluntario y así debería quedar expresado.

Por lo demás creo, que si vamos a hablar de voluntad política y de recursos en la próxima Cumbre, si hablarán de eso los Jefes de Estado y se tomarán decisiones, si algo es, por antonomasia, expresión de voluntad política y de recursos eso es un Fondo Fiduciario Voluntario: recursos y voluntad, ninguna expresión más clave y contundente, preludio de lo que debe de ser la Cumbre convocada.

Claude CHÉREAU (France)

Je voudrais rappeler que, comme l'a dit la délégation de l'Italie, quand nous avons pris des engagements que ce soit en 1996, alors du Sommet mondial, ou en novembre dernier quand nous avons choisi de suivre le Directeur général pour convoquer un Sommet mondial: cinq ans après, il allait de soi que nous devons être ouverts aux moyens de faire en sorte que cette réunion de novembre prochain soit positive. C'est pourquoi je ne suis pas opposé, ma délégation est ouverte, au principe de la création d'un fonds, si ce fonds est un des moyens jugés utiles. Je n'ai par contre pas de mandat à ce stade et pour apprécier le montant de ce fonds, simplement je rappellerai que si ce fonds, comme il a été proposé, est alimenté sur une base volontaire, il est peut être difficile d'être trop précis sur le montant exact qu'il atteindra. Mais encore une fois notre souci est de respecter l'engagement de 1996 en mobilisant des moyens en tant que besoins.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Australia understands this issue was discussed in the Working Group on the Draft Resolution and, as such, has the same status as everything else discussed in that Working Group. It was not discussed as part of the Agenda for this Council.

Australia does not have any instructions on this and, as such, we cannot join any consensus on this issue. For these reasons, we would associate ourselves with the comments of the United States of America and Japan.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

Gracias por haber aclarado el tema que estamos tratando y, desde luego, por traer a la atención de este Plenario este importante punto.

Como consta en el Verbatim, México está de acuerdo en aprovechar la oportunidad que nos da a todos la Cumbre más cinco para expresar una voluntad política auténtica, sincera y franca; para que se movilicen los recursos que den a la Organización los instrumentos que le permitan alcanzar los objetivos que indica el Plan de Acción. En este sentido, la creación de un Fondo Fiduciario Voluntario es un instrumento que apoyamos. Con ello, señalamos también que refrendamos plenamente lo dicho por el Representante de Venezuela a nombre del GRULAC. Desde luego, quiero resaltar lo señalado por el delegado de Pakistán, sobre las facultades del Director General que señala las normas de la Organización y las posiciones positivas que han manifestado los representantes de Italia y de Francia.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

I simply wanted to clarify that, when I said earlier that the United States of America could not join a consensus on this matter, I should say that I am speaking on behalf not only of the United States of America but of the North America Group. So, let the record show that I am speaking on behalf of the North America Group.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Por causas ajenas a nuestra voluntad, y por la imprecisión en el horario de la sesión de la mañana, hemos llegado tarde a la reunión, lo que no es costumbre en nosotros, y no pudimos oír la intervención del Director General de la FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf.

Cuando llegamos la reunión ya había comenzado y la hemos seguido con mucha atención. En el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria habíamos ya planteado, como Grupo de los 77, el establecimiento de este Fondo Fiduciario, planteamiento que fue recogido en los documentos de la Mesa del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Hoy hemos oído, como dijo el Embajador Acisclo Valladares, no solamente la voz del Presidente del Grupo de los 77, sino de sus cuatro grupos regionales, que han manifestado firmemente el establecimiento del mismo.

Queremos hacer una reflexión: éste no es un tema nuevo y que pueda sorprender a alguna delegación; es un tema viejo, y nos llama mucho la atención que haya representaciones con mucho conocimiento que asistan a una reunión donde sepan que se van a plantear ciertas situaciones y que manifiesten no traer instrucciones al respecto, pues es muy poco creíble. Lo que aquí se plantea no es un juego, es un problema que conlleva un esfuerzo extraordinario que está realizando el Director General para resolver uno de los problemas fundamentales de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, en el que se han unido dos vertientes: la voluntad política y el problema financiero. Se le está exigiendo a la FAO y al Director General, resolver el problema del hambre y le estamos negando los mecanismos que solicita para resolver este problema. Nos encontramos en un organismo de una importancia extraordinaria en el Sistema de Naciones Unidas, tratando uno de los derechos fundamentales del hombre que es comer, tener alimento, y sabemos que en este mismo momento que estamos diciendo que no tenemos instrucciones, hay millones de hombres y mujeres que se están muriendo de hambre: no es un problema de eslogan, es una realidad. Podríamos mantener entre corchetes este planteamiento en la declaración final, porque aún tenemos tiempo para deliberar sobre el problema; pero aquí, en el Consejo, como Presidente del Grupo de los 77, no lo entiendo. No es posible que venga aquí el Director General a proponer un planteamiento sano, en lo que no hay nada detrás, única y exclusivamente resolver un problema y que por desconocimiento, por no tener instrucciones al respecto, no se pueda tratar este planteamiento tan serio.

Hago un llamado a que esta solicitud del Director General tenga un voto afirmativo y un respaldo total, siendo una cuestión fundamental para la Organización y para cumplir los acuerdos de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

Este llamado lo hacemos con el pleno respaldo de los cuatro grupos regionales del Grupo de los 77 y personalmente como Presidente del Grupo del mismo, manifestando además que estamos convencidos de que sea la manera de proceder más correcta y humana posible.

Tourad Ould Mohamed AHID (Mauritanie)

Je ne comprends plus l'objectif de cette Organisation. Je croyais, comme tout le monde ici, que cette Organisation avait pour objectif de lutter contre la faim. C'est notre Organisation, nous y avons mis une équipe, nous avons voté une direction pour gérer cette Organisation. Nous lui avons donné des objectifs. Nous lui avons donné des moyens. Cela fait sept ans que nous sommes là, et je crois que c'est un cas tout à fait particulier car je ne connais pas d'autre Organisation qui, depuis huit ou neuf ans, voit son budget à croissance nulle. C'est un véritable sabotage, et je crois que l'on devrait être sérieux. Nous avons nommé un Directeur général, l'avons mandaté et lui avons donné une période, nous avons voté un budget. Mais le budget ne bouge pas. Il stagne. Nous faisons un Comité de sécurité alimentaire, un Comité des pêches, un Comité des forêts, un Comité de n'importe quoi, au siège pendant toute une année. Nous demandons des objectifs nouveaux, des améliorations.

Pour faire ces améliorations, il faut des moyens, on nous dit: "Non, il n'y a pas de moyens, travaillez avec les moyens que vous avez". Nous avons répondu "d'accord". Nous avons fait venir des Chefs d'Etats, nous les avons réunis, nous avons fixé des objectifs, nous avons demandé de lutter contre la faim par tous les moyens. La faim, c'est une réalité. Il y a des hommes quelque part dans le monde aujourd'hui qui ne mangent pas. Il faut le savoir. Je crois que ce n'est pas sérieux que des hommes puissent aujourd'hui avoir les moyens de manger, de dormir, d'être dans des salles climatisées et qu'il y ait des personnes quelque part dans le monde qui meurent, qui n'ont pas de pain. Et je crois que l'objectif de cette Organisation est de lutter contre la faim. Ce n'est pas un forum politique, ici. On ne doit pas discuter de problèmes de tendance, de problèmes politiques. Ce n'est pas sérieux. On doit remettre cela à d'autres instances. C'est une Organisation qui lutte contre la faim. C'est notre objectif à tous. Mais il faut y mettre les moyens. Nous avons mis une équipe, nous avons une Organisation, nous la suivons. Nous avons présenté un budget, le budget ne bouge pas, il stagne. On dirait qu'il y a un système de ralentissement. Mais on ne peut pas ralentir la mort. Je ne connais pas ici une seule personne qui, voyant une personne à deux pas de la mort, refuserait de lui donner un morceau de pain ou de la viande. Ce n'est l'objectif d'aucune nation aujourd'hui, évoluée ou pas. Il n'y pas un Chef d'Etat aujourd'hui, pas un homme qui puisse admettre cela.

En réalité, nous devons être corrects, nous devons savoir ce que nous faisons, nous devons permettre à notre Directeur général de créer un fonds où qui veut peut verser. Moi, je peux mettre 20.000 liras, quelqu'un peut mettre 100.000 liras, un autre peut mettre un million, quelqu'un aux Etats-Unis peut mettre dix millions. Créer un fonds secondaire pour permettre de sauver des vies, personne ne peut être contre cela. Je vous demande, je vous supplie de comprendre les choses et de pouvoir faire passer la création de ce fonds. Ce serait une bonne chose pour tout le monde et pour ceux qui, en Ethiopie et pourquoi pas en Mauritanie aujourd'hui, demandent quelque chose.

Karl-Josef WEIERS (Germany)

I fully agree that we work here in the concept of consensus. Therefore, every view has to be considered. I agree fully to the expressions of needs for money, but the Fund idea first appeared in connection with the *World Food Summit: five years later* activities. A special open-ended Working Group was set up to prepare a draft for a declaration. This, in our view, included the question for the Fund. Only a short while ago, we were briefed about the wishes to include this Fund question into the Council proceedings. Our delegation has no instructions and, therefore, at the moment, we cannot reach a consensus for or against the Trust Fund.

Furthermore, this hopefully large Fund will need new structures for decision-making and management. We are short of a lot of details which have to be discussed at the same time and, therefore, I think it needs further, more thorough discussion.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Très sincèrement, j'ai été étonné, tout comme la délégation qui a demandé quel était le point de l'ordre du jour à l'examen, mais mon étonnement n'allait pas dans le même sens. Apparemment, je ne vois pas une opinion contraire à la création d'un tel fonds.

Deuxième considération: le monde est confronté aujourd'hui à deux grands fléaux, les maladies pandémiques et la pauvreté et la faim. Ces deux fléaux sont des éléments particulièrement meurtriers. Alors que nous sommes toujours d'accord pour créer un fonds et mobiliser des ressources pour faire des campagnes de vaccination, pour lutter contre des maladies comme le SIDA sans pouvoir soigner cette maladie; alors qu'on accepte, ce qui est très louable, d'engloutir des fonds pour soigner des maladies qu'on ne maîtrise pas scientifiquement, on ne les crée pas pour lutter contre un fléau comme la faim, qui est un manque d'alimentation, car on n'a pas accès aux ressources énormes de ce monde.

C'est pour dire qu'il y a des morts nobles et d'autres qui ne le sont pas. Je pensais que mourir de faim est une chose moralement inacceptable, puisqu'il est possible d'empêcher que quelqu'un meure de faim. Cette considération faite, je suis persuadé qu'aucun pays ici n'ose publiquement prendre sa responsabilité et dire que qu'il s'oppose à la mobilisation de moyens pour sauver des vies humaines de la faim.

Ne pas avoir d'instructions est une bonne chose. Là où je suis étonné c'est que de ma petite expérience multilatérale en Europe comme au niveau de l'ONU, je n'ai jamais vu, même des petits pays, saisir des documents préalables portant sur un certain nombre de questions dont une importante, participer à des groupes de travail et venir à la fin des travaux, dire "Je ne peux rien dire, parce que je n'ai pas de directives" comme si, une fois à la FAO on est isolé du reste du monde. J'aurais pu comprendre cela du Sénégal, qui n'a pas accès aux moyens aujourd'hui. Il est arrivé, au niveau d'un organe aussi important que le Conseil de sécurité, de voir que de grandes puissances qui avaient des problèmes très compliqués, ont pu en deux heures obtenir les instructions et amener tout le monde à s'aligner autour de leurs préoccupations.

On a posé tout à l'heure la question suivante: "Je ne comprends pas pourquoi certaines délégations s'opposent à la création du fonds". Je réponds pour dire qu'il n'est pas possible, et je le souligne, qu'un pays ici ose s'opposer de manière péremptoire et claire à une telle initiative.

On dit que le fonds aura besoin d'un mécanisme à préciser. Cela est évident. Mais je ne comprends pas non plus qu'on mette en avant la définition d'un mécanisme qui n'existe pas. Il est certain que si le fonds est créé, la FAO ne pourra pas de but en blanc faire ce qu'elle veut de ce fonds. Les Etats lui diront comment utiliser ce fonds.

Troisième considération morale: il est assez difficile de concevoir que des Etats, et pas de petits Etats (ils le sont peut être numériquement, mais ce sont de grands Etats), sur lesquels nous comptons beaucoup et qui nous donnent d'ailleurs des leçons morales de toute sorte, empêchent qu'une majorité confrontée à un problème réel puisse trouver une voie pour résoudre un problème aussi délicat.

Pour conclure, j'ai entendu ou mal entendu tout à l'heure, me trouvant peut-être sur une autre galaxie, que dans le compte-rendu des travaux du Groupe, les paragraphes du projet de résolution n'étaient pas dans l'ordre, et que avec des paragraphes avec crochets, aucun accord ne peut être définitif. Mais je ne comprends pas alors pourquoi un Groupe de travail a été créé pour nous permettre d'aller vite; et on sait très bien qu'en novembre, il n'y aura que trois jours. Nous avons tous ici été témoins du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation où avec plus de 800 crochets, nous sommes parvenus, en presque deux mois à nettoyer un texte avant le Sommet. Je crois qu'il faudrait que nous essayions de prendre en compte le travail fait par le Groupe et essayer d'enlever

les crochets. J'ai parcouru ces paragraphes et je pense que si on voulait en faire l'examen, beaucoup de propositions simples pourraient nous résoudre ces problèmes.

L'Ambassadeur du Burkina, tout comme le Président du Groupe des 77, surtout lui, ont indiqué la philosophie d'un tel fonds. Pourquoi empêcherait-on des institutions bancaires, des individus, des sociétés qui ont une volonté déterminée d'appuyer la FAO dans la lutte contre la faim de trouver un cadre formel pour intervenir. Faute de quoi, nous limitons la FAO dans ses moyens pour qu'elle ne puisse pas travailler. Nous empêchons que d'autres bonnes volontés viennent suppléer à notre mauvaise volonté. C'est là la question. Et je crois que personne n'osera ici se lever contre la création de ce fonds.

Si j'avais été Président, j'aurais proposé, à la lumière de tout ce que j'ai entendu, l'adoption de ce fonds, et que ceux qui sont contre, le fassent clairement savoir. On ne peut pas jouer avec des stratégies, des mots jusqu'en novembre pour convoquer des Chefs d'Etats. Pour quoi faire? Pour se mettre devant des papiers avec des crochets, pour discuter sur des choses sur lesquelles on ne doit plus discuter, parce que l'objectif de ce Sommet est de permettre aux Chefs d'Etats de mettre en place des structures concrètes pour résoudre des problèmes, si vraiment nous voulons les résoudre.

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

I have asked for the floor to ask you to give the floor to the spokesman of the Near East Group, Afghanistan, who will be speaking on behalf of the Near East Group.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Observer for Afghanistan)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group.

I would like to point out that Pakistan made it very clear that the creation of a Trust Fund is within the full authority of the Director-General. He need not come to the Council, but let us explore why he came to the Council. Why does he need the approval of the Council? He needs it because the Trust Fund is linked to a very important event that is coming in November, the *World Food Summit: five years later*. There, too, commitments are made, or requested to be made, political commitment and resources. The Trust Fund is an indication of those two commitments.

There seems to be some confusion that this Trust Fund is something new. FAO has had many trust funds. From my experience, and I have worked under two Director-Generals, they created many trust funds, then they informed the Council. These trust funds were very successful, many of them were successful, there were some failures also, but many of them were successful. Why did they create these trust funds? Because they had what they call a special area work, or what they used to call "special action programmes". FAO had special action programmes. For each special action programme, there was a trust fund. Some of these trust funds were funded by one dollar, some of them were multidollar. There is nothing new; the history of FAO speaks well for this, that this thing existed. Under the present circumstances, where there are extreme constraints on the regular budget, additional extra-budgetary resources is the only way that this Organization can perform its duties and responsibilities. Thus this Trust Fund should be looked at as part of the extra-budgetary resource endowed to the Organization.

We from the Near East Group fully and strongly support this Fund. Having said so, let us also talk about the merits of this Trust Fund. I can see several merits in this; first, it is voluntary, secondly, it could be multi-donor; third, it is also multi-purpose; and fourth, its make-up could be also of a different type.

Being voluntary, it means that governments can contribute, NGOs can contribute, private sector can contribute, or even the United Nations system can contribute to this Fund. Financing institutions can contribute to this Fund. The beauty of this Fund could be that it would develop and developing countries can contribute to it.

Another beauty of this multi-donor Fund is that it is not only cash, it could be services, it could be the transfer of knowledge, it could be a contribution in terms of inputs. It could be a contribution

in terms of organizing training courses. For instance, just to give an example, Africans who are interested in rice cultivation can easily go to Viet Nam and learn from this experience. It is a very rich and useful Trust Fund, and we urge the Council to give the Director-General a green light to go ahead. All he is asking for is a green light. Once that green light is given, part of the green light is also for him to prepare the criteria, the procedures, how this Fund should be set up, how it should be utilized, how the work should be monitored, and how it should be evaluated.

Rudolph HINKSON (Barbados)

I want the record to show that Barbados's position during this week has always been enunciated by the position of GRULAC. We stand solidly behind the statements made by GRULAC. Earlier this week, the estimable Ambassador for Argentina spoke of the behaviour of countries that can be numbered on one hand. I endorse that.

Secondly, Barbados and Jamaica, who is here represented in Observer capacity, as well as the other members of CARICOM, have no difficulty in supporting the establishment of a Trust Fund on a voluntary basis.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

I speak as the representative of a country which is one of the largest contributors of extra-budgetary funds to FAO. That is a position of which we are proud to have and intend to maintain.

I have to say I am puzzled as to how this issue has come before us at this time. It is, of course, true that there were interventions on the subject of a Trust Fund in earlier sessions of the Council but, in my understanding, most of the discussion has taken place in the Open-Ended Working Group. As my colleague from Australia has pointed out, the work of that group is unconcluded. What it has produced has the status of "work-in-progress".

I have been given, as no doubt others have, a piece of paper. The piece of paper has yet to be introduced but, as I interpret it, it is an invitation that the Council should make a decision to establish a Trust Fund, with an initial target of US\$500 million, for purposes which are broadly specified on the piece of paper. I have to say I do not recall that the specific purposes of the Trust Fund were extensively discussed in the Council earlier this week. But, of course, that is a matter of fact, which is subject to verification from the record.

The view of the United Kingdom is that we need to review the range of financing mechanisms for addressing the issue of food security. Indeed, next week in Rome, there is to be, at the instigation of the Director-General, a high-level panel which will be looking into precisely that issue. We look forward very much to hearing their views.

I have to say that I take the conclusion, at this stage, that the time is not yet ripe to take a rounded view of the proposal to establish a Trust Fund. The United Kingdom is certainly not in a position to join such a consensus. I have to draw the attention of colleagues to the point that, so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, this is a zero-sum gain. That is to say that any funds which we decided to contribute to this or any other trust funds, would be funds that would not be used elsewhere in the British Aid Programme. The amounts of money, in other words, would not be additional; they would have an opportunity cost.

I have not heard that proposition advanced in the discussion here today but I suggest it is an extremely important one for Members of the Council to bear in mind. None of this, of course, is to gainsay the authority of the Director-General, under paragraph 6.7 of the Financial Regulations to Establish Trust Fund.

Elvio G. NAPOLEÃO FERNANDES (Observer for Cape Verde)

The delegation of Cape Verde considers of great interest the statement of the Director-General. It is a demonstration of a will to solve the destiny of over 800 million people who suffer from hunger. Therefore, Cape Verde supports fully the proposal of the Director-General with a view to create a Trust Fund, financed by voluntary contributions.

Voluntary, here, is a key word. It means that association to it is free. No one is compelled to do so, or to associate to it. Also, one cannot ask those who need food not to accept it, especially if he or she is hungry. No one can reason for that. In this matter, Cape Verde is in line with the African and G-77 Groups' positions put for us here by their distinguished chairmen, the distinguished Ambassadors of Tanzania and Cuba.

Dag BRISEID (Observer for Norway)

I was a Member of the working group, the Open-ended Working Group, and that was very encouraging because we reached a consensus about presenting a text, although we had brackets etc., but it is an integrated text with a preamble of paragraphs and operational paragraphs. I think we ended up making a good job.

It was my view, in the Working Group, when it finished last night, that we did not want to open up any discussions about the elements of this Resolution. Now, one element is on the table and, of course, we understand that the Director-General wants to indicate his strong commitment to one element in this, the Trust Fund. We appreciate his commitment to this particular cause. But, I have to confess that, when he is asking us for a formal decision, as I understand it, at this Council, then I am really taken by surprise. It has been my understanding that we should be working further with a Resolution with elements including the Trust Fund and that it was up to the Heads of States and Government and their representatives, in November, to say something decisive about establishing this Fund.

I do not understand how we can be expected to take a decision on this here and now. With regard to my country's position, we have said that we are not ready to stop any consensus on making a fund. Our instruction is quite clear but that is an overall instruction, I mean, for all the process and all the work up until November. We did not expect any decision here on this. Therefore, I would like to add, why do we not have instructions telling us that we should have a pro-active role? I think there are two reasons for it, one is that we want to concentrate the work, or the Conference, the Summit in November, on the over-riding perspective, that is on mobilising resources for agriculture, rural development and food security in the overall international and national area. This means that we have to turn the downward trend of resources for these important sectors, through financial institutions, from recipient countries themselves, or those who suffer from food insecurity, from bilateral funds, from multilateral area. That is the perspective that we have for the Summit, that we need to turn this trend. We want this to be the primary and over-riding concern.

The second reason why we have not intended to have a pro-active role for the Fund, is that we have, well not very encouraging signs when we talk to our colleagues around donor countries, that they are ready to mobilize resources for this Fund. That is not very encouraging, the understanding that we get from countries. So, we should carefully look into the counter-productive effects, or possible counter-productive effects, of establish a Fund if we do not get resources into that Fund.

Fernando GERBASI (Observador de Venezuela)

He escuchado con mucha atención el debate que ha tenido lugar en esta sala y creo que los argumentos en favor de la creación de este fondo han sido más que expuestos. Yo tengo frente a mí un proyecto de decisión del Consejo y me permito recomendar que se adopte, porque él dice: "Teniendo en cuenta el apoyo expresado por muchos miembros durante el debate sobre la propuesta de establecer un Fondo Fiduciario en la FAO, el Consejo decidió también establecer este Fondo Fiduciario a financiar con contribuciones voluntarias".

Pero quizás sería conveniente que en el texto que se ha circulado se elimine la referencia al monto inicial que debería tener el Fondo Fiduciario y, donde se le solicita al Director General que tome las medidas necesarias para movilizar los recursos destinados a este Fondo, agregar una frase donde se diga que él proponga a la *Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: cinco años después*, el monto inicial necesario para el buen funcionamiento de este Fondo. Eso permitiría al Director General de la FAO iniciar todas sus gestiones a nivel de gobiernos, a nivel de instituciones

financieras, a nivel de ONG, a nivel de personas, para recabar los fondos necesarios y, sobre esa base, presentar una propuesta firme en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

Pero lo que es indiscutible es que en esta Sala hay una amplia mayoría de países a favor del Fondo, incluso de países donantes, lo que me complace muchísimo.

CHAIRMAN

It is almost 13.00 hours and I appreciate very much your suggestion that there is a draft of the Resolution that we can take. I would like to offer this, for instance, to the Chairman of 77.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Tendría que hablar de inmediato con el Embajador Gerbasi y el Embajador Valladares e inmediatamente le preparo un texto, correcto.

CHAIRMAN

I also agree that there is support, expressed by many Members.

I move that, taking into account the support expressed by many Members during the debate for the proposal to open a Trust Fund in FAO, the Council decide to establish this Trust Fund, to be financed by voluntary contributions, initially for an amount of US\$500 million. It will serve as a catalyst for accelerating food production, improving food access in developing countries and for the prevention, control and eradication of trans-boundary pests and diseases of plants and animals.

This is the proposed decision by the Council from the Chair.

Any objection on that?

Karl-Josef WEIERS (Germany)

Unfortunately, I have not followed the whole discussion but what I have listened to, at the later stage, was that there are some different views. I definitely have orders that I cannot agree at this moment, despite the fact that there is a certain sympathy for funding to FAO. In our view, establishing a Trust Fund now, without discussing decision-making and management of it, would bring a difficult relationship between the normal budget and the Trust Budget. The relationship between those two would be turned upside down, in our view.

Therefore, I have objections against the definition that the Council decided.

Point of Order

Point d'ordre

Punto de Orden

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

As I understand it, a number of Observers still wish to speak. I have to say I am not clear why you are pressing this issue to a decision now. The fact that it is 13.00 hours is inconvenient but it is no reason for stopping people, who have a perfect right to speak, from expressing their views. If, for practical reasons, we cannot continue, I suggest that we adjourn the discussion and come back to it in the afternoon.

Michael ODEVALL (Observer for Sweden)

I have the strong impression that not only numbers are difficult. I would, however, like to welcome the Director-General; we see him here listening to our discussion. Being an observer has the advantage that you sit a long time and listen to the Members of the Council.

I just do not want to add anything to what was said on procedures by the UK and by Norway. However, I would like to say that it is of course astonishing that we are discussing that we are discussing this right here. I am sure that the able legal advisers of the Organization can find some legal base for this. However, I think it is a bit unwise to base a process on paragraphs and not political sensitivity. We had this in the Working Group, we discussed it there and we put it in brackets. Then there is the Draft, the Draft emerges as being in discussion here. May I say I am

very embarrassed that a UN Organization is working in this way. Of course, we will reflect this in our Report and my judgement is that it does not improve the image of FAO for my principals. There are many organizations that we support and they will, of course, look into them and see how the Membership is treated and how the process is, how is the transparency, how is the Chair. All these issues will, of course, be looked into.

May I underline that I am speaking on behalf of Sweden and not as President of the Union, I am speaking on behalf of Sweden. We have now in almost forty years paid more than 0.7 percent of our GNP to the developing countries. We will continue to do that. We are increasing our contribution. I am saying this not because we are something special, I want to underline our commitment. I heard a delegate say that it will listen to the expectations and hopes of the G-77. My country is paying cash. We do not listen, we act, and I am saying this as a background when you will hear my views on the Fund.

We are not Members of the Council. If we were, I would inform you, Mr Chairman, that we are not in a position right now to take a decision. I would like to share with you and the Council, as a humble Observer, that if the Council decides on a Fund, which it can do, and the Fund basically does not get any resources, I think the Council should reflect on what that would mean for this Organization.

What I do not understand is why we do not take a decision now. I heard Cuba say that we have asked the Director-General, we requested him to resolve the problems of hunger, I mean that is going very far, I could not contribute that. I know the Director-General will make a strong contribution to that, but I do not think he alone can manage it. However, we will support him and the whole system, I hope, will support him.

What Afghanistan said, and was also reflected in the intervention of the UK, is that the Director-General right now this very minute, can decide on a Fund. Right now, this very minute, he can decide on a Fund, and I heard arguments that it is important for this Fund that it is decided at the Conference in November. People are dying, people are starving and we should wait for Heads of State before we can decide.

According to the Financial Regulations as we heard in paragraph 6.7, the Director-General can, with the background on his intervention, right now, this very minute, decide on a Fund. And that is my advice right now.

Ahmed HACHEMI (Observateur pour l'Algérie)

Nous nous réjouissons de la proposition que vous venez de faire et qui résume parfaitement le large accord qui vient d'être exprimé par la majorité, la grande majorité, des pays Membres. Nous vous soutenons, nous soutenons la proposition et nous ne voyons pas d'oppositions franches exprimées au cours de ce débat à la proposition soumise par le Directeur général. C'est pour toutes ces raisons que ma délégation se joint de nouveau à l'accord général qui s'est dégagé en faveur de cette proposition.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Observer for Bulgaria)

I thank the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom for not forgetting the Observers to the Council.

I take the floor to reaffirm that we consider that the operational resources of FAO must be enhanced, that this is an urgent requirement and, in this context, we laud the personal initiative of the Director-General of FAO.

We will continue to work for the achievement of consensus on this matter, as we tried very hard this week in the core negotiating group of the opened-ended Working Group established by the Council. We deem this now more possible.

CHAIRMAN

I again repeat, who among the delegates supports the proposal as formulated by Guatemala and supported by the Group of 77? I would like to have a show of hands on the support of this and that means also support of the creation of the Trust Fund.

Please can I have a show of hands?

SHOW OF HANDS

À MAIN LEVÉE

A MANO ALZADA

CHAIRMAN

Can I ask who is against the creation of a Trust Fund? One hand for one delegation please!

SHOW OF HANDS

À MAIN LEVÉE

A MANO ALZADA

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

CHAIRMAN

It is so decided that we accept the creation of a Trust Fund.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

I do have several things after we have decided.

The first one is that it should be in the Report of the Council, as we have decided.

Secondly, I would instruct the Group to take out the brackets because it is now against the decision of the Council.

We will meet here again at 16.00 hours to give time to the Drafting Committee.

The meeting rose at 13.10 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 1310 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twentieth Session Cent vingtième session 120º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-23 June 2001 Rome, 18-23 juin 2001 Roma, 18-23 de junio de 2001
TWELTH PLENARY MEETING DOUZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 12ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
23 June 2001

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 18.20 hours

Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La Douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 18 h 20
sous la présidence de M. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 18.20 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sjarifudin Baharsjah,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (CONTINUED)
III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)
III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACIÓN)

- 8. (PART OF) REPORT OF THE 27TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON
WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)
(ROME, MAY-JUNE 2001) (CL 120/10) (CONTINUED)**
- 8. (PARTIEL) RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DE
LA SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE MONDIALE (CSA) (ROME, MAI-JUIN 2001)
(CL 120/10) (SUITE)**
- 8. (PARTE) INFORME DEL 27º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE
SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA MUNDIAL (CSA) (ROMA, MAYO-JUNIO DE
2001) (CL 120/10) (CONTINUACIÓN)**

CHAIRMAN

Before I ask the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee to introduce the Report, I would like to mention that at the end of our last meeting there were some Observers who had asked for the floor on this item but because of the pressure of time were not given the floor. I would now invite those who had asked for the floor this morning to take the floor.

Rolf GERBER (Observer for Switzerland)

Unfortunately, I do not have here my text prepared for this morning's meeting and, therefore, I give the floor back to you.

Christian MONNOYER (Observateur de la Belgique)

Voilà ce que je voulais dire ce matin. Nous sommes dans un processus dont il faut voir l'importance. Le travail de la préparation de la résolution du Sommet a été confié à ce Groupe de travail dont tout le monde a apprécié, au cours de la semaine, les résultats qui ont été atteints en peu de jours sur beaucoup de points et d'une manière consensuelle.

Nous pensons que ce processus est important et qu'il est important qu'il se poursuive dans cet esprit au bénéfice de la réussite du Sommet que nous attendons au mois de novembre, et nous pensons également que la manière dont le débat a eu lieu ce matin est de nature à compromettre la manière dont ce processus pourrait conduire à un succès du Sommet du mois de novembre. C'est donc l'observation que nous voulons faire. Nous pensons qu'il est important que le processus qui a été entamé soit poursuivi dans l'esprit qui a régné au cours des discussions du Groupe de travail de ce matin.

Jón Erlingur JÓNASSON (Iceland)

As a Member of the Council I would like to place on record that I had not received instructions from my capital on the subject debated this morning.

Igor V. SHAPOVALOV (Observer for the Russian Federation)

As a country which is not a Member of FAO but a participant at the World Food Summit in 1996 and invited to the meeting of the Heads of States in November and a Member of the Open-Ended Group, I would flag my support to the statement of the delegation of Belgium. I would also like to stress our interest in participating in the working Group in spirit of consensus, of mutual compromise. We would like the work of the Group which succeeded in tangible results, as reflected in the Report, continues. We would also like to avoid a confrontational situation which might aggravate the elaboration of the final document of the Summit.

Once more, we would like to give our full support to the efforts to reach a consensus document by November this year.

Blair HANKEY (Canada)

I had asked for the floor this morning as well, to speak relative to the debate on the motion that was apparently adopted by vote but since the Resolution was adopted by vote without having been given an opportunity to speak to the merits of that item, nor to the procedure being adopted, which in my view I must say, was extra-parliamentary and contrary to the Rules of this Organization as I understand them. Nonetheless, the vote having been taken, I see little point in now addressing myself to the merits of that question.

I do want to though speak along the lines of the delegations of the Russian Federation and Belgium. I think that the work that was being conducted in the Malaysia Room, under the very able Chairmanship of the Ambassador of Zimbabwe and Mr O'Driscoll, was really most useful and could have made, and could still make, an important contribution to the Conference of the Heads of State and Government in November. However, I do not think, in the case of my delegation, that we would be interested in continuing that work if indeed the instruction that you issued this morning, that the work of the Group were to be interfered with by the Council by having a set of brackets struck from a paragraph. If that were to be the way our work is to be conducted and then censored by yourself, Sir, I do not think I would be interested in continuing in that work.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je pense que les délégations qui ont souhaité que l'esprit de compromis, de consultation, de négociation soit poursuivi pour assurer un succès total au Sommet: cinq ans après, ont fait une déclaration, une démarche que nous approuvons. Je crois qu'il ne l'a jamais été dans l'esprit de ceux qui ont souhaité que nous soyons beaucoup plus concrets dans la perspective de ce Sommet.

Cela est d'autant plus vrai que, dans ce genre de situation, il faut avoir la noblesse du cœur de constater un mouvement général qui se dirige vers une situation qui pourrait être porteuse d'espoir. C'est pourquoi nous avons été nous-mêmes surpris d'avoir eu à constater des demandes de parole par une "chaussure", que l'on se permet d'enlever et de frapper sur une table. Et je dois vous le dire, cela a été très mal perçu d'entendre des phrases où l'on disait que ceci est une maison de singes. Mais nous oublions tout cela, parce que nous pensons qu'il s'agit d'un dérapage à pardonner parce que nous sommes ici pour travailler pour des êtres humains affamés et qui s'attendent à des actions beaucoup plus concrètes de notre part.

De grâce, que l'on ne prenne pas prétexte de la volonté et de la détermination de certaines personnes de travailler concrètement et de manière précise pour des populations qui attendent de nous une solidarité, pour dire que c'est une manière d'empêcher qu'une réunion soit réussie. Je crois que nous partirons d'ici très convaincus d'avoir terminé et nous réfléchirons davantage pour au moins reconnaître que ceux qui ont voulu aujourd'hui nous mettre sur ce chemin veulent enfin que nous soyons beaucoup plus concrets, beaucoup plus conséquents avec nos paroles et nos discours. Nous pourrions ainsi montrer qu'en novembre, nous serons déterminés à offrir aux populations qui souffrent et qui ne peuvent plus attendre cet espoir qu'elles attendent de nous.

Il faut donc dépassionner ce qui s'est passé, mettre cela sur le compte d'une volonté d'arriver à quelque chose, mais nous sommes persuadés que nous avons fait ce qu'il fallait faire, car il faut bien que nous soyons concrets, il faut bien que nous puissions offrir des résultats afin de ne pas avoir de réunions inutiles, sinon nous n'aurions pas éprouvé le besoin de provoquer un Sommet: cinq ans après.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Encore une fois le Directeur général est ici par la volonté de l'ensemble des Etats Membres. Le Directeur général est ici pour essayer de mettre en œuvre les décisions que vous avez prises et les décisions que vous serez amenés à prendre dans le futur. Le Directeur général, comme je l'ai rappelé ce matin, vous a proposé, sur la base de résultats constatés, dans un cadre que vous avez défini, à savoir celui du système d'information et de cartographie sur l'insécurité alimentaire et la vulnérabilité, et plus précisément, dans le cadre de l'examen des résultats de ces études au sein du

Comité de sécurité alimentaire, le Directeur général, a cru devoir vous proposer d'organiser une réunion de Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement parce que nous avons constatée une situation qui, si elle se poursuivait, aboutirait à des résultats contraires à ce que nos Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement avaient décidé.

Nous avons fait cette proposition dans l'esprit habituel d'une Organisation internationale où chaque pays a ses vues, ses sensibilités, ses intérêts, ses préoccupations. Lorsque nous avons fait cette proposition, beaucoup de pays n'étaient pas favorables. Mais, grâce au dialogue et aux contacts, nous sommes arrivés à une décision de consensus de convoquer le Sommet et d'en faire un succès. Ce succès suppose que nous ayons l'esprit du donner et du recevoir, que nous sachions qu'il arrive un moment où il faut que nous acceptions les règles qui sont à la base du système des Nations Unies. Ces règles, je voudrais les rappeler, c'est que nous sommes ici pour représenter des peuples; nous sommes ici pour veiller à ce que ce monde soit meilleur, nous sommes ici pour veiller à ce que naturellement, quels que soient notre niveau de revenus, nos moyens, nos ressources, nous respectons les opinions des uns et des autres.

L'autre principe des Nations Unies, c'est qu'une institution qui travaille dans un cadre démocratique et, si ma mémoire est bonne, c'est Churchill qui disait que "La démocratie c'est la pire des choses, le pire des systèmes à l'exception de tous ceux qu'on a déjà essayé". Démocratie, cela veut dire donc que, parfois sur des sujets, il y a une minorité et il y a une majorité. Mais cela veut dire aussi que l'on doit respecter la minorité, pas au point que la minorité l'emporte sur la majorité, mais que l'on doit poursuivre les voies et moyens d'arriver à une entente toujours plus grande pour le futur. Cette Organisation doit donc avoir à l'esprit que, s'il faut sincèrement et obstinément rechercher le consensus, la base de notre Organisation, c'est la démocratie.

Je dois dire que j'ai beaucoup regretté l'atmosphère de ce matin; ce n'était pas l'esprit dans lequel nous étions venus ici faire appel à vous. Nous avons pensé pouvoir sincèrement vous expliquer les problèmes qui se poseraient si nous sortions de ces discussions sans décision, sur un fonds que j'avais le pouvoir légal d'établir. Par esprit de transparence et d'ouverture, j'ai cru devoir soulever la question à votre niveau, en vue d'obtenir votre soutien politique. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour rendre hommage au Groupe de travail, à ses Présidents et au travail remarquable qui a été fait. Mais comme je l'ai rappelé ce matin, un Groupe de travail a des règles. Et l'une des règles, c'est que si sur un point, il n'y a pas un accord, on met cet élément entre parenthèses. La création d'un fonds avait été mise entre parenthèses.

Si cette proposition avait été endossée telle quelle par le Conseil, cela aurait voulu dire que le Directeur général n'aurait pas eu la possibilité d'exercer son pouvoir de création du fonds fiduciaire, puisque cet exercice ne peut se faire que si les organes directeurs n'en ont pas décidé autrement. C'est la raison pour laquelle, encore une fois, j'ai cru devoir attirer votre attention sur cette question, et je vous ai demandé, de prendre une décision positive ou négative, mais de prendre une décision.

Encore une fois, il n'était pas dans l'esprit, ni l'intention du Secrétariat, à aucun moment, d'aboutir à une situation conflictuelle ou de mettre en cause le processus que nous-mêmes avons mis en train en vue d'arriver à un Sommet qui soit un succès. Pour que le Sommet soit un succès, il faut que nous continuions de négocier. Pour que le Sommet soit un succès, il faut que nous continuions nos efforts en vue d'arriver à un consensus. Et le Secrétariat, en ce qui le concerne, apportera toute sa contribution pour que le Groupe de travail continue à œuvrer dans les meilleures conditions.

Tenant compte des orientations du Conseil, je vais donc établir, dans le cadre de l'autorité qui m'est conférée, le fonds fiduciaire. Et je prendrai contact avec les différents pays qui, pour une raison ou une autre, ont exprimé quelques réserves sur les conditions dans lesquelles les discussions ont eu lieu ce matin. J'espère pouvoir continuer le dialogue avec ces pays en vue d'obtenir qu'ils continuent d'appuyer cette Organisation et qu'ils continuent de travailler pour le succès du Sommet. Le succès du Sommet serait le succès de tout le monde, mais l'échec du Sommet serait l'échec de tout le monde. Et je n'ai pas le moindre doute que ce Sommet, comme le précédent, sera un succès. Encore une fois, je vous lance un appel à tous pour que, dans l'esprit

des Nations Unies, dans l'esprit de la solidarité internationale et dans l'esprit de l'universalisme et du respect de chacun et de chaque pays, que nous puissions ensemble œuvrer pour un monde meilleur. Je vous remercie et je vous prie d'excuser la longueur de mon intervention.

CHAIRMAN

We may now proceed with the Adoption of the Report.

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

DRAFT REPORT - PARTS I-XV (CL 120/REP/1; CL 120/REP/2; CL 120/REP/3; CL 120/REP/4; CL 120/REP/5; CL 120/REP/6; CL 120/REP/7; CL 120/REP/8; CL 120/REP/9; CL 120/REP/10; CL 120/REP/11; CL 120/REP/12; CL 120/REP/13; CL 120/REP/14; CL 120/REP/ 15)

LES PROJETS DE RAPPORT – PARTIES (CL 120/REP/1; CL 120/REP/2; CL 120/REP/3; CL 120/REP/4; CL 120/REP/5; CL 120/REP/6; CL 120/REP/7; CL 120/REP/8; CL 120/REP/9; CL 120/REP/10; CL 120/REP/11; CL 120/REP/12; CL 120/REP/13; CL 120/REP/14; CL 120/REP/ 15)

LOS PROYECTOS DE INFORME, PARTES (CL 120/REP/1; CL 120/REP/2; CL 120/REP/3; CL 120/REP/4; CL 120/REP/5; CL 120/REP/6; CL 120/REP/7; CL 120/REP/8; CL 120/REP/9; CL 120/REP/10; CL 120/REP/11; CL 120/REP/12; CL 120/REP/13; CL 120/REP/14; CL 120/REP/ 15)

CHAIRMAN

I should like to ask Mrs Wögerbaur, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to introduce the Draft Report.

There are fifteen parts, consecutively from CL 120/REP/1 to CL 120/REP/15.

Ms Hedwig WÖGERBAUR (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

It is a pleasure for me to be with you today. I would like to say that we had four meetings of the Drafting Committee, starting on Wednesday evening and continuing until this afternoon. We have worked in a spirit of compromise and we have tried to solve the problems, which had a reason, during our discussion.

You have the parts of the Draft Report, on which I want to make only one comment; we have left out discussing only one paragraph, the paragraph which deals with the Draft Trust Fund. We, the Drafting Committee, do not feel in a position to have a discussion on this part. Therefore, the Drafting Committee would like to ask for guidance on this part.

I would also would like to make two small corrections to the Draft Report. There is one correction in REP/6, paragraph 6, in the English text only. The words "at its first meeting" should be replaced with the wording, "at its final meeting". That is in paragraph 6 at the beginning of REP/6.

We have also made a slight correction in REP/9, Item 10.1, paragraph 2, because the Draft Report went for printing before we came back to paragraph 2 to make this slight amendment. The first sentence will read as follows: "The Council noted that a conclusion had been reached" – and now we put in – "at WFP on the role of food aid in development." The next sentence will not start with the wording "It" but with "A large number expressed concern...".

Those are the two corrections which I wanted to make. I wanted to draw your attention to the fact that we have left out the discussion of one paragraph in REP/6.

CHAIRMAN

The paragraph that was referred to that has not been discussed by the Drafting Committee is on REP/6, page 3. I would like to inform you that this is the wording of the proposal from the Chair that was voted on by the Council and the decision was to support it. I hope there is no confusion on this.

This is, once again, the proposal put by the Chair for support by the Council. Through a showing of hands, it was supported and adopted by the Council.

We also heard the corrections. I hope that this can be taken care of and be noted by the delegates.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

Thank you for drawing the attention of the Council to the paragraph in REP/6. As you will note, that paragraph was not discussed by the Drafting Committee, so it is up to this Council to consider it.

Part of the reason why the Drafting Committee did not consider this paragraph was that there was not a complete understanding of what had taken place this morning. As I heard you mention, you indicated that a vote took place but there were questions raised in the Drafting Committee as to whether that was in fact a properly constituted vote and therefore, how a decision could be concluded from such a vote.

The feeling was that what occurred this morning was a show of hands which did only serve to demonstrate what was already clear from the debate, that there was no consensus on the proposal that had been presented to us. Certainly there was a feeling that we could not have a text in the Report here recording a decision of this Council to establish a Trust Fund.

If I understood what the Director-General has just said to us, I understand that he has taken the initiative which is already available to him, to proceed to establish such a Trust Fund. We could, I suggest, perhaps look at some words that might record that in our Report but I leave that to the Council to consider.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je pense que vous aviez correctement résumé ce qui concerne ce paragraphe du rapport n° 6. Comme si on voulait me dire que ce qui s'est passé ce matin c'était un amusement, parce que j'ai levé la main et si je n'étais pas convaincu que j'étais consulté, je ne l'aurais pas levée. D'autres ont levé la main pour dire qu'ils étaient d'un avis contraire, c'était aussi pour s'amuser? Je crois que c'est net et clair: le Groupe de travail a été constitué par le Conseil. Le Conseil peut bien décider à la place du Groupe de travail. Que personne ne vienne me dire ici qu'un organe officiel ne peut pas décider à la place d'un organe informel créé par cet organe officiel.

Quel que soit le mérite que nous lui reconnaissons aujourd'hui, il est dans les textes de la FAO, nous le savons tous que c'est le consensus qu'on recherche, mais à défaut du consensus il faut qu'on décide. Par quels moyens peut-on décider? Par le vote qui peut être à mains levées ou de toute autre forme. Il n'y a que pour certaines questions qu'une obligation précise d'une forme de vote est envisagée, mais je crois que ce qui s'est passé ce matin est regrettable. Nous aurions dû ne pas en arriver là. Mais ce n'est pas le Directeur général: il a suivi ce qui s'est passé et il doit exécuter ce qui s'est passé. Donc il n'y a rien à ajouter au rapport, sinon ce qui s'est passé ce matin.

Je crois qu'on ne peut pas faire autrement et je suis d'avis qu'il n'y a pas d'autre procédure. Vous pouvez la recommencer si vous voulez et on aboutirait au même résultat.

Blair HANKEY (Canada)

I really have the same question that Australia had, or the same point really. I also heard, I thought, the Director-General just say that he was establishing this Trust Fund under the authority conferred in him and I perfectly appreciate that he has such authority.

What I would like to know is whether this Trust Fund is being established pursuant by the Director-General, on his own initiative, *proprio modo*, under the authority he has as Director-

General, or whether he is establishing this Fund pursuant to a Resolution apparently voted by majority this morning.

I think we need to know under what authority the fund is being established; by decision of the Council or by the authority of the Director-General.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

I think it vital that we establish clear understanding of the procedures under which we are taking decisions. You yourself, Chairman, described the decision taken this morning as a decision based on a vote. I have to say that I do not believe that we voted in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Organization. That is a matter upon which the Legal Counsel can give us some advice.

In particular, I draw your attention and that of the Council to the fact that no clear proposal was put by you to the Council for them to endorse or otherwise. The record will, of course, show that to have been the case. I believe we need some guidance as to the nature of the procedure followed and I would very much welcome an opinion from the Legal Counsel on that.

My third point is that I think before proceeding any further, we need to understand what are the implications of this text for the text of the draft proposal put forward by the open-ended Working Group.

I may have other points to make in the light of the replies to my question.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je pense que j'aurais peut être dû demander une motion d'ordre: on dit quand même qu'on ne savait pas pourquoi on levait notre main. Est-ce que vous n'aviez pas lu ce papier de A à Z? J'ai entendu que vous l'aviez lu avant de nous demander de lever ou de ne pas lever, mais c'est quoi? Je ne comprends plus. Vraiment il fallait que je le relève, parce que j'ai lu le texte que vous avez distribué, sinon je ne pouvais pas lever la main. Je viens de me rendre compte qu'on l'a levée pour une position ou pour une autre, sans comprendre pourquoi on levait la main. En tout cas, moi je savais pourquoi je levais ma main.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Observateur du Mali)

Nous sommes à un point ou de deux choses l'une: soit nous avons tout notre temps, nous allons continuer nos échanges, le ping pong, ou alors nous prenons une décision responsable. Je crois qu'entre personnes responsables, c'est la voie qui s'impose.

Le Président du Comité de rédaction nous a dit qu'ils n'ont pas pris une décision concernant un point, pour la simple raison que pendant que ce Comité travaillait, on était ici en train d'en débattre. Peut être que ce Comité n'a pas eu à prendre connaissance de la décision qui avait été prise et que vous-mêmes vous aviez prise à l'issue d'un débat. Je dirais donc que la meilleure des qualités n'avait pas été la transparence, la loyauté et l'honnêteté. Mais peu importe, en tant que Président, vous avez pris une décision, vous l'avez faite entériner par une majorité.

Ce que je déplore sincèrement, c'est que le Directeur général de la FAO soit revenu vers nous avec toute l'humilité qu'on lui connaît, exposer les raisons. Il n'y a pas plus sourd que celui qui ne veut pas entendre. A supposer qu'on ne l'ait pas entendu la première fois qu'il a parlé; cette fois-ci on a entendu les motivations, on a entendu le pourquoi. Je ne peux même pas m'expliquer comment on peut s'opposer à quelque chose qui est volontaire: c'est un non-sens. On nous a expliqué 'qu'il faut', et nous n'avons pas d'instructions. Nous n'avons pas d'instructions pour approuver, mais a-t-on des instructions pour s'y opposer? Nous sommes dans cette ville de Rome. Un collègue le disait ce matin 'on essaie de faire ce que l'on peut et de travailler en temps réel'. Là encore de deux choses l'une: soit ceux qui disent qu'ils n'ont pas d'instructions où qu'ils ne peuvent pas décider, sont peut-être gênés de dire franchement: non nous sommes contre. Quand bien même ils le diraient, le vote de ce matin a prouvé à suffisance qu'une majorité se dégage pour aller de l'avant.

Je voudrais vraiment vous demander une fois de plus de prendre l'attitude que vous avez prise en fin de travaux de ce matin, tardivement, mais qui était la bienvenue, d'arrêter les échanges sur ce point. La cause est entendue. Le Directeur général entend voir les uns et les autres peut-être encore une fois. Mais nous n'avons pas l'intention de passer la nuit ici, et qu'on fasse preuve de plus de responsabilité.

Georges RUPHIN (Madagascar)

Je regrette de pouvoir prendre la parole maintenant seulement car je n'ai pas pu assister à la réunion, et donc au débat de ce matin, compte tenu des obligations qui m'ont retenu ailleurs; mais je comprends que le débat de ce matin s'est soldé par un vote. Ce vote était rendu nécessaire à la suite d'un manque de consensus - consensus qui a l'habitude de prévaloir dans tous nos débats au cours des différentes rencontres, conférences, et notamment, ici à la FAO. Ce faisant, une décision a été prise à l'initiative du Directeur général qui voulait obtenir de ce Conseil une décision claire et nette.

Je crois avoir entendu tout à l'heure au cours de l'intervention du Directeur général, qu'il avait demandé une décision claire du Conseil, de prendre oui ou non une décision dans une ou l'autre direction. Cette décision prise ce matin à la suite d'un vote qui a été fait à la majorité des Membres présents me semble utile.

Même si je n'étais pas là ce matin pour m'exprimer sur les décisions de la majorité, majorité qui s'était prononcée en faveur de la création de ce fonds fiduciaire, je ne peux que m'incliner devant cette décision de la majorité quelles qu'en soient les conséquences puisque c'est une décision prise démocratiquement à mon sens. Je comprends la démocratie telle qu'on nous l'a enseigné à l'école; je crois que ça continue jusqu'à présent. Les pays développés ne cessent de nous rabâcher à l'esprit, à l'oreille, que la démocratie c'est la règle de la majorité et donc je ne peux que me rallier à cette décision de ce matin.

Enfin, je me dirige vers les pays qui n'ont pas partagé ce point de vue. J'estime qu'ils se sentent assez responsables de la bonne marche de cette Organisation et dans ces conditions je n'ai pas de leçon à leur donner. Je m'excuse encore une fois, mais j'ose espérer qu'ils auront le grand souci de faire marcher cette Organisation et, par conséquent, de se rallier de bonne grâce, avec une volonté affichée, à soutenir la création de ce fonds fiduciaire tel que la majorité l'a voulu ce matin et je ne doute pas un seul instant de la volonté de leur capitale de créer ce fonds puisqu'ils sont à l'origine de la création de cette Organisation qui s'appelle la FAO.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

It seems to me there a couple of issues here that are very different, the procedural issues and then perhaps the political issues. A number of questions have been raised by the procedure that was adopted this morning. It seems to me, rather than a truly democratic procedure which reflected the opinions in this body and which would have been consistent with the procedures that have been adopted by this body up until today, it was an interruption of a discussion by a show of hands.

It seems to me that is demonstrated by the fact that the discussion was continued when we resumed this afternoon, and those who had not been allowed to speak this morning, did speak this afternoon. As to whether it was clear what people were voting on, there was a text presented and there amendments to that text proposed. At the time there was a show of hands, it was not clear which text was in play, whether the amendment had been adopted and what we were actually deciding, what the force of it might be. I think that was particularly distressing to people who, as they had stated earlier, did not have instructions concerning a vote and therefore were uncertain as to whether they could even participate.

As for the future, and the damage that may have been to reaching a consensus on this very important item, I am reminded of a work of fiction I read recently when democratic procedures were introduced into a group which had normally achieved consensus, it was extremely destructive of the entire society. I would simply urge that we find a way to return to consensus-

building in this Organization, rather than resorting to show of hands or to a vote on language which does not adequately reflect in any balanced way the sentiments of this body.

Ivone Alves DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

Ma délégation avait demandé la parole en fin de séance ce matin puis l'a retirée après que le Conseil ait pris la décision de créer le fonds fiduciaire. A ce stade je voudrais ajouter ces quelques mots. Pour la délégation gabonaise la question de la création d'un fonds fiduciaire a été discutée dès la dernière session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et c'est dans cette instance que nous l'avions appuyée. Il nous semblait donc, et c'est la raison de mon intervention, que le point sur la création du fonds fiduciaire faisait partie du rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, rapport que notre Conseil a déjà adopté à l'exception d'un point, à savoir, l'avant projet de résolution du Groupe de travail. Dans cette optique, nous avons été surpris de voir la question de la création du fonds fiduciaire abordée dans le cadre de l'examen du projet de résolution, et encore plus, d'entendre certaines délégations parler de propositions tardives.

Pour la délégation gabonaise la procédure a donc été la suivante: la majorité des Membres du Conseil a appuyé, puis voté une proposition qui fait partie du rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Je note d'ailleurs, que dans le texte qui nous est soumis il n'est plus question du projet de résolution, qui posait tant de problèmes à certaines délégations, mais simplement d'une proposition de création d'un fonds. Pour conclure, nous appuyons le texte proposé dans le paragraphe non examiné par le Comité de rédaction.

Masato ITO (Japan)

I have the same question, which was already raised by Australia, United Kingdom and United States, the other member of the Drafting Committee. When our discussion reached this part, I had serious difficulty how to interpret what happened this morning. We were asked by the Chair to express an opinion, by a showing of hands in favour or against.

My delegation accordingly expressed its views. However, it is not clear if there was a vote or a decision or simply an expression of opinion by a show of hands? This is why the Drafting Committee could not discuss it and furthermore no verbatim record was then available. Therefore, bearing in mind FAO's rules and procedure, I would like clarification of what happened this morning.

Ahmed HACHEMI (Observateur de l'Algérie)

Si on intervient à ce stade c'est pour apporter notre ferme appui à la déclaration faite par Son Excellence, l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal, et nous voudrions, par la même occasion, rappeler que nous en sommes à l'adoption du rapport. Ma délégation ne pourra pas accepter, à des difficultés à accepter, la tendance que certaines délégations semblent vouloir imposer au Conseil de débattre d'une question qui a été déjà tranchée par un vote clair et précis.

Júlio Cesar GOMES DOS SANTOS (Brasil)

Pensamos que, a esta altura, ya no es importante saber si la cuestión puesta en votación fue legal o no, si la mayoría cuenta o no, si el establecimiento de un Fondo Fiduciario Voluntario es o no prerrogativa del Director General; lo que cuenta ahora es si hay o no voluntad política para la implementación de esta Cumbre más cinco, y para establecer este Fondo Fiduciario Voluntario. Pienso que ambas cosas están conectadas.

El establecimiento de un Fondo Fiduciario Voluntario es fruto de una voluntad política, como lo debe ser la Cumbre. Si no hay consenso para establecer este Fondo, está en peligro uno de los dos puntos claves de la Cumbre más cinco: la voluntad política y los fondos necesarios para hacer posible la continuación de la lucha contra el hambre.

¿Quién sabe si podemos juntar esfuerzos en este momento para encontrar una solución y evitar un impasse en este Consejo? Me pregunto si tal vez fuera posible, como fórmula conciliatoria, mantener este párrafo tal y cual como nos fue presentado. Dejar sentado que el Comité de Redacción no tuvo condiciones de llegar a una conclusión. Mantenerlo tal y cual sin mencionar el monto de 500 millones de dólares EE.UU. y dejar esta decisión para el próximo Consejo. No me

cabe la menor duda que existe voluntad para la creación del Fondo, lo que está dificultando una decisión en este Consejo es tratar el monto del mismo. Sugeriría que se mantuviera el párrafo, que se aprobara este Informe sin corchetes pero eliminando o postergando la fijación del monto para el próximo Consejo.

Joshua MUTABAZI (Observer for Uganda)

Having listened and been present at this morning's session, I have no doubt in my mind that we decided to have a Fund. Having listened to the Director-General's intervention this afternoon, I have no doubt that he has decided to set up the Fund. If I understood him correctly, I think he said he is prepared and decided to start that Trust Fund.

I would like to say that the combination of those two considerations actually means to me that indeed we have all decided to have a Fund, otherwise who is competent enough to say we do not have it? However, I would like to say that on listening to the Director-General this afternoon, it appears to me that he wants to have the benefit of the Working Group continuing its deliberations, perhaps to best organize and see how that Fund should be operated.

So far, I would find no specific contradictions in our interests. I would like, therefore, to appeal to everyone to cooperate in the best and smoothest way possible, to establish this Fund, because whether we take it under this decision of this morning or under the authority of the Director-General, we end up with a Fund. The vote this morning can be taken as an avid indication of how hungry we feel our people are, where we come from and this is the situation, and of the wish to support and gain the support of the Council for the establishment of this Voluntary Fund.

I would like to end by proposing that we agree, if we did not agree earlier, to indeed have a Fund, and to give an opportunity to the Working Group to refine it and, if we need to, present its results to the next Council.

CHAIRMAN

There was a question from the United Kingdom for the Legal Counsel on whether or not our decision making this morning was valid. Let me again remind you of what happened. I put forward a proposal for the Council, the same paragraph actually that was not discussed by the Drafting Committee, asking for approval or non-approval. As there was no consensus, we had to resort to something that was very practical because there was already an indication that the majority wanted to approve it.

I asked for a show of hands and everybody participated, not only those who supported it, but also those who did not support it, so much so that I had to remind everyone that there was only hand for one delegation. It was clear that the majority approved this paragraph which I read out right from the beginning of the discussion.

Now, I would like Legal Counsel to answer the question put forward by the United Kingdom, as to whether or not this is a valid way for the Council to make a decision.

LEGAL COUNSEL

If the question is asked in terms of whether this morning you had a formal vote, the answer is no, not a formal vote. However, the Chairman, within his powers, assessed the situation in the Council. In doing so, he asked for a show of hands. On the basis of the results of this, the Chairman took a decision, within his power, so you have a decision, which is a decision of the Chairman, your Chairman, and therefore it is the decision of the Council.

Jón Erlingur JÓNASSON (Iceland)

While we are having the Legal Counsel up there, I simply would like to know if it matters if a country, a Member of the Council, has been denied the opportunity for the floor, before the vote, the show of hands, was made.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Well, first of all, as I said, there was no formal vote. However, I think that this afternoon the Chairman gave the floor to Observers so, as far as the Members of the Council are concerned, I think there was no denying of taking the floor. If there was somebody else in the list, I think, that the Chairman gave the floor to them in the afternoon.

Blair HANKEY (Canada)

I do not want to get into the issue as to whether the vote was valid but I do want to correct a statement that you have just made. You just said that all Members participated in the vote. That is simply not a fact because my delegation did not participate in the vote. The delegation of Iceland has said that his delegation did not participate in the vote.

Although I have heard certain representatives here today make light of the fact that some delegations have indicated that they needed instructions, in order to participate in a decision to establish a Fund for US\$500 million, I do assure all delegates assembled here that, under the practice of my Government, I do require instructions in order to participate in a vote to establish a US\$500 million Fund, because Canada takes such a decision seriously.

Another thing I want to say is that I have heard many delegations today speak of taking decisions by majority. I do not contest that there was a majority sentiment in this room for the establishment of such a Fund, but the actions taken this morning, and many of the comments made on it this afternoon, rest on a fundamental premise and that premise is that international solidarity, in an international system based on sovereign states, can be legislated by majority vote. The fate of this Fund will test that thesis.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

I am grateful for the opinion of the Legal Counsel, which confirms my own view, that this Council did not take a decision by a vote, under the rules of procedure of this Organization, this morning.

As he has explained, you Chairman, invited the Council to express a view by means of a show of hands. I have to say that, as a lesson for the future, it would be important that the Council should understand the procedure under which it is operating, because the procedure as described by you at the time was that of a vote. As we now understand, that was not the case.

I have to observe, in relation to the procedure that was followed, however it may be described, that it offended against a principle, of which the Director-General rightly reminded us in his speech earlier this evening, that of one country, one vote. I have to say that, in my own observations, a number of delegations raised two hands, that is to say more than one Member of the delegation raised a hand. I would, therefore, regard that as an illegitimate way of arriving at a decision.

I, of course, understand as well as anyone else sitting in this room, what the sense of the meeting was, but I have to say that we regard rules of procedure at our peril. The Organization does and the Membership does.

May I revert to the other question which I posed in my first intervention, and that is, what would be the implications for the text proposed by the open-ended Working Group in relation to the Trust Fund, if the Council decides to endorse the text that is currently in front of us?

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Nous avons l'avantage d'avoir le Conseiller juridique. Il a dit que ce matin nous n'avons pas eu un vote formel, mais il a reconnu que vous aviez fait une estimation des débats, et donc le Conseil a pris une décision. Je voudrais simplement lui demander s'il peut me dire ce qu'est un vote formel, dans quelle mesure les textes entrent après avoir voté à main levée, dans la mesure où vous avez indiqué votre volonté de consulter les Etats Membres du Conseil sur un amendement d'un texte et

que des délégations ont accepté de lever leur main pour répondre à votre question favorable ou non favorable. D'autres n'ont pas participé et c'est cela la logique parce qu'elles n'ont pas eu d'instructions pour lever la main d'une manière ou d'une autre. Je crois très sincèrement qu'on n'aurait pas dû rouvrir ce débat parce qu'en tout état de cause, personne ne souhaite construire la solidarité sur la majorité, mais je ne crois pas également que la solidarité doit être construite sur la base de la volonté d'une minorité puissante.

J'ai toujours dit que chez nous diriger notre peuple est facile et difficile. Facile, si vous êtes en mesure de considérer l'autre, sa dignité, vous pouvez lui demander tout ce que vous voulez dans la mesure où la personne sait que vous considérez sa dignité. Difficile, quand vous voulez montrer seulement à la personne qu'elle doit simplement manger ou réagir par votre charité ou votre bonne volonté. Chez nous, ça ne passe pas, parce que nous croyons que cela est inacceptable, encore moins dans une Organisation internationale qu'on dit avoir créé pour aider les pauvres.

Mais le Directeur général l'a dit, il avait lui-même la possibilité de prendre l'initiative de créer ce fonds financier, puisque les textes l'autorisaient à le faire. Mais, j'ai dit que je m'oppose aujourd'hui et je refuse. Qu'il change même de direction parce que simplement il est plus préoccupé que nous par le sort des populations qui souffrent. Il a voulu nous associer à sa démarche. Il a voulu que nous, nous sachions qu'il est aussi préoccupé que nous pour aider les populations qui souffrent. Donc, il a renoncé à cette initiative pour nous amener à nous associer politiquement à son œuvre pour une chose qu'il aurait pu faire librement. Donc, je crois qu'être là depuis cet après-midi à attendre un rapport pendant deux heures pour rouvrir une question sur laquelle nous avons débattu de façon claire, nette, formelle ou pas. Nous avons accepté, alors qu'il était possible, comme dans tous les systèmes des Nations Unies, de demander la clôture d'une question en faisant la motion nécessaire approuvée par deux membres pour passer au vote ou bien faire clore le débat. Si vous prenez également une mesure pour régler une question, un pays pourrait s'opposer à ce que votre procédure de consultation, même à main levée, soit bloquée. D'autres l'appuient et on vote sur ça. Personne n'a bloqué votre démarche. Au contraire on l'a vérifié, mais cette minorité puissante, c'est vrai, a l'argent, elle peut nous donner la responsabilité de prendre ce risque moral, de vous appuyer aux textes qui vous autorisent à créer ce fonds. Nous souhaitons que ces pays réfléchissent et s'associeront quand vous le créerez, car je suis sûr qu'ils se rendront compte que notre volonté est de travailler concrètement.

Si ces pays aujourd'hui décident de ne pas s'y associer, d'accord, qu'on en prenne note. Mais on ne peut pas bloquer quand même quelque chose qu'une majorité souhaite. C'est là le problème.

Je souhaite qu'on mette fin à ce débat parce que la question est tranchée, vote formel ou non, même si je dois attendre la définition, parce que nous avons accepté nous-mêmes cette formule que vous nous avez proposée. On ne peut pas être plus royaliste que le roi. C'est nous qui faisons les textes, c'est nous qui nous réunissons en organe. Nous connaissons les textes, nous les avons devant les yeux. Le vote à main levée existe bel et bien, et personne ne s'est opposé à la manière dont vous l'avez exécuté.

Je demande qu'on puisse clore cette question, elle a déjà été tranchée ce matin. Le Comité n'a qu'à prendre le texte que vous nous avez lu, pour lequel des délégations se sont prononcées par oui, d'autres par non, d'autres se sont abstenues d'y participer faute d'instructions. Je félicite ces délégations qui ont agi conformément à la logique dans tout système de négociations.

Jónos KOVÁCS (Hungary)

As the Legal Counsel told us, we have a decision, but I am not sure that it is bringing us closer to having the needed amount of US\$500 million. I would support the Chairman's opinion that, on this basis and as proposed by the representative of Uganda, we make a decision at the next Council Meeting. On the basis of better preparation, we should achieve a consensus. These three or four months will not be a waste of time and, if we achieve a consensus, I think that this Trust Fund will work successfully. However, on the basis of the present result, I am not sure of its success.

Nahi AL SHIBANI (Syrian Aran Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I support the proposal made by Senegal that we close the discussion on this Item.

Karl-Josef WEIERS (Germany)

I just wanted to support the conciliatory words of my colleague from Hungary.

Africa has a wonderful richness of old wisdom - I have lived there for seven years - and this wisdom says that, if at all possible, you should cooperate with the people you want to integrate in your wishes. I think this is also a right of potential donors and, therefore, I would very much like to underline what Hungary has said.

CHAIRMAN

The fact is that we have made the decision based on a method that, according to the Legal Counsel, is valid. I do not want to open any more new issues in that context. I think we do have a decision here that was made this morning and, with that, I have removed the doubts held by the Drafting Committee which prevented it from discussing this issue.

On the contrary, we have decided on this, and this paragraph has been validly supported, admitted and adopted by the Council.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

If, as I understand it, your proposal is that the Council accept the text that has been presented for us as a reflection of the debate, it certainly takes into account the views of many Members. Naturally, we would need additional text to reflect other views that were expressed.

I would also just like to clarify your decision with regard to the statement made by Brazil, about a reference to the actual amount of this Fund.

CHAIRMAN

This text was the text that was proposed by the Chair for support, or non-support, by Council Members. We have listened to the responses by a number, quite a large number, of delegates and we have made the decision based on a show of hands. I think there is no use to open up the decision that has been made by the Council. We would like to stick to it.

Masato ITO (Japan)

I do not want to reopen the debate, but it is clear that there was not a formal vote and I still doubt whether that was a decision or not.

However, besides that, as Australia said, if there is a view expressed by many Members, there are also views expressed by other Members. That is the reason for the drafting and I would like to recall that reason.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

Indeed, following along the line that has been introduced by the honourable representative of Japan, and since this body, the Plenary, seems to have taken over the functions of the Drafting Committee as a whole, if we were in the Drafting Committee we would indeed include some language. So I would like to propose some language to be included in the Report that would I think solve two issues.

One, it would provide better balance and, secondly, it would take up the issue of what happens to the Open-Ended Working Group. To that end, I would like to propose that in the Draft Report we include a sentence at the end of the paragraph not discussed, as follows: "A number of countries expressed the view that the matter was still under debate in the Open-Ended Working Group". I have read it at dictation speed, let me repeat it at normal speaking pace, "A number of countries expressed the view that the matter was still under debate in the Open-Ended Working Group". I propose this sentence be added to the Draft Report the Committee to give better balance.

CHAIRMAN

I understand that the paragraph is there and you want to add one sentence there. May I remind you that the Working Group is an Open-Ended Working Group which, in fact, is open to all Members and which has also to incorporate the opinions of the other Members not in the core group. That is what we did in the Council this morning. It is an Open-Ended Working Group.

Blair HANKEY (Canada)

Do I take your reply to mean that you are not accepting to include the language proposed by the delegates of the United States? Because as I understand it, she is not making any statement of what happened in the Working Group, she is simply stating which is true that a number of delegations in this house, in the debate this morning and again this afternoon, have indicated exactly what she said. I would like to second her suggestion that that sentence be added to the text.

This paragraph here as you have pointed out is not a paragraph which has been adopted in the Drafting Committee. Therefore, it is a paragraph before this house and this house therefore has an obligation to ensure that the text is as accurate inasmuch as it would reflect the views expressed here. I would urge you to adopt that amendment.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Je vous avais proposé de clore ce débat, car maintenant nous sommes en face d'une situation sans précédent dans les annales du système des Nations Unies. Qu'on me dise qu'il n'y a pas eu un vote formel, j'en doute parce que chacun peut avoir sa définition de vote formel. Mais à partir du moment où on reconnaît que la décision a été prise valablement, on ne peut pas ajouter quelque chose à cette décision. Ce qu'on peut faire habituellement, c'est qu'un Etat qui ne s'associe pas à cette décision parce qu'il est minoritaire, fait une explication de vote qui figure dans le document. Il ne faut pas créer ici des choses qui n'existent nulle part.

On me dit que le Comité de rédaction ne s'est pas prononcé sur le paragraphe: naturellement, il a demandé volontairement de ne pas le faire. C'est normal, le Comité de rédaction ne peut pas réformer notre décision alors que nous pouvons réformer la décision du Comité de rédaction qui n'est qu'un organe qui travaille pour nous proposer quelque chose, nous faciliter la tâche. On pourrait se passer d'un Comité de rédaction. Ce n'est pas qu'il n'ait pas fait un bon travail, mais ne dramatisons pas. Nous connaissons tous les systèmes des Nations Unies. Nous ne pouvons pas créer ici des choses. Ce n'est même pas envisageable qu'après avoir pris une décision devenue effective, on ne peut modifier cette décision comme cela, sur une proposition. C'est une explication de vote qu'il fallait faire au moment opportun et qui peut être faite maintenant aussi lorsqu'on prenait cette décision. Notre pays émet des réserves, et c'est tout. Puis on pouvait ajouter quelque chose qui avait été décidé valablement et personne ne peut contester: la décision a été valable. Qu'elle ne satisfasse pas un certain nombre d'Etats, c'est un problème réel. Qu'ils fassent des explications de vote. En tout cas nous ne pouvons même pas envisager une telle procédure puisqu'elle n'existe pas.

CHAIRMAN

Please be reminded that I have not yet expressed any opinion on the sentence that was proposed by the United States. What I asked the United States is if the paragraph would stay there and the reply was yes. In addition to that paragraph, the United States proposed a sentence which I am now asking them to read again.

Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)

I would be glad to. As I say, since this group the Plenary of the Council, seems to have adopted the role that is normally performed by the Drafting Committee, I believe it is appropriate to include additional language that balances the Report of the proceedings this morning, so as you stated, yes, the paragraph would stand. We would simply add a sentence to the effect that would

read as follows: "a number of countries expressed the view that the matter was still under debate in the Open-Ended Working Group". Would you like me to read it again at normal speed?

CHAIRMAN

No! thank you very much. I have heard it is a statement of fact. I hope that can also be accepted. I see no objections.

Georges RUPHIN (Madagascar)

Pour moi ce n'est pas tellement une objection. Je voudrais quand même demander certaines précisions et peut-être suggérer une autre forme de rédaction s'il y a quelque chose à inclure encore au niveau de notre discussion.

Il me semble qu'en incluant ce paragraphe tel qu'il a été énoncé par la délégation des Etats-Unis

CHAIRMAN

That one sentence, the paragraph will stay.

George RUPHIN (Madagascar)

Justement c'est un ajout au paragraphe. Si ce paragraphe venait s'ajouter à la rédaction proposée par le Président, concernant la création de ce Fonds fiduciaire, ça reviendrait purement et simplement à dire qu'il y a sursi à la décision de créer ce Fonds. Si je comprends bien, la portée de la phrase qui dit "un certain nombre de pays ont exprimé l'avis que la question était à l'étude au sein du Groupe de travail", j'aurais souhaité proposer une autre forme de rédaction, si la majorité du Conseil souhaite qu'il y ait encore un débat là-dessus, c'est à dire "un certain nombre de pays ont exprimé l'avis que la question était à l'étude au niveau de leur capitale respective", puisqu'il me semble que c'est là justement la difficulté de ces différents pays qui n'ont pas pu discuter de la question. Alors je pense pouvoir proposer cette forme, s'il était encore nécessaire d'inclure une phrase dans ce paragraphe.

CHAIRMAN

I should remind everybody that was not proposed by the countries concerned.

I still think we can still insert the sentence proposed by the United States with the paragraph that we have further on still there. It is a factual statement.

Can we conclude this?

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

As I understand it, you have just put to Council the proposal that the sentence suggested by the United States should be added to the end of the text which is in front of us. That is my understanding of what you have just said.

The United Kingdom would be very glad to support that proposal. At the same time, may I repeat a question which I have twice proposed. That is, what would be the implications of this text for the square brackets which apply to the Trust Fund in the draft proposal which has come to this Council from the Open-Ended Working Group? I think it is in the interests of everyone that we should not leave this debate without being clear what are the implications for that text. I therefore make no apology for pressing the point.

CHAIRMAN

The United Kingdom pointed out something which is very important to our work. We have only one hour of interpretation time left. So there is no way we can go beyond 21:00hrs. We have to stop there.

I think on the question by the United Kingdom, again, I would like to remind everyone here that the Open-Ended Group was established by the Council. Therefore, any decision made by the Council will have to be considered in a proper way by the Open- Ended Group.

I should say no more, because this is a fact that we have decided on and it is still put in with brackets. The fact is that the Group will go on working on it and as the Director-General has said, the Secretariat will assist them. This has been decided by the Council and it has to be taken into consideration by the Open-Ended Working Group.

Again, I would like to remind everybody that the remaining time is only one hour and we still have to adopt the Draft Report in front of us if it is at all possible.

Anthony BEATTIE (United Kingdom)

I am sorry to remain on this point, but I have to say that I am not clear what you mean when you say that the Open-Ended Working Group will take into consideration what has been discussed here. I think it would be right to be absolutely clear what is meant.

I do, of course, understand that the Open-Ended Working Group has been set up by this Council and is answerable to it. My understanding of what you are saying is that the Council has decided, as a result of the debate here, to remove the square brackets that apply to the Trust Fund proposal in the text of the Open-Ended Working Group.

As I said before, I think it is important that we should all be very clear that that is what the Council has decided.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much, United Kingdom, for saying it because that is the implication of the decision made by the Council.

Masato ITO (Japan)

My intention is to support the proposal of the United States to include the one sentence.

CHAIRMAN

Since we have resolved this and we have the Draft Report in front of us and we have only one hour, may I ask if, with what we have decided on this and with the corrections made according to what was reported by the Chairperson, we can adopt the Draft Report in its entirety? Any objections on it?

Carlos POZZO BRACHO (Observador de Venezuela)

Mi delegación tiene una modificación que plantear en uno de los apartados del proyecto de informe. Si Usted me lo permite yo podría ir adelante con esas modificaciones. Me refiero al apartado 10, primera página, párrafo 2, sobre las negociaciones para la revisión del compromiso internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos. Las modificaciones son las siguientes: en el segundo párrafo la frase que comienza –leo la versión en inglés–: "he had therefore proposed", el cambio es reemplazar "he" por "it", reemplazar "proposed" por "requested". Habiendo dicho esto, tan solo me resta agradecer a la distinguida Representante de Austria por el trabajo realizado, así como a los miembros del Comité de Redacción.

CHAIRMAN

I see no reason why we should not accept the amendment by Venezuela. They have made it even more clear.

I again, offer the entire Draft Report to the floor for adoption?

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal)

Nous avons l'intention, par courtoisie, de nous mettre d'accord avec vous pour nous reposer de cette grande perte de temps. Mais je dois quand même faire observer que nous venons de faire quelque chose qui, j'espère, ne constituera jamais un précédent dans cette Institution, parce qu'il est inimaginable que dans une autre institution, un organe prenne une décision formelle et que l'on revienne plusieurs heures après y ajouter quelque chose, et que l'on accepte de le faire. Je pense que ceux qui soupçonnaient les souteneurs de cette initiative de vouloir créer des difficultés dans

l'Organisation, se sont trompés. On devrait plutôt rechercher ceux-là mêmes qui essaient d'atténuer, de déformer une démarche et qui devront plus tard revoir leur attitude. Bref, si vous pensez que cela peut arrondir les angles, dans le rapport 6 et dans son paragraphe 6, on aurait pu inclure la phrase que l'on nous dit aujourd'hui puisque c'est ce paragraphe qui traite du travail du Groupe de travail.

Je voudrais maintenant vous demander de donner la parole au Président du Groupe africain, l'éminent Ambassadeur de Tanzanie qui a une petite proposition, très favorable d'ailleurs, et aussi très compréhensible pour que nous puissions enfin adopter très rapidement en bloc ce rapport avec ces considérations qui, j'espère, seront mentionnées sur le procès-verbal de notre réunion.

Costa Ricky MAHALU (Observer for Tanzania, United Republic of)

I would like make reference to REP/13, paragraph 6. We suggest to keep the first sentence of paragraph 6, delete the rest and take the same language as in paragraph 3 of REP/4.

We also understand that there is a consensus after consultation with some other delegates on this matter.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much, Tanzania. Although you are an Observer, you are speaking here as the Chairman of the Group of Africa.

Any objection to this amendment? I see no objection. Rep/13 is therefore amended accordingly.

I would like to propose now that we adopt the remaining parts of this Draft Report *en bloc*. I see no objection.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Draft Reports - Parts I – V were adopted

Les projets de rapport – Parties I – V sont approuvés

Los proyectos de informe, Partes I – V son aprobados

Draft Report, Part VI, as amended, approved.

Le projet de rapport, Partie VI, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El proyecto de informe, Parte VI, así enmendado, es aprobado.

Draft Reports, Parts VII – IX, as amended, approved.

Les projets de rapport, Parties VII - IX, ainsi amendées, sont approuvés

Los proyectos de informe, Partes VII - IX, así enmendadas, son aprobados.

Draft Report, Part X, as amended, approved.

Le projet de rapport, Partie X, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El proyecto de informe, Parte X, así enmendado, es aprobado.

Draft Reports - Parts XI – XII were adopted

Les projets de rapport – Parties XI – XII sont approuvés

Los proyectos de informe, Partes XI – XII son aprobados

Draft Report, Part XIII, as amended, approved.

Le projet de rapport, Partie XIII, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El proyecto de informe, Parte XIII, así enmendado, es aprobado.

Draft Reports - Parts XIV – XV were adopted

Les projets de rapport – Parties XIV – XV sont approuvés

Los proyectos de informe, Partes XIV – XV son aprobados

CHAIRMAN

I should like to thank all delegates for the collaboration and assistance they have provided to this Chair, and all the members of the Secretariat for their unfailing support in this rather lengthy Council

The Hundred and Twentieth Council is now adjourned.

The meeting rose at 20.10 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.10 horas