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Organization of the  
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Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
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للأمم المتحدة

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# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Forty-first Session - Quarante et unième session - 41.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 22-29 June 2019  
VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I  
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 22-29 juin 2019  
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION I  
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019  
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN I  
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# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019</b>
<b>FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I PRIMERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</b>
<b>24 June 2019</b>

The First Meeting was opened at 10:38 hours  
Ms Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10 h 38  
sous la présidence de Mme Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera reunión a las 10:38  
bajo la presidencia del Sra. Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Presidente de la Comisión I

## CHAIRPERSON

It is a pleasure for me to call to order the first meeting of Commission I. I am very honoured to have been elected to chair this Commission and I would like to thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility.

This Commission will contribute to the technical work of FAO and I invite all of you to remember that Commission I is focussed on the technical work of the Organization, while matters that are relevant to budgetary and programmatic issues should be raised under Commission II.

Next of all, I would like to welcome and congratulate the two Vice-Chairpersons who have also been elected by the Conference as reflected in the First Report of the General Committee. They are Ms Zora Weberová of Slovakia and Mr Haitham Abdelhady Elsayed Elshahat of Egypt and I am very much going to rely on their support, so congratulations to them as well.

Together with my Vice-Chairpersons and the Secretariat, we are going to do our utmost to ensure that the Commission works as smoothly as possible and in this regard I would like to underline the process for our discussions.

After each item, I will listen very carefully to your statements, and then we will draft some very concise conclusions.

I had a request from some regional groups to put these conclusions on the screen. My intention, having consulted with the Chairperson of Commission II on this issue, is to only put on the screen those conclusions which are controversial whereby there may be many comments or additions. Otherwise, I am hoping that my conclusions will be so brief and concise that there will be no need to put them on the screen and I certainly request the support of all the Members present with this.

I hope I can count on your support in keeping our conclusions short and I will read them slowly and repeat if needed. If there is any major divergence in your feedback, then we will project the conclusions on the screen.

I would also like delegates to try and keep their statements as concise as possible and specifically to less than five minutes. I have requested and have a timer on my desk. You cannot see it but I can and when someone starts I am going to put the timer on and when they get to five minutes, I am going to ask them to leave it there. But I am hoping all of your statements will be short and less than five minutes.

After consultation with the Regional Groups, the following members of the Drafting Committee have been nominated. They include: Argentina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, Peru, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Vietnam. The Chairperson of the Drafting Committee will be Ms Jeehan Alestad of Kuwait.

I would now like to seek your agreement to the proposed Membership of the Drafting Committee.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

It is decided.

Now, the first meeting of the Drafting Committee is currently set to begin on Tuesday at the closure of the Session and we would be very keen to ensure that we do finish tomorrow to allow the Drafting Committee to start their work on time. But we will communicate any adjustments in the timing to that process, and that will very much depend on how we get on in our discussions and conclusions today.

I mention this right at the beginning, but just to underline that in the interests of keeping to the schedule, I would like to remind you again that our discussions will need to focus on substantive policy and regulatory matters and I invite you to be brief and focus on the salient points. Finally, to ensure an accurate interpretation and production of verbatim records, delegations are requested to

submit the electronic version of their statements by email to [Conference-Statements@fao.org](mailto:Conference-Statements@fao.org) or, alternatively, provide hard copies of your statements to the Secretariat.

- Item 11. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from Regional Conferences**
- Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports des Conférence régionales**
- Tema 11. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los informes de las Conferencia Regionales**

I would now like to move on to our first discussion of the morning, and that is the Regional Conferences. So, we will start with Item 11 on our Agenda, the *Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters arising from Regional Conferences*.

Before moving to the specific Regional Conferences, I would like to give the floor to Mr Laurent Thomas, Deputy Director-General of Operations to make an introductory statement.

**Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General of Operations)**

Thank you very much for allowing me to make some very brief remarks on behalf of the Secretariat on the Regional Conference 2018-19 cycle.

The first point I would like to make is the growing attention, interest and importance given by Members to the Regional Conferences at the highest level of policymaking.

To illustrate this point, I would like to inform you that 2018 had a particularly good vintage of Regional Conferences with over 177 Ministers and Deputy Ministers attending the Regional Conferences. We are very proud of this. I am not aware of any Organization with such a global convening power in food and agriculture matters.

This high level of attention is particularly welcome in the context where Regional Conferences have become a true and integral part of the governance of the Organization, of reporting to the Council on programme and budgetary matters and to the Conference on policy and regulatory matters.

The Regional Conferences are timely in influencing the design and formulation of the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget, which is presented this week to the Conference, bringing country needs close to thinking through the strategy, direction and priorities of the Organization.

The last point I would like to present to you is that together with the Assistant Director-General, Regional Representatives and the Director of the Office of Support to Decentralized Offices here, we will be working intensively with you over the coming weeks and months to make the 2020 Regional Conference cycle even more successful for more impact. This is particularly important to strengthen the knowledge exchange and policy-setting roles of this governance instrument.

We will also aim at modernizing management, by allowing a wider real time impact through digital means.

- Item 11.1 Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (Khartoum, the Sudan 19-23 February 2018)**
- Point 11.1 Rapport de la trentième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique (Khartoum [Soudan], 19-23 Février 2018)**
- Tema 11.1 Informe del 30.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África (Jartum [Sudán], 19-23 de Febrero de 2018)**

(C 2019/14)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We shall now move to Item 11.1, *Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa*. You will find the report in document C 2019/14. The Conference took place in Khartoum, the Sudan, from 19 to 23 February 2018.

I give the floor to His Excellency Babikir Osman Mohamed Ali, Acting Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry of the Sudan to introduce the item.

**Mr Babikir Osman Mohamed ALI (Sudan) (Original Language Arabic)**

I have the distinguished honour and privilege to present to you the results of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa held from 19 to 23 February 2018 in Khartoum in the capital of my country, the Republic of the Sudan.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Sudan, I would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who participated in the Khartoum Regional Conference for Africa (ARC), including all the 358 delegates from 47 Members Countries of which there were 48 Honourable Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Undersecretaries, other partner institutions and civil society organizations.

Allow me to present to this august house a summary of the main recommendations for the Agenda Items under *Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters*.

Regarding the Agenda Item *the State of Food and Agriculture in Africa: Future Prospects and Emerging Issues*, the ARC reiterated its commitment to achieve Zero Hunger in Africa by 2025 and to continue to pursue policies and programmes that will redress the deteriorating trends of undernourishment and malnutrition in Africa, in all its forms.

In addition, the Regional Conference highlighted the trends in the prevalence of food insecurity and the double burden of undernourishment and malnutrition. It discussed the underlying drivers, including adverse climatic conditions, conflict and a difficult global economic environment. It noted the challenges posed by rapid population growth, urbanization, migration and changes in dietary patterns and emphasized the importance of a comprehensive food systems approach.

The Regional Conference welcomed the fact that FAO's strategic programmes facilitated a comprehensive approach to addressing issues of food security, nutrition and sustainability.

The ARC also drew attention to the importance of facilitating and strengthening private sector participation in transforming food systems to better reach development and rural transformation objectives, including creating opportunities for smallholders to benefit from emerging value chains, generating employment opportunities for youth and ensuring the quality of people's diets.

The Regional Conference recommended that FAO continue to provide its knowledge and expertise to help Members effectively address the aforementioned trends and emerging issues in agriculture and food systems, particularly in the areas of:

- a) developing comprehensive, multisectoral, multidisciplinary and regional approaches in the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes based on comparative advantage and for an inclusive agricultural growth;
- b) addressing the impact of increasing urbanization and rising incomes on food consumption patterns and diets, including through nutrition education, capacity building and awareness raising;
- c) ensuring effective education, advocacy and exchange of knowledge to improve the quality of diets and prevent malnutrition in all its forms.

Regarding climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO, building resilience to address extreme vulnerability of Africa's agriculture and rural livelihoods, the Regional Conference underscored the lack of adequate resources and capacities for the implementation of appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures as well as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures and resilience-building in rural livelihoods.

In this context, the Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- a) continue supporting its Members in making food and agricultural systems and rural livelihoods more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including through its Strategy on Climate Change and in keeping with the directions of the 2018-2019 biennial focus on climate change;

- b) reinforce its work with African countries on their priority actions towards the achievement of sustainable development goals, the refinement and implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including resource mobilization, and the preparation of implementation plans to the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 in Africa;
- c) facilitate intersectoral coordination and dialogue among relevant Ministries and stakeholders to address the vulnerability of agriculture and rural livelihoods to climate change.

On *Leveraging Youth Employment Opportunities in Agriculture and Rural Sectors in Africa*, the Regional Conference recommended that FAO assist Members in:

- a) making agriculture and the agrifood sector competitive and attractive to youth;
- b) adopting a regional approach towards addressing youth employment in agriculture and agrifood sectors through strategies, platforms, and value chains through investment, trade facilitation and better coordination and participation in regional policy dialogues.
- c) formulating or adapting national youth-sensitive policies or programmes.

The Regional Conference also placed emphasis on the importance of achieving food security and nutrition through mainstreaming biodiversity across agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and recommended that FAO:

- a) encourage the promotion of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform for implementation of biodiversity initiatives;
- b) support the compilation and scaling up of good practices on biodiversity management in a participatory manner;
- c) promote local knowledge, markets and value chain development for seeds and/or planting materials of minor crops and/or species;
- d) support countries in managing the nexus between the requisite increase in productivity/production to respond to food security needs while ensuring biodiversity conservation.

During the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference, Members welcomed the engagement of an FAO-dedicated programme in addressing the needs of Small Island Development States (SIDS) and follow-up to the recommendation of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the ARC in order for the progress and the implementation of activities under FAO's inter-regional initiative on SIDS.

To this effect, the Regional Conference recommended that consideration be given to a model for landlocked food-deficit countries inspired by the SIDS programme while distinguishing the differentiated needs of both categories and countries.

The Regional Conference called on African countries to step up their support and contribution to the capitalization of the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) and called also for wide participation in the upcoming Resource Mobilization Forum in 2019.

I am pleased to inform you that the donor round table organized by FAO in Malabo on 11 June 2019, bringing together Member States and other partners, resulted in a funding pledge of USD 17 million.

I would like to seize this opportunity to acknowledge the lead role of Equatorial Guinea and His Excellency, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. We associate ourselves with the recognition expressed by FAO on this occasion for His Excellency's pioneering and sustained efforts in financing the ASTF and his demonstration of vision, engagement and the strong spirit of solidarity for Africa.

We would like equally to recognize Angola's contribution to the funding it contributed, USD 10 million during the initial phase of the Fund and has pledged another USD 10 million recently in Malabo. Member Countries also stressed the importance of increasing funds for the agricultural investment of regional budgets.

As we move towards the next Regional Conference, we will proceed with communication and sharing of information and experiences on the key challenges, gaps, opportunities and collaborative efforts on the implementation of the 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference.

With regard to the next Conference, I am pleased to inform you that the 31<sup>st</sup> Session will be hosted by the Republic of Zimbabwe from 23 to 27 March 2020. I wish, on behalf of the Government of my country, to express my thanks to Dr José Graziano da Silva, the Director-General of the Organization, at the end of his term for his excellent efforts and for the fact that he participated personally in the Regional Conference in Khartoum.

I would also like to welcome Dr Qu Dongyu. I wish him success and I congratulate him on his election and I assure him that our countries will provide full support.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

I am making this statement on behalf of the African Regional Group.

In the context of the FAO decentralized structures and in relation to policy matters, the African Group invites the Forty-first Session of the Conference to encourage, take note and agree that FAO should work closely with African countries on their priority actions towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The refinement and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions, including resource mobilization efforts, continued assigning of P4 grade level staff as FAO representatives in Africa. Eleven FAO Representative positions in Africa are at P4 grade level.

The Conference will also note that in comparison to Asia, there are only four FAO Representative positions at level P4. In Latin America and the Caribbean there are only three.

The Conference will also note that no other UN agency has Country Representatives at P4 level. The generally accepted minimum Country Representative level is P5.

The Conference must also agree that, as stated during the 30th African Regional Conference held in Khartoum in 2018, African countries strongly opposed country representation of FAO at P4 grade level because such staff do not have sufficient political and diplomatic gravity and influence to engage host countries at the highest level and to influence and gain traction for FAO-led initiatives.

Furthermore, the absence of diplomatic privileges and immunities contradicts the very essence of this grade level staff to have the appearance in substance of being FAO's highest-level Country Representatives. In effect, countries with P4 grade level Country Representatives have low level functionaries, rather than the emissary of the Director-General, to represent him or FAO.

Consider that Africa is interested in the performance of FAO Representatives and not just titles. Representatives in Africa should be minimum P5 grade level to have the necessary political clout in country-led policies. Take note that the FAO Country Representatives at P4 grade level cannot act as interim head of UN Resident Coordinator in the absence of the latter.

What has then unintentionally emerged is that giving P4 level officers to Africa to represent the Director-General of FAO would suggest that Africa is not as important, as it were. This is a perception that should be corrected as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to express our satisfaction with the strategic direction of FAO at global and regional levels and the need to continue to count on FAO's technical expertise and mobilization of resources needed to implement the national priorities towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

**Ms Jeehan ALESTAD (Kuwait)**

The State of Kuwait is pleased to submit this statement on the Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa on behalf of the Near East Regional Group.

Our Regional Group would like to highlight the proper priorities contained in this Report, including strengthening resilience *vis-à-vis* climate change as well as promoting youth employment in the



agricultural and rural sectors as well as mainstreaming biodiversity in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

The Regional Group also wishes to note the progress made in the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition, particularly in Small Island States in Africa. We call upon FAO to strengthen the decentralized policies in most countries and further the consolidation of national, regional and international partnerships to support field work in Africa towards sustainable development in 2030.

Future prospects and emerging issues in the Africa Region reflect major changes arising from rapid population growth, urbanization, migration and changing diets, which require further investment with a focus on private sector participation.

The Near East Regional Group joins other Regional Groups in supporting the recommendation contained in this Report, particularly the recommendations regarding FAO's initiatives and priorities of Africa.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to ask Deputy Director-General of Operations to respond to the questions raised by Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

### **Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General of Operations)**

I would like to thank the delegate of Nigeria for this important comment and guidance. We have taken note of the concern of the Africa Regional Group regarding the grading of FAO Representative positions, the grading of FAO Representatives themselves and the implications this has and possible perceptions of a lack of importance given to the challenges of the African countries.

We would be pleased to pursue this dialogue with the Africa Regional Group as a group and with individual countries. In particular this discussion will have to take place within the framework FAO presence at country level and FAO's expertise to better support countries' needs in the framework of the ongoing UN Reform.

We believe in the strong presence of FAO at country and regional level and particularly in Africa, facing the major challenges the Organization is working on. I want to reassure the Ambassador of Nigeria and the Members of Commission I that FAO continues to give the highest importance to the selection of FAO Representatives.

In fact, there is a very well-defined process of selection, including an independent assessment by a private firm specialized in human resources, of the capacities of prospective FAO Representative candidates in terms of management. Once a candidate has been selected by the Director-General, with qualifications tailored to the needs of the country, these are discussed with the country informally and then formally before the FAO Representative is appointed.

We are proud to say that we believe that we have appointed, over the past years, solid FAO Representatives and that a system has been put in place to ensure a very close monitoring of the performance of the FAO Representative to make sure that this person is delivering in line with the expectations of the government.

This said, we welcome dialogue to follow up on this very important concern raised by the Ambassador of Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

### **Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

I do not want to prolong the conversation but I think it is very important to make clear that what is written here needs to be carefully studied by Management. I am not convinced with the explanation given by the Deputy Director-General of Operations. So please, let us take it seriously.

If you want P4 grade level officers in Africa and think it is acceptable, it is not acceptable, that is what we are saying. If other regions of the world have P5 grade level officers, Africa should not be an exception. So I do not think there is any room for discussion or negotiation on this.

**Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General of Operations)**

Very clear, no exceptions, and we are listening with attention to this very important comment.

**CHAIRPERSON**

My conclusions are:

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Sudan, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

Could you just repeat the conclusions?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes. The conclusions are:

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to the Sudan, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

I think there should be something said about the concern that has been raised by the Africa Regional Group.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Okay. Will you just give us a moment to consider something? I would like to propose an amendment which I hope addresses your concern and those of the Africa Regional Group.

The conclusion would read:

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein, and the concerns raised about the seniority of FAO representatives in Africa.

Is that okay, Nigeria?

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

Could we be more specific? It is not just raising a concern, we made a recommendation too. We want it at P5.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would now like to propose a further amendment to address your concern. It would then read:

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein and concerns raised about the seniority of FAO representatives in Africa and reiterated the request that the grades of the Representatives are at P5 and above.

**M. Seydou CISSÉ (Côte d'Ivoire)**

C'était pour appuyer la position du Nigéria eu égard à ce passage du rapport.

**Mr Tobias OGWENO (Kenya)**

Thank you for the amendment you have made to be able to address this issue. To me, it does not come out clearly, as it was put up by the distinguished Ambassador of Nigeria. He mentioned that other regions have that level of representation and Africa should not be an exception. I think in your Report this should be captured, that the rest of the other regions have P5. That is what he said and I think that is factually correct.

**Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General of Operations)**

To help come to a very specific recommendation guidance from the Group, two points. One, there is no exception on Africa on this. The grading that has been put in place is linked to the volume of field programmes. You have a situation of FAO Representatives at P4 grade in all regions of the world. So, there is no specific treatment given to Africa with this regard. I want to confirm this.

My second point is that I hope that we find the wording that reassures you that the Secretariat is going to follow the guidance provided by the Regional Conference for Africa. I think the text proposed by the Chairperson seems to respond to this very important concern raised by the Ambassador of Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

Just for clarity, this section of the recommendation, could you just repeat it for all of us to hear, and then I will make my remark.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein and concerns raised about the seniority of FAO representatives in Africa and reiterated the request for FAO Representatives to be at grade P5 and above.

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

I think it is in line with what we are suggesting, bearing in mind also what Kenya said, that there should be no differentiation.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that, I think we have agreed on the conclusions of this Item.

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| <i>Item 11.2</i>  | <i>Report of the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Nadi, Fiji, 9-13 April 2018)</i>                 |
| <i>Point 11.2</i> | <i>Rapport de la trente-quatrième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (Nadi [Fiji], 9-13 Avril 2018)</i> |
| <i>Tema 11.2</i>  | <i>Informe del 34.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (Nadi [Fiji], 9-13 de Abril de 2018)</i> |
- (C 2019/15)

Our next Item is 11.2, the *Report of the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific*. The Report is provided in document C 2019/15. The Conference took place in Nadi, Fiji, from 9 to 13 April 2018 and I am very pleased to give the floor to the Honourable Mahendra Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment of Fiji.

**Mr Mahendra REDDY (Fiji)**

On behalf of the FAO Regional Conference of Asia and the Pacific, it is an honour and a pleasure for me to be here today and have the opportunity to address the Conference regarding the outcome of the 34<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Nadi, Fiji from 9 to 13 April 2018.

The Regional Conference was attended by representatives of 35 Member Countries. Observers from one non-Member, 14 international Non-Governmental Organizations and four inter-governmental organizations were in attendance. Representatives of five other UN Organizations also participated.

The Final Report includes a summary of the main recommendations “requiring the attention of the Council” and another, “requiring the attention of the Conference”. Please reference the Conference document C 2019/15.

With reference to the Agenda Item on the *State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region*, the Conference:

1. recognized that the Asia and Pacific Region had achieved rapid growth in food production that has significantly reduced hunger and malnutrition in the last three decades;
2. acknowledged the role played by Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of the Kingdom of Thailand, as FAO's Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger Challenge in many countries of the region;
3. noted that a key challenge of the region's governments was to bring about sustainable intensification of agriculture in order to feed the growing population and agro-ecological methods, agricultural diversification, reduction of food loss and waste, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the use of information and communication technology tools were some of the relevant strategies.

The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

1. support governments in developing policy instruments that bolster agriculture growth through sustainable practices and drive innovation, productivity and profitability;
2. assist governments in the development of tools and practices for better management of natural resources, including soil and water;
3. provide assistance to support rural households;
4. support governments in strengthening comprehensive policies for family farmers in the context of the UN Decade of Family Farming;
5. develop nutrition-sensitive food system approaches that foster an enabling environment for mainstreaming nutrition through agriculture and food chain actions;
6. provide assistance on improving social protection, nutrition planning and education;
7. support countries on sustainable fisheries and other actions to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Regarding the Agenda Item *Climate Action for Agriculture*, the Regional Conference:

1. recognized the importance of enhanced climate action in the agriculture sector;
2. noted the establishment of the Special Fund for Development Finance Activities (SFDFA);
3. noted the timeliness of the 2018-19 biennial theme "*Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO*".

The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

1. assist countries in strengthening sector-specific contributions under the 2030 Agenda;
2. assist countries in enhancing systems for monitoring and reporting sector activities;
3. continue to support countries in integrating agriculture into their national policies, strategies and programmes for climate change and disaster risk reduction and management.

Considering the Agenda Item, *Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*, the Regional Conference welcomed the joint communiqué of the First Joint FAO and SPC Pacific Week of Agriculture comprising Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry held in Port Vila, Vanuatu on 20 October 2017.

The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

1. provide technical assistance to develop specific solutions customized to the Pacific SIDS.
2. establish a regional network within the Interregional Initiative (IRI) in partnership with other agencies and development partners to effectively implement actions for food security.
3. deliver coordinated multisectoral actions through a sustainable food systems approach for healthy diets.

Regarding the Agenda Item, *Addressing Food Safety Challenges of the Asia-Pacific Region*, the Conference recommended that FAO:

1. integrate and mainstream food safety and nutrition in agriculture and food systems work;

2. strengthen tripartite collaboration between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and FAO, and reinforce capacities of countries;
3. provide guidance and capacity development for the design and modernization of food safety regulatory and control frameworks and indicators in the region;
4. encourage a milieu for research and innovation that empowers industry, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and smallholders, to incorporate best international practices and voluntary standards as well as securing food safety certification for improved market access.

With regard to the next Regional Conference, I am pleased to inform you that the Royal Government of Bhutan has offered to host the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which will be held from 16 to 20 February 2020.

**Mr Mohammad Jawad RANJBAR (Afghanistan)**

Afghanistan is making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. The Conference is required to reflect on four issues covered in the Report of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

1. to emphasize the sustainable intensification of agriculture to feed the growing future population, adopt the food systems approach to tackle the triple burden of malnutrition and to remind that the food system interventions must be gender-sensitive;
2. to stress the importance of promoting sustainable agriculture through agro-ecological methods and to emphasize the importance of Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems (GIAHS) by technologies to support the regional initiative on climate change to assist Member Countries to scale up climate action for agriculture;
3. to encourage FAO to maintain the momentum in assisting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through the interregional initiative (IRI) with joint effort by Pacific Members as well as through South-South Cooperation; and
4. to emphasize public and private investment on food safety and domestic markets to increase collaboration between FAO, WHO and OIE to improve capacity to meet the implementation requirements of Codex Alimentarius and IPPC and to give support to One Health strategies in Asia and the Pacific, especially on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The Near East Group agrees with all four points and approves the Report of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

**Ms Teeraporn WONGCHOKPRASIT (Thailand)**

Thailand has the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Asia Group. We would like to thank FAO, especially the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) in Bangkok, for all endeavours they have made. Our gratitude also goes to the Government of Fiji for hosting the successful Regional Conference in April 2018. The Report of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific is significant in that it highlights our achievements in the region and underlines the aspects of our concerns and priorities.

The Asia region has a growing population, which demands higher levels of food production from limited resources. More technical support is needed to strengthen Member Countries in their efforts to achieve climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster resilience, food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation, rural development and to better tackle emerging issues.

We also highlighted the ongoing needs to prioritize partnerships and increase resource mobilization at the decentralized level, which emphasized the South-South and Triangular Cooperation and in close collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and other UN agencies.

Lastly, we look forward to an equally fruitful and emerging Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Bhutan in 2020.

**Ms Jemina Kokot MOENG (South Africa)**

South Africa is making an observation of the Report. Our apologies, because the same observation is made on the first Report, especially under the Item *the State of Food and Agriculture: Future Prospects and Emerging Issues*. I think statistics would be relevant in dealing with the regional perspectives. How far is the region on malnutrition and hunger reduction? I am saying this because those statistics are readily available. I think they should become part of the Report.

**Ms Teresa TUMWET (Kenya)**

On behalf of the Africa Regional Group, Kenya is pleased to present a statement on the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Nadi, Fiji from 9 to 13 April 2018.

We note that the Asia and Pacific Region has achieved rapid growth in food production that has significantly reduced hunger and malnutrition in the last three decades. We acknowledge the role being played by Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri of the Kingdom of Thailand, FAO Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger Challenge, in many countries of the region.

We have noted there are continuing high levels of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies as well as the rising incidences of obesity and overweight, even amidst high poverty prevalence.

While noting that it is very important for the countries in the region to adopt a food systems approach to sustain the achievements and to tackle the triple burden of malnutrition involving multiple stakeholders and sectors, it is also important for such systems to be gender-sensitive.

We are in agreement with the Asia and Pacific region in recommending FAO to continue supporting governments in implementing strategies that would address food security and nutrition, improved livelihoods and resilience development in the face of climate change. Indeed, such support is important in all the regions, including Africa.

The global challenges of climate change have led to frequent natural disasters and environmental degradation. This has resulted in the emergence of different pests and diseases.

We therefore recommend the use of One Health strategies to reduce foodborne illnesses, transboundary animal and plant diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in all regions. We request FAO to enhance its field networks in supporting these strategies.

Finally, we congratulate the Royal Government of Bhutan for offering to host the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2020. With these few remarks, the Africa Regional Group recommends the Report of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific to be adopted by the Conference.

**Ms Rosanna CHELL-OZDOWSKI (Australia)**

First, I would like to thank FAO and the Government of Fiji for hosting a successful Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. The Conference was held under difficult circumstances with two cyclones causing significant impact to the local community. I would also like to thank the Royal Government of Bhutan for hosting the next Regional Conference.

Australia is supportive of the regional priorities agreed at the Regional Conference in Fiji as well as the Joint FAO-SPC Pacific Ministers Meeting in Vanuatu.

FAO continues to play an important role in contributing to the economic prosperity of the Asia Pacific Region, not only through its work on eradicating malnutrition, but also through its work on food safety, food security and climate change. The standard-setting work of FAO through Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) facilitates agricultural trade, strengthens biosecurity and underpins food security across the region.

The work of the food standard-setting bodies promotes open and rules-based trade, which in turn benefits all economies and is a contributing factor to Zero Hunger.

Climate change poses challenges to all countries and all sectors of the economy, but particularly to sectors in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Climate change requires significant effort from the global community and international organizations, such as FAO, to support vulnerable countries.

Australia is supportive of FAO's efforts in the Global Action Plan on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Countries as well as the Pacific Framework, through which it will be implemented. These provide an Action Plan for improving access to safe, sufficient and nutritious foods, thereby reducing hunger and malnutrition in all its forms.

Australia recognizes the important role of fisheries in the region, particularly to the Southwest Pacific Members, including as a source of income for food security. We are strong supporters of the existing plans for fisheries improvement in the region, including the Blue Growth Initiative and the Regional Road Map for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries. We are also supportive of the plan for coastal fisheries pathways to change and encourage the alignment of FAO's fisheries work with these programmes.

Australia strongly supports efforts, both internationally and regionally, to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. This is a significant challenge facing the region and is a serious threat to sustainable fisheries. Australia is a party to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and supports the use of Port State Measures as part of a holistic approach in combating IUU fishing.

**Mr Noel PADRE (Philippines)**

The Philippines aligns itself with the Asia Group's statement delivered by Thailand. We would like to express gratitude to the people and Government of Fiji for hosting the 34<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and for its efficient co-organization with the regional and country offices of FAO.

We call on FAO to enhance its support to governments in consolidating and strengthening comprehensive policies for family farmers, which constitute the backbone of agriculture in many Asian countries in the context of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028, and to help harness their potential to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda goals and targets.

The Philippines encourages FAO, Codex Alimentarius and IPPC to continue its close collaboration with relevant UN agencies, particularly WHO and OIE, and with the World Trade Organization (WTO) in addressing food safety issues and standards, and ensuring that such standards and requirements do not become unnecessary barriers to trade.

Finally, we urge FAO to continue its efforts to mainstream gender equality, including recognition of the important role of women in agriculture and fisheries, and their further empowerment. We also urge FAO to continue to uplift the quality of life in rural areas and retain youth in agricultural activities.

**Ms Ying WU (China)**

China is in line with the statement by Thailand on behalf of the Asia Group. We commend FAO and Fiji for successfully organizing the Regional Conference and the Report provided by the Secretariat. We commend that under the guidance and assistance of FAO and the joint efforts made by countries in the region, we have made achievements in poverty reduction and reducing hunger.

However, we still face myriads of challenges such as food security, malnutrition and climate change. Together with countries in the region, we are willing to carry out targeted South-South and Triangular Cooperation. In particular, we have great potential to cooperate under the South-South framework to respond to climate change, improve nutrition and sustained agricultural development, and promote family farming.

We recommend to further promote policy and technology exchanges among the Asia Pacific countries and focus on improving comprehensive agricultural production capacity and technology. We also encourage responsible investments and technology transfer in the region. China shall make a due contribution for agricultural and rural economic development in the region.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to give the floor to the Assistant Director-General (ADG), Regional Representative for FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP).

**Ms Kundhavi KADIRESAN (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific)**

I think it would be useful to really find out what kind of statistics we are talking about. Statistics is very broad. If we are talking about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is an area where FAO has been working with our Member Countries very closely in building the data in the region, as well as in other parts of the world. In that sense, we can actually specify what kind of work we are broadly doing under the State of Food and Agriculture.

Regarding the specific aspect of agriculture in the region, we are doing a lot of agriculture surveys and census. Those might also be useful and we could take note for that to become a part of our future reports. I hope this is very helpful and is what you were looking for. It is something that we will incorporate as part of the Report in the future, because it is something that we are really working on.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I might just add that I think that was a request made not just to the reporting of the Asia Region but across the board, if we could pass that on, that would be great.

My conclusions on this item are:

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Fiji, the host country for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

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| <b>Item 11.3</b>  | <b><i>Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (Voronezh, Russian Federation, 16-18 May 2018)</i></b>                     |
| <b>Point 11.3</b> | <b><i>Rapport de la trentième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (Voronège [Fédération de Russie], 16-18 Mai 2018)</i></b>          |
| <b>Tema 11.3</b>  | <b><i>Informe del 31.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (Vorónezh [Federación de Rusia], 16-18 de mayo de 2018)</i></b> |
- (C 2019/16)

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would now like to continue with Item 11.3 on our Agenda, the *Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe*. You can find the Report in document C 2019/16. The Regional Conference took place in Voronezh, Russian Federation, from 16 to 18 May 2018. I would now like to give the floor to Ms Gunnvör Berge, the Vice-Chairperson of the Regional Conference.

**Ms Gunnvör BERGE (Vice-Chairperson, 31<sup>st</sup> Regional Conference for Europe)**

It is my pleasure to address the Conference regarding the outcome of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe. I address the FAO Conference in my capacity as Second Vice-Chairperson, as the Chairperson and the First Vice-Chairperson were unavailable to present the Report.

The European Regional Group is a heterogeneous group and has a strong membership base. It has 48 Members plus the EU, and this puts it on par with the African Group with its 49 Members. The European Regional Conference (ERC) has an even wider Membership as it also includes Members from Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Out of the 54 Members of the ERC, 44 delegations of the Members of the region as well as three Observer countries and nine Observer organizations attended the Regional Conference. This high participation indicates the attention that ERC Members pay to the Regional Conferences and FAO.

I would also like to recognize with appreciation the participation of the Director-General, the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the Chairperson of the Committee of World Food Security.

The European Regional Conference serves many purposes. It is an instrument for cross-fertilization between the work in Governing Bodies at the headquarters, FAO functions in Rome and its decentralized network in the region and at country level.



We had, at moments, quite lively and heated debates. In this Chairperson's view, the candid exchanges also contributed to the purpose of the Regional Conference. It brought us, our capitals and the competent FAO staff in the region, closer together here in Rome.

The Report of the Regional Conference is published in Conference document C 2019/16 and informs us about the Organization and highlights of the Regional Conference. Today I will focus on some of the highlights that require the attention of the Conference.

The Regional Conference underscored the overarching objective of eliminating hunger and malnutrition in all its forms in Europe and Central Asia and noted the contribution of inter-regional cooperation to ensure global food security and quality nutrition.

Concerning a central topic at the ERC, the establishment of sustainable agriculture and food systems in the region in the context of climate change, the ERC called on governments to adopt a food system approach. The objective would be to create policy coherence in the implementation of the SDGs and support coordination mechanisms across sectors and stakeholders.

The ERC stressed the need for the agricultural sector to address climate change both in terms of adaptation and mitigation.

Another important topic that we were concerned about was related to e-agriculture and how the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and its use can help bridge gaps between the rich and the poor, between men and women, and engage youth in agriculture.

I would like to end my intervention by thanking the Russian Federation for hosting this Conference in the beautiful Voronezh, and thank the local authorities for the warm welcome and the Regional Office in Budapest, the FAO Liaison Office, with the Russian Federation for their professional and competent organization of the Conference.

I would also like to use this occasion to thank Uzbekistan who has agreed to take on the responsibility of hosting the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the ERC in 2020, as well as our Russian colleagues who have informed the European Regional Group that they stand ready to share their experiences from the previous year's conference with Uzbekistan.

I welcome comments from colleagues that would like to add to the Report before handing the floor over to the Chair.

**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

Congratulations to you for your appointment as Chairperson of this very important Commission. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

The EU and its 28 Member States welcome the Report on the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe, which was kindly hosted by the government of the Russian Federation from 16 to 18 May 2018 in Voronezh.

We support the conclusions reached at the Regional Conference, in particular those related to the two Ministerial round table discussions, the round table on sustainable agriculture and food systems in Europe and Central Asia in a changing climate, and the round table on e-agriculture and the use of ICT for the development of sustainable and inclusive food systems and trade integration.

We also welcome the focus placed on a food system approach to create policy coherence in the implementation of the SDGs and the support expressed for the establishment of inclusive coordination mechanisms to design and integrate policies and strategies.

We also welcome the acknowledgement of the potential of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology for smallholders and family farmers to accelerate the transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems. In this regard, we believe it is important that FAO take the lead to facilitate research, data collection and analysis on sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology and the development of methodologies to measure the sustainability performance of such approaches.

We also welcome the conclusion that the development of e-agriculture can be an important tool for the implementation of Agenda 2030. Digital technological innovations, together with other innovations, can help promote change in food and agriculture systems ensuring that disparities in remote areas are addressed, gender and generational gaps are bridged and social inclusion is supported.

In addition, we believe e-agriculture aims at the more sustainable and inclusive food system and offers many opportunities for urban and rural youth employment and hence the participation of the private sector is recommended, as well as the development of international standards and clear regulatory frameworks to safeguard transparency and personal data protection.

We agree with the current Regional Initiative related to empowering smallholders and family farming with a view to improving rural livelihoods and reducing poverty and improving agro-food, trade and market integration. We also strongly support the implementation of the third Regional Initiative focusing on sustainable natural resources management in a changing climate with strong links to the other two existing regional initiatives.

Lastly, we would like to underline the importance of a neutral and balanced approach in FAO support for countries in the design and implementation of trade-related policies and strategy.

**Ms Georgeta MINCU (Moldova)**

On behalf of the Republic of Moldova, we would like to align ourselves with the EU statement on Item 11.3 with regard to the Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe.

**Ms Ekaterina NOSKOVA (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

It was a great honour for us to host the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe which was held in Voronezh, Russia, from 16 to 18 May of last year.

The Session was one of the most significant FAO activities ever held in Russia. More than 150 delegates took part from 44 Members of the region as well as representatives of specialized and Observer organizations as well as the business community, academia and the private sector.

The Conference was held in a format of constructive and business-like dialogue and we hope that the Report adopted at the end of the Conference will be approved today. We support the recommendations therein.

We had endeavoured to also organize an interesting recreational programme for participants and guests, visiting a number of leading agricultural and food enterprises in the Voronezh region. We are prepared to share our experience with our Uzbekistani partners as they will be hosting the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session next year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the team of FAO experts, including the language services, for their professionalism and the support provided in organizing this high-level event.

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

I just want to intervene based on what I think I heard the presenter of the ERC Report say.

Countries in Africa are not 49. They are 54, just to correct that.

**M. Alwin KOPSE (Suisse)**

La Suisse souhaite s'exprimer sur trois points, parmi ceux que la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe porte à l'attention de la Conférence. Premièrement, concernant la Table ronde ministérielle sur «Une agriculture et des systèmes alimentaires durables en Europe et en Asie Centrale face au changement climatique», nous relevons la nécessité de disposer de méthodologies et indicateurs de référence pour mesurer les performances des systèmes agroalimentaires au-delà du rendement.

La FAO est en position de force pour fédérer les initiatives existantes et faciliter l'élaboration de paramètres de référence, pour mesurer la performance dans le cadre de l'indicateur 2.4.1 du Programme 2030.

Deuxièmement, concernant l'e-agriculture, il est important de combiner les innovations, y compris les technologies numériques et d'autres innovations, en vue de favoriser les changements nécessaires. La FAO doit s'engager et ceci implique d'investir plus dans les approches participatives du type co-innovations ou innovations locales, qui valorisent les connaissances et pratiques traditionnelles. En d'autres termes, passer d'une innovation pour les agriculteurs à l'innovation par les agriculteurs.

Finalement, nous invitons la FAO à s'engager résolument dans le soutien aux initiatives multipartites comme incubateur, membre actif ou comme Secrétariat afin d'accélérer la transition vers des systèmes agroalimentaires plus durables.

**M. Abdenmour GOUGAM (Algérie)**

L'Algérie intervient au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, au titre du point 11.3 de l'ordre du jour relatif au rapport de la 31<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe.

Notre Groupe a pris note des informations communiquées dans le document C 2019/16 et saisit cette occasion pour adresser au Secrétaire général et tout le personnel du Secrétariat, ses remerciements pour la disponibilité, la clarté et la qualité des documents qui nous ont été fournis.

Permettez-moi de saisir cette occasion pour féliciter l'oratrice, Madame Gunnvör Berge, pour son excellente présentation du rapport, de joindre ma parole et ma voix aux distingués représentants qui m'ont précédé pour également rendre hommage à la Fédération de Russie pour la parfaite organisation de la 31<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe, tenue à Voronège du 16 au 18 mai 2018, et enfin de féliciter le Secrétariat pour le travail d'accompagnement qui nous a permis d'avoir ce rapport dans d'excellentes conditions matérielles.

Le Groupe régional Afrique se dit satisfait des conclusions et des recommandations contenues dans ce rapport, qui traite de thématiques importantes, notamment l'action de la FAO dans le cadre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et, dans le domaine du changement climatique, l'agriculture et les systèmes alimentaires durables face au changement climatique, la biotechnologie et la collaboration entre la FAO et la société civile, ainsi que le secteur privé.

À l'instar du Groupe Europe, le Groupe régional Afrique appuie les priorités contenues dans ce rapport, à savoir l'agriculture et les systèmes alimentaires durables face au changement climatique; le renforcement de la participation du secteur privé à l'e-agriculture, y compris les petites et moyennes entreprises, ainsi que celle des consommateurs afin d'assurer des systèmes alimentaires efficaces et durables; l'e-agriculture et les technologies de l'information et de la communication pour développer des systèmes alimentaires durables et inclusifs et l'intégration du commerce; l'importance des innovations, dont les technologies numériques, y compris l'agroécologie et le renforcement des capacités de tous les acteurs; l'importance des jeunes dans l'agriculture et la question de l'emploi des jeunes en milieu rural; le renforcement de la participation du secteur privé à l'e-agriculture, y compris les petites et moyennes entreprises; les résultats et les priorités de la FAO dans la région, et l'importance du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030; le rôle de la Conférence dans la recherche d'une réflexion qui tend à la mobilisation des moyens nécessaires pour la réalisation et la transition vers des systèmes agricoles et alimentaires durables dans le contexte du changement climatique; la réduction des maladies liées à l'alimentation, en garantissant les moyens d'existence durables de millions de producteurs agricoles.

Nous nous félicitons, au sein du Groupe Afrique, du fait que les objectifs stratégiques de la FAO soient parfaitement harmonisés avec les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) définis par notre Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030.

Nous sommes donc convaincus, qu'outre les tendances et les enjeux mondiaux, qui devraient continuer à inspirer les activités de la FAO dans les années à venir, trois aspects clé devront orienter l'action, aussi bien au niveau mondial que régional, notamment pour ce qui est d'inclure dans nos stratégies et nos programmes d'action les décisions et les recommandations émanant de la Déclaration de Rome sur la nutrition et du cadre d'action adopté lors de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, des 17 ODD ainsi que de l'Accord de Paris tel qu'il a été conclu à l'occasion de la Conférence mondiale des Nations Unies sur le changement climatique.

Nous avons pris note de la contribution de la collaboration interrégionale à la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition mondiales, tout en soulignant l'objectif général relatif à l'élimination de la faim et de la malnutrition sous toutes ses formes.

Le Groupe régional Afrique se félicite de l'importance accordée à la coopération entre la FAO et les organisations ayant leur siège à Rome dans le cadre de la mise en place de partenariats efficaces à l'appui de la cohérence des politiques sur les ODD et les engagements internationaux. Le Groupe régional se félicite de l'action entreprise à travers une étude sur le lien entre le commerce et la sécurité alimentaire.

Avec ces observations le Groupe régional Afrique appuie le document et souhaite son adoption.

**Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)**

On behalf of the European Regional Group, we very much welcome the Report and also the information presented by the Vice-Chairperson of this Conference. We also want to thank the Russian Federation for the excellent hosting and organization of the Conference in Voronezh.

The Conferences are extremely important in bringing together all the Members of the European Regional Group and we have a very heterogeneous Membership. It is important to meet all Members, who we do not always meet in Rome.

We support all the priorities of the Conference. The sustainable agriculture and food system in the context of climate change and e-agriculture are important themes and we have to follow up the recommendations by the Conference.

Finally, I would also like to highlight the importance of involving the Members in the preparations of the Conference. It is essential to begin the preparations early and, especially in our case, it is important to get all Members involved and in that way, also involved in the Conference discussions. That concerns every region.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have not heard any specific questions in the statements but the Vice-Chairperson of the ERC would like to take this opportunity to respond to some points made.

**Ms Gunnvör BERGE (Vice-Chairperson, 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe)**

I just wanted to thank all of you who have enriched my Report by bringing forth many of the important issues and discussions raised during the meeting in Voronezh.

We take note of Ambassador Yaya's information that the African Regional Group consists of 54 countries. I apologize for the mistake. We are now the same number of countries in the European Regional Conference as in the African Regional Group.

My final comment would go to the African Regional Group and the mentioning of our clear Report. I would like to tell you that we have worked in the ERC on improving the working methods of the Regional Conference and we had good discussions on the Report. I am happy to hear that the result of our efforts in Voronezh were recognized through seeing the Report as succinct and to the point.

**CHAIRPERSON**

My conclusions on this item are:

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to the Russian Federation, the host country for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

<b>Item 11.4</b>	<b><i>Report of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5-8 March 2018)</i></b>
<b>Point 11.4</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la trente-cinquième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (Montego Bay [Jamaïque], 5 - 8 mars 2018)</i></b>
<b>Tema 11.4</b>	<b><i>Informe del 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (Montego Bay [Jamaica] 5 –8 de marzo de 2018)</i></b>
<i>(C 2019/17)</i>	

## CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to turn to Item 11.4, *The Report of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and Caribbean*. The Report is available in document C 2019/17.

The Conference was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 5 to 8 March 2018, and I will give the floor to the Honourable Audley Fitz Shaw, Minister for Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica to introduce the Item.

### **Mr Audley Fitz SHAW (Chairperson, 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean)**

It is an honour to address the Conference today in representation of the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region to present this summary of recommendations of FAO's Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean that Jamaica had the honour to host on 5 to 8 March 2018, in Montego Bay. The reference document is C 2019/17.

I would like to highlight and thank the 280 participants from 33 Member countries, among them 40 Ministers and Vice-Ministers, 13 Ambassadors, one Observer nation, 50 other Observers, seven UN Organizations and 22 civil society and non-governmental organizations, nine private sector Organizations and 14 Inter-governmental Organizations.

The Regional Conference was the first in the Caribbean region in 20 years and was also the occasion of celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 15 offices in the Latin American and Caribbean region. At the Conference, participants committed to following a path to eradicating hunger and extreme poverty in the region with the support of FAO.

The Regional Conference considered the following policy issues important for the region: (i) Ending hunger and eradicating all forms of malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean; (ii) Towards a transformative agenda for sustainable rural development, and; (iii) Climate resilient and sustainable agriculture.

The Regional Conference expressed appreciation for FAO's three Regional Initiatives, and welcomed the alignment of FAO's Strategic Objective indicators with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Indicators.

The Regional Conference also recommended that FAO help accelerate national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, reiterating the value of the Framework for Action of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Nutrition, and the goals of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, and their Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Samoa Pathway and the adoption of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNCCC), for advancing efforts to address these challenges.

In this context and in relation to policy and regulatory matters, the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean invites this Conference to examine and agree that FAO:

1. continue to support Members to improve policy instruments to end hunger, extreme poverty and vulnerability to climate change in communities and territories that are falling behind with

- emphasis on rural women, indigenous peoples, disadvantaged people of African descent and other vulnerable groups;
2. strengthen its assistance to Members and public policies to transform food systems, promote the human right to food and end malnutrition in all its forms including overweight, obesity and micronutrient deficiencies;
  3. reinforce its efforts to support countries to achieve a transformative agenda for sustainable rural development through integrated and comprehensive strategies, public policies and spaces for multi-sectoral dialogue and partnerships to eradicate rural poverty, enhance social protection with economic inclusion, promote family farming, small scale artisanal, fisheries and agricultural production and address the causes of migration from rural territories, tackling inequalities, rural youth employment and entrepreneurship for economic and social revitalization of rural territories;
  4. enhance its work on enabling governments to achieve climate resilient and sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and blue growth by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources supporting adaptation and mitigation of climate change and disaster risk management, promoting innovative environmental policies for the socio-economic inclusion of family farmers and artisanal fishers and assisting governments in assessing global climate and environmental funding;
  5. support preparations towards the approval as soon as possible for an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, a proposal endorsed unanimously by Member Countries.

Finally Chairperson, on behalf of the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the most Honourable Andrew Holness, and in my capacity as Chairperson of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, I wish once again to thank Member Countries for the trust placed in my country.

At the same time, I reaffirm before this Conference our satisfaction with the strategic direction of FAO at global and regional levels and the need to continue to count on the Organization for technical cooperation and the mobilization of resources needed to implement the recommendations of the Regional Conference and to achieve the proposed targets of eradicating hunger and extreme poverty, and promoting sustainable natural resource management in our region.

**Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)**

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation intervenes on this Agenda Item, first of all to congratulate FAO and the Government of Jamaica for a very successful Regional Conference. We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to FAO for the collaborative initiatives currently being undertaken in respect of our fisheries, policy management and regulatory arrangements and land management.

However, as a compliment to what has been said may I, on behalf of the 15 Members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, raise a few points. We wish, first of all, to underscore the globally recognized understanding that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have unique and differential needs to navigate the challenges on the road to development. In these circumstances, we urge the design of a more meaningfully and clearly identifiable functional institutional arrangement within FAO for dealing with the SIDS Agenda. These arrangements would support, in our view, a more coherent, differentiated and funded programme for SIDS in FAO.

We appreciate the unfinished discussions initiated in respect of institutional arrangements for the Caribbean Subregion. However, like other speakers, we know the level of FAO Representatives (FAORs) in the Subregion, at P4 level, and we argue it is a question of authority, influence and power of Office and the status that is accorded to it. Moreover, we also make the point that too many of the FAORs currently serving operate in out-posted technical positions, diluting capacities both in terms of their technical support functions and their representational responsibilities.

In light of Subregional plans for agriculture, fisheries and forestry and rural development, aligned to such critical issues as food security, nutrition, wealth creation and commercialization of enterprises, we respectfully propose a review of the complement of expertise decentralized and dedicated to the purpose of supporting Subregional development within the Caribbean.

Finally, we encourage FAO to deepen the dialogue and forge enhanced partnerships with key Subregional institutions to streamline technical support services and to access and share resources, particularly financial resources.

With these comments, we support the conclusions and recommendations of the Report of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean. We appreciate the government and people of Jamaica for being excellent hosts, and express our keen anticipation to participate in the 36<sup>th</sup> Conference in Nicaragua.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Antes de nada, queríamos felicitarla por su designación. Realmente le auguramos lo mejor. Seguramente va a ser así. Segundo, queríamos agradecer a Jamaica por albergar el 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional y quisiéramos hacer algunos comentarios en particular acerca del informe.

Primero, subrayar la solicitud de la Conferencia Regional al apoyo, a la elaboración y adopción de un código de conducta internacional voluntario para prevenir y reducir la pérdida y desperdicio de alimentos. Este tema es considerado por la Argentina de gran importancia, por lo que se propuso en el seno de esta Organización. Incluso, en el G20 durante la presidencia argentina, el establecimiento de un Día internacional de la concienciación, de la prevención y reducción de la pérdida y desperdicio de alimentos.

La Argentina entiende que esta problemática requiere un enfoque integral de los sistemas alimentarios, de un enfoque interdisciplinario y de coordinación entre el sector público, el privado, así como de los distintos grupos que integran la sociedad civil y que se vinculan con la producción, la comercialización y la distribución de los alimentos. Estimamos que la innovación tecnológica puede ayudar a combatir la pérdida de alimentos postcosecha. Al efecto, en la Argentina se utiliza un método de almacenamiento de granos llamado “silo bolsa” que permite su preservación por largos períodos.

La reducción de la pérdida y desperdicio de alimentos contribuirá a la mejor nutrición y la seguridad alimentaria. Los ingresos de los productores de los bienes agrícolas, quienes utilizarán más eficientemente los recursos naturales y facilitará la gestión de los residuos.

Por último, quisiéramos agradecer los preparativos que la oficina regional está realizando y encarando para la próxima Conferencia en Nicaragua, la que auguramos que tendrá iguales conclusiones interesantes como las desarrolladas en Jamaica.

**Sra. Yissel GONZÁLEZ GARCÍA (Cuba)**

Cuba la felicita, en primer lugar, por su elección como Presidenta de esta Comisión y le desea buenos éxitos en los trabajos. Agradecemos la presentación del informe realizada sobre el 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO que tuvo lugar en Jamaica en 2018.

Evidentemente, las graves afectaciones de los huracanes Irma y María en todos los países del Caribe impidieron que Bahamas pudiera hospedar la Conferencia en este año. Ello me lleva necesariamente al primer punto y la primera propuesta que queremos realizar al informe de la Presidenta. Y quisiera que se refleje el hecho de mantener y respetar el acceso de los países de ingresos medios a financiamiento sobre temas climáticos y ambientales. Y me estoy refiriendo específicamente al Fondo Verde del Clima.

Para los países de América Latina sería un duro golpe que se limitaran sus posibilidades a acceder a estas fuentes de financiamiento. Sobre todo, cuando a pesar de los numerosos esfuerzos que están realizando los gobiernos de estos países, sigue siendo América Latina la región más desigual del mundo. Y está experimentando retrocesos en la reducción de la inseguridad alimentaria. Sobre todo, las cada vez mayores vulnerabilidades al cambio climático. Los países están perdiendo sus costas, están viéndose obligados a desplazar sus poblaciones y a cambiar sus hábitos alimentarios. Esto no es una teoría, es una realidad hoy.

En segundo lugar, quisiéramos resaltar el apoyo y énfasis que hiciera la Conferencia Regional sobre la importancia de continuar aplicando en la región el Plan de Seguridad Alimentaria, Nutrición y

Erradicación del Hambre de la CELAC o más conocida como Plan de CELAC 2025. En tercer lugar, quisiéramos felicitar al gobierno de Nicaragua por su disposición a hospedar el 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe conociendo las complejidades organizativas que ello implica y, por supuesto, su voluntad de continuar trabajando por la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de su país y de los países de la región.

En conclusión, solicitamos amablemente, señora Presidenta, que en su informe queden recogidas estas tres cuestiones. En sentido general, mantener y favorecer el acceso de los países de ingresos medios al Fondo Verde del Clima; en segundo lugar, reconocer la importancia del Plan CELAC para la consecución de los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe, y en tercer lugar, felicitar y agradecer al gobierno de Nicaragua por su disposición a ser la sede del 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to thank our interpreters for this morning's work and thank all of you for being here promptly and keeping your interventions under five minutes. I would also like to thank colleagues on the podium and urge you all to, if we can, reconvene here at 14:30 sharp to make good progress.

*The meeting rose at 12:33 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 33*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12 :33*





# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019</b>
<b>SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I SEGUNDA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</b>
<b>24 June 2019</b>

The Second Meeting was opened at 14:30 hours  
Ms Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 30  
sous la présidence de Mme Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda reunión a las 14:30  
bajo la presidencia del Sra. Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Presidente de la Comisión I



- Item 11. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**  
**Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:**  
**Tema 11. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:**

- Item 11.4 Report of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5-8 March 2018) (continued)*  
*Point 11.4 Rapport de la trente-cinquième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (Montego Bay [Jamaïque], 5 - 8 mars 2018) (suite)*  
*Tema 11.4 Informe del 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (Montego Bay [Jamaica], 5 –8 de marzo de 2018) (continuación)*

(C 2019/17)

## CHAIRPERSON

We are going to resume our work from this morning with the rest of the interventions on the *Report of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference from Latin America and the Caribbean*.

### **Sr. Luis Fernando CECILIANO PIEDRA (Costa Rica)**

Agradecemos al Sr. Ministro Shaw por la presentación del documento C 2019/17 al tiempo que reiteramos nuestro aprecio y gratitud al pueblo de Jamaica por la calurosa acogida que, en su oportunidad, brindaron a la delegación costarricense.

Sobre el informe quisiéramos resaltar tres cuestiones trascendentales para Costa Rica. Primero, las posibilidades que ofrece el Plan de acción del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de la Agricultura Familiar, para abordar las tres áreas temáticas que se identificaron como prioritarias para la región y que recoge el párrafo n° 13.

En específico creemos que el plan puede ser de gran utilidad para el diseño y la implementación de políticas en programas de alimentación escolar, monitoreo de los ODS, marcos jurídicos para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, y apoyo a emprendimientos de jóvenes y mujeres, entre otras cuestiones importantes emanadas de la propia conferencia regional.

Segundo, la invitación para que la FAO elaborara códigos de conducta voluntarios para la disminución de pérdidas y desperdicios de alimentos en los párrafos 17 vii), 28 iii) y 29 vi). Iniciativa regional que fue sometida al examen del 26.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura y aprobada por este de manera unánime para ser presentados en el 27.º período de sesiones. Estos rápidos avances son, sin duda, motivo de honda satisfacción para nosotros.

Tercero, el establecimiento de un laboratorio para el análisis y diálogo de políticas pecuarias vinculado al Consejo Agropecuario Centroamericano y que figura en el Apéndice E del informe. Quizá, señora Presidente, este no es el momento más apropiado para solicitar a la FAO actualización sobre la implementación de este acuerdo emanado de la conferencia regional; pero sí quisiéramos aprovechar el espacio para reafirmarles el interés de Costa Rica de que se pueda progresar en ello lo antes posible.

Con estos comentarios aprobamos el Informe del 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe.

### **Sr. Nicolas HOUNTONDI AKAPO (Guinea Ecuatorial)**

La República de Guinea Ecuatorial, hace esta alocución conjuntamente con la República de Mozambique en nombre de los países del Grupo Africano, los cuales acogen con satisfacción el informe del 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe.

La delegación de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial en nombre de los países del Grupo Africano expresa sus sinceras felicitaciones al Excelentísimo Sr. Ministro de Industria, Comercio, Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca de la República de Jamaica y Presidente en ejercicio de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe por su brillante presentación que nos acaba de hacer este medio día sobre las conclusiones de los trabajos de la aludida conferencia.

Extendemos nuestras felicitaciones al gobierno de la República de Jamaica por la excelente organización de dicha conferencia así como a todos los países latinoamericanos y del Caribe por las importantes prioridades que han planteado a la FAO recogidos en el informe que nos acaban de presentar. Nos referimos al objetivo de poner fin al hambre y erradicar todas las formas de malnutrición en América Latina y el Caribe, a la agenda transformadora del desarrollo rural sostenible y a la agricultura sostenible y resiliente al cambio climático, los cuales están perfectamente alineados con la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de la Agenda 2030 de las Naciones Unidas al igual que ha sucedido en las demás conferencias regionales de la FAO.

Los países del Grupo Africano reconocemos y valoramos muy en alto los esfuerzos que están desplegando los gobiernos latinoamericanos y del Caribe en aras de la lucha contra el hambre, la malnutrición y la pobreza, así como los considerables avances conocidos en los últimos años sobre la consecución de la seguridad alimentaria en esta región del mundo.

**Mr Indar WEIR (Barbados)**

I want to start by commending the Honourable Audley Shaw for a very detailed presentation and I want to commend FAO for being partners with us in the Caribbean Region and for all the good work that you have been doing with us.

I am biased because I am acutely aware of your presence in Barbados and I want to extend a hearty thank you on behalf of the Prime Minister and the people of Barbados for the work you have done in Barbados and throughout the Region.

I am, however, speaking perhaps with an engineering mind even though I do not have an engineering background, in that I seek to draw your attention to the fact that we should focus more on our micro-fundamentals, than to develop our macro-responsibilities.

I have heard some of the most telling and relevant matters that have been raised throughout this Conference and, indeed, by the Honourable Audley Shaw, in terms of what we are hoping to achieve as a region. My fear, however, is that we need to look at how we address issues of intra-regional trade amongst the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) because this is particularly important to the development of the region, especially as we seek to develop a regional economy based on the Caribbean single market and its economic objectives.

However, I would like to say that we need to address some matters under the umbrella of climate change. To me, one of the most fundamental matters are our sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in the region. Perhaps we may need to have a collaborative approach and discussion on SPS measures because, what stands before us is cross-border trade where easy things, like the movement of pests and diseases, can easily setback all that we are hoping to achieve in our Strategic Goals and Objectives. The eradication of hunger must pivot around how we protect the region and protect agriculture in terms of plant life, plant health, disease management as well as animal disease management.

I believe that these are issues that should stand strong at the Conference in Nicaragua. I dare say that as we seek to review or do our monitoring and evaluation on the Strategic Goals and Objectives that we seek, to make SPS a significant part of the conversation that is going to take place as we go forward.

This is because without it, with climate change taking place, the one thing you know is that changes take place under the climatic events. Things like pests seek new homes, and it is very easy with borders like those in the Caribbean Region for these pests to move either by way of shipments or leisure travel, where people become very enthusiastic in terms of what pests they can smuggle in or what plants they can bring in.

This then puts the whole region at severe risk, where objectives in the region can easily collapse simply because of the lack of management or mitigation against such activities.

Therefore, if we are going to fix the micro-fundamentals, then at our core must be how we manage climate change, and indeed how we broaden the discussion to include intra-regional trade, and mitigation with the use of SPS where the region collectively can meet and set the standards in terms of agricultural practices and the way we trade amongst ourselves.

**Sr. Edison VALLEJO MADRID (Ecuador)**

La delegación del Ecuador agradece la excelente presentación realizada por el Ministro de Industria, Comercio, Agricultura y Pesca de Jamaica, señor Audley Shaw y, al mismo tiempo, agradece y felicita al gobierno de Jamaica por la excelente organización de la cita regional.

Consideramos que el 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe fue un espacio propicio para la discusión y análisis de los desafíos que enfrenta nuestra región en materia de lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición. La conferencia regional se convirtió también en un escenario de propuestas y lineamientos del camino a seguir de manera conjunta. El Ecuador concuerda con los desafíos de política relevantes para la región definidos por la Conferencia Regional y expresados en el documento C 2019/17.

Sobre el primero de estos temas, a saber, poner fin al hambre y erradicar todas las formas de malnutrición en América Latina y el Caribe, el Ecuador expresa su preocupación por el freno en los progresos hacia la reducción de la inseguridad alimentaria, así como el aumento alarmante del sobrepeso y la obesidad y las carencias persistentes de micronutrientes.

El gobierno ecuatoriano realiza todos los esfuerzos para enfrentar este triple desafío mediante programas nacionales de alimentación escolar, marcos jurídicos para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, y el apoyo al frente parlamentario contra el hambre, entre otros. Ecuador solicita a la FAO prestar asistencia a los gobiernos con miras a la identificación, el desarrollo y la implementación de políticas públicas, en particular para la promoción del derecho humano a la alimentación y la promoción de dietas nutritivas mediante el consumo de productos frescos y agro biodiversos.

En el tema hacia una agenda transformadora del desarrollo rural sostenible, Ecuador concuerda plenamente con la conferencia regional sobre el valor económico, social, ambiental y cultural de la agricultura familiar misma que es una prioridad para el gobierno ecuatoriano. En este tema, Ecuador desea subrayar la necesidad de que los Estados, en colaboración con la FAO, impulsen políticas y acciones de desarrollo rural que tomen en cuenta los componentes socioculturales, así como de género, edad y étnico. El Ecuador destaca también la importancia de establecer políticas y marcos regulatorios que promuevan el acceso de las comunidades rurales y, particularmente, de los pequeños productores de la economía familiar y campesina a servicios financieros y no financieros que impacten positivamente en temas de productividad, promoción, asociatividad y comercialización.

Finalmente, el Ecuador destaca las conversaciones mantenidas durante la conferencia regional sobre agricultura sostenible y resiliente al cambio climático. El Ecuador reconoce la labor desarrollada por la FAO en esta materia y considera necesario que la Organización continúe prestando apoyo para el acceso a fuentes de financiamiento a los países de la región, incluidos como ya lo dijo la delegación Cuba, los países de renta media y media alta, con el fin de implementar la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático, las contribuciones determinadas a nivel nacional y los planes nacionales de adaptación.

Señora Presidenta, el Ecuador valora positivamente el desarrollo y los resultados del 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe y confía que los retos que enfrenta nuestra región serán aplacados por medio de un trabajo conjunto y mancomunado entre los Estados y los distintos actores locales, regionales y globales. Ecuador confía que el apoyo de la FAO y los mecanismos de cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular que se puedan desarrollar en nuestra región serán determinantes en el trabajo en pos de la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, y concretamente en aras de la seguridad alimentaria y la agricultura sostenible de nuestros países.

**Sr. José Luis DELGADO CRESPO (México)**

Nos congratulamos de su designación para dirigir estos trabajos. Mi delegación agradece este informe y quisiera destacar que, como resultado de la preocupación por el aumento de la migración del campo a la ciudad resultante de la inseguridad alimentaria y de la falta de acceso a oportunidades, recursos y servicios, la Conferencia Regional celebrada en Montego Bay recomendó a la FAO que ayudara a los gobiernos a enfrentar dicha problemática. También recomendó prestar apoyo para elaborar y fortalecer estrategias integrales para la erradicación de la pobreza, particularmente en el ámbito rural, así como promover el empleo y el emprendimiento de los jóvenes con vistas a la revitalización económica y social de los territorios rurales.

En este marco, damos la bienvenida a la convocatoria de la FAO para celebrar una reunión de alto nivel sobre migración, desarrollo y seguridad alimentaria en Mesoamérica que se realizará del 2 al 3 de julio próximo en la Ciudad de México. Confiamos en que los trabajos de esta reunión reiteren la importancia de la cooperación y del multilateralismo a través de propuestas concretas para promover la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo rural de la región en beneficio de las poblaciones más vulnerables al hambre y la malnutrición. Asimismo, reiteramos la solicitud de apoyo a la FAO para continuar identificando, en colaboración con los gobiernos, los territorios con los niveles más altos de inseguridad alimentaria y sus causas a fin de concentrar los esfuerzos de esta organización en dichos territorios.

De igual manera coincidimos en la necesidad de continuar apoyando a los gobiernos en el fortalecimiento y la ejecución de programas nacionales, regionales y globales relacionales con el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad y de los recursos naturales, la adaptación al cambio climático y la mitigación de sus efectos y la gestión de riesgos de desastres para el sector agrícola. Con el fin de contribuir a ese esfuerzo, México y la FAO anunciaron en la conferencia regional el establecimiento de un fondo para la adaptación y la resiliencia al cambio climático en el Caribe.

Finalmente, agradecemos a Jamaica por la estupenda organización de la Conferencia Regional de 2018 al tiempo que celebramos la decisión de Nicaragua de albergar la próxima Conferencia Regional en 2020. Anticipamos su éxito.

**Ms Renata NEGRELLY NOGUEIRA (Brazil)**

The Regional Conference allowed us to have meaningful discussions towards the identification of the most pressing challenges in the Region such as the fight against the triple burden of malnutrition. In this respect, among the Conference recommendations to FAO, we would like to highlight that they want to promote nutritious diets, including through the consumption of fish, meat and fresh products in order to contribute to the improvement of food security and nutrition.

The Conference further recommended that FAO support elaboration and adoption of an international voluntary code of conduct to prevent and reduce food losses and waste. We are glad to see that this suggestion was well received by the Committee on Agriculture which, in its 26<sup>th</sup> Session, endorsed a request for FAO to take the lead in collaboration with relevant actors to develop voluntary codes of conduct on food loss and food waste. We look forward to participating on and contributing to discussions in this regard.

The Conference also made several recommendations to FAO regarding the support to countries in promoting sustainable agriculture and climate resilience, which we fully support. We would like to underscore that adaptation to climate change is especially urgent in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as in other Regions. Our Region already suffers with the rising frequency and severity of storms, floods and droughts while the economies of many of our countries rely heavily on agriculture.

Regarding the call for a Regional dialogue on mainstreaming biodiversity, we believe it would be timely to have a consultation organized in the second semester of this year since the FAO Biodiversity Strategy is to be concluded by the end of 2019. We have been informed about the intention of the Secretariat to organize a consultation on the Strategy in the context of the Regional Forestry Commission to be held in Uruguay in September. We would like to strongly support that this consultation take place, and that it addresses the Biodiversity Strategy as a whole and not only its aspects related to forestry.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Agradecemos a la Oficina Regional y muy especialmente al gobierno de Jamaica por la impecable organización del 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe en la difícil circunstancia de haber asumido la organización con muy poco tiempo de anticipación en reemplazo de Bahamas que no pudo cumplir con su compromiso debido a los desastrosos efectos que tuvieron los huracanes Irma y María en este pequeño Estado insular. Agradecemos también la excelente presentación del informe de nuestra conferencia por parte del señor Ministro de Industria, Comercio, Agricultura y Pesca de Jamaica.

Del informe quisiéramos destacar algunos desafíos que enfrentamos como región. La triple carga de la malnutrición es un problema que aqueja a la mayoría de los países de la región. Por un lado, vemos altos niveles de obesidad y sobrepeso, especialmente en nuestros jóvenes. Y al mismo tiempo observamos un preocupante aumento de la desnutrición y el hambre, particularmente en América del Sur.

Nuestra región enfrenta graves problemas derivados del sobrepeso y la obesidad, enfermedades crónicas no transmisibles asociadas a una dieta con elevado consumo de alimentos ultraprocesados. Es por ello que nuestro país propuso en la conferencia regional la celebración de un Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras, propuesta que tuvo el apoyo unánime de la Conferencia y se solicitó que se realizara las gestiones para su celebración lo antes posible. En este caso estamos trabajando para que se celebre el año 2021.

Ello debido a la urgencia de tomar acción en materia de malnutrición, elementos centrales de este año internacional serán la agricultura familiar y la pérdida y desperdicio de alimentos. Es necesario trabajar en conjunto y coordinados para impulsar de forma urgente políticas integrales que permitan el logro de sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles, la seguridad alimentaria y una mejor nutrición para todos.

Por otra parte, en materia de pesca y acuicultura, valoramos las conclusiones de la Conferencia y esperamos reforzar aún más el fructífero trabajo con la FAO en esta materia, en especial respecto a la lucha contra la pesca INDNR y la adaptación y resiliencia de este sector al cambio climático.

Los estragos del cambio climático como las sequías prolongadas o las lluvias abundantes y a destiempo afectan no solo nuestra producción sino directamente los medios de vida de las poblaciones rurales e indígenas, las más pobres de nuestros países. Solicitamos el apoyo de la FAO para mantener y fortalecer el acceso de los países de renta media al Fondo Verde para el Clima, así como de otras fuentes de financiamiento ambiental y climático para hacer frente a este desafío.

Finalmente, varios de los desafíos que enfrentamos están relacionados con las consecuencias del cambio climático que nos afecta a todos. Si bien en el marco de la FAO trabajamos para adaptarnos, mitigar y hacer más resilientes nuestra agricultura, pesca, acuicultura y, en general, nuestros sistemas agroalimentarios, quisiéramos recordar que en diciembre de este año, Chile será sede de la COP25 donde también nuestros países deben resaltar la relación entre cambio climático, agricultura y seguridad alimentaria, y asumir compromisos ambiciosos que estén acordes con los desafíos que enfrentamos.

Con estos comentarios, endosamos plenamente el Informe del 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The point that Trinidad and Tobago made earlier has been taken on board by management. I would like to read the conclusions of this item that I propose.

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Jamaica, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.



<b>Item 11.5</b>	<b><i>Report of the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (Rome, Italy, 7-11 May 2018)</i></b>
<b>Point 11.5</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la trente-quatrième session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (Rome [Italie], 7 -11 mai 2018)</i></b>
<b>Tema 11.5</b>	<b><i>Informe del 34.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (Roma [Italia], 7-11 de mayo de 2018)</i></b>
<i>(C 2019/18 Rev.1)</i>	

## CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to move on to Item 11.5, *the Report of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East*. The Report of the Conference is available in document C 2019/18 Rev.1.

The Conference took place here in Rome from 7 to 11 of May 2018 and I have the honour of introducing His Excellency, Hassan Lakkis, Minister for Agriculture of Lebanon, to introduce this item.

### **M. Hassan LAKKIS (Liban) (Langue originale arabe)**

C'est un honneur et un plaisir pour moi d'être avec vous ici aujourd'hui, pour vous présenter le rapport de la 34<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour le Proche-Orient, qui s'est tenue ici à Rome du 7 au 11 mai 2018. 144 participants étaient présents à cette 34<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence régionale, dont 19 ministres et ministres adjoints. Cela reflète bien l'importance croissante des Conférences régionales dans le cadre de la Conférence de la FAO. Les délégués de 25 des 30 États Membres de la région étaient présents, ainsi que des représentants de trois Membres de l'Organisation ayant le statut d'observateur, deux autres observateurs, des représentants de sept organisations des Nations Unies, de cinq organisations intergouvernementales, d'une organisation non gouvernementale, d'un institut de recherche et de six organisations de la société civile.

Le rapport met l'accent sur les principales conclusions et recommandations au titre des différents points de l'ordre du jour, notamment les questions relatives aux politiques et à la réglementation régionales et mondiales. Étant donné les contraintes de temps, je serai bref, et bien sûr vous trouverez tous les détails dans le rapport relatif à cette Conférence régionale portant la cote C 2019/18 Rev.1.

Nous avons discuté des principaux sujets, à savoir l'agroécologie et comment s'adapter au changement climatique dans les zones semi-arides aux fins d'un développement agricole durable, la transformation agricole dans la région Proche-Orient et Afrique du Nord, «un monde, une santé» et les organismes nuisibles et les maladies transfrontières touchant les végétaux et les animaux.

Au titre de l'agroécologie, la Conférence régionale a demandé à la FAO de renforcer les capacités des petits producteurs et d'encourager des régimes alimentaires plus sains, des systèmes de production durables. Les parties prenantes ont été invitées à échanger leurs connaissances et leur expertise en matière d'agroécologie. Les Membres ont été encouragés à adopter des pratiques d'agroécologie et de les intégrer systématiquement dans leurs activités. Il a été demandé à la FAO d'intégrer l'agroécologie dans les initiatives régionales, d'aider les pays à s'appuyer sur les résultats atteints dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud ou triangulaire et à collaborer avec les autres organisations partenaires actives et les organisations régionales et internationales de recherche pour promouvoir l'agroécologie, enfin, de renforcer les capacités des pays dans les domaines relatifs à l'agroécologie, s'agissant de l'adaptation au changement climatique au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition.

Pour ce qui est de la transformation agricole dans la région Proche-Orient et Afrique du Nord, et les défis à relever concernant l'emploi des jeunes et les migrations, la Conférence régionale a mis l'accent sur les points suivants: l'adoption et la mise en œuvre d'une transformation agricole basée sur des éléments factuels et des stratégies dans ces domaines, avec l'appui de la FAO et d'autres entités régionales et internationales, en donnant la priorité à des politiques cohérentes pour combler le fossé entre les zones rurales et les zones urbaines et mettant l'accent sur les questions de migrations entre les zones rurales et les zones urbaines; favoriser l'investissement public et privé, ainsi que les initiatives de financement visant à soutenir la transformation de l'agriculture; donner la priorité au développement de chaînes de valeur et de secteurs de services connexes; prendre appui sur le système

alimentaire pour mener à bien une transformation inclusive des territoires ruraux au moyen d'approches territoriales et locales et enfin, encourager les pays à accroître la part de l'agriculture dans les budgets nationaux.

La Conférence régionale a demandé à la FAO de recueillir, échanger et mettre en commun les connaissances, les pratiques optimales et les bons résultats obtenus dans la région et en dehors; s'agissant de la limitation des migrations rurales, d'instaurer des politiques qui empêchent le morcellement des terres, de trouver des solutions pour résorber l'écart entre villes et campagnes, et de s'occuper de la création d'emplois décents; d'aider les pays à adopter des technologies agricoles modernes comme l'hydroponie, et de fournir un appui à la création de coopératives et de soutenir les investissements en faveur de l'agriculture.

La Conférence régionale a tiré parti des mesures prises par les Membres souhaitant que l'on dispose de stratégies et de programmes pour lutter contre les nuisibles, les maladies transfrontières touchant les végétaux, les animaux terrestres et aquatiques. Les pays ont été invités à élaborer des stratégies de collaboration pour la gestion des risques inhérents aux organismes nuisibles et aux maladies transfrontières touchant les végétaux, les animaux terrestres et aquatiques en temps de crise, en misant notamment sur le contrôle et le renforcement de la surveillance transfrontalière et sur le dialogue. Ils ont examiné la nécessité de prendre rapidement des mesures pour empêcher que les maladies transfrontières ne se répandent et ont souligné qu'il fallait accroître les synergies et renforcer les partenariats entre les organisations inter-gouvernementales et internationales existantes et les institutions des Nations Unies. La Conférence régionale a aussi souligné que la coopération sud-sud et la coopération triangulaire sont de précieux instruments à l'appui de l'approche «Un monde, une santé».

Les participants ont demandé à la FAO un soutien pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable (ODD), souhaitant que la FAO poursuive son travail dans ce but et qu'elle renforce les capacités surtout dans les zones de conflits ou de crises prolongées.

Concernant l'égalité hommes-femmes, bonne note a été prise des synergies dans ce domaine, car il faut assurer l'intégration de l'équité hommes-femmes pour le développement rural et agricole. Pour ce faire, il faut qu'elle soit intégrée dans tous les programmes nationaux, régionaux et il est nécessaire de continuer à travailler au renforcement des capacités tant aux niveaux national qu'international.

En conclusion, je voudrais insister sur le rôle des bureaux décentralisés dans la région. Nous avons formulé des recommandations sur le Programme de travail, et c'est dans cet esprit, qu'au nom de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient, j'appuie la FAO et sa réponse dynamique aux besoins de la région. Le Sultanat d'Oman attend avec impatience d'accueillir la 35<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient, prévue à Muscat du 1<sup>er</sup> au 5 mars 2020, et au nom de tous les Membres de la région, je remercie le Sultanat d'Oman de son offre généreuse.

**Mr Shahin GHORASHIZADEH (Iran)**

Since this is the first time that I take the floor, let me congratulate your Chairmanship first and let me also appreciate the government of Lebanon for its excellent Chairmanship and also FAO, for organizing and hosting this meeting so well, from 7 to 11 May 2018 in Rome.

According to critical conditions of climate change in the region, which made transferring diseases and pests very easy, this also affects food security in the region. Iran would like to reiterate and highlight the need for the strong support of the Conference regarding the consideration, concerns and request made by the Regional Conference on the One Health issue, which addresses transboundary plants, animals and fish, pests and diseases in this document.

**Mr Mohammad Jawad RANJBAR (Afghanistan)**

Afghanistan is making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. The Conference has requested to reflect on three items covered by the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Near East Regional Conference.

1. The role of agroecology; (b) and (c) of Paragraph 17 of the Report of the 34<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC), underscores the provision of incentives to small producers in Near East and North Africa (NENA) countries to enable them to foster the transition to sustainable agriculture and

food systems, to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and experience on agroecology among them and to build the capacity of countries in making better use of agroecology for the adaptation to climate change. The Near East Group wishes to emphasize that these measures must be consistent with the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) on Agroecology.

2. On the question of migration and youth employment, the region is facing a major challenge of resettlement for the returning refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and a bulging youth population moving to urban centres and/or crossing the border on their migratory journey. The Near East Group wishes to emphasize that the promotion of agriculture can help overcome these challenges.

3. On transboundary diseases, the Near East Group wishes to underline the devastating effects of the Red Palm Weevil to date palms in NENA countries, and appreciates the creation of a trust fund to eradicate this trans-boundary disease with assistance from NENA countries and partners.

With these observations, the Near East Group approves the Report of the 34th Session of the NERC.

**Mr Haitham ABDELHADY (Egypt)**

Egypt aligns itself with the statement delivered by Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East Group and Egypt would like to express its appreciation to the government of Lebanon and FAO for the efficient arrangements and organization of the Regional Conference at FAO headquarters in Rome last year. We appreciate the efforts of the Assistant Director-General of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa in Cairo for arranging for the Regional Conference.

We would also like to congratulate both Oman and Kuwait for their election as the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson for the 35th Session of the Regional Conference that will be held in 2020.

Egypt would like to encourage FAO to scale up its efforts to enhance the capacity of the Regional Office to better respond to growing needs and emerging challenges in the Region, such as water scarcity, desertification, drought, increasing number of refugees, conflicts and climate change impacts on food production and agriculture, to support countries of the Region to address these challenges, and to provide food security and fight hunger in the Region and to scale up the joint collaboration with other Rome-based Agencies to address these challenges and share best practices and technical cooperation through South-South collaboration.

With these comments, Egypt supports the Report of the 34th Session of FAO Regional Conference for Near East.

**Mr Ahmad Fateh AL QADERI (Syria) (Original language Arabic)**

I thank the Republic of Lebanon for Chairing our Regional Conference. I would like to highlight some main points.

We should be attentive to the presence of pests impacting the animal and plant production. We will see pests that negatively affect production. Regional cooperation is paramount to stop the spread of these pests as their nature is transboundary.

This situation leads us to call for support from FAO to build the capacity of the quarantine centres in our countries, to equip those centres so they are well advanced, and to play the role in combating the spread of these pests in the Region.

We speak about eradicating hunger and stemming migration and addressing its drivers, especially the migration of youth from rural to urban areas. I call for lifting the unilateral measures imposed by some countries on countries of the region in contradiction with the United Nations decisions. This has a very negative effect on the situation of food security and migration in the Region.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to proceed to read the very concise conclusions of this item.

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein.

Appreciation was expressed for the manner in which Lebanon Chaired the Regional Conference.

I cannot see any requests for the floor. I will take it that we have agreed on this conclusion.

- Item 11.6**      *Input from the Fifth Informal Regional Conference for North America (Washington, D.C., United States of America, 18-19 April 2018)*
- Point 11.6**      *Apports de la cinquième Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord (Washington [États-Unis d'Amérique], 18-19 Avril 2018)*
- Tema 11.6**      *Aportación de la Quinta Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte (Washington, D.C. [Estados Unidos de América], 18-19 de Abril de 2018)*
- (C 2019/LIM/1)

We will now start with Item 11.6, *Input from the 5th Informal Regional Conference for North America*. The Report can be read in document C 2019/LIM/1. The Conference was held in Washington D.C. in the USA on 18-19 April 2018. I am pleased to give the floor to Wendell Dennis, the Acting Director for Multilateral Affairs at the US Department of Agriculture.

**Mr. Wendell Dennis (Acting Director for Multilateral Affairs at the US Department of Agriculture)**

The United States was pleased to host the 5th Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC) in Washington D.C. on April 17 and 18, 2018. INARC was co-Chaired by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The meeting included participation from the governments of Canada, the United States, the FAO Liaison Office for North America and FAO Representatives from headquarters here in Rome via digital video conference.

The United States and Canada sought stakeholder input in the priority setting process, which was a first for INARC, and comments from the private sector, academia and civil society informed our discussions. During INARC, the United States and Canada identified three key messages for FAO's focus. These key messages included international standards, agricultural innovation and impartial data and analysis.

FAO should prioritize its normative work such as technical support to develop and adopt international standards established by the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in addition to guidelines for practices in agriculture, fisheries and forestry and the provision of other information that enables countries and rural peoples to make smart and informed decisions.

This work is crucial to increasing productivity, improving resilience to shocks and reducing environmental impacts while also helping farmers to access markets and earn better incomes, ensure a safer food supply and strengthen global food security.

The second INARC key message is related to agricultural innovations. FAO needs to do more to support the acceptance, adoption and implementation of agricultural innovations. Innovation is essential to increasing productivity, reducing impact on the environment, adapting to extreme weather events and enabling poor farmers, fishers, ranchers and foresters to earn better income and produce sustainably. Building resilient food systems means enabling people to access the entire toolbox of science-based innovations.

Our third key message is that FAO should strengthen its capacity to deliver impartial, science-based data and analysis for use by its stakeholders. FAO has a unique role as a knowledge Organization and this role includes a responsibility to provide all countries with information and analysis. INARC calls on FAO to increase its technical capacities and to support its Members in these areas.

In addition to the key messages, INARC highlighted good governance and mainstreaming gender, including the equality and empowerment of rural women and girls and advocacy at a global, regional and national level. Regarding good governance, FAO should increase its transparency, accountability and responsiveness to Member States.

We appreciate FAO's consideration of the priorities identified in INARC and expect the Organization to consider North America's priorities equally with those as other Regional Conferences. We are pleased to report that the next INARC will take place in Quebec City, Canada in April 2020.

**Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

My appreciation goes to the Representative for his introduction to the input from the North American Regional Conference. We certainly align ourselves with it and appreciate the detailed and specific Report. Canada fully endorses these remarks.

Two things I will share with regard to the INARC. One is, why informal? This is a point that Canada and the United States have spoken about a couple of times in the Governing Bodies in the past. The point I would like to stress is that using an informal mechanism has enabled us to hold these Regional Conferences, share views like other Regions do in FAO but not incur significant costs to the Organization for doing so and for holding a much smaller and more dialogue-driven event.

For my second remark I would like to share a follow up on the opening comments by Mr Thomas earlier today. When looking forward to the 2020 Regional Conferences, you expressed an interest to use technologies and make future Regional Conferences more impactful. You should know that the North American Regional Conferences have been using video conferences for ten years and it has been extremely useful for us.

We have been able to move from technical topic to technology topic, from, for example, Fall Armyworm to other issues that we did not get into detail here and it has been a very useful tool for our countries in our Regional Conference. This is just to encourage the adoption of that kind of mechanism for others to benefit from.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The conclusions I propose are:

The Conference took note of the Informal Regional Conference for North America to allow Member Nations of the Region to make inputs into the Organization's prioritization process.

I would like to thank the delegates for their cooperation and spirit of collaboration in keeping our conclusions concise. I very much hope that we can continue in that vein.

**Item 12. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**

**Point 12. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:**

**Tema 12. Asuntos mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:**

We are now ready to start with Item 12 on the Agenda, *Global Policy and Regulatory Matters* arising from the Technical Committees. I would like to remind delegates that the proposals for International Years and Days originating from the Technical Committees will be discussed separately under Item 19.

**Item 12.1** *Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (1-5 October 2018)*

**Point 12.1** *Rapport de la vingt-sixième session du Comité de l'agriculture (1-5 Octobre 2018)*

**Tema 12.1** *Informe del 26.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (1-5 de Octubre de 2018)*

(C 2019/21 Rev.1; C 2019/30; C 2019/LIM/13; C 2019/LIM/15; C 2019/LIM/21; C 2019/LIM/22)

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to start with Item 12.1, which is the *Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture*. The Report is available in document C 2019/21 Rev.1 and the meeting took place here in Rome from 1 to 5 October 2018. I would like to recall that under this item, we are also considering the Draft Resolution on the Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches including agroecology in the future planning activities of FAO.

The international Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers as well as the Ten Elements of Agroecology guide the transition to the sustainable food and agriculture systems and there have been a number of questions on that point which I think management will be able to address.

I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, and after the discussion on the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) we will together address two matters which have benefitted from the ample discussion at the 126th Session of the Programme Committee and the 161st Session of the Council.

Those two items are the Draft Resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which is in document C 2019/LIM/22 and the process for the Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors and there is a short note on that in document C 2019/LIM/15.

I am very pleased to give the floor to the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, His Excellency Mohamad Hossein Ahmadi, to introduce the COAG Report.

We will then come back to the Draft Resolution on Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of FAO.

**Mr Mohamad Hossein AHMADI (Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture)**

The 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, COAG, was held from 1 to 5 October 2018, and discussed a range of substantive technical matters. The following points are brought to the attention of the Conference.

At its 26<sup>th</sup> Session, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare in collaboration with the Bureau a Draft Resolution on the Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology, in the future planning activities of FAO, to be discussed in the next Council. This Draft Resolution is published as Conference document C 2019/LIM/13.

Members may wish to note that at its 161<sup>st</sup> Session, the Council recommended submission of the Draft Resolution to the Conference as set out in appendix D of the 161<sup>st</sup> Council Report. The Draft Resolution submitted to the Conference for endorsement incorporates comments received from the Members and has been cleared by the technical divisions.

Secondly, as requested by Council at its 161<sup>st</sup> Session, the document on the Ten Elements of Agroecology was further revised by FAO to reflect the discussion at the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of COAG and the revised version is presented to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference, as document C 2019/LIM/21.

The Conference is invited to approve the revised version of the Ten Elements of Agroecology, and endorse it as a guide to one of the ways of promoting sustainable food and agriculture systems, and request COAG to continue to update the Ten Elements since it is meant to be a living document.

The International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers, document C 2019/30, was revised as a result of a bold and intensive resolution process, taking into account the feedback and the comments received as requested by the 6th meeting of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly, the 26th Session of COAG, and the 160<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council. The current version of the revised Fertilizer Code is submitted to the Conference for consideration and endorsement. The Conference is also invited to encourage FAO Members and other relevant stakeholders, with the guidance of the Global Soil Partnership Secretariat as necessary, to translate the Fertilizer Code into effective actions.

I would formally like to inform Members that the proposal for International Years and Days is foreseen to be discussed under Agenda Item 19. Delegations are therefore invited to address related issues under the specific Agenda item.

In conclusion, and in view of the forgoing, the Conference is invited to endorse the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, document C 2019/21 Rev.1.

## CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to invite the other Members to the podium to say a few words before we open it to interventions from the floor. I would like to ask Deputy Director-General, Ms Maria Helena Semedo to provide an update for the Members on the status of the Ten Elements on Agroecology.

### **Ms Maria Helena Semedo (Deputy Director-General of Climate and Natural Resources)**

The Council, at its 160th Session, requested that the Ten Elements on Agroecology be further revised by FAO to reflect the discussions of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of COAG and to present the revised version to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference. We have taken into consideration the comments coming from the COAG discussion as well as the recommendations from the Council, and have tried it to integrate into the version presented to you.

## CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to give the floor to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee to add any remarks concerning the Draft Resolution on the Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology in the future planning activities of FAO as it was discussed in the Programme Committee.

### **Mr Hans Hoogeveen (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)**

The Programme Committee had a very positive discussion about the Draft Resolution especially because the Resolution presents a very balanced approach to sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology. The Programme Committee only made some minor changes in the draft and recommended the Council to submit a text of the Draft Resolution to the Conference for its adoption.

### **Ms Jeehan ALESTAD (Kuwait)**

The state of Kuwait has the honour to make this intervention on behalf of the Near East Regional Group. The issues identified by COAG for the next phase are quite relevant even for the Near East Region, particularly with regard to the revitalization of rural areas for youth and the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture, the promotion of sustainable food systems as well as the mainstreaming of biodiversity across agricultural sectors.

The Near East Regional Group would like to emphasize in particular the necessity to activate the proposal for the establishment of a sub-committee on livestock and to also call on FAO to work hard to strengthen partnerships, supporting the agroecology initiative in our region as one of the possible approaches to achieving the Strategic Objectives of sustainable development.

With regard to FAO's Climate Change Strategy, we strongly urge FAO to conduct dialogues at all levels in our region in order to help farmers increase productivity sustainably and adapt to climate change. The Near East Regional Group welcomes the proposals for the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, as well as the International Year of Millets as an excellent opportunity to promote healthy diets among consumers and stimulate sustainable production of millets to diversify diets in all regions and countries.

In conclusion, the Near East Regional Group expresses its full support for this Report along with other Regional Groups.

### **Ms Anastasia PROKHOROVA (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We support most of the recommendations contained in the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We welcome the outcomes of the discussions during this Session on issues relating to agricultural system development. Sustainable agricultural production is the basis for food security and economic growth. This issue had a place of pride on the Agenda of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Voronezh.

We welcome FAO's leadership role in the collaboration of the theoretical foundations and practical outputs of the agroecology concept as one of the approaches to promoting sustainable agriculture and food systems. We are ready to continue to engage in constructive dialogue on this theme under the FAO platform. In this context, we support the relevant Draft Resolution of the Organization.

We support COAG's decision to consider during its next Session in 2020, the possibility of establishing an FAO Sub-Committee on livestock. The establishment of such a working body would provide an additional opportunity for discussion and agreement on priorities in the livestock sector and the development of relevant specific recommendations.

We also appreciate FAO's work in the area of sustainable soil management and in particular under the framework of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). We would like to underscore the latest achievements of the GSP, first and foremost the development of the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers.

We support the adoption of this document by the Conference. We welcome the annual event organized by the Secretariat for the International Soil day on December 5th when the Glinka World Soil prize is awarded, named after the Russian soil scientist Constantine Glinka.

The Russian Federation is working consistently to boost international cooperation in the area of soil management. Our country provides financial support to the Global Soil Partnership. Last year, Russia made a targeted voluntary contribution of USD 2 million for the implementation of the second stage of the project for sustainable soil management with a focus on the Eurasian region.

We support FAO's activities in the area of addressing antimicrobial resistance, and support the Draft Resolution. We underscore the importance of this issue for the international community considering the significant losses sustained by agriculture due to the resilience of infectious microorganisms to antibiotics, which amounts worldwide to dozens of billions of dollars per year. The Russian Federation has made a targeted voluntary contribution of USD 3.3 million to FAO to support its work in combatting antimicrobial resistance in a number of Commonwealth of Independent States. The Russian Federation, together with FAO, will hold a regular Session of the International Conference for Food Safety in Moscow in December 2019.

**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The EU and its 28 Member States welcome the Report of the Committee on Agriculture.

We strongly support the need for the transition of agriculture, including food systems in the context of climate change, toward enhancing sustainability and resilience. We ask management to enhance FAO support to smallholders and family farmers in adopting and scaling up productive and sustainable practices particularly by promoting access to resources, investment, decision-making, technology and innovation.

We welcome the recognition of mainstreaming biodiversity in all of FAO's work by convening the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors in 2018 in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity. Management has been requested to develop a strategy on biodiversity mainstreaming across agriculture sectors. We note that this Strategy could not be tabled for consideration at this Conference.

We strongly urge management to speed up this work and ask the Conference to mandate the Council to consider and adopt the Strategy and Action Plan before 2020, both being a coherent response to the needs identified in the recently published State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

The EU and its Member States support the COAG Draft Resolution for the Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology in the future planning activities of FAO as discussed during the last Council Session in April 2019. At that Session, it was recommended that the Resolution be submitted to the Conference. This Resolution is an important step in recognizing the need to develop and promote approaches aimed at creating more sustainable agriculture and food systems.

As far as the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers is concerned, we would like to express our appreciation for the revised version requested by COAG in order to better reflect regional specificity. We support the adoption of this new version, which is



balanced and will contribute to enhancing the sustainability of agriculture. In addition, we reiterate our request to management to increase the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021 (PWB) and the funding for FAO's work through the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the joint FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Programme.

Increased support for mainstreaming biodiversity at FAO could be financed through efficiencies and cost savings without negatively impacting the delivery of the agreed Programme of Work, or if necessary by transferring funds from areas of technical emphasis to the extent feasible.

Lastly, the EU and its 28 Member States welcome the Draft Resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance and underline the importance of FAO's work, in particular the work in helping its Members to manage transboundary pests and diseases. This work is a global public good that the world relies on FAO to deliver. We urge management to include indicators and targets for this work in the FAO Strategic Results Framework. With this remark, we endorse the COAG Report.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to remind Members that we will be treating the Draft Resolution on AMR and the Biodiversity Strategy as a separate sub-Item when we get to the end of the COAG Item. We will take on board whatever has been said with regards to these items when we discuss them after Item 12.1.

### **Sra. Marycel PACHECO GUTIERREZ (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)**

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela desea hacer suyas las conclusiones y recomendaciones que formuló el Comité de Agricultura en su 25.º período de sesiones, en particular, las contenidas en la parte 2, literal c relacionadas con la agroecología.

Es oportuno destacar que, en la actualidad, importantes movimientos sociales de América Latina y el Caribe incluida Venezuela han puesto en práctica experiencias agroecológicas tanto en el medio rural como en el urbano. En el marco del proceso bolivariano se han promulgado leyes y normativas que privilegian la agroecología como opción ante la agricultura convencional. Al tiempo que entes del Estado comiencen a abrir espacios para su institucionalización.

En consonancia con esta visión, la Escuela Venezolana de Planificación ofrece el diplomado en planificación agroecológica que cubre, entre otros aspectos, la acción social colectiva, la transición hacia la agroecología, la soberanía agroalimentaria y movimientos sociales, y la metodología de campesino a campesino. Es importante destacar que en el acto de instalación del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de la Agricultura Familiar 2019-2028, hubo un reconocimiento al aporte directo de la agroecología para el cumplimiento del Plan de Acción Mundial como garante de la preservación de la biodiversidad. Su aporte indiscutible a la seguridad alimentaria y su contribución al cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030.

En este sentido, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela resalta la importancia de los 10 elementos de la agroecología como una guía para la transición hacia sistemas alimentarios agrícolas sostenibles y apoya el proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia sobre mayor integración de enfoques agrícolas sostenible.

### **Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)**

En primer lugar queremos agradecer al Presidente del Comité de Agricultura por la presentación de este informe. Creemos que el 26.º período de sesiones del COAG ha sido sumamente relevante por los temas que hemos abordado. En este sentido, la República Argentina da la bienvenida al informe presentado.

Tenemos algunos comentarios puntuales sobre puntos específicos del informe. En primer lugar, damos la bienvenida a la resolución sobre agricultura sostenible, incluida la agroecología. Creemos que hemos hecho un gran trabajo en conjunto y hemos logrado de alguna forma incluir las diversas visiones y nos parece que este es un ejemplo de procedimiento, en el sentido de que hemos tenido espacio para remitir nuestros comentarios, para efectuar intercambios en el marco del Comité del Programa, por ejemplo, bajo el liderazgo del Embajador de los Países Bajos, así que encomiamos este proceso que hemos tenido en relación con este tema.

Asimismo, damos la bienvenida a las actividades de la FAO en relación con la ganadería, incluido el establecimiento de un Subcomité para la Ganadería. Esperamos vivamente el Informe de la Secretaría respecto de las implicancias financieras y presupuestarias del establecimiento de este subcomité que analizaremos en la próxima sesión del COAG.

Por otra parte, queremos destacar que apoyamos las propuestas de años internacionales y días internacionales que fueron abordados por el Comité y resaltar la importante labor de la Alianza Mundial para los Suelos que reporta el Comité de Agricultura. En particular, la elaboración del Código de Conducta sobre el Uso de Fertilizantes.

Señora Presidenta, por último, quisiéramos hacer referencia a los 10 elementos de la agroecología. En este punto, la República Argentina está muy preocupada respecto del proceso que se ha seguido para abordar este documento. Recordamos muy bien que durante el 26.º período de sesiones del COAG hubo una discusión muy interesante con diversas visiones, donde varios países expresamos que teníamos mucho para decir sobre esto y que queríamos seguir debatiendo el contenido.

En este punto no estamos seguros que todos esos comentarios hayan sido incorporados debidamente. Hace poco más de una semana nos encontramos con un documento, con la cota LIM que hemos mandado a nuestras capitales, pero hemos tenido poco tiempo para hacer un análisis exhaustivo.

Es por esto que nosotros hubiéramos preferido un proceso más inclusivo, que nos hubiera permitido una mayor revisión, porque además quisiera llamar la atención sobre lo siguiente. Durante el Comité de Agricultura, varias delegaciones dijeron que era un poco prematuro adoptar estos principios ya que había aún reuniones, como el Simposio de Innovación, que iban a tener lugar y que nos iban a proporcionar recomendaciones e inputs que podían ser incorporados, por lo tanto era muy difícil que en ese momento pudiéramos ya incorporar esos elementos.

Es por esto que la delegación argentina desearía tener mayor espacio de revisión de estos 10 principios. Puede ser a través del Comité del Programa, del Consejo, incluso del COAG, para que podamos enriquecerlos porque este es un punto sumamente importante. En particular, quisiéramos ver cuál es la relación de estos principios con la innovación, por ejemplo. Esto es algo que nos ocupa a todos, así que propondríamos que podamos avanzar en un proceso de revisión de estos principios lo antes posible para que todos estemos cómodos con su contenido y para que trabajemos de manera constructiva.

#### **Ms Elsa BARBOSA DE OLIVEIRA MARCELINO SIMÕES (Cabo Verde)**

Cabo Verde, Kenya and Cameroon have the honour to present this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional group. The Group acknowledges with concern the findings of both the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) and the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) Reports, the negative trends in food safety and malnutrition, and the challenges of migration. The Group appreciates the discussions and products available to tackle these issues although it recognizes the need to step up efforts and increase global attention to the drivers that are the root causes of this trend.

The UN Decade of Family Farming, launched just weeks ago, is about the opportunities we need to create for a political space conducive to strengthen sustainable food systems, develop sustainable pathways to engage food and agriculture for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, promote agroecology as one of the options towards sustainability, value Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems (GIAHS), revitalize rural areas for youth, and contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger, promote biodiversity, environmental sustainability and the capacity to deal with the effects of migration.

As we all know, agriculture in Africa is essentially family farming, whether in dryland or irrigated systems. Livestock, pastoralism, or intensive crop rotation horticulture or food production, these systems are under several pressures, amongst which are climate change and animal and crop pests and diseases. Fall Armyworm concerns this Group and its status, pastoralism or intensive crop rotation, horticulture for food production. These systems are under several pressures amongst potential impacts and global response should be known to allow efficient strategies for its combat. Water scarcity is a reality in many of our regions, with greater equity in the Sahelian region. Good management in

agriculture is of capital importance if the achievement of sustainable food production, resilient systems, and rural livelihoods are to be attained.

Knowing how intertwined livestock production is with family farming in Africa, we support the proposal towards analyzing the possibility to establish a Sub-Committee on livestock and support biodiversity mainstreaming across agriculture sectors as an important contribution towards a more sustainable food system. We reiterate our support to the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables, International Year of Millets, International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste and the Global Soil Partnership, including the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers.

We recognize and appreciate the role of FAO at the global level and exhort COAG to continue to play a key role in promoting sustainable food systems and promoting sustainable development. Hence we endorse the findings and recommendations of the Report of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

**Mr Sumber SINABUTAR (Indonesia)**

Indonesia has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We would like to express our appreciation to the Chairperson of COAG and the Secretariat for the comprehensive presentation and preparation of the Report. We are pleased with the outcomes delivered by the Committee. We would just like to highlight a few points of particular interest.

First, we appreciate the FAO work on agroecology, biotechnology, climate change, food safety, nutrition, gender development and statistics. We support FAO's collaboration with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to jointly implement the decision related to agriculture and biodiversity at national, regional and international levels. We therefore approve the revised version of the Ten Elements of Agroecology and endorse it as a guide for one of the ways to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems. We look forward to the updating of the document at the 28th Session in 2022.

Second, the Asia Regional Group endorses the adoption of the AMR Draft Resolution in consideration of the impending global threat AMR represents to human, animal and plant health. Nevertheless, we would like to draw your kind attention to the so-called shortcut procedures, where emerging issues may require and therefore suggest appropriate mechanisms be identified for adoption of resolutions on such newly emerging issues once the concept of urgency or emergency has been clearly identified.

We endorse three proposals by Kuwait, Argentina and India on the establishment of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables on an exceptional basis in 2021, the establishment of an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste to be celebrated on 29 September each year, and the establishment of an International Year of Millets on an exceptional basis in 2023. With all these remarks, we welcome the work of this Committee and endorse the Report of COAG.

**Ms Vanida KHUMNIRDPETCH (Thailand)**

Thailand aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Asia Group. Thailand endorses the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and agrees to Resolutions therein proposed for adoption. Thailand supports FAO and other partners in strengthening standard safety in work to ensure food safety.

With regards to Fall Armyworm, Thailand welcomes the great efforts done by FAO to work closely with Member States to control and contain the spreading of Fall Armyworm.

With regards to African Swine Fever, we recommend to renew efforts to control its spread in Asia and at global levels. We are concerned about the trade-related aspects of the outbreak of the disease and recommend to strengthen the safe trade and movement of animals across the region. We therefore recommend establishment of the COAG Sub-Committee on livestock.

With regards to the importance of soil and sustainable management of food security as well as food safety, we recommend that the Global Soil Partnership and its work become a permanent body of FAO to be financed from a serious contribution in addition to voluntary contributions.

**Mr Frédéric SEPPEY (Canada)**

Our delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for its presentation and summary of the Committee on Agriculture meeting. Canada endorses the COAG Report submitted for the consideration of the Conference. I would like at this point to highlight three specific priorities for Canada.

First, we note the COAG request, as detailed in Paragraph 61, for FAO to ensure sustainable funding for the joint FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme for the Codex Alimentarius and for the IPPC. I cannot insist enough how essential this advice is for the living standards for food safety and nutrition.

The funding however is in our estimation about half of what is needed. At the 26<sup>th</sup> COAG Session, Canada joined with many other Members to enter in on that specific point and we again express, as we will also do in Commission II, on the Programme of Work and Budget that it is very important that FAO secures the funding required for these essential services to countries.

The second point I would like to make is with respect to the COAG request that FAO develop a set of indicators and related statistics to enable countries to measure and report on progress to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. This is very important indeed, and we subscribe to that and our statistical agency is heavily involved.

At the COAG Session, we intervened to ask about the methodology to measure SDG indicator 2.4.1, which seeks to measure sustainable agriculture. FAO's methodology was approved by countries' statistical experts last November at the level of 2.4.1 but we continue to have concerns with some of the sub-indicators to measure that indicator. I'll give you a specific example.

The FAO methodology identifies the maximum area any single variety of crop could cover to be considered sustainable as 2 hectares. Now anything larger than 2 hectares would not be considered biodiversity friendly. The average size of a farm in Canada is 314 hectares.

I have difficulty explaining to the 40,000 family farmers that grow Canola that they cannot be, by definition, sustainable. That shows the challenge we have with some of these methodology considerations.

We are happy that FAO is working with countries to revise this and a few other sub-indicators, but we felt it was important to flag and to encourage all of us to review the methodological notes for SDG indicator 2.4.1 and to join that dialogue to strengthen these measures of sustainability. If they are not credible, then it will not serve its purpose and it will be everybody's loss.

Third and lastly, I would listen carefully to the intervention by Argentina and I would like to intervene with respect to their discussion on agroecology. We are of course a strong supporter of agroecology. We consider that farmers around the world should have access to all the tools available in the toolbox to increase productivity, enhance incomes and food safety while reducing environmental impact.

From our perspective, there is no dichotomy of agroecological practices to do more with less, and also using other tools, such as biotechnologies. There are other elements. The Report mentions there are other approaches that can be used. We feel that, for example, biotechnologies can reduce the need for fertilizers, pesticides and other inputs.

That is the experience of our family farmers across the country. We believe again that all the tools including agroecological practices should be equally available to farmers to enhance productivity and farmers' incomes and reduce environmental impact.

Like Argentina, our understanding is that when we listen to some of the interventions, it seems that some Members are establishing a dichotomy between agroecology and other approaches. We feel that the Ten Elements of Agroecology seem to have been given a special status.

Therefore I would like to seek clarification about the process. The Deputy Director-General mentioned that the Elements are a living document, while if I understood the COAG Chairperson correctly, it is that COAG is seeking approval of the Ten Elements. Can you clarify this, because this would be an important element in informing the future of our work.

**Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)**

I would like to highlight the Draft Resolution on sustainable agriculture including agroecology. I am very happy that we reached consensus on this issue. We endorse the Resolution, which represents the diverse context-specific approaches required to farm sustainably.

As we have all discussed, agroecology is one of these approaches and the application of any other approach should be based on science and evidence. We are pleased that the Draft Resolution also reflects the need for FAO to help Member Countries sustainably improve agricultural productivity for example by disseminating information on the latest technologies and innovations.

We would like to emphasise that new agricultural technologies and innovation will be crucial to harnessing the opportunities of rising global food demand while creating rural growth and addressing key challenges such as food and nutrition insecurity, climate and water related risks and changing global markets and consumer preferences.

This will require increased investment in research and development to support development and uptake of new technologies including biotechnologies. It is arguable that modern biotechnologies can benefit farmers and rural communities by increasing the productivity, quality and sustainability of agricultural production, improving the management of pests, weeds and diseases, and developing new industries. These benefits can be supported through the application of science-based transparent and predictable regulatory approaches and ensuring that farmers are able to make informed choices about the use of technology.

I thank the Secretariat for its work so far on the Ten Elements of Agroecology. Like other delegations, I have some questions and would also like the opportunity to have more time to widely consult on them and ensure they reflect the outcomes from discussions such as the Agroecology symposium. In fact, Australia's scientific and research organization recently hosted the Committee on World Food Security High-Level Panel of Experts to hold a seminar on Agroecology and this discussion would be another valuable contribution to the principles.

Turning to another matter, I appreciated the Chairperson's guidance that budget issues are being discussed in Commission II, but I would be remiss if I didn't reiterate the Council's recent guidance on the imperative of guaranteeing sustainable funding from the regular budget for the work of the International Planet Protection Convention on the joint FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Programme to Codex Alimentarius. The work of these Bodies are at the core of FAO's expertise and comparative advantage and it is important that FAO fund them sustainably from the regular budget.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

It has been useful to hear the dialogue so far, therefore I will try to be brief. The United States would like to thank the Secretariat for its work in putting together this Report. We would encourage FAO to continue its emphasis on agricultural innovation and new technologies in order to meet the multifaceted demands that we see in terms of the global food demand.

Innovation is a crucial tool we must use to balance the competing needs of eliminating hunger whilst also enhancing sustainable agriculture and food systems. We appreciate the Committee's recognition that Agroecology can be one of those methods of sustainable agricultural production, but it is not a preferred agricultural practice or a one-size-fits-all solution for sustainable agricultural production.

We are especially pleased by the Committee's and the Council's recognition of the importance of sustainable funding for the international standards work done by the Codex Alimentarius Scientific Advice Programme and the IPPC, and we encourage FAO to continue to take a science-based approach to underpin its technical and policy work.

Regarding the Ten Elements of Agroecology, the United States joins other Members to share our concerns as to the lack of clarity with the process for the preparation and review of the text. Now given the importance of the document and the issue at hand, the United States believes Member State involvement and open consultation are of paramount importance.

For these reasons, the United States can support the request of Argentina. We prefer to defer the endorsement of this document to the next COAG Session. It is essential that Member States and experts from our capitals be included in this process and have the right amount of time to review and share comments on the documents.

Regarding the Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, the United States supports the need for further consultation and time to improve the draft strategy and we underline the importance that further development of this strategy be in line with existing international frameworks.

We have submitted comments on the draft strategy and look forward to continued collaboration with FAO on the document. We seek clarification on the timeline for consultations prior to the December 2019 Council and additionally request more information on how the comments from the April 1 draft will be considered. We are pleased with the Member dialogue and the proposed Resolution on sustainable agriculture and after several months of negotiations to achieve a balanced text we are ready to join consensus on this Resolution.

United States also can join consensus in adopting the Conference Resolution on AMR.

**Ms Kjersti Nielsen BARKBU (Norway)**

Norway supports the recommendations given by the COAG. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the work to achieve the goals are crucial to address the global challenges connected to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice. Norway is therefore pleased to see that the 2030 Agenda is well integrated in FAO's work and that FAO has done good work in ensuring agriculture as well as forestry and fisheries more effectively contribute to this.

In order to achieve the goals it is vital that we are able to measure the progress and knowhow and where we should put effort. The work that is being done on developing measurable indicators for the SDGs is therefore important.

However, we think that indicators cannot be the only source for monitoring progress on the various goals and their associated targets in different countries. This is the case for Norway where, for instance, the indicators for the SDGs do not provide the full picture.

Other sources and reports are relevant in order to complete the picture. We appreciate the efforts made by FAO in this field so far and I encourage you to work with the Members to ensure that indicators serve the function they are meant to serve.

Livestock is an important sector in itself as an engine of economic and sustainable development. It is therefore an important part of the 2030 Agenda. FAO's work in that and for this sector is equally important in its own right. It matters for animal health and animal welfare.

It has positively contributed to other global efforts to prevent and fight Zoonosis and antimicrobial resistance both in animals and humans. These are vital questions. Norway welcomes the conclusions from COAG and looks forward to discussing livestock in the next COAG meeting where sustainable livestock for SDGs will be a special theme.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

The 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture considered many topics that are crucial to accelerate the needed transformative change of food and agriculture systems. We welcome and endorse the Report of that Session. We would like to highlight six findings and recommendations that are important to our country.

First, transformative change. Transformative change of food and agriculture systems for sustainability is critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals amongst those SDG 2 on hunger and SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns. FAO is an important actor. The Organization should promote multi stakeholder networks, strengthen its science and evidence-based work and support development of metrics. FAO's normative competence should be further strengthened in this regard.

Switzerland supports the adoption of the Draft Resolution and the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches including Agroecology and the future planning activities of FAO.

Second, sustainable food systems. We call on FAO to engage strongly in the transformative shift towards sustainable food systems in working with other partners and through the sustainable food systems programme of the United Nation's One Planet Network, FAO will be a prime centre of competence that governments turn to when embarking on a more sustainable food systems future.

Third, Agroecology. Agroecology is a relevant systemic and holistic approach that promotes sustainable agriculture and food systems in support of the SDGs. We encourage FAO to turn the scaling up Agroecology initiative into action in collaboration with the partners. We support the approval of the revised Ten Elements of Agroecology. They are a good basis for further work as these elements are a living document and COAG could review them based on experience gained with the scaling up initiative as and when appropriate.

Fourth, youth. The shift towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems is only possible if young people are engaged. We are looking forward to the Rural Youth Action Plan that will be presented to COAG in 2020. We encourage FAO to increase its interagency collaboration on this topic.

Fifth, livestock. The livestock sector is critical for sustainable agriculture and for food security and nutrition. We encourage FAO to continue to actively participate in the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock and in the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance partnership. We welcome COAGs decision to devote its next Session to livestock.

Sixth, Switzerland welcomes the work on the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors. We support the proposal to present the strategy for endorsement to the FAO Council at the December 2019 session. We re-emphasise the need to consider additional resources to support FAO's work on biodiversity in the adjustments of the Programme of Work 2020/2021. We will certainly make that point in the other Commission.

Finally, Switzerland supports the adoption of the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilisers. We also support the adoption of the two other Resolutions proposed.

**Mr Hamoud ALHASNI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)**

The Sultanate of Oman reiterates what was said by Kuwait on behalf of the Near East Region Group regarding the important recommendations from the 26th Session of COAG. We stress the importance of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture. We also stress the importance of water governance in agriculture in order to save water as this is a very precious resource to provide food to our countries in the Near East suffering from drought and water scarcity.

It is important for all countries to make every possible effort to rationalize the use of water in agriculture. We believe that research studies should be carried out regarding the identification of water needs of agricultural crops, the use of treated water in agriculture and encouraging farmers to adopt modern irrigation techniques.

We also believe we should all work together and Oman is ready to work with all the countries in the region to adopt, in a consistent manner, all programmes and guidelines from FAO regarding water governance for agriculture and food security. The Sultanate of Oman stresses the importance of the initiative related to the GIAHS, due to the importance in preserving agricultural heritage. We also believe this should help countries to be guided in their national programmes in order to preserve agricultural heritage.

**Ms Lucianara ANDRADE FONSECA (Brazil)**

We note that decisions taken on the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture have led to some of the most meaningful outcomes now being addressed by this Conference, therefore we welcome this Report. We would like to highlight three points.

In respect to the Resolution on Sustainable Agricultural Approaches, we believe that the negotiation process was able to pave the way for a text that has both depth and comprehensiveness. We believe it

strikes a balance by recognising the role of a broad range of sustainable agricultural approaches including Agroecology in sustainably feeding a growing population. We understand it may provide valuable guidance for this Organization's work in the coming years and therefore we recommend its approval.

As for the Ten Elements on Agroecology, we thank the Secretariat for the revision done in accordance with commentaries by Member States presented at COAG's Session. We appreciate the inclusion of the reference to international trade in the fourth paragraph particularly. Nevertheless, in order to better grasp the sense of discussions during the meeting on agriculture, we would like to suggest a small modification. In Paragraph 4 we believe the following sentence should be added after trade related issues and I quote, "policies to promote Agroecology shall not be used to arbitrarily discriminate between countries", end of quote. With this modification, we would be ready for its approval.

Turning to the code on fertilisers we recall the sub-section, the inclusiveness in its preparation process, which made room for extensive consultations with government representatives, the private sector, and civil society.

We particularly welcome the code's focus not only on overuse, but also underuse thus reflecting different soil types and conditions. Brazil believes this document confirms the important role played by the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) which has been developing solid and often groundbreaking work in the past years. In this respect we believe that a reference to the GSP's work should be included in this Conference Report.

#### **Ms Maria Araceli ESCANDOR (Philippines)**

From the outset, the Philippines associates itself with the Asia Group statement delivered by Indonesia. I would just like to focus on three things in the COAG Report.

The first one is that Philippines concurs with the Committee's request for FAO to enhance its support to smallholders and family farmers in adopting and scaling up productive and sustainable practices, particularly by promoting access to resources, investment, decision making technology and agricultural innovation.

The second, we align with the Committee's request for FAO to strengthen its work on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) through its impact on sustainable agriculture, conservation of biodiversity, food security, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and in collaboration with other relevant organizations, to contribute to the SDGs and more so in the framework of the UN Decade of Family Farming.

Finally, the Philippines appreciates the updates on the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assemblies, the progress in the fight against soil degradation and in the promotion of sustainable soil management. We join others in encouraging more active engagement and contributions by countries through focal points and technical staff.

#### **Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

New Zealand places high priority to the work of FAO on climate change and we fully endorse the recommendations of FAO to promote transformative and integrated approaches to sustainable agriculture in order to assist Members to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

New Zealand will continue to engage and support the work in this space through our investment in the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. FAO's role as a leader in promoting new and innovative approaches to agriculture, alongside Member Countries, is key to fitting each approach to local context. We are happy that the sustainable agricultural resolution has broadened out to reflect that there are a range of approaches available to Member Countries.

In the interest of time, I do not wish to repeat some of the comments around agroecology in this context but simply to support the comments made by the US, Canada and Argentina on this issue.

New Zealand would also like to acknowledge FAO's important work on livestock, the discussions on the proposal for a new sub-Committee showed the importance of livestock to many countries including New Zealand. It is important to reflect on the useful work on livestock underway in FAO



such as the improved understanding of sustainable livestock generated through the Livestock Environment Assessment and Performance Partnership.

New Zealand considers that the role of FAO in mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture is essential. However, we need to develop the strategy openly and we need to get it right. For this reason, we support the proposal of the Conference to delegate the final approval of the strategy to the FAO Council in December to fully allow consultation.

Finally, we support the International Code of Conduct on the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers and we fully appreciate the extra time taken to incorporate New Zealand's suggestions. I would just like to lend our voice to the comments made on the importance of adequate funding for Codex Alimentarius scientific advice and the work of the IPPC in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the growing emphasis on the linkages between food security and food safety. It is important that the recommendations of the Committee on the sustainable funding is recognized and pursued further. We will make these comments in the appropriate forum in the Committee as well.

**Mme Isabelle OUILLION (France)**

Puisque c'est la première fois que je prends la parole, je me joins aux autres intervenants pour vous féliciter pour votre élection.

La France soutient tout d'abord la déclaration qui a été faite au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres. En complément, la France souhaite remercier la FAO pour son engagement sur le thème de l'agroécologie, qui est pour nous une voie prometteuse pour engager les exploitations agricoles et les systèmes alimentaires vers des performances améliorées au plan environnemental, économique et social. Il est important de poursuivre la capitalisation d'expériences sur cette thématique.

Nous nous félicitons du dialogue constructif qui a permis d'atteindre un consensus sur la résolution concernant le renforcement de l'intégration des approches de l'agriculture durable, y compris l'agroécologie.

La France souhaitait également souligner l'importance qu'elle accorde à la question de l'élevage en raison de son rôle primordial pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire, la nutrition et la lutte contre la pauvreté rurale partout dans le monde. Ce secteur est confronté à de nombreux défis: sanitaires, économiques, environnementaux. Il fait l'objet de nombreux débats. La FAO doit être en mesure d'apporter une expertise de qualité et de favoriser le dialogue sur toutes ces questions. Nous sommes prêts, aux côtés de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres, à nous impliquer dans les réflexions qui ont été lancées lors du Comité de l'agriculture à ce sujet.

**Ms Ying WU (China) (Original Language Chinese)**

China agrees with Indonesia's statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group and endorses and supports the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the COAG Report. China on this basis has a few comments.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Session of COAG discussed many important issues on food and agriculture namely revitalizing rural areas for youth, GIAHS, International Years and Days, and so on. Participants in the meeting reached important consensus and China wishes to express its appreciation.

As for the Fall Armyworm, referred to in Paragraph 31 to 35 of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the COAG Report, for a few years, the Fall Armyworm has infested China in many places and provinces. It has really attacked our production of food. We produce a lot of corn and rice, and also, Asia represents 90 percent of the rice production in the world. Fall Armyworms are really a pest and this is a big threat. Since its infestation, China has been working on monitoring, prevention and control. We try to make efforts to prevent and to work and control in this regard. We want to cooperate with FAO to avoid this spread, and we will work with partners and countries.

We think that revitalizing rural areas for youth is a new issue of high importance in the development of agriculture. Rural revitalization is a systematic project, very important for developing countries to attract young talents.

China encourages Member States and FAO to play a leading role in technical assistance and organizational support to make necessary contributions to the rural modernization. China noticed that GIAHS has made major progress. Geographical representation certified GIAHS is increasing, promoting their broad and global coverage is in favour of raising people's awareness in protecting traditional agricultural heritage. China encourages FAO to hold a regular GIAHS forum and increase the GIAHS Secretariat's capacity building.

Lastly, China reiterates that we encourage FAO to always support South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation to broadly mobilise resources and narrow the gap between supply and demand.

**Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)**

We fully align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States. Furthermore, I also subscribe to the statements made by France, Switzerland and some others. Having followed the discussions so far let me make some very short comments.

The first is that we are in 2019, four years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and as we could hear in the lecture on Saturday, all the trends are negative. Poverty and hunger are increasing along with the various forms of malnutrition. Inequalities are increasing as well. The loss of biodiversity and the degradation of soils are all serious concerns.

Agroecology, although we know is not a silver bullet, provides great responses to all these challenges, not just to some of them. For this reason, we welcome and fully support the adoption of the Resolution on Agroecology and other Sustainable Approaches.

My second comment is, speaking about innovations and biotechnologies, we think that there are a wide range of biotechnologies and many of them are welcome but, not all. These methods should be subject to neutral scientific analysis and should be assessed against the requirements of all dimensions of sustainability.

My last comment is that we heard from various speakers about the need for a science-based approach. We fully agree. This would and should be essential. It would be appropriate to pay new attention to the positive and negative impacts, the so-called externalities, of the various different food systems. In this regard, it would be advisable to consider the existing scientific evidence and develop new ones related to the so-called true costs of food including FAO's paper provided recently.

**Ms Maria Helena Semedo (Deputy Director-General of Climate and Natural Resources)**

Regarding the Ten Elements, the Proposal was discussed in the Programme Committee and then it was submitted to the Council. The Council recommended that the comments be integrated in order to be submitted to the Conference.

We could see that some countries are not comfortable with what we have presented, like Australia, Canada, Argentina and the US. I just consulted with the Chair of COAG and my proposal is that if the four countries could share their comments and then under leadership of the COAG Chair, we will try to integrate them. Waiting until the next COAG will be losing more than one year.

**Mr Mohamad Hossein AHMADI (Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture)**

Thank you to all Members for their support to the technical committees including COAG.

There are four countries that mentioned the Ten Elements. According to the rules and regulations of FAO, what we did was based on the discussions at the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of COAG. The Ten Elements are all technical. They are not resolutions or regulations. They are not mandates or normative issues and according to the technical issues as a general recommendation, we sent it to FAO, based on the 26<sup>th</sup> Session decision, to be revised and then we sent it to the Council.

Since any technical matter or issue should not go or need any Finance or Programme Committee, we sent it to the Council. The Council approved it based on the regulation and rules since it was only a technical document. But, as Madam Semedo mentioned, the role of the COAG Bureau is to handle the issues which are mentioned by Members.

Therefore, we in the Bureau, which will be meeting in two weeks, can handle it or make a mandate for an extra meeting to discuss the issue. The Bureau comprises the Members of all countries including Australia and Canada. Then we can discuss the issues, their points of view and come to a consensus as we did on the Resolution for COAG.

That is my proposed solution to avoid a year's delay and I am sure that almost more than 190 countries are happy with the Ten Elements. We have just four objections. Therefore, I think it would be better that we discuss, negotiate and have a dialogue to actually solve this technical issue. We can come up with the evidence-based issues and also discuss it with FAO technical teams.

**Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)**

Sí, creo que aquí estamos todos tratando de construir. No se trata de cuatro países o de dar números o de ver. Creo que se trata que todos queremos colaborar para tener un mejor resultado. No sé si es la mejor forma la que ha sido planteada recién, pero quizás lo que podríamos hacer es basarnos en la experiencia muy fructífera que tuvimos con la resolución de agricultura sostenible, incluida agroecología, que fue cuidadosamente evaluada en el Comité del Programa y luego pasó al Consejo.

Quisiéramos proponer, entonces, que quizás se puede bajo el liderazgo de ambos presidentes, el Presidente del COAG y el Presidente del Comité de Programa, podría ser revisado muy pronto en el próximo Comité del Programa y pasar al Consejo para que podamos, quizás, generar los *inputs* en el mejor tiempo posible. Porque estamos realmente de acuerdo en que esto es un tema muy importante para todas las delegaciones, incluidas las cuatro que tienen comentarios para construir y ser muy positivos.

**Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)**

I would like to support the very constructive suggestion made by Argentina. I think we do have some questions around this and we want to contribute very constructively and make sure it is as fulsome as possible, and certainly one thing we would not want is for this to be seen as four countries having a special say. That that is not what we want. We just want a little bit more time to make sure that our experts have looked at it and that all countries have another opportunity to look at it. In the interest of getting the best possible product that all countries can support, I would endorse Argentina's suggestion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you and I can see other colleagues nodding around the room. With that I would like to read my conclusions of this session. Everything that you have said is valuable, please do not think otherwise, but my conclusions are going to be very brief and I hope you will support me with them.

The Conference:

- a) endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and in particular adopted Resolution Y of 2019 set out in Appendix Y, to this report on the further integration of sustainable agriculture approaches including agroecology in the future planning activities of FAO;
- b) endorses the international Code of Conduct for the Sustainable use and Management of Fertilizers and there will be a footnote referring to the document;
- c) requests that an inclusive consultation process be put in place to further develop the Ten Elements on Agroecology in advance of December's Council meeting.

I am hoping that you mean under the chairmanship of the Chair of COAG and the Programme Committee?

**Mr Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)**

If you could read this conclusion again, because for us it should be very clear that it should go through the Programme Committee so it can be revised in the Programme Committee and then submitted to Council. So, if that could be included in your recommendation?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes. I am requesting that an inclusive consultation process be put in place to further develop the Ten Elements on Agroecology under the chairmanship or, can we leave this to the Drafting Committee as long as we make a note that it should go through under the chairmanship of COAG and the Programme Committee be considered by the Programme Committee and submitted to Council?

If we are clear on that and I think we have got agreement on it, we could let the Drafting Committee do that?

**Mr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)**

Just to be clear, because this consultation will take place in the Programme Committee, because it should be clear how this consultation will take place. I think all inputs could be gathered but this should be included in the Agenda for the Programme Committee and then submitted to Council. This is my understanding.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, that is our understanding too and if I may, we can leave that to the Drafting Committee to ensure the language reflects that.

**Ms Lucianara ANDRADE FONSECA (Brazil)**

Considering that the proposition here is to have a broad consultation, we do urge that this consultation go beyond the Programme Committee which has limited countries represented. So, it could go to the Programme Committee but it should be open to the broader Membership of FAO.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes that is right. Just to confirm the intention, there will be a consultation process and the outcome of that consultation process will go to the Programme Committee and then ultimately to Council. I am glad we have agreed on that.

We are now going to move to the Draft Resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and then on to FAO Strategy on Biodiversity. I will now pass the floor to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee to present the Draft Resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance and also the process for the Strategy on Biodiversity.

**Mr Hans Hoogeveen (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)**

I think we had an excellent discussion on the crucial issue of antimicrobial resistance in the Programme Committee. The Committee recognized the importance of addressing the growing antimicrobial resistance to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcomes the continual work of FAO in addressing AMR, especially in the context of the One Health Approach.

The Committee also recognized that FAO's efforts should continue, and stressed the need for further support of the work of FAO, especially via extrabudgetary resources. The Committee also recommended the Council to explore the need and feasibility of a Conference Resolution and the Council decided that it welcome the continual work of FAO in addressing AMR within the context of the One Health Approach, agreed to the need for further support through extrabudgetary resources and supported the process of informal consultations led by the Independent Chair of the Council as well as myself.

We did have informal consultations, starting with the meeting of the Independent Chair of the Council, then two meetings for informal consultations on the draft text of the Resolution that were intense but very positive meetings because I think all the Members of the consultation process stressed the need for further joint work trying to improve, hopefully during this Conference, the Resolution.

Before you, you have a draft Resolution with consensus of all the Members in the consultation process, of course it is always a delicate balance. I hope that the Conference can adopt this Resolution.

**CHAIRPERSON**

For all of those countries that have already signaled their agreement to the Resolution we have noted that. There is no need to do that again. Now is an opportunity for any other colleagues who did not mention it in their statements to make any comments if they would like to.

**Ms Catherine STEPHENSON (Australia)**

I wanted to thank the Chair of the Programme Committee for leading us through what were quite robust negotiations at times on this AMR Resolution, but we got there with a great deal of goodwill and patience from everybody involved, and I am delighted to say that Australia is very happy to endorse the Resolution as it is currently drafted.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will take that as an endorsement of the adoption of the Resolution on AMR.

Now, we do have some formal language I can read out, but perhaps it can just go to the Drafting Committee, it is very straight forward.

Let us turn to the process on the Biodiversity Strategy. It is worth noting that the consultations are ongoing. This really is not an opportunity to share your views on the strategy itself, it is an opportunity to agree on the process that outlined. Ambassador Hoogeveen will give us an outline of that.

**Mr Hans Hoogeveen (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)**

I think we began the discussions on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Programme Committee and I think all you here certainly support the need to mainstream biodiversity in all the policies of FAO. It is also clear that biodiversity is the basis for all agriculture sectors. It is also key for achieving food security and nutrition within the context of the SDGs.

I think the Programme Committee presented the crucial needs for such a strategy, such as the sustainable use of biodiversity through ecosystem approaches; conserve and enhance and restore biodiversity; promote sustainable agriculture food systems that integrate biodiversity in the value chains; enhance the contribution of biodiversity and associated indigenous and local knowledge to food security and nutrition and ending poverty; and safeguarding resilient livelihoods as a basis for further development.

I thank the Committee because it should be an interactive process. There was a clear need for further work to be done, including all the Member States to react to a draft policy. The Committee stressed the need for further consultation in its recommendation to the Council. Regarding the timeframe, given that we could not achieve a full strategy for the Conference, it asked the Council to recommend to the Conference that it would mandate the Council in December of this year to agree to the Strategy.

We discussed this after the Council, which endorsed this recommendation, after an informal meeting of the Programme Committee which clearly stated that during the informal consultation process we should try to integrate all comments received by Members by the end of July.

We will also try to make full use of the regional Forestry Commissions that have regional dialogues on mainstream biodiversity. Eventually, based on all the inputs, there could be the possibility to organize a seminar in September to inform all the Members of FAO where we are with the strategy, hopefully presenting a draft strategy that will be submitted to the Programme Committee for finalization. It then can be submitted to the Council in December and with that I think we have full inclusive process involving the whole Membership, and I hope that this process can be acknowledged in the decision of the Conference.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to recognize the presence of Mr Renée Castro, Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department as a resource but first of all let us hear from Member States.

**Ms Lucianara ANDRADE FONSECA (Brazil)**

We would like to fully support the development of the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agriculture Sectors. We have submitted written comments on the strategy and we expect the Secretariat will be able to incorporate them. Our main concern is to avoid a duplication of efforts and the overlapping of mandates with regards to ongoing processes and negotiations with FAO or in other fora.

A further discussion is needed to improve and detail the Strategy. We support a proposal of mandating the Council to approve it by the end of this year. We also welcome the proposal of the Secretariat to organize consultations including during the Regional Forestry Commissions.

We believe it would be important that those consultations address this strategy as a whole, and not only its aspects relating to forestry. Finally, taking into account that the membership of the Council is less representative than the one of the Conference, we agreed that events should be organized in the second semester to update all Members on the progress in finalizing their strategy. Ideally the version presented at that point should be the final one before the submission to the Programme Committee.

**Mme Isabelle OUIILLON (France)**

Je voudrais tout d'abord m'aligner avec la déclaration faite par la Roumanie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres. Je voudrais aussi rappeler que la France est très mobilisée sur le sujet de la biodiversité. C'est l'un des défis majeurs que nous devons relever. C'était l'un des thèmes centraux de la réunion des ministres de l'environnement du G7, qui s'est tenue à Metz les 5 et 6 mai derniers, où étaient également présents les ministres de l'environnement du Chili, de l'Égypte, des Fidji, du Mexique, du Niger et de la Norvège. À cette occasion a été adopté un communiqué, mais aussi la Charte de Metz sur la biodiversité. Un certain nombre d'initiatives ont également été lancées ou renforcées, notamment une initiative "Leaders Internationaux pour la biodiversité". La France se félicite de la volonté de la FAO de se doter d'une stratégie pour la biodiversité et nous rejoignons les orateurs précédents pour que la Conférence donne mandat au Conseil afin qu'il adopte cette stratégie sans attendre la Conférence de 2021. Nous nous félicitons également de la procédure qui est proposée.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Quisiéramos agradecer al señor Presidente del Comité del Programa por la actualización acerca del proceso de la elaboración de Estrategia de Biodiversidad en la FAO. Argentina apoya la elaboración de esta estrategia, y quisiéramos reiterar como lo hizo el Presidente del Comité del Programa, la necesidad de que el proceso sea lo más inclusivo, lo más transparente, lo más abarcativo posible de todas, para tener en cuenta todas las opiniones en esta estrategia. Creo que es importante remarcar cierta preocupación de nuestra delegación en cuanto, tal vez, la poca cantidad de comentarios y opiniones que recibió la FAO, hasta el momento, en el límite del 10 de junio, creo que era el límite para recibir comentarios.

Creo que tal vez eso es un toque de atención que nos hace pensar de que debemos redoblar esfuerzos en tratar de que la membresía participe y aporte sus comentarios al respecto. Tal vez, haciéndome eco de la preocupación que mencionó la colega de Brasil –no sé si teniendo en cuenta las fechas o cómo está planificada la próxima reunión del Comité de Programa–, si septiembre sería la fecha de un seminario, tal vez, como recomendación se debería tratar de que sea la primera mitad de septiembre a fin de que una vez terminado ese seminario, poder elaborar una estrategia final y que pueda ser analizada para el Comité de Programa propuesto para el mes de octubre, si mal no entiendo. Con esos comentarios, cierro aquí.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I can see we have agreement on the podium with your recommendation for an early September process. I have no other requests for the floor. I would like to just briefly read out our conclusions on this item.

The Conference mandated the Council to consider and adopt the Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors before 2020 and following an inclusive consultation process.

We still have the rest of Item 12 to go and ideally Item 13 as well.

I would now like to move onto Item 12.2 the *Report of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems*. The Report is available in document C 2019/22, and the meeting took place in Rome from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. The Chairperson, Mr Frederick Alfer, will give us an introduction.

<b>Item 12.2</b>	<b><i>Report of the 72nd Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (26-28 September 2018)</i></b>
<b>Point 12.2</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la soixante-dix deuxième session du Comité des produits (26-28 septembre 2018)</i></b>
<b>Tema 12.2</b>	<b><i>Informe del 72.º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (26-28 de septiembre de 2018)</i></b>
<i>(C 2019/22)</i>	

### **Mr Frederik ALFER (Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems)**

It is an honour for me and a great pleasure to present to you today the Report of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, which was held in Rome from the 26 to 28 September 2018.

Out of the 106 Members of the Committee, 83 attended the Session. Furthermore, three other Member Nations of FAO, the Holy See, Palestine and four intergovernmental organizations participated as Observers. I had the honour to be elected Chairperson of the Committee and the other Members of the Bureau are Argentina, Indonesia, Georgia, Solomon Islands and the United States of America. In line with the rules of procedure of the Committee, Indonesia was appointed by the Bureau as its Vice-Chairperson.

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the CCP had a rich Agenda covering a number of important items that were treated under four major substantive areas; World Agricultural Commodity Markets, Policy Matters, Programme Matters and Governance Matters. The Committee's deliberations were supported by a number of documents prepared by the Secretariat. The Committee appreciated the content and quality of the documents prepared for the session, and expressed its support for the work undertaken by the Organization under the CCP mandate.

I would also like to note that the Programme and Budgetary Matters arising from the Session were brought to the attention of the Council in December 2018. While I am sure that you have read the Report, I would like to highlight a few points. Under the Agenda Item on *World Agricultural Commodity Markets*, the Committee reviewed the market situation and examined the short and medium term outlooks.

Under the short term market outlook, the Committee urged governments and other stakeholders to continue improving the monitoring of supply demand trade and prices of food and agricultural commodities and to make the data and information publicly accessible in a timely manner. The Committee also noted that the Secretariat could explore taking into consideration other factors in its analysis of global commodity markets as appropriate.

Under the medium term outlook, the Committee stressed the importance of these projections, which are produced jointly by FAO and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as their usefulness and relevance to inform policy decisions. Furthermore, the Committee highlighted the importance of liaising with national and regional institutions to increase the uptake and use of these medium term projections recommending South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Under Policy Matters, the Committee received an update on WTO agricultural negotiations and regional trade agreements and the FAO supporting Members.

The Committee emphasized the role that agricultural trade can play as an enabler to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, SDG 1 ending poverty and SDG 2 ending hunger, improving food security and nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. In this regard, the Committee underlined the importance of a universal rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, equitable

and predictable bilateral, plurilateral and multi-lateral trading system that is conducive to world food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agricultural development.

The Committee took note of the proposal to convene an intergovernmental group on oil seeds, oils and fats to formulate voluntary guidelines on vegetable oils in support of the SDGs. The CCP Bureau has received such a proposal from the Government of Indonesia and discussed it at its last meeting on 4 June this year. The proposal will be further examined with the support of the Secretariat.

Under Agenda Item *Policy Matters* was the 2018 edition of the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets, on the theme of “Agricultural trade, climate change, and food security”. The Committee welcomed the Report and recognized the role that agricultural trade can play in climate change, adaptation and mitigation and its contribution towards ensuring world food security, promoting agriculture and productivity growth globally and potentially reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

The Committee also underlined FAO’s role in supporting policy dialogue in this regard. Furthermore, the Committee acknowledged the particular vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the way their food production is affected, underlining the need for open, transparent, equitability and non-discriminatory international, regional agricultural markets to enable them to meet their food requirements.

Under Agenda Item *Governance Matters*, the Committee welcomed, with satisfaction, FAO support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in particular with reference to the work and activities under the mandate of the CCP, and requested FAO to continue this work. The Committee also expressed appreciation for the contributions of the CCP to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2017 and 2018 and requested the Secretariat to work with the Bureau in preparing input for the HLPF in 2019.

On the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, I am pleased to report that we have prepared and submitted the CCP contribution to the 2019 HLPF.

Lastly, the Committee endorsed the proposal by the People’s Republic of China to celebrate an International Tea Day on 21 May each year. That proposal was considered and approved by the Council at its 160<sup>th</sup> Session in December 2018, and the Conference will consider the Draft Resolution under Agenda Item 19.5.

The Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems was endorsed by the Council in December 2018 and I am pleased to present it to you today for your kind endorsement. In concluding, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the support provided to Members by the CCP Bureau and the Secretariat.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

I would now like to open the floor to the delegations to make any interventions on this Agenda Item.

### **Ms Teresa TUMWET (Kenya)**

On behalf of the Africa Regional Group, Kenya is pleased to present a statement on the Report of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems held in Rome from 26 to 28 of September 2018. The contribution of the Committee on Commodity Problems to the work of FAO is invaluable.

Monitoring of supply, demand, trade and prices of food and agricultural commodities is therefore essential to enable players in the sector to make informed decisions. This calls for inclusion of relevant matters in the process and making the data and information publicly accessible in a timely manner. We urge FAO to support governments and other stakeholders in this.

The medium term Commodity Problem projections and their usefulness and relevance to inform policy decisions cannot be overemphasized. We propose an enhancement of government updates at both national and regional levels through South-South and Triangular Cooperation and through other avenues.



Other commodities important for food security in different regions should be included in the medium term outlook, trends and emerging issues, which are very useful in commodity projections. We recognize the importance of a universal rule-based, non-discriminatory, equitable and predictable, bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral trade system that is conducive to world food security, and improves nutrition and sustainable agricultural development.

We urge FAO to continue supporting Members in agricultural trade agreements and setting up standards for world trade towards the attainment of Agenda 2030, especially SDG 1 and SDG 2. The Africa Regional Group supports the development of voluntary guidelines on vegetable oils as we note the importance of oil seeds, oils and fats for food and nutrition security.

Finally, the Africa Regional Group supports the proposal for 21 May being adopted as an International Tea Day. We recognize that tea is a very important cash crop in many Member States contributing immensely to people's incomes, foreign currency and economic development. We believe that having an International Tea Day will avail ourselves of the opportunity to raise awareness and mobilize resources for the development of tea.

With these few remarks the African Regional Group recommends the Conference to adopt the Report of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems held in Rome from 26 to 28 September 2018.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Voy a tratar de ser breve y ajustarme al tiempo asignado. Agradecer al Presidente del Comité de problemas de productos básicos por el excelente informe que, no solamente demuestra lo que se trató en el comité, sino también el trabajo que ya se emprendió con el apoyo de la Secretaría, teniendo en cuenta los resultados alcanzados en el 72.º período de sesiones del Comité.

Rápidamente, quisiera destacar positivamente el reconocimiento del papel que desempeña el comercio agrícola en el logro de los ODS, particularmente el 1 y el 2. Y, en ese marco, es importante recordar que el mandato de negociación agrícola actual de la reforma continúa de las reglas multilaterales agrícolas, incluida en el artículo 20 del Acuerdo sobre Agricultura de la Organización Mundial de Comercio. Y enfatizar la relevancia de acelerar el proceso negociador para lograr completarlo sobre la base de resultados sustantivos con vistas a la 12.ª Conferencia Ministerial de la OMC, en junio de 2020, ya que el sector se encuentra rezagado con respecto a otras esferas de la negociación en dicha organización. Por ello, los países deben trabajar activamente para corregir y prevenir las restricciones y distorsiones de los mercados agrícolas mundiales en línea con el ODS 2.b ya que resultará difícil lograr una cultura sostenible y garantizar la seguridad alimentaria en el contexto actual de un comercio agrícola mundial distorsionado.

Asimismo, cabe señalar que en este contexto es muy importante un sistema de comercio multilateral universal basado en reglas abierto, no discriminatorio, equitativo con su centro en la OMC a fin de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo agrícola sostenible.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

The United States would like to thank the Secretariat for this Report and for the thoughtful analysis presented in the papers discussed in the committee. We appreciate the CCP's continued focus on factual analysis as part of FAO's role as a knowledge Organization.

We support FAO's work on data and transparency, including the short and long-term commodity outlooks and FAO leadership in the area of food price monitoring and analysis through the AMIS Market Monitor. We urge our fellow Members to commit to open and transparent sharing of market data to improve global coordination, increased transparency, predictable policies and robust information systems which are needed to instill confidence in markets.

The United States welcomes the provision of support to Members to facilitate participation in global trade processes and firmly believes that trade in food and agricultural products is critical to achieving global food security and sustainable agricultural development, and is essential to ensuring long-term success in ending hunger.

I want to go directly to some other points that countries have also raised here.

I think we need to remind Members that climate-related negotiations should remain in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), whose Session is taking place in Bonn this week and they are vibrantly discussing agriculture there. We wish to remind Members of that.

Similarly, trade negotiations are taking place in Geneva at the WTO and they should remain there, which I thank Argentina for referring to Article 20 which is where I think that is specifically in the reform in agriculture trade.

While we recognize FAO support to Members in meeting their international obligations in trade and climate change, we caution FAO to ensure its efforts remain within its mandate, further clarifying that FAO is not the forum to negotiate on trade or climate issues.

I want to turn to the Report in terms of some specific Paragraphs and reiterate what we did earlier in the discussion in the CCP. First, the United States disagrees with the characterization of trade in Paragraphs 21 and 30 and will continue to promote open, transparent and predictable international trading systems.

Similarly, the United States takes note of Paragraphs 27 and 28 of the Report and stresses that these Paragraphs contain recommendations that fall outside the mandate of FAO.

**Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)**

It is late in the day but it is the first time I speak so I want to congratulate you on your position as Chair of this Commission.

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We welcome the deliberations in the last session of the CCP and the presentation of FAO's work on commodity markets and trade at the meeting. We wish to underscore the importance of strengthening the scope of commodity market monitoring, assessment and outlook work including with Agricultural Market Information System and the reports produced for improved market transparency and informed policy decisions, as well as our support for Members in achieving target 2.C of SDG 2.

We recognize the medium term outlook trends and emergencies as an important useful and relevant tool for informing policy decisions and we encourage FAO and the OECD to further strengthen their cooperation. Trade is an integral part of the sustainable development agenda and an open rules-based multilateral trading system has a key role to play in ending hunger, SDG 2.

We therefore welcome the update received on the WTO agriculture negotiations and regional trade agreements. Given the important role of standards in international trade we endorse the Committee's contribution to enhancing the work of the FAO standard-setting bodies, for which sustainable funding from FAO's regular budget must be ensured.

We welcome the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets Report and appreciate its quality. We would underline FAO's role in enhancing and supporting policy dialogue at the global, regional and national levels, on trade and climate change, including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the WTO Agreement.

We ask the Secretariat to continue to focus its attention on helping Members at their request to address the challenges of their national agri-food carbon economy through consistent sets of policies including agricultural policies aimed at tackling food security, nutrition, land used changes and deforestation, climate change challenges and meeting our commitments.

Through its technical support a wealth of knowledge and monitoring expertise the FAO can make an important contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and particular on the work and activities carried out and the CCP mandate. With these comments, the European Union and its Member States hereby endorse the report of the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the CCP.

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

We also support the comments and the explanatory introductory comments made by the Chair of the Committee. I would just like to highlight three particular points which we would take note of. New Zealand agrees with the CCP that countries need to continue to support the rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable international trading system and that giving greater consideration to free trade is a vital part of economic development and enables mitigation and building resilience in the face of climate change.

Further, New Zealand notes that in the face of growing trade tensions, it is more important than ever that countries recognize the WTO which forms a critical part of the existing trade architecture without which trade and growth prospects would be further undermined. We support the CCP's call for greater monitoring and more timely assessment of the supply and demand of food and agricultural commodities. This can play an important role in assisting farmers to take advantage of available opportunities and assist in coordinated action to deal with the emerging global supply and demand pressures. We particularly noted the comments made from the top table on this issue. For this reason we continue to be strong supporters of the joint annual FAO/OECD medium term outlook publication as well as the short-term monitoring and information activities and the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) based here at FAO.

**Ms Daak SADIA ELMUBARAK AHMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

Sudan is taking the floor on behalf of the Near East Group. We would like to thank the Committee on Commodity Problems for having prepared this very important Report. We support what is mentioned in the Report, particularly the things mentioned about the AMIS System and the outlook for agriculture and the importance of transparency. The next Report should include a regional analysis if possible.

Our Group focuses on the importance of commodities for food security, particularly in relation to the diversity of food systems in various countries. We support the negotiations on agriculture which are currently underway and the agriculture sector is one of the most difficult sectors around the world. Thus, we support the agriculture summit recently organized and we support the proposals and recommendations contained in the Report in relation to the trade of agricultural projects in the framework of climate change, particularly in vulnerable countries. We highlight the fact that Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable.

We thank the Organization and we encourage it to continue to develop capacities in the area of health and plant health and also the implementation of standards through Codex Alimentarius to improve food safety. We highlight and we support what was mentioned in the Report and we support its endorsement.

**Ms Rosanna CHELLOZDOWSKI (Australia)**

Australia continues to value the important work of the Committee on Commodity Problems and would like to highlight a few important points here today. We welcome the Report on the State of the Agricultural Commodity Markets 2018: Agricultural Trade, Climate Change and Food Security. It offers recommendations on the importance of the mutually supportive role that trade rules and climate interventions can have for achieving the 2030 Agenda and reaching Zero Hunger. The relationship between FAO and the WTO remains important for FAO Members to broaden their understanding of key issues such as the WTO negotiations in agriculture and how international standard settings are applied in the context of the WTO, SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures) and TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade) agreements.

We also appreciate FAO's work in providing assistance to countries to help them build their capacity in sustainable productivity growth and agricultural trade discussions. It is also important that FAO contributes to WTO activities to ensure that food security and agriculture remain a key focus and are well informed by FAO expertise.

We encourage the continued work between the FAO and the OECD in raising awareness of important matters such as well-functioning global food markets, food security and potential global value chains.

Australia also places high value on the ongoing work between the OECD and FAO on analysis and monitoring of commodity markets. This work enhances FAO Members' understanding of these markets and capacity for all Members to participate in them.

In this regard, we support the continued work of the Agricultural Market Information System to enhance transparency in market information to help promote coordinated international policy responses, should there be problematic market conditions, to help with the development of common strategies to deal with market uncertainty and avoid adverse trade responses. It is through these well-functioning international markets that FAO can help support Members to develop and align agricultural trade policies and agreements with achieving food security and in turn, assist Members achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We also recognize the crucial role played by the international standard setting bodies such as Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in well-functioning international markets. The standard setting work is a core comparative advantage of FAO and it should have a strong focus on implementing this work.

We reiterate the Council's recent guidance in April, reiterating the Governing Bodies' request to increase the funding to these bodies to ensure they have sufficient sustainable financial resources to deliver their important work, including the provision of scientific advice and will make these comments in Commission II.

**Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

Our appreciation goes to the Chair of the Committee on Commodity Problems for his presentation and sharing this information with us today.

Canada notes that at the CCP meeting last fall, a senior official from the Secretariat, when speaking to the CCP, remarked that the links between agricultural trade and food security were "underexplored" and we fully agree with that sentiment. Canada, then and now, calls on FAO to increase its analysis for Members on how agricultural trade, especially when governed by standards that protect safety and ensure predictability in markets, can support food security and address price fluctuations such as those caused by climate change.

We would like to express our appreciation for FAO's short- and medium-term analysis on markets, productivity and trade. As our colleague from Kenya identified just a few minutes ago, this work is essential. This June marks the end of Canada's term as the Chair of the Agricultural Market Information System, known as AMIS. AMIS provides essential market information and analysis to improve transparency. For Canada, ensuring that environmental protection is upheld in the context of trade liberalization is a key element of Canada's inclusive approach to trade. Canada promotes a position that trade and climate change objectives and policies should be mutually supportive.

I have a question for the Secretariat. As per the CCP's decision, the Secretariat was requested to deliver the next edition of the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets well before the next meeting of the CCP, which is in early fall 2020. Canada would like to ask if there is a timeline for when the new Report will be delivered and, given that that report will have to be developed with the CCP bureau, whether there is a timeline for that conversation as well.

Again, our thanks to the Secretariat for this important analysis. Just to underline the emphasis and opportunity that agricultural trade enables people around the world to be able to earn better incomes.

**Ms Renata NEGRELLY NOGUEIRA (Brazil)**

During the last CCP, we had an important debate on the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) 2018, acknowledging the linkages between climate change, food security and nutrition and sustainable food systems. We would like to highlight some comments we did then. When it comes to the relationship between climate change and agriculture, current discussions under the UNFCCC clearly focus on the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security, prioritizing actions in adaptation to climate change.

Brazil acknowledges the FAO has a lot to contribute to support countries' actions in this realm, especially with data Management and capacity building for adaptation actions. The agriculture sector, indeed, plays a role in the efforts of adaptation and mitigation but, if we really want to achieve both results, we must really engage the higher emission sectors such as fossil fuels and industry.

Those sectors accounted for 65 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in 2010 according to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, which is the latest released. Therefore, deviating the focus to agriculture would amount to falling in a fallacy of division. Something true for the whole is not always true for its parts. Any work on climate change and agriculture shall take into account the main objective of ensuring world food security, as acknowledged by parties to the UNFCCC, when establishing the mandate of the current urgent work on agriculture.

The three standard setting bodies, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Codex Alimentarius are presumed to develop standards and roles that do not create unnecessary barriers to trade and they are based on science. A basic element of the SPS and TBT agreements. Their role and the importance of harmonization must be reinforced, not weakened, in this era when trade and climate change are becoming increasingly intertwined.

Finally, we must underscore that the Paris agreement on climate change explicitly states that measures taken to combat climate change should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.

With those comments, we support the endorsement of this CCP report.

**Ms Vanida KHUMNIRDPETCH (Thailand)**

Thailand has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We would like to thank the Chair of the Committee of Commodity Problems for the excellent summary of the Report. We also appreciate the comprehensive content of the Report of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of CCP which captures essential parts arising from the debate. We would like to highlight and give comments to several aspects of the report.

The Asia Groups stresses the importance of strengthening the value of FAO's work on commodity market monitoring by promoting its wide uptake and use by more and more decision makers, including through the platform of South-South and Triangular cooperation. The Asia Group encourages FAO to increase its support for capacity building in developing countries in the area of agricultural market monitoring and analysis as well as trade policies for food security and nutrition. We urge that support also be provided to developing countries prone to natural disasters in order to assess damage caused by the disaster and its impact on market and price volatility.

The Asia Group stresses the importance of the multilateral trading system that is universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, equitable and predictable for agricultural trade to maximise its role in achieving the SDGs, particularly SDG 1 and SDG 2. We also wish to state that addressing problems related to market access of agricultural commodities should become a global priority.

Increasing challenges faced by agricultural commodities, both tariff and non-tariff barriers which include discussed sanitary and phytosanitary controls, technical regulations and the promotion of regional environmental guidelines that are often more restrictive than international norms, hinder the positive contribution of agricultural commodities toward the attainment of the SDGs.

The Asia Group chooses to reiterate our support for the proposal to convene an intergovernmental group meeting on oil seeds and fats in 2019 and to form it with voluntary guidelines on vegetable oils in support of the SDGs.

The Asia Group also underscores the need to maximize the potential role of international trade in stabilizing markets with regards to the impact of climate change to global agricultural trade which threatens to further widen the economy and food security gaps between developed and developing countries. We support the need to further examine climate change impact in agriculture-related trade and the need to enhance capacity for mitigation and resilience in countries that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts, in particular, Small Island Developing States.

Finally, the Asia Group would like to reiterate our support for the proposal to observe an International Tea Day on 21 May. We believe that design and celebration will promote more awareness and importance of tea, in particular, its rich health and nutritional benefits.

With these comments, the Asia Group endorses the Report.

**Ms Ying WU (China) (Original Language Chinese)**

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the document provided and we would also like to endorse the comments from Thailand.

I will be very brief. First, China agrees that agricultural trade can play a very important role in helping achieve the SDGs and we also advise having South-South and Triangular Cooperation. China would like to thank Kenya and the African Group for their support of the proclamation of International Tea Day. I would also like to thank you for your description of the importance of having such an International Tea Day.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I want to thank all of you for your interventions which I have listened to very carefully and I have enjoyed hearing the different aspects that you have highlighted in the CCP Report.

I did hear one specific question which was from Canada, on the delivery date for the next State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) Report. Perhaps management could respond on that point.

**Mr Frederik ALFER (Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems)**

I can assure you that we have deliberated this issue in the Bureau and the final concept for the theme of the SOCO for next year has been agreed by the Bureau and approved by the Director-General. So, that is clear in the Bureau.

Perhaps the Secretariat can elaborate on the timeline?

**Mr Máximo Torero (Assistant Director-General of Economic and Social Development)**

The SOCO 2020 has been agreed and approved as it was mentioned. It is on food and agricultural markets for sustainable development. The launch will be in July 2020 and if you allow me, can I answer some of the questions that were asked?

First of all, thank you for the support and endorsement of the Report. We fully agree with the concept of transparency of information. All the information of FAO in terms of commodity prices and so on is public. It is a public good, so it is completely available. In all our work, we collaborate with OECD and with the WTO and what we do is provide technical analysis of implications of trade and related policies and also on climate change related to food security and nutrition. Our job is more on technical knowledge and building capacities at the country level as it was mentioned by Thailand and Kenya.

We do not get into the role of negotiation or any other roles on the mandates of WTO and UNFCCC. As mentioned by Canada, we clearly need to increase our knowledge on the effects and linkages between food security and nutrition and trade and its standards which is something very important, linked to the Codex Alimentarius and on trade and all forms of malnutrition. We are working on collaboration with other agencies to be able to bring, as much as possible, evidence in these topics that you mentioned because, clearly, they are under studied topics and we want to avoid references and conclusions which are not properly based on evidence.

Finally, we fully support the idea of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which is essentially what we plan to continue.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will now read out my very concise conclusion on this Item and I hope you will support it.

The Conference endorsed the Report of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) and in particular underlined the importance of FAO's commodity market monitoring,

assessment, outlook and standard-setting work for improved market transparency and for informed policy decisions.

<b>Item 12.3</b>	<b><i>Report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (9-13 July 2018)</i></b>
<b>Point 12.3</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la trente-troisième session du Comité des pêches (9-13 juillet 2018)</i></b>
<b>Tema 12.3</b>	<b><i>Informe del 33.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (9-13 de julio de 2018)</i></b>
<b>(C 2019/23)</b>	

I would now like to move on to Item 12.3, the *Report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries*. The Report is in document C 2019/23 and the Session took place here in Rome from 9-13 July 2018. The Session was chaired by Mr William Gibbons-Fly who will give us the presentation.

### **Mr William GIBBONS-FLY (Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries)**

As mentioned, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in Rome from 9 to 13 July 2018. Following opening statements by the Director-General of FAO and the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, Mr Arnie Mathiesen, the Assistant Director-General for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department introduced the 2018 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA). The Committee noted the improving quality of this publication but recommended that in the future, the report be shared with Members well in advance of publishing.

With respect to the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments, the Committee noted the progress of Members in implementing the code and related instruments, but it also identified gaps and constraints and underscored the important role of FAO in assisting Members to overcome these challenges.

The Committee endorsed the Reports of the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. In turn, the Committee recommended the development of future guidance on social responsibility, and reiterated its support for the work of FAO with respect to the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES). It also encouraged efforts to harmonize catch documentation schemes to prevent trade and products from IUU fishing, while minimizing technical barriers to trade and recommended that FAO develop sustainable aquaculture guidelines.

Under the topic of fisheries and oceans governance, the Committee requested that FAO provide additional technical assistance to improve the performance of developing states such as coastal, flag, market, processing and port states. It recommended further development of the global record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels, known as the global record. It called for in-depth studies to support the development of guidelines on best practices for regulating, monitoring and controlling trans-shipments and called on FAO to continue providing technical advice to the ongoing negotiations on fishery subsidies at the World Trade Organization.

The Committee also reaffirmed the role of COFI as the most important international policy forum for the debate and adoption of policy instruments in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and requested that FAO increase its involvement in the relevant international fora.

With respect to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Committee requested that FAO continue to assist Members in strengthening statistical capacity and delivery of their data and information and requested that FAO review potential opportunities of the blue growth and blue economy initiatives and present this to the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in 2019.

With respect to climate change and other environment-related instruments, the Committee requested the development of guidelines on climate change adaptation and mitigation in fisheries and aquaculture. It endorsed the voluntary guidelines on the marking of fishing gear and supported the development of a comprehensive global strategy to tackle issues related to abandoned, lost or

otherwise discarded fishing gear. It also encouraged FAO to continue its work on by-catch mitigation including mitigation of marine mammal by-catch.

With respect to FAO's Programme of Work and Fisheries and Aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework, the Committee encouraged FAO to continue to collaborate with other international organizations, Regional Fisheries Bodies and Regional fisheries Management organizations. It stressed the importance of maintaining and further strengthening the technical competence of FAO in fisheries and aquaculture and supported the hosting of an International Symposium on Fishery Sustainability, Strengthening the Science Policy Nexus, which is scheduled to be held from 19 to 21 November 2019 in Rome, Italy.

The Committee elected Mr Sidi Mouctar Dicko from Guinea, as the Chairperson of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of COFI and Mr Singo Ota, from Japan, as First Vice-Chairman. Canada, Chile, Iceland, Jordan and New Zealand were also elected as Vice-Chairpersons.

Under *Other Matters*, the Committee requested that the Secretariat develop a proposal for the possible establishment of a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management to be submitted for consideration at the next Session of COFI, proposed to be held from 13-17 July 2020.

That concludes my brief report. The Conference is invited to endorse the Report of COFI 33 and the recommendations contained therein.

**Ms Jeehan ALESTAD (Kuwait)**

The State of Kuwait has the honour to make this intervention on behalf of the Near East Regional Group. The functions of the Committee on Fisheries confirmed that it is one of the most important international forums to discuss various policies and issues related to the fisheries sector, including the aquaculture sector in our region and in other regions. This fact is entirely reflected in the Report.

While the Near East Regional Group would like to commend the aspect addressed in this Report, it calls upon the Committee to do more in order to enhance country level capacity building for the recovery and sustainability of fisheries *vis à vis* the challenges posed by climate changes to our endangered fish resources, which constitute the most important pillars of food security in the Near East Region.

We stress the importance of following up on the implementation of all the recommendations and decisions taken by the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade as well as by the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. We also commend the progress made and follow-up, particularly with regard to the fight against illegal fishing, in order to enhance the responsible management of fisheries in all regions and countries. Hopefully, with greater and broader attention in our Region. We welcome the multi-year Programme of Work, and hope to receive a roadmap earlier for years to come with a focus on partnerships and sustainable investment.

The Near East Regional Group joins other Regional Groups in supporting this Report.

**Mr Naohito OKAZOE (Japan)**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Asia Group. Asia has a history of relying on seafood for daily consumption and hence achieving sustainable use of fishery resources. It is of our great interest. However, as shown in the SOFIA Report, the proportion of overfished stock continues to increase in the aggregated fish stocks. We will drive to emphasise our serious concern on this and emphasize the need to strengthen COFI's work to improve the management of fisheries resources.

It is the right time to emphasise the importance of effectively implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as it will be 25 years in 2020 since the Code was established. The Code shows the principle of effective fish resource management and we reiterate the importance of internalizing the Code in national policies and monitoring the implementation in order to evaluate their impact. That is the only way to effectively utilize this instrument.

When discussing the management of fishery resources, we cannot eliminate the consideration of smaller-scale and artisanal fisheries in both developing and developed countries. The Asia Group stresses the need of further implementation of the Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) guidelines and the



development of a monitoring system for implementing them. We witness growing attention on efforts to eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing which contributes to implementing the Code. Various instruments have been developed and are now being developed in COFI, including Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS), and the effective regulation of trans-shipments.

We need to be aware that COFI provides a unique opportunity to discuss a holistic approach to address IUU fishing by applying these instruments based on technical knowledge and management experience, because IUU fishing is a global issue and cannot be eliminated by a single country. We commend FAO's efforts to apply these instruments in a number of countries through capacity building.

The Asia Group also commends FAO for the work being done with WTO and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in the direction of removing certain forms of fishery subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing and we encourage FAO to strengthen these efforts. We reiterate the importance of FAO's work on other environment-related matters including the conservation of biodiversity which is closely related to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Where commercially exploited aquatic resources, FAO should continue to actively cooperate with CITES and IUCN and utilize its own experts to characterize and monitor the status of these species.

So, we realize that COFI's work is expanding because of the marked disciplinary nature of fisheries. We commend FAO's active role to provide its technical expertise in various international fora related to oceans and we strongly encourage FAO to continue to take such initiatives. At the same time, we have to stress that more exchange is needed in FAO to maintain and improve the quality of its work. We hope that this view will be well taken in the discussion of creating a new Sub-Committee of COFI.

Finally, we encourage FAO to further collaborate with Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and other international Organizations including UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), CITES, Convention on Biological Diversity, WTO, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Whaling Commission and so forth, while ensuring efficiency in its work through avoiding the duplication of efforts.

**Mme Maria Antonieta BAPTISTA (Angola) (Langue originale portugais)**

Cabo Verde et l'Égypte vous présentent leurs hommages et vous remercient, au nom du Groupe Afrique. Nous voudrions remercier aussi la Présidence du Comité des pêches et le Secrétariat pour l'excellente qualité du texte du rapport qui est ressorti de la 33ème session du Comité.

Le Groupe régional Afrique reconnaît l'importante contribution de la pêche et de l'aquaculture, en matière de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, pour l'élimination de la pauvreté et de la faim et la création d'emplois pour des millions de personnes dans le monde entier.

Le secteur de la pêche connaît actuellement bien des défis et de grandes difficultés en Afrique. Nous voudrions en souligner certains. Je pense notamment à l'accès difficile aux ressources, au manque d'égalité hommes-femmes, à la nécessité absolue de réduire les pertes et le gaspillage, à la difficulté d'accès aux marchés, aux problèmes de la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée (INDNR), au peu de sécurité et de respect de la vie des animaux aquatiques, à la pollution des eaux due aux microplastiques, au problème du changement climatique, à l'aquaculture non durable. Bref, toutes sortes de problèmes qui devraient être tenus en ligne de compte dans les critères qui devraient permettre à la FAO d'élaborer un système d'information mondial.

Pour arriver à relever ces défis, nous avons fait tout notre possible et nous félicitons surtout la FAO pour ses efforts, car elle a mis en place des instruments très importants, en particulier l'Accord relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'État du port visant à prévenir, contrecarrer et éliminer la pêche INDNR. Cet Accord est entré en vigueur en 2016. La première version du Fichier mondial des embarcations, navires de pêche, navires équipés d'installations réfrigérées et navires de pêche légale, est fondamentale pour pouvoir faire circuler et accumuler les confrontations qui doivent être fournies par l'État du port.

Nous sommes également satisfaits des efforts de la FAO concernant les captures d'espèces sauvages et commerciales, les Directives FAO sur le marquage du matériel de pêche, pour sa contribution au recyclage et à du matériel de pêche abandonné.

Le Groupe Afrique invite la FAO à bien vouloir donner l'assistance nécessaire aux pays membres dans l'application de tous ces instruments afin d'arriver à mettre en place des systèmes de pêche sains, respectueux et viables.

Nous profitons de l'occasion pour faire l'éloge du travail de la FAO en matière d'économie bleue et sa contribution à la Conférence de haut niveau sur l'économie bleue durable, qui a eu lieu à Nairobi l'année dernière.

Nous accordons une importance particulière aux petites pêches artisanales à caractère durable, en particulier, aux directives volontaires pour garantir la durabilité de la pêche artisanale, dans le cadre de la sécurité alimentaire et pour l'élimination de la pauvreté, qui pour l'instant n'est pas régie par un bon cadre juridique.

Le Groupe régional Afrique se félicite de l'avancée dans la mise en œuvre du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable et des instruments la concernant, qui sont entrés en vigueur en 2018. Nous attendons beaucoup aussi de la mise en place par la FAO de réglementations, avec des apports nouveaux qui nous viendront de M. Qu Dongyu, notre nouveau Directeur général.

Le Groupe régional Afrique approuve le rapport de la 33<sup>ème</sup> session du Comité des pêches, portant la cote C 2019/23, et ses conclusions et recommandations pour garantir un contrôle et une surveillance au moyen de mécanismes contribuant au développement durable.

**Ms Wilhelmine BROWN (Australia)**

The Australian government remains strongly supportive of the work of COFI as it provides a unique opportunity to advance truly global initiatives to improve the sustainability of the world's fisheries. We express sincere appreciation for the Secretariat's efforts in organizing the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session. Australia can support and endorse the Meeting Report.

We would also like to highlight briefly a few of the key achievements of COFI, brought about through the cooperation of like-minded states. These include the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) which held its last meeting in Santiago, Chile on 3-7 June 2019, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels. Australia continues to see IUU fishing as one of the most significant maritime challenges facing our region. We note the continuing good work of FAO but would also like to encourage all Members to work regionally and domestically to further combat IUU fishing.

Australia is also helping to improve fisheries management and monitoring across South-East Asia and building fisheries negotiating capability among developing coastal states in the Indian Ocean. In the Pacific, where offshore tuna fisheries alone are worth AUD 7 billion, we are hoping to combat IUU fishing. We do this by collaborating with individual Pacific Island countries and regional organizations, including through the Pacific Maritime Security Programme. We are also working closely with the Pacific community in the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency to support Pacific Island countries to sustainably manage and develop their fisheries.

Australia continues to uphold its commitment to cooperate with other members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to ensure the conservation and optimum utilization of relevant fish stocks in the area. This includes progressing a vessel monitoring system to improve efforts to combat IUU fishing. Australia would also like to convey our appreciation to the Independent Chairperson of the Council for their continued efforts to find a mutually acceptable solution to the Council's decision in 2018 concerning Article XIV, appointment of Secretaries of Statutory Bodies.

**Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

Our appreciation goes to Mr Gibbons-Fly for his presentation and some of the other interventions we have heard this afternoon. It has been identified that the Committee is the most important policy forum for dialogue on fisheries. For many international fisheries issues it is arguably the only dialogue forum

and it is essential. If it was not for the FAO and this work, this work would not get done. So, I would just like to emphasize the importance Canada places in the Committee and its collaboration with Members.

Also, I would like to touch on a remark that Mr Gibbons-Fly made with regard to the workshop. As he mentioned, there will be a workshop in November concerning adaptive fisheries management. The objectives of the workshop are to identify adaptive measures and lessons learned in fisheries management to strengthen the resilience of fisheries in effectively managing fish stocks whose distribution in abundance are changing as a result of climate change.

**Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf the European Union and its 28 Member States, who welcome the result of the 33<sup>rd</sup> COFI Session and acknowledge the large and active participation of FAO Members. We commend FAO's fisheries and aquaculture department for its excellent work in producing the 2018 Report on the State of World Fisheries and Agriculture (SOFIA).

We note with concern that the proportion of stocks fished at unsustainable levels still accounts for 31.4 percent of all assessed marine stocks in 2013. Clearly more efforts are necessary by states and the global community to bring stocks to sustainable levels.

One way to further improve FAO's work on fisheries would be for FAO to consider developing standard indicators, such as the dependence of fleets on stocks that are overexploited compared to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and/or on stocks that are currently depleted.

The EU and its Member States also welcome the important decisions taken to tackle illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU). These include the call for greater cooperation and information sharing between Members, the launch of the public version of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels, the work on an in-depth assessment to regulate, monitor and control trans-shipment practices and the further development of guidelines to estimate the magnitude and geographic extent of IUU fishing.

We congratulate FAO for taking note of the International Ocean Governance Agenda which has been receiving more and more global attention since 2018. We welcome the inclusion of new items on the agenda such as climate change, Agenda 2030 and Blue Growth. We also very much welcome the Voluntary Guidelines on marking fishing gear and commend FAO's ongoing work on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear to tackle the challenge of marine litter.

The EU and its Member States welcome the role that FAO plays in UN fora and processes devoted to fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, the SDGs and biodiversity. It is important to further enhance its participation and contribution and it is therefore key that technical capacity and skills for fisheries and agriculture be maintained at FAO.

Finally, we would like to recall the comment made by the Committee as a whole that the COFI documents were received very late in the process. This affects the quality of the discussions and the efficiency of the Committee. We would like to see this issue addressed for the next COFI Session. The next COFI will be an important Session that will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. As the oceans feature high on the international agenda, we will need a bold COFI on that occasion that can set out, amongst other things, a new vision for capturing fisheries sustainability in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Mr Alexey GORDEEV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

In relation to document C 2019/23, I would like to say in connection with the fact that this document was already looked at during the FAO Council in December 2018, we proposed that Item 8 should be the basis, and the Report on the Session of the Conference of FAO, of the use of the recommendations that have already been mentioned by other delegations.

In relation to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries, I would like to thank the Chair of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session, Mr Gibbons-Fly, and the Secretary of COFI, Mr Watanabe, for taking into account the

proposals of delegations, particularly from the Russian Federation, on the rewording of the preamble in relation to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

**Sra. Paula PERAZA AGUILAR (Costa Rica)**

La delegación de Costa Rica agradece al Comité por su encomiable labor y toma esta oportunidad para resaltar tres elementos clave del informe: Costa Rica aplaude al Comité por manifestar su apoyo a la iniciativa sobre el crecimiento sur para el desarrollo sostenible de la pesca y la acuicultura en favor del crecimiento sostenible. Costa Rica celebra la importancia que el Comité otorga a las cuestiones relativas a la bioseguridad, la salud de los animales acuáticos y la resistencia a los microbianos. Fortalecer en la bioseguridad en la acuicultura es una de las mejores inversiones que puede hacer la comunidad internacional en estos momentos. Por un lado promueve la seguridad alimentaria, pero al mismo tiempo fortalece, además, la cultura de inocuidad alimentaria. Ambas nociones fundamentales con las que se ha comprometido la comunidad internacional y sobre las cuales descansan en particular los ODS 2 y 3.

Finalmente, Costa Rica se hace eco del beneplácito con que el Comité acogió los esfuerzos de la FAO para evaluar tanto la pesca continental como la marina y se une al llamado del Comité para promover mejoras en los sistemas de recopilación de estadísticas con miras a orientar y mejorar las políticas nacionales respecto a la protección de la biomasa. Este es un tema de especial importancia para Costa Rica. Hace exactamente un mes, el Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería, el señor Renato Alvarado, en esta misma sede subrayaba la importancia de este tipo de instrumentos para las economías de países en desarrollo. El conocimiento real del estado de la biomasa es una necesidad esencial para procurar la elaboración de políticas públicas congruentes con el desarrollo y la protección.

Por la promoción de estos elementos, Costa Rica hace suyo el informe del 33.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca.

**Sra Diana CALDERÓN VALLE (Perú)**

Quisiéramos, en primer lugar, expresar el agradecimiento al Presidente del Comité de Pesca por el excelente informe que hoy nos presenta. El Perú hace suyas las recomendaciones y conclusiones contenidas en el Informe del 33.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca, particularmente sobre los compromisos en la lucha contra la pesca INDNR incluida la ratificación del Acuerdo sobre Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto. Al respecto, desde la entrada en vigor del Acuerdo MERP, el Perú ha trabajado de manera coordinada e intersectorial con el fin de analizar y poner en práctica los mecanismos pertinentes para la implementación idónea del acuerdo. Ello con la valiosa cooperación de la FAO. A este respecto, resaltamos las fructíferas discusiones y los acuerdos alcanzados en la segunda reunión de las partes del Acuerdo MERP celebrado en Chile a inicios del presente mes.

El Perú reconoce la importancia de la implementación de los mecanismos de intercambio de información a nivel regional en la lucha contra la pesca INDNR. Por ello, destacamos la pertinencia e importancia de la Red de Intercambio de Información y Experiencias entre los países de América Latina y el Caribe para prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la pesca INDNR. En ese sentido, hacemos un llamado para que otros países de la región se sumen a esta iniciativa. Por otro lado, señora Presidenta, queremos destacar la importancia de la celebración del Año Internacional de la Pesca y Acuicultura Artesanales, para aumentar la conciencia sobre los beneficios sociales y económicos que estas actividades brindan, así como del aprovechamiento sostenible de los océanos y sus recursos. En esta misma línea, ponemos de relieve la iniciativa Crecimiento Azul para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, la reducción de la pobreza y el manejo sostenible de los recursos acuáticos.

**Ms Kjersti Nielsen BARKBU (Norway)**

Norway would like to thank the COFI Chairperson for reporting from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session and we would like to say that we endorse the Report.

We would like to reiterate that on the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of Fisheries in 2016, the Committee recognized that there is an importance of reducing food loss and waste in the fish value chain. It made a plea for the development of a FAO technical guideline.

Norway is pleased to note that the practical guidance tool addressing food loss and waste for fish in the food chain from harness to consumer is now ready and available at the FAO website. Reducing food loss and waste is globally recognized as a challenge that needs to be addressed. A key driver is the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12.3; by 2030 to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

We believe that this FAO web tool brings together important information of loss and waste scenarios and reduction options as targeted points of the supply chain to make the information easily available.

**Ms Sandrine GOFFARD (United States of America)**

The United States fully endorses the Report and the recommendations of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We echo the EU delegation's comments to draw particular attention to the Committee's call for all documents for future Sessions to be made available in all languages, at least four weeks in advance.

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

New Zealand places high priority on FAO's normative work in fisheries and aquaculture policy. That includes the valuable policy work done by the trade Sub-Committee which is particularly relevant given that trade and fisheries products has greater significance for the sector than any other primary food commodity sector.

New Zealand welcomes new areas of work that FAO is addressing in relation to identifying the appropriate role of FAO in improving social conditions in the sector and on the implications of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture.

New Zealand acknowledges the crowded work agenda for COFI and encourages FAO to make the best use of its limited resources available, including by better managing the Agenda and preparation process for COFI and its Sub-Committees.

New Zealand notes the call made at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of COFI Meeting for investigating options for improving the effectiveness of COFI and its work, including an option for establishing a new Sub-Committee to address fisheries management topics.

New Zealand is conscious of the resource pressures, not just on FAO but also on its own Members and particularly for some of the Small Island Developing States from our own particular region in the Pacific and its implications for their effective participation in additional Committees.

New Zealand, however, notes that this work is being overseen by the Bureau, within which we look forward to participating in further deliberations.

**Mr Sang Go LEE (Republic of Korea)**

First of all, I would like to thank the Chairperson of COFI for his presentation. I would also like to thank the other distinguished delegates who have already welcomed and supported FAO's leadership role in the fight against IUU fishing globally. FAO has committed itself to combating IUU fishing and in particular there has been much progress in the last three years.

A case in point would be the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). The Republic of Korea ratified the agreement in January 2016 and we have participated in PSMA and related programmes of FAO by signing a USD 2 million contribution agreement with FAO last year. In May this year the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Global Technical Working Groups and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of PSMA Technical Working Groups took place in Seoul. As such, the Republic of Korea continues to actively take part in and support the implementation of PSMA.

I would like to remind you that during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of COFI, the Korean government reported on the progress of pilot programmes for the World Fisheries University and COFI's request is to stay informed on the next steps and their implementations accordingly. I hereby would like to brief the Conference on the assigned progress.

In the 153<sup>rd</sup> Session of Council in 2015, Korea proposed to establish the FAO World Fisheries University in order to contribute to capacity building of FAO Members through education. Later, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of COFI in July 2016 encouraged Korea and the FAO Secretariat to cooperate to agree on the roadmap for step by step approaches. The finalization of this is based on evaluating the results of the pilot programmes by relevant FAO Governing Bodies.

In response, Korea has operated its own pilot programmes for 18 months from September 2017 through February this year and the results were reported to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of COFI in July 2018. This received strong support from a number of FAO Members. Building on such support, the Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries of Korea and the Director-General of FAO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 2018 under which Korea and FAO will jointly operate the pilot programmes for the World Fisheries University.

Following up to signing the MOU, the Korean government and FAO will have the first meeting tomorrow to discuss how to implement the pilot programmes in detail. Based on these discussions, we will start selection programmes for most of the programmes under the pilot programmes within this year. By saying so, I would like to kindly ask for active participation and interest from many FAO Member Nations.

**Mr Stefán Jón HAFSTEIN (Iceland)**

Iceland welcomes the Report on COFI 33 and we would like to congratulate the newly elected Director-General and we would like to remind him and us all of the great importance FAO must place on several issues dealt with in this COFI Report.

First, we mention the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) and the necessity of curbing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Iceland, I am happy to report, recently signed an MOU of closer cooperation with FAO in these areas providing both technical assistance, for instance, to developing countries and funding for the development of a new information sharing platform which is at the core of a successful implementation of PSMA. We have had some good progress since the last COFI meeting, as PSMA Members recently met in Chile and endorsed the plans of developing this platform and the technical meeting in Seoul last month gave a clear indication of the way forward.

We encourage all relevant Member States that have not yet signed the Port State Measures Agreement to do so and implement it effectively.

Secondly, we would like to address the issue of abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear. Ocean litter is of grave concern, as well as “ghost gear”. In this area, Iceland is supporting the Programmes of both the World Bank and FAO.

As the COFI Bureau Member representing the European Regional Group, Iceland would like to remind FAO Members that next year we will see important events related to SDG 14 and the responsible preservation and harvest of marine resources. One is COFI 34 where we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Code of Conduct. The FAO Secretariat and the Members of the COFI Bureau have already discussed that this historic event should be celebrated by a high level declaration on the future of fisheries.

Iceland very much welcomes this initiative and we would like to urge Member States to participate actively in the making of this declaration in order to give it a worthy status and widespread ownership.

**Ms Lucianara ANDRADE FONSECA (Brazil)**

I would like to endorse COFI's Report and particularly commend FAO's work on small scale fisheries. With about 1 million small scale fishers who are responsible for more than half of all national seafood production, this fishery sector has a huge social significance in Brazil.

In this respect, we highlight COFI's emphasis on the need to strengthen the capacity of small scale producers to obtain certifications to secure and improve market access as well as the concern expressed by the Committee that certification should not create an unnecessary technical barrier to trade.

With regard to this specific point, to market access, Brazil sees the growing trend of states and economic blocs to resort to unilateral trade measures to combat IUU fishing with great concern. Although Brazil is fully supportive of the crucial need to fight IUU fishing, we remain convinced that multilateralism is always preferential.

We would also like to highlight COFI's conclusion on the importance of Regional Fisheries Bodies and organizations for the cooperation of states and fisheries management and conservation. Nevertheless, we believe it is important to point out that many performance reviews are indicating deficiencies faced by our Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) on equitable distribution of fisheries opportunities. This is probably the most fundamental challenge our RFMOs face, nowadays. Without the equitable location of fishing rights, there is very little incentive for developing states to participate in the work of our RFMOs. We believe this issue should be taken into consideration in FAOs cooperation with these organizations.

Finally, we would like to welcome the Committee's conclusion and importance of fish in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and the potential of sustainable aquaculture in meeting a growing demand and filling the gap in global fish supply. We are certain that these important goals will allow us to work through any outstanding concerns around the management of fisheries and aquaculture.

**Ms Daak SADIA ELMUBARAK AHMED (Sudan) (Original Language Arabic)**

I would like to start off by aligning myself with Kuwait's statement on behalf of the Near East Group. The delegation of my country would like to thank FAO for its efforts to strengthen the fair development and exchange of knowledge and technology in relation to the sector of aquaculture and fisheries. Our delegation believes that the Blue Growth Initiative launched by FAO will assist in strengthening this economy and assist in the achievement of food security while taking into account climate change. It will also assist those people who work in fisheries and aquaculture. It will assist users as well. We know that aquaculture and fisheries assist, to a great extent, in ensuring food security and provide direct and indirect employment throughout the chain.

We also welcome the work of COFI in relation to the preservation and sustainability of resources and the preservation of biodiversity in marine areas and also efforts to promote these efforts which will assist in increasing GDPs in many countries. Our delegation supports the decisions and recommendations of COFI and particularly in relation to the fight against IUU fishing and its elimination through frameworks for governance and management. We believe this is one of the main threats to marine resources.

We also recognize the national efforts to tackle threats to the production of biological diversity. The delegation of my country also welcomes FAO's role and special activities, especially in relation to smallholder producers, eliminating barriers to fisheries trade so that they can participate in ensuring food security and improving the situation of local markets.

Our delegation is also in favour of the Code of Conduct. We would like to highlight the proposal made by Arab and African countries on the Red Sea to establish a new Regional Organization and a Regional Project for the management of natural resources in the Red Sea area and we also support the agreement in the North Atlantic, and we are in favour of the adoption of this Report.

**Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)**

Seré muy breve. Agradecemos la presentación realizada por el señor Gibbons-Fly de este Informe del 33.º período de sesiones del COFI ha sido muy importante. Ha sentado las bases para los debates de este bienio, en particular, algunas propuestas que hemos examinado como el posible establecimiento de un subcomité de pesca. La República Argentina está siguiendo el proceso de cerca y está muy interesada en participar en estos debates, ya que nos parece una propuesta interesante pero tenemos ciertas dudas respecto de la capacidad de participación en las reuniones de los países en desarrollo, ya que hay implicaciones financieras para trasladarse, etc, y este es nuestro principal tema que debemos ver cómo abordar.

Queremos destacar que en los debates del Comité se han abordado cuestiones fundamentales como la bienvenida al Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanales. Esto ha surgido como una

iniciativa en la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe y la apoyamos de manera decidida.

Para finalizar, quisiera mencionar dos cuestiones, la primera que, en consonancia con las intervenciones de Argentina en general, durante el último COFI en el programa se utilizó la palabra gobernanza para referirse a algunas cuestiones. En esto quiero reiterar la posición argentina respecto de que preferimos evitar el uso del término gobernanza, ya que no hay una definición multilateral acordada del término gobernanza. La Argentina entiende que este concepto es aplicable a las áreas bajo jurisdicción nacional, es por esto que, en general, pedimos a la Secretaría que se evite la utilización de estos términos en los programas y documentos.

Y, por último, en relación con la iniciativa de Crecimiento Azul, reconocemos que es una importante iniciativa de la FAO y que puede ayudar a varios países, pero es una de las posibilidades y una de las herramientas para lograr la pesca y acuicultura sostenibles. Hay otras también que debemos tener en cuenta.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Argentina, and I am sure that the Secretariat of COFI and management have heard your point on the use of governance. Overall, I have heard a very wholesome endorsement of the COFI Report and the work of the COFI Bureau. I did hear a couple of points that I might ask the Secretariat to reply to. First of all, two delegations mentioned the delay in documents and perhaps the Secretariat could just reassure that measures are in place to ensure that does not happen for the next meeting of COFI.

#### **Mr Arni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General of Fisheries and Aquaculture)**

We recognize the problem that came up and, as you remember, we discussed that at Council and we have made arrangements for this not to happen at COFI 34 next year.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to ask the Chairperson of COFI to explain how he is taking forward the comment that the Russian Federation made on the executive summary.

#### **Mr William GIBBONS-FLY (Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries)**

I am very happy to do that. At the meeting of the Council in December, the delegate of the Russian Federation noted that the executive summary, perhaps, did not capture the nature of the discussion as accurately as it might have, and proposed a couple of revisions. Those revisions were taken on board by the Secretariat and myself and we revised the text accordingly. The text that you have in front of you for this meeting does not reflect those changes because, as I understand it, the policy of FAO is to ensure that the document presented to the Conference is the same as that presented to the Council.

However, when the final Report of COFI is issued, it will contain these changes and I can read the two very small changes that were made. The reason for this is that the executive summary was not part of the negotiated outcome of COFI itself. It was simply a summary prepared by the Secretariat. Taking on board the comments from the Russian Federation, in the executive summary, Paragraph (d), one of these related to the nature of transshipment and its contribution to IUU fishing and the comment was that not all transshipment contributes to IUU fishing but that IUU fishing is something transshipment can contribute to in certain instances.

The language will be revised now, in Paragraph (d). The third sentence in that paragraph will read, “the Committee expressed concern about transshipment activities” and then we add the language, “that may contribute to IUU fishing and welcomed the global study on transshipment”, and it carries on from there. That was one change.

The other was in relation to the discussion of the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations for a new instrument on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. Here again the second sentence in paragraph (g) which deals with this will now read as follows; “the Committee appreciated the ongoing work to establish a new legally binding agreement for the conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond



national jurisdiction”, and the new language will read, “noting that it should not undermine existing relevant instruments”.

Those two changes are reflected in the final version of the Report, which I understand is going to be posted on the FAO website within the next day or so.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I suspect it is waiting for the Conference to endorse the Report and certainly from what I have heard, you do all endorse the Report. I would therefore like to read my very concise conclusion of our discussion this evening.

The Conference endorsed the Report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and in particular, welcomed the increasing number of parties to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

<b>Item 12.4</b>	<b><i>Report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Forestry (16-20 July 2018)</i></b>
<b>Point 12.4</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la vingt-quatrième session du Comité des forêts (16-20 juillet 2018)</i></b>
<b>Tema 12.4</b>	<b><i>Informe del 24.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (16-20 de julio de 2018)</i></b>
<b>(C 2019/24)</b>	

We are now going to begin with Item 12.4, the *Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry*. The Report is in document C 2019/24 and the Meeting was held here in Rome from 16-20 July 2018. Dr Shin Won Sop, the Chairperson of COFO, will present a summary of the Report.

### **Dr Shin WON SOP (Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry)**

The Committee on Forestry (COFO) was held together with the Sixth World Forestry Week and was attended by over 500 delegates from 105 Member Nations and Observers, including one Head of State, three Ministers and 12 Vice-Ministers. The main Agenda Items aimed at translating political commitments to action and broadly focussed on the SDGs forests relationships. COFO also reviewed progress in implementation and provided strategic directions for its Members and the Organization.

COFO provided important policy guidance on several areas. The Committee recognized that the sustainable forest management, including in urban and peri-urban areas, help achieve the SDGs, ensure people’s health and wellbeing and tackle climate change and recommended that these contributions be recognized in related policies and strategies. It supported FAO’s initiative to serve as a Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform and stressed that sustainable forest management is important for mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry.

It therefore requested that FAO develop a biodiversity strategy and bring it to COFO’s consideration. The Committee also recognized that forests are essential for achieving SDG 2, Zero Hunger, and welcomed the policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition. COFO urged FAO to give high priority to scientific and technical expertise to standard-setting activities.

Regarding guidance to countries, COFO invited Members to recognize that poverty alleviation, food security, food systems, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and forests are closely linked and promote integrated approaches to national development policies and strategies recognizing these linkages.

It also recognized the urgency of taking decisive actions to achieve SDG 15.2 and promote the contribution of stakeholders, establish sustainable value chains, facilitate responsible investment and strengthen forest education at all levels. COFO also welcomed FAO’s Climate Change Strategy and encouraged countries to incorporate forests into their National Adaptation Plans.

The Committee provided specific guidance for FAO in forestry and requested to:

- a) support countries in strengthening the role of forests in achieving the SDGs, from policy development to involving stakeholders, capacity building and to improving awareness at all levels;
- b) provide policy and technical support and build capacity in the planning, design, management and monitoring of urban and peri-urban forests and to strengthen collaboration in this regard;
- c) improve understanding of the implications of forest biodiversity loss for forestry, fisheries and agriculture and disseminate knowledge and tools such as the Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox;
- d) support countries to develop cross-sectoral policies to achieve food security and integrate related objectives into forestry and disseminate best practices in this regard.

The Committee also requested FAO to give priority to supporting the implementation of UN Strategic Plan for Forests, and continue to provide leadership for the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

In pursuing cross-sectoral thinking and action, COFO invited several bodies to engage in enhanced collaboration and suggested to strengthen collaboration between Technical Committees and CFS and strengthen forest issues in Regional Conferences. It also invited bodies to link Regional Forestry Commissions to other policy areas, and encourage Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to use indicators of the Global Core Set. The United Nations Forum on Forests was invited to collaborate with Regional Forestry Commissions at regional level and to engage FAO closely and use its major analytical products.

This is a short summary of very high discussions by the Committee. The Report was endorsed by the 160<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council and we now look forward to the Conference's endorsement of these recommendations.

#### **M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)**

Le Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique. Nous félicitons le Président du Comité des forêts pour la bonne présentation du rapport de la 24<sup>ème</sup> session, qui s'est tenue ici à la FAO.

Nous accueillons favorablement les recommandations du rapport, et sommes satisfaits des travaux accomplis par la FAO dans le domaine des forêts au cours de l'exercice 2016-2017. Les recommandations formulées par le Comité sont pertinentes. Elles contribueront à la gestion durable des ressources forestières et joueront un rôle important dans la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030 et la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

L'amélioration de la gestion forestière est une question centrale. Si nous voulons préserver notre planète, elle est un facteur clé pour réduire la déforestation et la dégradation des forêts, pour avancer sur les engagements pris dans le cadre de l'Accord de Paris et pour atteindre les ODD.

Nous sommes dans l'urgence de prendre des mesures décisives pour encourager la mise en œuvre d'une gestion durable des forêts, notamment pour enrayer la déforestation, remettre en état les forêts dégradées, accroître le boisement et le reboisement au niveau mondial, aux fins de la réalisation de l'ODD 15. De nombreux pays ont signé et ratifié l'Accord de Paris sur le changement climatique. Ces pays ont choisi de s'appuyer sur les instruments clés de la gestion forestière durable pour atteindre leurs engagements nationaux et internationaux en matière de développement durable.

Il s'agit précisément de l'aménagement forestier durable, du Programme de réduction des émissions causées par le déboisement et la dégradation des forêts dans les pays en développement (REDD+) et du Programme relatif à l'application des réglementations forestières, à la gouvernance et aux échanges commerciaux (FLEGT). Nous demandons donc à la FAO d'encourager ces initiatives par le renforcement des capacités de gouvernance forestière et des actions de terrain pour la visibilité des résultats du développement durable dans le secteur forestier.

Nous pensons qu'une action conjointe et coordonnée de ces deux processus est nécessaire et souhaitable pour aider les pays à s'attaquer au défi de la gouvernance et pour contribuer à atteindre les objectifs du développement durable que nos pays se sont assignés, notamment au niveau des contributions nationales, des plans d'investissements, de la stratégie nationale et des plans nationaux de développement.

Nous nous félicitons de la stratégie de la FAO en matière de changement climatique et du caractère prioritaire accordé à sa mise en œuvre. Nous demandons donc à la FAO d'intégrer dans cette stratégie la question du partage des services écosystémiques pour stimuler l'économie rurale des communautés autochtones.

Nous apprécions les huit domaines thématiques prioritaires dans lesquels la FAO mènera ses activités relatives aux forêts en 2018-2021, et nous appuyons l'adoption d'une approche de l'agriculture et des forêts qui soient complémentaires et intégrées.

Avec ces commentaires, le Groupe Afrique appuie ce rapport.

**Ms Hyo Joo KANG (Republic of Korea)**

The Republic of Korea has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

First of all, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Chairperson of COFO and the Secretariat for their dedicated effort in this comprehensive and detailed Report. We cannot over-emphasise the value of forests which are often called the lung of the city, country and planet in general. In this regard, the Asia Group is pleased with the outcomes delivered by the Committee and would like to highlight a few points regarding the Report.

With regard to Item 4, the *State of the World's Forests 2018: Key findings*, it is reported that forests contribute to multiple SDGs because it links to food security, food systems and sustainable use of natural resources. We strongly agree on one of the findings that each country's policies and strategies must be coherent in order to achieve our goal efficiently as well as effectively. We would also like to highlight that FAO has a crucial role to play in the coordination of data reporting. Even if all Member Countries share their valuable forest data, its value will be greatly diminished if there is a large redundancy and no coherence.

Second, we would like to highlight that the Report includes FAO's support to countries through South-North, South-South and North-North cooperation under Item 5.2, *Urban and Peri-urban Forestry*. By strengthening these types of cooperation, it is evident that we could have more prominent outcomes with synergy. However, countries and FAO have to acknowledge that each country has its own unique circumstances, and thus dialogue among countries and FAO must be grounded on an attitude of understanding.

When it comes to Item 6.5, *Climate Change*, the Asia Group welcomes the statement of collaborative work of FAO, not only working with governments but also with other Ministries, rather than agriculture and relevant stakeholders. As we all acknowledge, climate change is now a common concern to all people including people who live in rural areas as well as citizens in urban areas. This agenda necessitates a holistic approach from every sector such as governments who deal with the environment, research in meteorology as well as many NGOs.

With these comments mentioned so far, the Asia Regional Group fully endorses the Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry.

**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 28 Member States. The EU and its Member States highlight the importance of forests and the multiple environmental and socio-economic benefits they provide. We welcome the State of the World Forests 2018 Report and its focus on the contribution that forests and trees can make towards achieving the SDGs. We encourage FAO to disseminate this information widely, promote its key messages and deliver relevant inputs to High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

We request that FAO support, including in its capacity as Chair of the CPF (Collaborative Partnership on Forests), the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-30 as an effective means of accelerating the achievements of all SDGs and monitor progress. In this regard, we stress the importance of the Global Forest Results Assessment as the main source of data on forest

resources at global level and we strongly support the Committee's call to give high priority to standard-setting activities to ensure sufficient funding for these activities within the regular budget.

Furthermore, we welcome the progress made on the Global Core Set of Forest-Related Indicators and we invite the CPF to finalize the development of their two and three indicators and the related definitions.

As agriculture is one of the main drivers of deforestation in many regions, we underline the need to promote and integrate approaches with regard to the forestry and agriculture nexus. It is vital to acknowledge that sustainable forest management and implementing sustainable agriculture practices are essential for achieving SDG 2 and SDG 15. In this regard, we welcome the CFS policy recommendation on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition and we stress the importance of putting those recommendations into practice for both the agriculture and the forestry sector.

We would like to reaffirm our view that the priority area of FAO's work on forestry should include the following: Monitoring and assessment forest ecosystem services, urban and community forestry, climate change, governance, the role of women and girls, youth, forest biodiversity and innovation in forest products. We underline the importance of forest-related education in order to engage holistic understanding of forests and their ecosystem services. Sustainable integrated land use, including landscape approaches and forest degradation and restoration are also important priority areas.

Lastly, we encourage FAO to engage in further cross-sectoral collaboration in the UN System, in particular throughout the CPF Membership, including the UN Forum on Forests and the UN Environment Programme, as well as between FAO and the Statutory Bodies within FAO's Strategic Framework, and recommend that the latter objectives be promoted. We welcome the development of the strategic vision for the CPF towards Agenda 2030 and we encourage the finalization of the CPF 2021-24 Workplan in accordance with the HLPF Programme.

We also invite FAO to present a plan on how to implement this and hedge cooperation. With this remark, we endorse the COFO 24 Report and the recommendations therein.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

We attach a lot of importance to forests in relation to providing nutrition for people, soil conservation, carbon sequestration and the functions of the water cycle. We would like to support the priorities of FAO's work approved by the Committee, such as deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable forest management, increasing forest coverage through reforestation, forest restoration and afforestation, as well as strengthening sources of livelihoods and improving the wellbeing of people, mitigating the consequences of climate change, and adapting to climate change.

I would also like to note the positive contribution of boreal forests in relation to the achievement of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. Boreal forests account for over half of the timber produced in the world. Boreal forest ecosystems play a key role in ensuring global ecological balance. The biodiversity of flora and fauna in boreal forests are unique to those forests.

With regards to the climate regulating functions of boreal forests, we note that according to experts, trees, soil and peat lands in northern ecosystems represent the biggest carbon sink. Boreal forests contain up to 17 percent of global carbon stocks. In Russia alone, boreal forests soak up over 600 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. In this regard, we welcome COFO's decision on the need to continue FAO's work in this workstream, including in the framework of the joint work with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

I would also like to note the importance of the issue of urban green spaces and reforestation. These issues are very relevant for our country, especially in the context of implementing the initiative of the President of Russia, Mr Putin, the Green Shield, the goal of which is to create a good urban environment.

**Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

I appreciate the opportunity to intervene and our appreciation as well to the Chair of the Committee for your remarks and your guidance

To begin, I would like to join with many other delegations in expressing support for the role forestry has in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Canada is pleased with FAO's emphasis on cross-sectoral collaboration, particularly given that the agricultural sector is a major driver of deforestation globally and also with the inclusion of a focus on women and indigenous peoples.

Data collection and building the capacity for data collection remains fundamental to accelerating sustainable forest management. This information is also essential to addressing and halting deforestation. The body of work on the Global Core Set of forest-related indicators and the streamlining of forest reporting to reduce reporting burden is appreciated and Canada is pleased to have participated in expert groups on these topics.

FAO's forestry work on wildland fire is also important from Canada's perspective and we would like to see this work more clearly articulated in FAO's forestry Strategic Framework.

My last comment is that Canada encourages the FAO Forestry Committee to more closely align with the UN Strategic Plan for Forests as it considers its future planning.

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

We would also like to thank the Chair of the Committee for his presentation of the main conclusions and recommendations. Some brief comments.

We appreciate FAO for the work that it is undertaking to mainstream biodiversity in the forestry area and we support the work to date on the Draft Strategy on Biodiversity and the Strategic Outcomes.

We are pleased to see the inclusion of the Strategy, the overall goals of sustainable food and agricultural systems that integrate biodiversity considerations through value chains and the recognition of indigenous and local knowledge. We also support FAO's Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform and FAO convening regional and national multi-stakeholder dialogues and subsequent implementation in countries through sectoral and other Action Plans.

We also support FAO's contribution to the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests, both as Chair and as Member, and request that sufficient resources are allocated to the adequate support of this work. CPF has a key role in supporting the strategic plan on forests and our nation's strategic plan on forests in achieving the global forestry goals.

I would also like to comment on the recurring theme coming through this afternoon on the important role that FAO has through the work of international standards-setting bodies and its relevance for food security and the conservation of global resources. In this context, it is equally relevant for the forestry sector as well. I would like to join and reinforce the very important role that the IPPC has in protecting our global forest resources, and once again we would be seeking to reiterate these comments in the Commission II, where the resource issue is more appropriate.

**Ms Renata NEGRELLY NOGUEIRA (Brazil)**

We support the endorsement of the Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry as contained in document C 2019/24. Increasing food production and food security while conserving and restoring forests is a challenge that we face. However, there is no one-size-fits-all solution but there are many alternatives depending on the specific context, needs and priorities of each country.

When planning and implementing those solutions, one must always take into consideration the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

Siendo el último de la lista, no voy a repetir lo enunciado por las delegaciones antes de mí, pero quisiera agradecer al Presidente del Comité por su Informe, el cual demuestra, nuevamente, como los informes que hemos visto en esta tarde lo interesante que ha sido la reunión. Y quisiera referirme a solamente a uno de los puntos que se desarrolló durante la reunión de COFO en julio, que es sobre el punto: La aceleración de los progresos hacia el logro del ODS 15. En ese punto, creemos pertinente una vez más reiterarlo, que la agricultura no necesariamente tiene que contraponerse a los bosques. En esta oportunidad lamentamos que exista cierta dicotomía como producto de una simplificación de una

problemática que es más compleja y la deforestación es resultado de un modelo de desarrollo agrícola que puede ser evitado a través de prácticas que complementen las actividades agrícolas con el cuidado de los bosques.

Se resalta en ese punto el aporte positivo que la innovación tecnológica puede ofrecer a la producción agrícola y ganadera, y así favorecer la complementación de este sector y los bosques. Un ejemplo de ello es el manejo de bosques con ganadería integrada y los distintos sistemas agroforestales y silvopastorales que se realizan en nuestro país, por ejemplo. Así que, con estos comentarios, queremos endosar el informe y agradecer al Presidente por cómo lo ha presentado.

#### CHAIRPERSON

The conclusion I propose is:

The Conference endorsed the Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Forestry (COFO) and in particular recognized the urgency of action to promote sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation to achieve the SDGs.

Let me thank the Chair of COFO and Mr Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director-General of Forestry.

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| <b>Item 13.</b>  | <b>Reports of the 44<sup>th</sup> (9-13 October 2017) and 45<sup>th</sup> (15-19 October 2018) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security</b>  |
| <b>Point 13.</b> | <b>Rapports des quarante-quatrième (9-13 octobre 2017) et quarante-cinquième (15-19 octobre 2018) sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale</b>                                   |
| <b>Tema 13.</b>  | <b>Informes de los períodos de sesiones 44.º (9-13 de octubre de 2017) y 45.º (15-19 de octubre de 2018) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial</b><br>(C 2019/19 Rev.1; C 2019/20 Rev.1) |

#### CHAIRPERSON

I would like to now move on to Item 13, *Reports of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security*. The 44<sup>th</sup> Session was held 9-13 October 2017 and the 45<sup>th</sup> Session was held on 15-19 October 2018. The Reports of both Sessions are available in C 2019/19 Rev.1 and C 2019/20 Rev.1.

I am now very pleased to give the floor to the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), His Excellency Mario Arvelo and note that Ms Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass was the Chairperson for the 44th Session. With that, I would like to pass the floor to the Chair of the CFS for his summary.

#### **Mr Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security)**

Este es un año muy especial para el Comité porque celebramos 45 años de su creación y 10 de su reforma. En 1974, la comunidad internacional estaba abrumada por una crisis de seguridad alimentaria que resultó de la crisis financiera global. La FAO convocó la Primera Conferencia Mundial sobre la Alimentación celebrada en esta casa, en noviembre de ese año, para hacer frente a un brote de hambruna y al riesgo inminente de crisis generalizadas de hambre a consecuencia de incertidumbres sobre el comercio petrolero y el estallido de conflictos armados. Tanto el CSA como el Fondo Internacional para el Desarrollo Agrícola nacieron de esa Conferencia, a partir de la cual empezó a tomar forma una red de Naciones Unidas para prevenir y responder a crisis alimentarias globales.

#### ***Continues in English***

Another large scale financial breakdown was that FAO Member States agreed to revolutionize the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) borrowing its pillars to include the other Rome-based Agencies as equal partners; IFAD and the World Food Programme.

While reaffirming its inter-governmental nature, CFS became a multi-stakeholder platform, opening its doors to civil society organizations, the private sector, other UN Agencies such as the World Health Organization, research centres, philanthropic entities and many other key development partners. A High Level Panel of Experts was also established to provide science-based knowledge to inform the

Committee's deliberations and decision making towards policy coherence and convergence. In these 45 years, and especially in the decade post-reform, CFS has produced Voluntary Guidelines on the right to food, on the responsible governance of the tenure of land, fisheries and forests, the principles for responsible investments in agriculture, and a framework for action in protracted crises. It has 14 sets of policy recommendations on a wide range of relevant topics from food loss and waste to the challenges of climate change which have been steadily improving the lives of the most food insecure as the Committee makes substantive contributions toward Zero Hunger and the other goals of the 2030 Agenda.

### ***Continúa en Español***

El 44.º período de sesiones del CSA produjo recomendaciones de políticas sobre la actividad forestal sostenible para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, complementando el plan estratégico de Naciones Unidas para los bosques. La Plenaria llamó a todos los actores a implementar la Convención de Naciones Unidas sobre la Eliminación de todas las Formas de Discriminación contra la Mujer, subrayando la recomendación 34 sobre los derechos de la mujer rural.

El 45.º período de sesiones del CSA aprobó términos de referencia para el que podría ser el más ambicioso proyecto del CSA hasta la fecha: negociar directrices voluntarias sobre nutrición y sistemas alimentarios a ser aprobadas en octubre de 2020. El reporte de alto nivel sobre este tema de complejidad extrema, desde ya es considerado como un magnífico bien público global y es referencia de un creciente número de publicaciones científicas.

El 46.º período de sesiones del CSA va celebrarse en esta casa en menos de cuatro meses, del 14 al 18 de octubre, continuará fomentando la aceptación, el seguimiento y el intercambio de experiencias y buenas prácticas sobre el uso y la aplicación de productos del Comité analizando su impacto en la lucha contra el hambre y todas las formas de malnutrición.

En particular, examinaremos las recomendaciones de políticas del CSA sobre agricultura de pequeña escala, al tiempo que expondremos la contribución del Comité a la Década de Acción de Naciones Unidas sobre la Agricultura Familiar, la cual fue lanzada el mes pasado aquí en la FAO. El 46.º período de sesiones del CSA también aprobará un programa de trabajo de cuatro años. Las negociaciones en curso indican que los miembros podrían abordar cuatro áreas principales: género, juventud, desigualdades y datos, incluyendo levantamiento y análisis.

### ***Continues in English***

The Committee on World Food Security is living up to its creed and conviction of inclusiveness as the most open and transparent platform in the international system. FAO, IFAD and WFP have agreed to become ex-officio and extra-quota members of the advisory group to the CFS Bureau.

This means that the three Rome-based Agencies will be permanent members of the Advisory Group (AG) and that the elected seats they occupied will be available for allocation to other stakeholders devoted to the fight against hunger and malnutrition. This innovation is especially welcome because the 2009 reform could not have included structures that had not yet emerged such as parliamentary fronts against hunger and regional Secretariats for social protection. Others along the value chain, including farmer groups and small and medium enterprises, are also missing from the Advisory Group.

I would like to conclude by referring to the most recent Report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), mentioned this morning by the Director-General, reflecting on the birth of CFS and the Committee's responsibility in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. The 2018 SOFI Report says that the number of people who cannot reliably produce or buy food is growing.

One in nine of our brothers and sisters have not eaten today and do not know where their next meal is going to come from. The vast majority of the hungry and malnourished are, as we all know, women and children across the so-called Global South. SOFI, published jointly by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, also says that the main drivers of hunger and malnutrition are human-made armed conflicts and climate change and the migration flows they generate.

Forty-five years ago, our predecessors in government created CFS in response to a human-made crisis that was spinning out of control. Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen the Committee's performance, rationalizing its work and budget with renewed commitment from all its Members. Do come to the 46th CFS Session in October. Only working together can we make hunger history.

**Mr Felipe Carlos ANTUNES (Brazil)**

We support the endorsement of the Reports of the 44<sup>th</sup> and the 45<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. Brazil attaches great importance to the works of the Committee which is the only multistakeholder body in the United Nations with a specific mandate on food security and nutrition.

Ten years ago, Brazil was at the forefront of the reform process of the Committee due to our standing conviction that the people most affected by food insecurity must have a sound voice in decision making processes regarding food and nutritional security. Today, we must all reaffirm our commitments to the CFS and to food security and nutrition, especially in light of the rapid increase of obesity in both poor and rich countries, and in an environment of lower pace of reduction of the other forms of malnutrition in the world.

Forty-five years after its creation, the CFS requires support from all countries to reinforce its role as an inclusive intergovernmental platform, crucial for the debate amongst all stakeholders to ensure food and nutrition security for all. In this context, we commend the ongoing process in the Open Ended Working Group on food systems and nutrition towards the construction of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

The Voluntary Guidelines embody the response to the call for concrete action to ensure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 2, by all countries and confirm that the CFS has a crucial role to play as a platform to foster dialogue and to promote policy convergence.

This work means that we must not change but reinforce the Committee's vision which is a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where countries implement the Voluntary Guidelines in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

**Mr Mohammad Jawad RANJBAR (Afghanistan)**

Afghanistan considers CFS 44 and CFS 45 successful multi-stakeholder meetings, thanks to the leadership provided by Ambassador Mario Arvelo and assisted by Members of the CFS Bureau, the Advisory Group and the CFS Secretariat.

On *Global Policy Matters*, CFS 44 made useful contributions by reporting on SDGs, nutrition, sustainable forestry and food security, the implications of urbanisation and rural transformation on food security and nutrition and women's empowerment.

In CFS 45, the Committee successfully completed a Plan of Action to implement the recommendations of the CFS evaluation, thanks to the efforts of the co-facilitators, Ms Jiani Tian of China and Mr Oliver Mellenthin of Germany, produced the Zero Draft on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and took decisions on CFS work streams.

In order to fulfill its mandate, CFS needs to pay greater attention to its comparative advantage, strengthen attraction between the Bureau Members and the Advisory Group, reduce its work stream to fit staff capacity and the financial resources available to the CFS Secretariat, strengthen its partnership with other potential stakeholders, build up the financial base of CFS and enhance the use of CFS products and recommendations and the HLPF Reports through the Rome-based Agencies as well as WHO and UNICEF. This way it can contribute to the achievement of Zero Hunger.

Afghanistan approves the Reports of CFS 44 and CFS 45.



**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

I am going to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

As the number of under- and malnourished people is growing, the mandate of the CFS is more relevant than ever. The rise of the challenges demonstrates that we need a strong, inclusive and focused CFS bringing together a wide range of stakeholders.

We underline the commitment to the CFS as expressed by its Membership in the context of the CFS evaluation. With regard to this important evaluation, we appreciate in particular the improved process for drawing up the four years' MYPOW (Multi-Year Programme of Work) to prioritise and streamline the CFS Work Programme.

We also stress the need to improve the visibility of the CFS. It is our shared responsibility to disseminate and implement CFS policies, recommendations, guidelines and principles at all levels. We call for a strong involvement of all CFS Members in this regard, including the monitoring and reporting on impacts at all implementation levels.

We welcome the achievements of the CFS over the last two years, in particular the policy recommendation on sustainable forestry and Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) and multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. Both policy recommendations were discussed on the basis of Reports prepared by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) which give them a sound scientific basis.

In 2018, the CFS also held an important global thematic event on the right to adequate food guidelines. Another important achievement was its contribution to the 2018 and 2019 HLPE reviews. These CFS outcomes arise from the commitment of all CFS stakeholders, in particular the Bureau and Advisory Group Members plus essential technical and financial support provided by the Rome-based Agencies and the CFS Secretariat, and we developed insights provided by the HLPE.

We reiterate the importance of providing interpretation at CFS meetings and translating CFS products in good time so as to guarantee full ownership and better implementation in all countries. We are looking forward to discussions around the HLPE Report on agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition and to the policy convergence process that will stem from this.

We are also looking forward to develop an ambitious 2020-2023 MYPOW and we stress the need to agree on these themes for the HLPE Reports for 2021 to 2023 during the next CFS Session.

Lastly, we have high expectations for and we are deeply committed to the ongoing work on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition which will support the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, while 821 million people worldwide are still undernourished and one of eight adults worldwide is obese and with undernutrition, overweight and obesity coexisting in many countries.

We encourage all the CFS stakeholders to engage with this crucial policy guidance work stream.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We attach great importance to the FAO Committee on World Food Security and we believe it to be an indispensable forum for discussing issues of food security and nutrition and the development of relevant recommendations with the participation of all stakeholders.

We also welcome the fact that in the work of the Committee, it includes the participation of all stakeholders, including NGOs and the private sector. But we believe it is also important to maintain the inter-governmental status of CFS and the prerogative of Member States to adopt decisions and undertake commitments.

We welcome the decision on the development of guidelines on food systems and nutrition. As far as we understand, this document should become a useful tool for countries as they develop relative national programmes. We are satisfied with the current process for the preparation of this document, which is being led by Ms Liliane Ortega.

We would like to note the importance of the adopted CFS recommendations on increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of its work and we would like to thank the facilitators for the preparation of this document.

Priorities for us include a rational approach to the choice of workstreams, their alignment with the mandate and comparative advantages of the CFS, the need to appropriately plan the workload of the Members of the Committee during the intersessional Session and the rational use of financial resources.

Please allow me to also note the importance of the current intersessional work of the Programme of Work of the CFS for 2020-2023 under the leadership of the Chair of the CFS, Mr Arvelo. We call for a reduction in the number of workstreams of the Committee to increase the quality of the recommendations. We also believe it is important for the Committee to work in strict alignment with its mandate and not go beyond its mandate into other areas where it does not have the corresponding expertise. Such activities could also lead to duplication of work with other UN System Organizations.

In conclusion, I would like to support the Chair of the CFS in his work to strive to reach consensus in the work of the Committee. We are open to dialogue and we hope that all decisions that will be adopted in October of this year will be developed and adopted on the basis of taking into account the opinions of all Member States.

**Mr Don SYME (New Zealand)**

I would like to start by stressing that New Zealand values the CFS as an important multi-stakeholder forum that assists us to work together to ensure food security and nutrition. The CFS is a crucial entry point for the private sector, civil society and a range of other groups with a mutual interest in ensuring food security at local, regional and international levels.

As stated by others, such a collaborative approach is unique to CFS and given the significant challenges we face in fighting world hunger, we need to encourage everyone who wants to contribute to participate and advise us as CFS members.

In this light we encourage the CFS to further increase the representativeness of its Advisory Group to ensure that we have the maximum number of important contributors to fight global hunger, including through contributing their technical expertise and funding for CFS work.

Central to CFS's work is the important analysis and advice of the High Level Panel of Experts which provides part of the evidence base for CFS guidelines and recommendations for Members.

A major challenge we need to work on together is to increase the visibility of CFS outside of Rome, allowing for the participation of a wider range of groups and the CFS will also help in this regard. Over the last year we have appreciated the efforts of the CFS to be better represented at the technical meetings of FAO and in their Work Programmes.

We welcomed the evaluation of the CFS and hope that its implementation will assist in making improvements in the CFS process where gaps and issues have been found. Particularly useful is the focus on CFS's niche role and on processes for ensuring that there is a stronger strategic direction in the process of developing HLPE and CFS products within the resourcing constraints that we have and then ensuring their take-up outside of Rome.

**Ms Madeleine KAUFMANN (Switzerland)**

The Committee on World Food Security is the main intergovernmental and global multi-stakeholder platform on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. It has much to offer in the context of Agenda 2030.

Given its unique position, Switzerland has been a strong supporter of the CFS. Switzerland wishes to comment on three of the points that the CFS brings to the attention of the Conference.

First, the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition are an opportunity to advance the status quo based on the existing international initiatives such as the ICN2 Framework of Action. But they will only add value if they systemically address the nexus issues between food security, nutrition

and sustainable food production along the entire value chain. By linking these issues, the Voluntary Guidelines will open pathways to more sustainable diets that are healthy for both human beings and the planet.

Second, multi-stakeholder partnerships are an important tool to accelerate both the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to transition toward more sustainable food systems. Switzerland is a member of different multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the UN One Planet Network, the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, the Mountain Partnership and the Global Soil Partnership. Therefore, we acknowledge with appreciation the HLPE Report on multistakeholder partnerships. This Report is a highly valuable contribution to all workstreams in CFS.

Third, we welcome the regular monitoring events that give a snapshot on the impact of CFS products on the ground. The discussion on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food in CFS 45 was rich in content and brought valuable insights. We regret that the Report of CFS 45 does not provide us with any such insights into the substance of the discussion.

We propose that the Conference invites CFS to include discussion summaries in future reports of such monitoring events. With these comments we can support the adoption of the Reports of CFS 44 and CFS 45.

**Sr. Luis Fernando CECILIANO PIEDRA (Costa Rica)**

Agradecemos al señor Embajador Arvelo por la presentación de los documentos números 19 y 20. Mi delegación quisiera centrar su intervención en los alcances de la respuesta a la evaluación independiente del Comité, presentada en el 44.º período de sesiones, y especialmente en aquello que atañe la necesidad de mantener una conexión con la Agenda 2030 y de contar con un enfoque a más largo plazo y más estratégico, así como a la responsabilidad de todas las partes interesadas, incluidas la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA, para que los productos del CSA se puedan conocer a nivel nacional. Esto último es de capital importancia para Costa Rica y para que las tres agencias con sede en Roma sigan colaborando con nuestros gobiernos en la difusión de los productos del Comité.

Evidentemente, la estrategia de comunicación que la Secretaría está preparando diligentemente será decisiva para que podamos alcanzar este propósito. Creemos que la implementación de esa respuesta a la evaluación presentada en el 45.º período de sesiones y que, dicho sea de paso, reconoce explícitamente que el documento de reforma de 2009 sigue siendo la piedra angular de que la labor del CSA va en la dirección correcta. Un plan de trabajo plurianual a cuatro años, con líneas de trabajo innovadoras y definidas, una menor cantidad de reuniones y un compromiso renovado de todos los miembros del grupo asesor.

Quisiéramos también, felicitar la consistencia y la relevancia que ha alcanzado la línea de trabajo sobre nutrición, expresada hoy en el proceso inclusivo para la preparación de las directrices voluntarias sobre sistemas alimentarios y nutrición que se presentarán el próximo año, en el 47.º período de sesiones y que serán una importante herramienta para las distintas partes interesadas en sistemas alimentarios sostenibles y en dietas sostenibles. Con estos comentarios apoyamos la adopción de este Informe.

**Mme Isabelle OUIILLON (France)**

Je tiens tout d'abord à soutenir la déclaration faite au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres. La France souhaite rappeler l'importance qu'elle attache au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), à son travail et sa collégialité.

C'est grâce à cette intelligence collective que les produits du CSA sont et continueront à être pertinents, et qu'ils pourront bénéficier d'une forte appropriation de la part de l'ensemble des acteurs impliqués dans la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition. La France tient à saluer le travail effectué par le Comité cette année pour l'élaboration de lignes directrices politiques sur la nutrition et les systèmes alimentaires. Ce thème crucial fait l'objet de fortes attentes au moment où la faim et la malnutrition progressent en même temps que l'obésité et les maladies non-transmissibles.

La France se réjouit également de participer aux discussions qui vont avoir lieu sur la base des travaux du rapport, du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau (HLPE) sur les approches agroécologiques, les autres innovations pour une agriculture durable et des systèmes alimentaires qui améliorent la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Nous savons compter sur les membres du CSA pour mener à bien le processus de convergence politique qui découlera de ce rapport et de ces discussions. La France confirme également son engagement à travailler lors de la prochaine session du CSA à la définition d'un MYPOW - programme de travail pluriannuel stratégique - 2020-2023 ambitieux, et à déterminer les termes des rapports du HLPE pour 2021 jusqu'à 2023.

**M. Jorge José FIGUEIREDO GONÇALVES (Cabo Verde)**

Déclaration au nom de la communauté des pays de langue portugaise (CPLP).

Cabo Verde, en sa qualité de Président en exercice de la Communauté des pays de langue portugaise, présente cette déclaration au nom du Groupe pour dire que c'est un plaisir et un honneur de partager les efforts considérables déployés pour la mise en place et la construction de mécanismes de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition, ainsi que pour la visibilité et la promotion de l'agriculture familiale au sein de notre communauté.

Récemment, les directives régionales pour le soutien et la promotion de l'agriculture familiale de la CPLP, les premières directives régionales pour la promotion de l'agriculture familiale, ont été approuvées à l'unanimité. Des progrès significatifs ont été accomplis, de même qu'une forte volonté de discrimination positive dans l'agriculture familiale, mais les instruments juridiques qui obligent les États à être reconnus et protégés sont encore insuffisants, et des mécanismes de sensibilisation et de soutien sont nécessaires.

Le Groupe de travail de la Communauté des pays de langue portugaise sur la nutrition et les systèmes alimentaires mènera les actions suivantes pendant une période de deux ans: renforcer la discussion sur la nutrition et les systèmes alimentaires; élaborer des directives pour la promotion de la nutrition et de systèmes alimentaires durables; promouvoir les capacités des communautés rurales dans l'utilisation des ressources naturelles pour des aliments nutritifs, produits localement, et diversification des produits locaux; contribuer à la rédaction des directives volontaires sur les systèmes alimentaires et la nutrition du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), qui seront adoptées en octobre 2020; positionnement nutritionnel au centre de la discussion sur les processus de production, d'approvisionnement, de commercialisation et de consommation alimentaire; renforcer les politiques publiques intersectorielles pour améliorer la situation nutritionnelle par le biais d'achats locaux pour l'alimentation scolaire et de politiques de protection sociale visant à renforcer l'agriculture familiale, entre autres.

C'est ainsi que le Groupe de la CPLP entend contribuer à l'éradication de la faim et de toute les formes de malnutrition dans nos pays.

**Ms Maria Esperança PIRES DOS SANTOS (Angola)**

Angola would like to support the statement made by Cabo Verde on behalf of the Portuguese-speaking community and, on the other hand, would also like to support the statement made by Congo on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have enjoyed hearing your thoughts on the Reports of the CFS but also your thoughts on ongoing processes, the preparations and advice for the next meeting of CFS. I am sure that the Chair of the CFS has taken on board the points that have been made about avoiding duplication, the importance of consensus, the importance of including discussion summaries and the various other recommendations and advice that we have received on the forward-looking work of CFS.

I have not heard any issues or questions, other than the question about the timing of the Report, the documentation, and I might ask the Secretary to provide some reassurance for Members on that point.

**Mr Chirs HEGADORN (Secretary of the Committee on World Food Security)**

Simply to recognize the motion and the request made, we will do everything in our power to get the documents out in all languages, on time, and with the highest quality we are capable of.

**Mr Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security)**

I would like to verify what the Secretary has just said about documentation, and to thank all those that intervened, reminding everyone about the importance of CFS, what we do, the work that we develop, and the policy products that come from this great work of having all Member States and all the stakeholders sitting together as equal partners.

That leads me to a point made by the Russian Federation and I would like to reassure them and reassure everyone that CFS was, is, remains and will always be an intergovernmental Committee and a consequence of that is that all decisions are made exclusively by Member States.

We sit together with civil society, the private sector and all others as equal partners for all the discussions and the negotiations but the decision-making is done exclusively by Member States.

I would also like to underline very quickly that I heard many Members speak about the need for recommitment to the work and the goals of the CFS, especially in light of the challenges of the 2030 Agenda because the SOFA Report is very clear about that. We are off-track from reaching Zero Hunger and, as Graça Machel reminded us on Saturday, it is in our hands as governments and stakeholders to make it happen, SDG 2 and all of the other components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to propose my conclusion for this discussion and this item. The conclusion I propose is as follows.

The Conference endorsed the Reports of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security, and encouraged the use of CFS products by all stakeholders.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*The meeting rose at 20:09*

*La séance a été levée à 20 h 09*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 20 :09*



# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019</b>
<b>THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</b>
<b>25 June 2019</b>

The Third Meeting was opened at 9:39 hours  
Ms Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 9 h 39  
sous la présidence de Mme Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 9:39  
bajo la presidencia del Sra. Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Presidente de la Comisión I





**CHAIRPERSON**

I am very pleased to call this Third Meeting of Commission I to order.

**Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands)**

This is a point of order. I very much appreciate the work under your guidance yesterday. The Netherlands is a strong supporter of the multilateral system. We are an even stronger supporter of the three Rome-based Agencies and certainly the work of FAO. We need to step up our efforts to achieve Zero Hunger.

That is why not only the Commission and the work which we are doing in this Commission is so important but we also know that we can only achieve Zero Hunger if we work closely with the private sector, NGOs and civil society.

At the beginning of and before the Conference, we had made an agreement that we would have only a couple of side events which would be held in the official meetings. And the side events would be only for one hour so they could not interfere with our official programme. Although I like making a lot of progress, I think we should also respect those who put a lot of effort into organising the side events.

Yesterday we had a crucial side event on youth. In many of the statements on Sunday but also yesterday in Plenary, many of our Ministers referred to how important it is to get the youth involved in our work in our implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Yesterday as I said, we had a youth event organised by the youth and for the youth, but unfortunately you did not break the Session to give us all the opportunity for one hour to listen to the voices of the youth. We cannot repair that, but I would like to ask you to obey our agreement that we will break the Session at least for side events for one hour.

This evening we have an important side event on biodiversity and we saw yesterday in this Commission how important we all think mainstreaming biodiversity is. I would really like to ask you and the Members of Commission I to pay due respect to those who came to Rome to address us, to help us to do our work and implement our work.

I would also like to ask you to give five minutes to the Netherlands today to let the voices of the youth be heard at the end of this meeting. Because I know the rules of procedure, it will be the Netherlands who will be speaking, but they, on behalf of the Netherlands, will address this room. I think it is important to listen to them, because yesterday the informal Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Youth Council was launched and I think we need to hear them many more times. Some of us were there, many of you were not there, but I hope that at least we can repair a little through listening to the voice of the youth.

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

I fully support this suggestion by the Netherlands. In fact, the Youth Council was launched yesterday with a company that is thoroughly convinced that that is the way we should begin to go now, donating some amount of money as the seed money. We saw vibrant youth trying to tell us that they can use the available technology for them and for us, to get the Zero Hunger assignment completed and Agenda 2030 done.

If we look at the population of youth, and consider that they can be fully engaged, empowered and encouraged, they will help us solve these problems. A good example is the demonstrations all over the world where youth are rising up to the issue of climate change. I think that is the way we should go.

One of them did say to us that some rules were passed in a given country, and it is the youth through their network that were able to make the government reverse such adverse decisions. They have the power. They have the strength. But they also need a platform which we, as the older ones, can provide them with.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let me respond briefly. It was a difficult decision yesterday to continue with the Session through the side event break from 5:30 to 6:30.

I did consult with Members and the Secretariat before doing that and was advised that it was allowed. But of course, the rationale for it was the issue of quorum. It took us 15 minutes this morning to reach quorum and my fear was that if we left it would be very difficult to reach a quorum yesterday evening and indeed I think we all remember the situation that happened in the Committee for World Food Security (CFS) last year where an evening session was called which ultimately had to be cancelled because no quorum could be reached. I was keen to avoid that which was the rationale for the approach yesterday.

I recognize that it meant that many of those who were here were not able to attend the side event and certainly I will consult with the Secretariat about your request for five minutes to hear back from the youth at that side event. We will confirm either at the end of the session this morning or soon afterwards about plans to do that.

**Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands)**

Thank you very much. Of course it is important that you consult with the Secretariat, but I think it is a decision of the Commission, whether or not this time would be granted to the Netherlands for the portion. I think it should be done today, because what I understand is that you are going to finish the work of Commission I today, and we will ask that it be reflected in the Report. I think it is very important that we have those five minutes. It is only five minutes today before you break for the Drafting Committee.

**Item 20. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme**  
**Point 20. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO**  
**Tema 20. Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO**  
*(C 2019/INF/9; C 2019/INF/10)*

**CHAIRPERSON**

With that I would like to continue with today's business. The first item on today's Agenda is Item 20, *the United Nations/FAO World Food Programme*, and specifically we will review the 2016 and 2017 Annual Reports of the WFP Executive Board to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to the FAO Council. Those Reports are found in document C 2019/INF/9 and C 2019/INF/10.

I would now like to invite Ms Jane Pearce, Director of Performance Management and Monitoring at WFP, to introduce the Item.

**Ms Jane PEARCE (Director of Performance Management and Monitoring at WFP)**

It is a pleasure to be here today to provide an overview of WFP's results in 2016 and 2017. This presentation reflects the findings of the two *Annual Performance Reports* which were discussed and endorsed by WFP's Executive Board during our annual sessions in June of 2017 and 2018.

As you are aware, based on guidance of the QCPR, WFP has mainstreamed reporting on the implementation into its *Annual Performance Report (APR)* beginning in 2013. Our APRs therefore now integrate the reporting streams previously presented separately to FAO and to ECOSOC. The APR is WFP's primary accountability tool to demonstrate the Organization's performance by assessing WFP's progress towards programme and management performance across country offices, regional bureaus and headquarters. The Report demonstrates the difference WFP makes in the lives of the people it serves and reflects on the challenges faced and lessons learned across the year.

In 2016 and 2017, the Reports analysed WFP's response to what must count as two of the most challenging years in our history. The evidence demonstrates that WFP was able to rise to that challenge by making strong progress against results. This would not have been possible without the support provided by WFP's Executive Board and donors for the span of initiatives designed to

strengthen the Organization over past years. Organizational strengthening has enabled WFP to face the global context with an improved set of programmatic and financial tools.

Moreover, these two years covered a major transition period. 2016 was the last year of WFP's previous Strategic Plan and 2017 the first year of our new plan. This introduced a new corporate results framework and a new financial framework.

This was reflected through the rollout of the change process we called the Integrated Road Map. This includes a shift from progress operations to country strategic plans and along with this change, new features such as resource requirements and analysis of funding gaps included in the Report from 2017.

WFP has been able to pursue our goals with the generous support of our resource partners. The aggregate contributions in the last three years were the highest in our history with a record USD 6 billion received in 2017. However, the needs continue to grow faster than our resources, with no signs of complex conflicts and climate-driven emergencies receding. As one might expect, these results have demonstrated WFP's success in addressing the lifesaving needs of women, men, boys and girls caught up in emergencies, preparing communities to withstand disasters and restoring livelihoods in post-crisis environments.

In 2016, WFP assisted 84 million beneficiaries and in 2017, 91 million. In both 2016 and 2017 the number of complex emergencies and the scale of the required humanitarian response was unprecedented. During these two years WFP responded to eight Level 3 and six Level 2 emergencies.

In comparison, only four years earlier WFP was responding to a single Level 3 for most of the year and that was related to the Syrian Arab Republic and the countries neighbouring it. This significantly stretched WFP's resources and capacity to respond to the emergencies. For example, Level 3 and Level 2 emergencies in 2017 accounted for 68 percent of the total Programme of Work.

These Reports describe many interesting aspects of WFP's work. Let me mention just a few today. One is the expansion of cash-based transfer (CBT) programmes. Providing cash is a powerful and flexible tool to fight hunger. It gives people more choice and access to a more diversified diet whilst stimulating local economies. The use of cash-based transfers has increased dramatically.

In 2016, 14 million people received USD 880 million. In 2017, growth in the use of CBTs in our operations continued with a record 19.2 million people receiving USD 1.4 billion. This value represents an increase of more than 60 percent from 2016, demonstrating remarkable growth since 2010 when CBT's stood at just USD 60 million. The cash-based transfers accounted for a large percentage of the increases in transfer values over the past few years and constituted roughly 34 percent of the total transfers in 2017.

Another aspect is the nutritional value of the food we deliver through our programmes which remains an organizational priority. Malnutrition was averted or treated for 11 million children and 5 million pregnant and nursing women in 2017, an increase from 2016.

I would also like to recognize several initiatives on partnerships, particularly Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration. The year 2017 marked a new area for collaboration amongst the Rome-based Agencies. The Director-General of FAO, the President of IFAD and the Executive Director of WFP are fully committed to finding new and innovative ways of working together to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Rome-based Agencies have agreed to promote and explore geographic and thematic areas in which collaboration can be advanced at the country, regional, or global levels to support national governments in their effort to end hunger.

The RBAs collaborated in a wide range of thematic areas and working groups combining knowledge and providing added value to initiatives based on the SDGs. Areas of collaboration included climate change, data and statistics, emergency response, food losses and waste, gender equality, nutrition, support to smallholder farmers, resilience, social protection and South-South Cooperation.

Finally, it is worth noting that the 2017 Report concludes with lessons from WFP's operations during the year as well as a synopsis of the way forward. The lessons focus on the implementation of the

Integrated Road Map. We continued to collect lessons to make further improvements knowing that 2018 are transition years, as the country operations are shifting over to our country Strategic Plans.

I would like to reiterate that the WFP Executive Board welcomed the Reports and provided valuable feedback, as always, to further improve WFPs corporate reporting efforts and continue to address monitoring challenges at the field level.

**Mr Salah Yousef Ahmed AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)**

We would like to wish everybody an excellent day and express our enormous gratitude to the World Food Programme for all of the effort and work it carries out in the regions, with special thanks to Mr David Beasley, the Executive Director, and all the staff of the programme. We would also like to thank Ms Sarah Gordon-Gibson who is the staff officer responsible for the Jordan office. Jordan is suffering a great deal from the crisis afflicting the region, especially the Syrian refugee crisis.

We would like to welcome this Report submitted today by the WFP and we hope to see the WFP continuing to provide its support and assistance to developing countries, especially those experiencing protracted crises.

I have two questions. The Jordanian Government has adopted an emergency Action Plan to deal with the Syrian crisis in 2019 to the tune of USD 2 million and it is having a major impact on the Jordanian economy. We hope to receive your assistance and we hope to be able to count on your assistance.

The second question. We would like to see the Programme taking on board the question of combating poverty with joint participation of the Jordanian Government in order to carry out social protection between 2019 and 2021 to the tune of some USD 300 million. There is a particular programme in the WFP called the Feeding Programme and we would like that programme to be developed by the WFP so that we receive its efficient assistance.

**Mr Normando Xavier DE SOUSA (Brazil)**

Our appreciation to Director Jane Pearce for her comprehensive presentation. I think that the steady confidence of the international community in the World Food Programme can be attested by the growing amount of voluntary contributions managed by the Organization which has increased from USD 5.8 billion in 2016 to USD 6 billion in 2017, reaching a peak of USD 7.2 billion last year. This has allowed the Organization to assist more than 86 million people in 2019 who have benefitted from measures such as food distribution, school feeding and cash-based transfers.

Therefore, we are pleased to verify that despite the worsening global food security situation, the World Food Programme continues to make a difference to the lives of millions of people. Brazil believes the Organization continues to move in the right path.

Today, based on the clear nexus between food security and development, the role of the World Food Programme has evolved beyond humanitarian assistance, to encompassing a development factor and helping populations deal with the root causes of food security.

In this regard, Brazil considers it is pivotal that the World Food Programme continue its actions to foster development, supporting programmes such as the School Feeding Programmes, the bi-local initiatives and the actions to promote family farming.

Finally, Brazil would also like to call the attention of the World Food Programme and its Members to the middle-income countries. We are aware that the resources are limited, but to foster the continuous development of middle-income countries is the best way to prevent them to revert to underdevelopment, and in some situations, can be considered an investment to avoid humanitarian crises in the future.

**Ms Ekaterina NOSKOVA (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We would like to highlight the leading role of WFP in international collective efforts in the field of humanitarian response in development. We commend the Programme's activities and its management over the period under report against the backdrop of a sharply increased number in humanitarian crises in the world and the growth of resource requirements for WFP, now estimated at some

USD 10 billion. We welcome the latest record achieved in 2018 for donor support to the tune of USD 7.35 billion.

We note the leading position of this humanitarian agency among the operative agencies of the UN for fieldwork and the programme is quickly and efficiently responding to acute humanitarian crises caused by natural disasters, manmade disasters and armed conflicts. We would like to stress that work in emergencies must remain a priority area of the activities of the WFP and here we feel that strict compliance by it and the Member States, compliance with the apolitical and impartial nature of the work and fundamental humanitarian principles, guarantees its successful functioning.

We highly commend the efforts of the Programme to diversify innovative mechanisms for providing financial support to populations in order to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in the world, such as vouchers, cash-based transfers and purchases from local farmers.

Our cooperation with the WFP possesses a sustained and positive dynamic. We note with satisfaction that in April of this year, there was the signature in Rome of the Agreement on Strategic Partnership between the Russian Federation government and the WFP for 2019 to 2022. This document lays down the main areas of work and the parameters of our bilateral cooperation for the medium term.

We trust that the partnership relations will make it possible to bring about not only a quantitative but also qualitative growth in our joint activities and diversify the geographical spread and forms of our cooperation, including in significant and proven areas such as School Feeding, equipping the WFPs vehicle stock with Kamaz vehicles purchased for progress from local farmers and the innovative projects involving debt for development swaps.

We approve the Reports of the WFP's activities for 2016 and 2017 submitted to ECOSOC and the FAO Council and call on other delegations to support them.

**Sr. José Luis DELGADO CRESPO (México)**

México agradece este Informe y desea felicitar al PMA por su labor humanitaria y en favor del Hambre Cero y de la Agenda 2030. También reconocemos la rápida respuesta del programa a situaciones de emergencia humanitarias, así como sus labores logísticas. Hacemos un llamado a que el PMA ponga más énfasis en labores de prevención y resiliencia ante desastres, en continuar desarrollando mayores eficiencias así como reforzar sus innovaciones tecnológicas. Finalmente, felicitamos al PMA por su trabajo en circunstancias difíciles, tanto en situaciones de emergencia de gran envergadura como en crisis de larga duración.

**Mme Wafaa AL-DIQA (Liban) (Original language Arabic)**

Nous apprécions le rôle important joué par le PAM à travers les différents programmes et projets exécutés au Liban dans le cadre du Plan libanais en réponse à la crise des réfugiés syriens. Le chiffre total des ressources allouées s'élevait à 1,2 millions d'USD en 2018, c'est ce que nous avons reçu, alors que les besoins s'élèvent à 2,7 millions d'USD et 25 pour cent de cette aide concerne uniquement la sécurité alimentaire.

En ce qui concerne le secteur agricole, les initiatives et les aides, qui ont été reçues par les sociétés libanaises de la part des pays, n'ont pas été suffisantes pour mettre fin aux répercussions étendues de cette crise sur les communautés d'accueil, qui ont elles-mêmes leurs propres problèmes de nature structurelle et de par la fragilité de leurs infrastructures. C'est pourquoi nous comptons recevoir des aides accrues qui correspondent aux besoins croissants des réfugiés syriens et de ceux qui les accueillent au Liban.

**Mr Song Ho SO (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)**

I believe that the Report submitted to this Commission by the WFP concerning its activities in 2016 and 2017 has offered an excellent insight into the details of its work. During this period WFP has successfully implemented its food assistance activities, focusing on its Strategic Objectives to reduce global hunger and poverty, ensure food security and improve nutrition in keeping with the humanitarian mandate and objectives of the Organization.

WFP promptly responded to the emergency needs of the countries affected by natural disasters, conflicts and violence in several parts of the world, making great contributions to stabilising the livelihoods of the affected people and their recovery and reconstruction.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to Mr David Beasley, the Executive Director of the WFP and other WFP staff as well as the traditional donor countries such as Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, the Russian Federation etc. for their sincere support to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will continue to closely cooperate with the WFP for the successful implementation of the new Interim Country Strategic Plan which was approved in the WFP Executive Board Meeting in February this year.

**Ms Jane PEARCE (Director of Performance Management and Monitoring at WFP)**

Thank you all very much for the compliments. We certainly appreciate them and I will be passing on the compliments I have received to the Executive Director and to our staff in general.

In particular, allow me to address the question from Jordan and thank you again for the compliment for Ms Sarah Gordon-Gibson and I will definitely be passing that back on to her. I will also pass back the comments that you have made today and we will of course encourage her to work with you on the School Feeding Programme and also on the Social Protection Programme. That falls within the realm of the Country Office, but we will certainly put our resources from headquarters in our Bureau towards the programme in Jordan with Sarah.

We also note that you have a Country Strategic Programme coming up for approval in November and that will emphasise very much the things that you have said today, so thank you very much.

The same goes for our colleague from Lebanon. I will pass the information today and ask them to continue to work with you. We have heard from a number of delegations today about the request for us to move more towards school feeding and the work on the nexus between resilience and development.

This really lies at the core of our new Strategic Plan and the emphasis the Organization is placing on these areas are very high on our agenda and we are very happy to continue the dialogue through our Annual Reports and also through other interactions with WFP.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The Conference endorses the Annual Reports of the World Food Programme (WFP), Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and FAO on its activities in 2016 and 2017 and commended WFP staff for their dedicated work in challenging circumstances.

**Item 14. Evaluation of FAO's Work on Gender**

**Point 14. Évaluation des activités de la FAO en matière de parité hommes-femmes**

**Tema 14. Evaluación de la labor de la FAO sobre cuestiones de género**

(C 2019/27 / C 2019/27 Sup.1)

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to begin with Item 14, *Evaluation of FAO's Work on Gender*. You can find the evaluation and management response to it in document C 2019/27 and C 2019/27 Sup.1. These documents were previously reviewed by the Programme Committee and Council earlier this Spring and I now give the floor to Mr Masahiro Igarashi, the Director of the Office of Evaluation, to give us a short presentation.

**Mr Masahiro IGARASHI (Director of the Office of Evaluation)**

This Evaluation of FAO's Work on Gender was presented to the Programme Committee and endorsed by the Council. The document in front of you is a summary Report of this evaluation.

Let me briefly give the gist of what the Evaluation Report says. The FAO Policy on Gender Equality of 2013 provided the framework for FAO to integrate a gender dimension into its work. It allowed FAO to make progress to this end.

While there was a shared understanding of the need to mainstream gender at the policy level, bringing it to the actual work in the field was a challenge. FAO is a technical agency. Many of FAO's technical officers found it difficult to understand what gender mainstreaming actually means in their work on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and so on.

Notwithstanding, the evaluation found some good examples on how gender mainstreaming was done, particularly at the community level. With the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment Programme for instance, implemented in a number of countries, we found that women became more economically empowered and politically active in rural settings. The Livelihood and Food Security Programme implemented the Gender Action Learning System, a gender-based tool to enhance food and nutrition security. In the next phase, FAO will continue its effort to share such good examples and build the capacity of its technical experts to understand how to mainstream gender.

The evaluation also found that at the country level, national commitment is critical in making progress in gender equality. FAO cannot make such social and behavioural changes alone. What it can do is to use its entry points in rural development and agriculture to advocate and instigate change.

The evaluation also reviewed the Policy on Gender Equality and conducted benchmark studies with other agencies. While the policy was found relevant, some of its contents, such as minimum standards, need to be updated based on the experience so far and reflecting the 2030 Agenda of the UN Development System, and the most recent UN system-wide assessment tool, UN-SWAP/2.

In this context of UN Reform of the Development System, we need to look at our support to Member States in a broader UN System context. We are initiating the evaluation of SDG 2, much the focus of this Conference, in collaboration with other agencies.

In such topics as gender and climate change that we are going to evaluate in the future, we also need to look at them more horizontally across the UN system rather than only focusing on the agency support. In this context, we are very happy to continue the collaboration and consultation with Member States, including re-evaluating the Evaluation Policy of FAO to work together in this regard.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I will now give the floor to Mr Máximo Torero, Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Development, to provide us with a brief outline of the management response to the evaluation.

#### **Mr Máximo TORERO (Assistant Director-General of Economic and Social Development)**

FAO management was very pleased with the evaluation as it confirmed the validity of FAO's Policy on Gender Equality as an overarching framework to guide the gender work in the Organization.

As recommended by the evaluation, the policy will be updated to ensure alignment with the SDG framework and the UN-SWAP/2 and to reflect internal changes that have occurred within the Organization's endorsement.

To follow up on the evaluation, FAO will also develop, by 2020, an Action Plan with medium-term gender outputs and targets to better link the planning and reporting of the technical work carried out under the Strategic Framework with the gender equality Objective as stated in the Policy.

Management also agreed that FAO should enhance its partnership with key actors working on gender and agriculture, such as IFAD, UN Development Programme, UN-Women, UNICEF and WFP, including through the exchange of good practice and lessons learned. This will extend, of course, outside the RBAs and the UN world.

Management also welcomes the recommendation to reinforce the capacity of FAO's staff toward gender dimensions, particularly through the customers' advice and support from gender officers and gender focal points, and to strengthen the accountability of senior management on the implementation of gender-related work. A strong accountability framework will be put in place to ensure that we have the effects and impacts that were requested.

Finally, FAO has also agreed to review and strengthen institutional mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on general achievements, particularly at the country level.

**Ms Isabella SWIFT (Australia)**

Australia recognises that women play an indispensable role in the Zero Hunger challenge. In our region we recognize that we cannot overcome the triple burden of malnutrition if we do not invest in rural women's socio-economic empowerment using nutrition-sensitive approaches.

We acknowledge that FAO can play a critical role in transforming gender relations, empowering women and promoting women's leadership in the agriculture sector. This is particularly the case in the context of rural transformation and increasing feminisation of agriculture. For example, FAO's efforts to work with partner governments on land tenure reforms and labour revisions can lead to large-scale and transformative change for women.

We acknowledge the efforts in undertaking this evaluation. We welcome the recommendations and look forward to their implementation, particularly the development of a new Gender Policy. For the new Gender Policy we encourage further efforts to place gender equality and women's empowerment at the core of FAO's programming. We encourage robust internal corporate efforts to achieve gender parity in senior leadership and technical positions in headquarters, regional bureaus and country offices. These will allow synergies with gender equality efforts in programmes.

We encourage an increase in funding for targeted actions aimed at improving gender equality and women's empowerment and we encourage FAO to work with and learn from a range of partners to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

**Ms Jennifer FELLOWS (Canada)**

Canada very much appreciates and welcomes the work of the Evaluation division in performing this evaluation and appreciates the valuable information that has been provided through it. Canada also appreciates management's constructive engagement in the process and its agreement to take on board the recommendations.

In Canada's view, gender mainstreaming and work related to women and girls is key to achieving the SDGs and we consider the gender mainstreaming work of the FAO as a critical element of all of our collective efforts in this area. We support the recommendations outlined and look forward to seeing them implemented.

We note in particular the importance of updating the Policy and of developing the Action Plan. In this regard, we also note the Programme Committee Reports timelines that were identified for these two activities of December 2019 for the updated Policy and November 2020 for the Action Plan, and we look forward to reviewing those at that time.

We also note the importance of outputs and indicators that was part of the recommendations and we look forward to those. We note the importance of ensuring compatibility between what FAO does and work at the broader UN-level including the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

**Mme Wafaa AL-DIQA (Liban) (Langue originale arabe)**

Nous accueillons favorablement ce rapport concernant l'évaluation des activités de l'Organisation en matière de parité hommes-femmes. Nous suivons avec intérêt toutes les décisions prises par l'Organisation et les actions qui en découlent pour renforcer la parité hommes-femmes dans l'exécution des programmes et les projets dans les pays.

Un fait a attiré mon attention, car les connaissances produites par l'Organisation sont rarement utilisées par les États Membres ou semblent rester dans des documents à l'état purement théorique; il semble également qu'il y ait une mauvaise compréhension de l'aspect social des questions de parité hommes-femmes.

Nous accueillons favorablement ces recommandations, mais souhaiterions que l'Organisation explicite de manière pratique ce qu'elle compte mettre en place pour tirer profit de tout ce savoir produit au sein de l'Organisation, en vue de réaliser concrètement la parité hommes-femmes.



**Mme Halimatou TRAORE KONE (Mali)**

Le Mali prononce cette déclaration au nom du Groupe régional Afrique. Cette déclaration a été préparée par Le Tchad et le Mali.

Le Groupe régional Afrique remercie la FAO pour la qualité des documents relatifs à l'évaluation des activités de la FAO en matière de parité hommes-femmes.

La FAO a fait une analyse assez critique de ses activités en matière de parité hommes-femmes. Elle a contribué à l'élaboration de politiques et de stratégies pour le développement rural attentives à la parité hommes-femmes, en jouant un rôle important dans le plaidoyer en faveur de l'égalité des sexes dans les forums de haut niveau et en favorisant l'autonomisation des femmes. Cependant, le rapport précise que d'importantes lacunes et difficultés persistent, qu'il convient d'éliminer avec une action collective. Permettez-moi de faire part de nos questionnements sur certains points.

En ce qui concerne le point 13 sur la méthodologie de l'étude, nous observons que 13 pays et 500 documents ont fait l'objet de l'analyse avec un échantillon de 700 personnes. Nous estimons que cela n'est pas représentatif. Cependant, le résultat obtenu mentionne tout de même une certaine lacune dans le domaine de la parité hommes-femmes.

Au point 20, le rapport note la difficulté d'intégrer la parité hommes-femmes dans la planification et le suivi des interventions au niveau des bureaux de terrain. Le Groupe régional Afrique note que la parité hommes-femmes doit être un principe aussi bien au niveau central qu'au niveau des bureaux de terrain de la FAO. Le Groupe régional Afrique, encourage les pays à intégrer dans leurs plans d'investissements agricoles, le volet de la parité hommes-femmes, comme l'ont déjà fait certains pays.

Au point 21, nous constatons que compte tenu de toutes les lacunes observées sur les points de contacts hommes-femmes, en termes de disponibilité, d'expérience et de compétence technique, le Groupe demande à la FAO de désigner des points de contact spécialisés et disponibles dans toutes les sphères.

Au point 28, le Groupe félicite la FAO pour la tenue d'ateliers de formation dans les bureaux régionaux à l'intention des points de contact sur la question de parité hommes-femmes et l'encourage à faire la duplication de ces formations aussi souvent que possible.

Le Groupe souhaite que, lors du déploiement du personnel, la FAO tienne compte de la spécificité des agents qui s'occupent du volet de parité hommes-femmes, et s'assure que l'activité de formation en matière de parité hommes-femmes bénéficie d'une attention particulière.

Le Groupe partage l'avis que l'expérience de la FAO dans le milieu rural la place dans une position idéale pour jouer un rôle clé dans le traitement des questions de parité. C'est ainsi que le Groupe demande à la FAO d'utiliser sa suprématie comme acteur de promotion de l'agriculture dans le milieu rural, dans ses activités diverses et variées pour intégrer le principe de parité hommes-femmes, principe qui doit se manifester à tous les niveaux. Nous pensons que cela est possible. Aussi cela contribuera à l'atteinte de plusieurs ODD.

Le Groupe encourage la FAO à développer les partenariats qu'elle a conclus avec les acteurs clés, qui abordent la problématique de la parité hommes-femmes dans l'agriculture, et que la FAO s'inspire des exemples réussis dans toutes les sphères aux niveaux central, régional, local et sur le terrain.

Le Groupe sollicite un ajustement des approches si celles utilisées jusque là n'ont pas permis d'atteindre les résultats escomptés. Le Groupe régional Afrique félicite la FAO pour les actions entreprises et l'encourage à persévérer jusqu'à l'atteinte et le maintien de la parité hommes-femmes.

Le Groupe fait siennes les recommandations de l'étude *Évaluation des activités de la FAO en matière de parité hommes-femmes*.

**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We welcome the *Evaluation of FAO's Work on Gender*. The evaluation rightly acknowledges FAO's important

contribution toward the development of gender-sensitive policies and rural sector strategies, and significant efforts to operationalize gender equality at global, regional and national level.

The evaluation underlines FAO's comparative advantage in promoting gender. FAO's privileged relationship with national Ministers for Agriculture put it in an excellent position to advocate for gender mainstreaming in agriculture, in particular in the context of land tenure and new reforms and labour law revisions. We would like to encourage FAO to intensify its effort to fully explore this important potential.

The evaluation highlights the importance of updating the Gender Policy and the Action Plan. We would like to see FAO giving this high priority. However, implementation in practice is of equal importance. That is why we would like to see FAO increasing staff capacity and resources to implement gender commitments on the ground.

The Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved without gender equality and women's empowerment. In the context of ever-increasing hunger, it is important to note that agriculture, as a sector, is underperforming partly because woman farmers lack equal access to land, credit and other productive resources and assets. We all need to make bolder efforts to close these gender gaps.

We therefore encourage FAO, in particular in the context of the UN Development System Reform, to further strengthen its partnership and collaboration with UN Women and other UN organizations and with all other key actors working on gender equality and rural women at global, regional and national levels.

It is equally important that the Rome-based Agencies intensify their collaborative efforts and improve lessons learned, including through gender transformative approaches.

Finally, we encourage continuity in efforts to promote gender equality through the Organization and increase the number of women in senior management positions.

**Mme Isabelle OUIILON (France)**

La France s'associe à la déclaration qui vient d'être prononcée par la Roumanie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres.

Nous voulons saluer l'évaluation réalisée par le Bureau de l'évaluation sur les activités de la FAO afin de favoriser l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, et nous soutenons la demande de révision de la stratégie de la FAO en la matière pour une présentation lors du Conseil de décembre 2019.

Nous soutenons également la demande de développer un plan d'action avec des objectifs clairs à moyen terme, qui permettront de donner plus de consistance aux activités de la FAO dans le domaine de la parité et de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes.

La France souligne également la nécessité de mettre en œuvre de manière complète les mesures déjà existantes et d'impliquer le personnel de la FAO à tous les niveaux de l'Organisation dans cette mise en œuvre. En effet, une véritable égalité entre les femmes et les hommes ne dépend pas seulement de politiques et de procédures, mais avant tout de l'appropriation par les personnels eux-mêmes de ces problématiques, et la formation est essentielle à cet égard.

La France continue à soutenir la parité et l'accès de femmes à des postes de responsabilités. En effet, il est avéré qu'une Organisation plus égalitaire concourt à un environnement de travail sûr, respectueux et inclusif pour le plus grand bénéfice des personnels, mais aussi de l'Organisation elle-même.

**Mr Henrik EINEVOLL (Norway)**

Norway welcomes the evaluation of FAO's Gender Strategy and thanks the Office of Evaluation for its work. The evaluation finds that the Gender Equality Policy, whilst in need of being updated, is valid as an overarching framework to guide the gender work of the Organization. That is a good start for all the efforts that lie ahead.

To us, the most alarming finding is that in the more than seven years since the adoption of the Gender Equality Policy, the evaluation indicates a lack of gender achievements at a country level. Policies and

strategies have been elaborated but have not impacted the results on the ground. It means that the Organization is not delivering on gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting issue, integral to all operations.

The only way to know how operations impact gender is to provide gender-disaggregated data analysis. We continue to request and to emphasize that the reporting of the organization needs to improve in this regard.

The evaluation points to a number of weaknesses in the way in which FAO has worked to implement a gender strategy. A major weakness has been the lack of an Action Plan linking the Strategic Objectives to activities. The evaluation is clear on ways to strengthen staff and internal competence to provide improved results.

We welcome management's response to agree to elaborate an Action Plan defining medium-term gender outputs and targets so that it is possible to know how to proceed, measure and report on what has been done.

The evaluation finds this area to be a fruitful work of collaboration among the RBAs and other relevant agencies. We welcome that FAO, in its response, states that it will enhance its partnership with key actors working on gender and agriculture.

Finally, we look forward to receiving information on actions taken and results in a Council aiming at a more comprehensive understanding of the follow up to be presented at the Conference in two years time.

**Sra. Angélica María JACOME (Panamá)**

Le felicito por su elección como Presidenta de la Comisión I y por su excelente conducción de esta sesión. Es oportuno que usted presida la discusión de un tema tan importante dado que siempre nos inspira y alienta a establecer teorías de cambio de los indicadores correspondientes para medir el progreso y eventualmente, de ser necesario adaptar las estrategias para lograr los objetivos trazados.

De igual forma agradecemos a la Oficina de Evaluación por la presentación del Informe sobre la Evaluación de la labor de la FAO sobre cuestiones de género, al igual que a la Dirección por su respuesta positiva. Acogemos con beneplácito las recomendaciones contenidas en el mencionado informe, y en particular la actualización de la Política de igualdad de género, la ampliación de las alianzas, y el examen de los mecanismos para realizar el seguimiento.

Vemos con agrado el compromiso de la Dirección de elaborar un plan de acción para la integración del tema en toda la labor de la FAO. Al respecto me permito sugerir que la Dirección colabore estrechamente con los Estados Miembros en la formación de dicho Plan de Acción. Para facilitar el proceso de esta coordinación con los Estados Miembros del diseño e implementación del mismo, invito a la Dirección a utilizar foros oficiosos como la de Red de Género de los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma, que tengo el honor junto con el Embajador de Australia de copresidir. Agradecemos el compromiso del Director General electo de lograr la paridad de género en la Dirección de la FAO, y esperamos su pronta implementación.

Por último, señora Presidenta, en la Plenaria de esta Conferencia, la Vicecanciller costarricense instó a la FAO a prestar mayor atención a las políticas género-responsivas para asegurar el bienestar de sus familias, sus comunidades y sus países.

Igualmente, Graça Machel nos recordó en su disertación en memoria de McDougall que más del 50 por ciento de la fuerza laboral son mujeres. Pero ellas carecen o cuentan con acceso limitado a crédito, tierra y educación que son necesarias para su desarrollo personal y sus comunidades. La Señora Machel nos llamó a la acción inmediata y colectiva, aceptemos este reto. Manos a la obra.

**Ms Anastasia PROKHOROVA (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We would like to indicate the importance of expanding the economic opportunities of women farmers and their upskilling and relevant aspects of policy in the area of healthy eating and social protection in rural areas.

In Russia, women traditionally occupy solid positions in the country's economy and are undoubtedly preeminent in a number of economic sectors. One in three managers of agricultural firms is a woman. More than 6 000 women head rural settlements. In order to ensure that women farmers' rights and the full potential of women in all walks of life is fully realized, relevant conditions are created by the state including in the family, professional and public spheres. This is fostered by the provisions of the National Strategy for Women's Interests for 2017-2022.

In order to develop small-scale businesses in rural areas and involve rural women in such a business, grant support is provided for start-up farmers families, livestock farms and agricultural consumer cooperatives. The heads of 27 farms who have received such support are women.

In the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, in the Interagency Coordination Council on Sustainable Development of Rural areas, a Rural Women's Committee has been set up. It comprises women who are village leaders, heads of agricultural organizations and smallholder farms, as well as members of public organizations.

The main tasks of the Committee include protecting the rights and interests of women and creating the most favourable conditions for women's participation in a decision-making process, enlarging access to professional education and relevant training and employment promotion among other areas. Further evidence of Russia's commitment to expanding the rights and opportunities of women has been the second Eurasian Women's Forum on the issue of women for global security and sustainable development which was held in St Petersburg last year.

At the same time, we call on Members of the Organization to maintain a balanced approach to FAO's participation in the issue of gender equality, according to which FAO should strengthen exchange of experience with other UN System structures dealing with agriculture and taking into account gender aspects while including the WFP, IFAD, UNICEF and the UNDP.

However, in our opinion, these organizations, including FAO, should focus their work first and foremost on resolving their specialized missions. It is our view that the leading role on the whole array of issues pertaining to the status of women belongs to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) as the main coordinating body in the UN system on gender equality.

**Mr Mohammad Jawad RANJBAR (Afghanistan)**

The Programme Committee endorses the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO's Work on Gender and expresses satisfaction with management's response to the evaluation.

The Evaluation Report presents 13 findings, four conclusions and four recommendations and highlights six key messages.

Of the 13 findings, the Evaluation Report confirms the positive contributions made by FAO and its Gender Policy, but practically every type of intervention in the Report encourages further improvement.

Overall FAO has done much better on policy aspects of gender mainstreaming than in the implementation of policies. The four conclusions confirm FAO's advocacy role in gender issues, its reputation as a neutral advisor, its good track record of partnerships related to the Gender Equality Policy and the fitness of the Organization in implementing the activities.

Afghanistan supports the four recommendations, namely, to update the Gender Equality Policy and complement it with an Action Plan; learn more about gender from other actors; strengthen the capacity of technical officers in mainstreaming gender and their work; and upgrade its existing gender monitoring practices.

With these observations Afghanistan endorses the Report of the Evaluation of FAO's Work on Gender.

**Sr. Rafael OSORIO DE REBELLÓN (España)**

España se alinea con la intervención realizada con Rumanía en nombre de la Unión Europea y quisiéramos hacer unos breves comentarios a título nacional. Damos la bienvenida a la evaluación y agradecemos la respuesta dada por el Equipo de Gestión. Valoramos positivamente el trabajo de la FAO en igualdad de género y empoderamiento de las mujeres, encomiamos los esfuerzos por integrar la perspectiva de género a través de sus áreas de trabajo y animamos a la Organización a buscar nuevas oportunidades para continuar trabajando en esa dirección, así como para alcanzar la paridad de género entre su personal. Esperamos ver a las mujeres y las niñas como poderosas agentes de cambio preparadas para configurar y liderar respuestas.

Promover la igualdad de género es crítico para asegurar el ambiente propicio a la prosperidad de las mujeres y las niñas. También se debe involucrar a los hombres y los niños para transformar las normas de género.

Valoramos positivamente la buena colaboración entre los tres Organismos de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma en el ámbito de la igualdad de género. La Propuesta conjunta de una línea de trabajo sobre igualdad de género y empoderamiento de la mujer para el próximo Plan de Trabajo Plurianual 2020-2023 del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial es un buen ejemplo que apoyamos. No seremos capaces de lograr el Hambre Cero si no seguimos comprometidos con la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres y las niñas. Aspiramos a seguir trabajando con la FAO hacia la obtención de mejores resultados por medio de la aplicación de la Política de Igualdad de Género y de su plan de acción.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have heard unanimous support for the principle of Gender Equality and lots of endorsements for the Report, management's response, and lots of advice and requests to FAO management as they take forward those recommendations, in particular with the Action Plan. Many of the priorities mentioned by the different delegations include the importance of data on results, reporting and the theory of change.

I did hear two specific questions, and I would like to address these. One was on methodology that Mali raised on behalf of the Africa Regional Group and perhaps the Director of the Office for Evaluation can respond to that. Lebanon also raised a question about what we need to do to make sure that FAO's knowledge and lessons learned are actually implemented at country level, and perhaps Assistant Director-General Torero could answer that question.

**Mr Masahiro IGARASHI (Director of the Office of Evaluation)**

I am very pleased that our Report has contributed to improve insights into an issue of importance to Member States. With regards to the question of Mali, who is representing the Africa Group, let me respond by saying that while several hundred respondents may not look so large, we are combining different methodologies so that the overall conclusions can be valid and rigorous from evaluation standards.

In West Africa, for instance, we visited Ghana, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger, so that we could cover all the regions and different cultures, because gender issues depend very much on the context. We also reviewed more than 30 Country Programme Evaluations to extract the gender element. In addition to the 500 documents, we also reviewed different internal documents so that we could trace the evidence of how FAO has been mainstreaming gender.

With multiple methods we tried to offer you a rigorous analysis and insight into how FAO gender mainstreaming is contributing or how it can be improved in the future.

**Mr Máximo TORERO (Assistant Director-General of Economic and Social Development)**

First, we will update the Policy by December 2019, and the Action Plan will be prepared by 2020. However, the most important thing is that we will have clear outputs, outcomes and potential impacts, and in parallel, a monitoring framework.

Second, our activities are both internal and external. What we do internally should be reflected in all the projects across the different regions and what matters most is how much we can create transfer information to the regions and create impact.

In terms of the internal policies on how FAO is promoting gender parity, our efforts to promote gender parity are monitored through the UN-SWAP performance standards and the Policy on Gender Equality, Minimum Standard 13. In order to comply with the UN-SWAP requirement, the Office of Human Resources has formulated a comprehensive Action Plan for the achievement of the gender parity of FAO staff which was endorsed by the Governing Bodies in December 2018.

The Action Plan aims to achieve gender parity at professional level by 2022, and for the senior positions by 2024. It covers 4 areas, leadership and accountability, recruitment retention, progression and talent management, and enabling environment and organizational culture. FAO reports the progress towards achieving gender parity in the UN-SWAP Report.

In terms of external actions, one of the core activities is understanding the determinants and root causes of gender inequality. We have a new important project with funding from the EU on scaling up gender transformative approaches to achieve SDG 2.

Second, we are conducting country assessments. We compiled 42 national gender profiles already that will allow us to assess where the gaps are so that we can put actions in place. We also have toolkits and guidance material available online and we are developing a global portal with all our toolkits so that people can access them easily.

One of the most important things that was raised was on data, and that is a huge gap. Gender-disaggregated data is very complex to collect and today we are not where we should be. We have conducted 55 Country Gender Assessments to support this and we are also pushing all our global normative products, like the SOFI and the SOFA, to include gender-disaggregated data.

That is a big challenge that we are working together with the FAO Statistical Office so that we can influence the Statistical Offices at country level to cooperate with us in developing gender-disaggregated data. We are collaborating with partners like International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on new methodologies such as the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index so that we can collect information on how our interventions empower rural women.

But the Women's Empowerment Agriculture Index is not enough because to be able to have empowerment, we also need to have equity through better employment opportunities, and we need to minimise potential discriminatory policies in terms of salary and job segregation.

Finally, in terms of partnerships, we collaborate with UN Women through the UN-SWAP Reporting and also through the Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE). We also collaborate with all Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), but as I mentioned before, our goal is to collect best practices from across the world, from any institution that is working on this topic where we can evaluate the evidence and best practices. FAO is more open to share it and to be able to push it through our regional and country offices.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

The Conference endorsed the *Evaluation of FAO's Work on Gender* and welcomed management's agreement to implement the recommendations, in particular, to update FAO's Policy on Gender Equality.

#### **Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Could you just repeat your conclusions a little more slowly please?

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

The Conference endorsed the evaluation of FAO's work on gender, and welcomed management's agreement to implement the recommendations, in particular, to update FAO's Policy on Gender Equality.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Could you explain why we need to approve the Evaluation Report? Could we not just take note of it and welcome the response of FAO management on this issue in accordance with what you have said?

**CHAIRPERSON**

My understanding is that it was a specific request of the Conference when it met two years ago that this evaluation did come to the Conference. Of course we know that the evaluation itself has been through the Programme Committee and first to Council and has already been endorsed by Council. It is already approved, so I do not see what the problem is of the Conference also approving or endorsing it, but we could perhaps have it 'welcomed' if you rather? I am not sure whether there is any substantive difference as it has already been approved anyway.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We would like to stick to the verb 'welcome'.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am content with that.

The Conference welcomed the *Evaluation of FAO's Work on Gender* and welcomed management's agreement to implement the recommendations, in particular to update FAO's Policy on Gender Equality.

Agreed.

I wanted to update you on how we propose to respond to the request from Netherlands and Nigeria, to incorporate some feedback from the side event on youth in our proceedings.

Having looked at our Agenda for today, it is my proposal that we include a statement from the young members of the Netherlands' delegation, under Item 15, which you will recall is Progress on the SDGs.

Our proposal would be to incorporate that feedback and that statement under that item. In order to enable that we will need to postpone that item until this afternoon, which would both give management the opportunity and the Netherlands delegation the opportunity to prepare their younger members to make that statement.

I am hoping that this proposal meets with everyone's approval?

We will then move on to Item 16, which is *Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and Follow Up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition, ICN2*.

We will tackle Item 15 after Item 19, this afternoon.

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| <b>Item 16.</b>  | <b>Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)</b>                                      |
| <b>Point 16.</b> | <b>Rapport intérimaire sur la mise en oeuvre de la Décennie d'action des Nations Unies pour la nutrition et sur la suite donnée à la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN2)</b>            |
| <b>Tema 16.</b>  | <b>Informe sobre los progresos respecto de la celebración del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Acción sobre la Nutrición y del seguimiento de la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN2)</b> |

(C 2019/29)

**CHAIRPERSON**

The Report for The Progress Report on the Implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and Follow Up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition, ICN2 is provided in document

C 2019/29 and I would like to invite Mr Torero, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department, to present this Item.

**Mr Máximo TORERO (Assistant Director-General of Economic and Social Development)**

As recommended in 2014 by Member States at ICN2, the UN General Assembly proclaimed in 2016 the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, a timebound framework to implement the ICN2 commitments.

FAO and WHO were mandated to co-lead the implementation of the Decade through the Work Programme. This was drawn up in collaboration in 2017, based on the ICN2 recommendations. The Nutrition Decade is a vehicle to advocate for more policy and programme implementation to increase nutrition investments and align existing efforts towards achieving a healthier and more sustainable future. The first Progress Report of the implementation of the Nutrition Decade was presented to the FAO Conference in 2017.

Today I have the pleasure in drawing your attention to a second Progress Report. This Report provides an update on the progress made in implementing the Nutrition Decade and in following up on ICN2 commitments since 2017. These included advances in a wide variety of nutrition-related activities at global, regional and national levels, ranging from symposia seminars, Conferences and other meetings and events held worldwide; country commitments for action on nutrition; Action Networks led by countries, and finally, contributions made by UN Agencies.

The Report also addresses the Mid-Term Review of the Nutrition Decade which is envisaged for 2020 with an aim to assess and evaluate the achievements in individual policy areas of the ICN2 Framework for Action as reflected in the action areas of the Work Programme of the Decade over the time period from 2016 to 2020.

The process leading to the Mid-Term Review will include a series of consultations and dialogues among stakeholders including Member States with the aim of evaluating the progress made towards implementing the ICN2 Global Commitments and seek guidance on future priority areas and the way forward for the second half of the Nutrition Decade.

The Conference is invited to acknowledge the progress made in advancing the implementation of the Nutrition Decade and in following up on ICN2 Commitments, as outlined in the second Progress Report and to provide guidance from further actions in the way forward, including with respect to the Mid-Term Review of the Nutrition Decade.

**Mr Nikolay BALAN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The Russian Federation welcomes the joint FAO/WHO Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). The work of these specialized agencies has made a telling contribution to the implementation of the Decade, which was intended to be a flexible platform for the coordinated work of the UN System and all interested partners in tackling the triple burden of undernutrition. We would like to stress the significance of the activities, events, workshops and symposia which have taken place and which have been organised by FAO and WHO in the context of the Decade.

In particular, we would like to refer to the International Conference on Food Safety held in Addis Ababa and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade held in Geneva in which Russia took an active part. Amongst the positive work carried out, one could also mention the International Conference organized jointly by the Russian Consumer Protection Agency and FAO on Risk Analysis and Food Safety, which was held in Sochi in May 2017.

We are convinced that holding another International Conference on Food Safety and combatting antimicrobial resistance in Russia in December this year by FAO will make it possible to further consolidate countries around the achievement of the Decade's goals. We also cooperate with FAO with a view to establishing in Russia, at the Russian Consumer Protection Agency, an FAO reference centre on combatting antimicrobial resistance.



We are committed to the idea that it is necessary for Member States to carry out national outreach programmes on balanced nutrition and on the publicizing of healthy lifestyles. In Russia we devote great attention to these issues. These policies are pursued also in the context of a largescale federal project entitled ‘Enhancing Public Health’, which includes creating in Russia an environment which will promote the leading of healthy lifestyles, including healthy nutrition with special emphasis on children and adolescents.

This work is consistent to a large extent with the so-called SMART obligations which presume that countries will take on specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound obligations on nutrition issues. Within this project in our country, a large-scale public awareness campaign is being conducted to ensure that we overcome excessive consumption of sugar, salt and fat.

Beginning in 2022, we are planning to achieve a two-fold reduction in the rate of growth of obesity indicator to 5 percent. By 2020, Russia’s regions will introduce a monitoring system to monitor the nutrition status of different groups of the population, particularly children. This will be science-based and will take into account the national specificities on nutrition.

Within the context of this monitoring process, we will enhance the control of the quality indicators of food products on shop shelves. We will study 12 of the most important groups of foodstuffs on the basis of quality indicators, with 10 to 15 indicators for each one. For prompt highly-precise research on the safety and quality of food, we will be equipping 17 test laboratory centres.

By 2024, 30 million people in the 80 constituent entities of the Russian Federation will be covered by training on the issues of healthy and wholesome nutrition through targeted programmes.

**Mr Keigo NAKAMURA (Japan)**

Japan welcomes this Progress Report. In updating this progress we value the appropriate goal setting, monitoring and evaluation. In this regard, the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020 will provide a good opportunity for all stakeholders to update progress and review for the Action.

**Mr Felipe Carlos ANTUNES (Brazil)**

The ICN2 represented a paradigm shift in the global community to eradicate malnutrition in all its forms through an integrated approach. More importantly the ICN2 and its outcomes have placed nutrition high in the international political agenda, building the current momentum to ensure human rights to adequate food and health.

In this sense we have recommended the second Progress Report on the implementation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition and on the following up on ICN2 commitments since 2017. Brazil was the first country to make SMART commitments in the context of the Decade. The National Food and Nutritional Policy approved in 1999 integrates the efforts of Brazil which, through a set of public policies, proposes to respect, protect, promote and provide human rights to health and food.

On its 10th Anniversary, the National Food and Nutritional Policy undergoes a public update. We are committed to providing healthier meals and nutrition education to children in public schools and to increasing the public procurement of food from family farmers. We have been increasing breast feeding promotion and promoting access to healthcare for these people.

Brazil wishes to highlight the central role that FAO, together with the WHO, plays in advancing nutrition and in the ICN2 follow-up within this Decade of Action on Nutrition, based on its mandates, technical expertise and knowledge, as well as upon its capillarity through its decentralized offices.

Moreover, FAO plays a leading role in global governance on nutrition together with the Committee on World Food Security that should be further strengthened so it can fully comply with its mandate on nutrition.

**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We welcome the Progress Report on the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, which provides a

clear, definite, timebound and cohesive framework to implement the ICN2 commitments as well as the nutrition-related SDGs.

We also welcome the Committee on World Food Security endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the preparation of Voluntary Guidelines on Food System and Nutrition which will support the Decade of Action on Nutrition. We encourage all stakeholders in particular the effort to continue to engage attentively in this process.

Since ICN2, the global community has been involved in a wide-ranging debate on the multiple burdens arising from malnutrition and the role of the food system in healthy diets. In this regard we would highlight the first Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition which was held in Madrid in October 2018.

For the first time more than 200 Members of Parliaments from all over the world came together to discuss advancing the political commitment to achieve SDG 2. However, progress has been highly uneven. We therefore encourage FAO to step up its efforts in implementing the ICN2 commitments and call upon Members to implement all nutrition-related commitments and recommendations including those made by Heads of State or government at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Non-Communicable Diseases as well as the General Assembly Resolution on the matter.

The Global Nutrition Summit in Japan in 2020 offers another opportunity to highlight progress and secure additional commitments to end malnutrition. We encourage FAO to coordinate with other agencies in the lead up to this event. We also strongly encourage the convening of new action networks and the strengthening of existing ones and development and implementation based on solely scientific evidence of policies, programmes, and plans to address malnutrition in all its forms, in particular, through SMART commitments.

We further encourage FAO in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the World Food Program, IFAD and UNICEF to further mainstream nutrition in its Strategic Framework and look forward to reviewing an update of its nutrition strategy by the end of 2019. The new strategy should have an extensive scope and be closely aligned with the ICN2 commitments, while giving due consideration to nutrition from the perspective of sustainable agriculture and food system and healthy diets.

It should therefore focus on strengthening links between agriculture, food systems, nutrition, health and childhood, in particular, through policies which promote healthy diets, dietary diversity and healthy food environments. In this context, the importance of nutrition education and information cannot be overstated.

Lastly, we would like to highlight the importance of promoting and preserving traditional healthy diets, food diversity and healthy eating habits and lifestyles since food culture is a key component of the cultural identity and heritage of people and their communities at both the local and global levels. Traditional food practices and systems sustain cultural and biological diversity and they are part of humanity's common heritage.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

Switzerland welcomes the Progress Report of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and acknowledges the progress made by UN Agencies to integrate nutrition into their strategic approaches. Efforts toward increased coordination among UN Agencies should continue.

The Committee on World Food Security is currently developing Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. This is an opportunity to address the policy fragmentation existing today between the food, agriculture and health sectors.

Therefore, Switzerland would like to stress the importance of sustainable diets that are healthy for humans, for society and for the planet. Along the same lines and given the threatened state of our resource base, it is time to shift from productivity indicators that are primarily determined by kilogram per hectare to the nutritional value per hectare.

Therefore we invite FAO to continue exploring the possibility of shifting from purely quantitative productivity indicators to nutrient productivity ones.

**Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)**

The United States of America places a high priority on addressing malnutrition in all its forms and we welcome the opportunity presented by the Decade to address the spectrum of nutrition challenges that our populations face.

We are encouraged by the progress highlighted in this Report, while recognizing that significant gaps remain to reach our shared goals on nutrition. We encourage countries to consider establishing public-private partnerships to develop and implement effective nutrition programs as part of a comprehensive policy approach to reach nutrition objectives.

We also encourage interventions and partnerships to address, where possible, the spectrum of emergency to chronic malnutrition interventions, including for postpartum mothers, and the multisectoral nature of nutrition solutions, including through coordination between health systems, water, sanitation and hygiene programming and nutrition-sensitive agriculture among other relevant sectors.

The United States supports FAO and WHO's coordinated leadership to support countries in accelerating progress to reach nutrition targets and encourages further refinement for the Work Program for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition as new evidence becomes available on the effectiveness of nutrition interventions. As Members pursue a number of policy options to implement the framework for action, we welcome the opportunity for technical collaboration and exchange.

Through implementation of the United States Government's Strategy in advancing protection and care for children in adversity, we will leverage and complement our foreign assistance investments in strengthening systems of protection in caring for children as well as nutrition, health, education and humanitarian response.

**Sra. Paula PERAZA AGUILAR (Costa Rica)**

Costa Rica aplaude los progresos realizados desde el marco de la CIN2 para poner fin a todas las formas de malnutrición orientados a la consecución del ODS 2, Hambre Cero. Costa Rica toma esta oportunidad para reconocer la labor realizada en fomento de la celebración del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la acción sobre la nutrición y para saludar los esfuerzos realizados, el seguimiento de los compromisos asumidos en la CIN2.

Cabe resaltar que en el marco del Día Mundial de la Alimentación el 16 de octubre del año pasado, el gobierno de Costa Rica suscribió la "Carta de compromiso para el abordaje integral del sobrepeso y la obesidad de la niñez y la adolescencia costarricense". Esta carta fue respaldada por 10 ministros como un marco de abordaje conjunto que consolida una serie de compromisos interconectados entre las distintas instituciones públicas de Costa Rica con el objetivo de revertir la tendencia ascendente del sobrepeso y la obesidad en la niñez y la adolescencia; y así buscar reducir la carga de enfermedades no transmisibles asociadas a las dietas no saludables de esta población.

Adicionalmente, en esta misma celebración, el gobierno de Costa Rica promulgó un decreto ejecutivo que declara de interés público la promoción de la salud individual y grupal mediante una alimentación saludable haciendo un llamado a los responsables de espacios comunitarios y laborales para atender sus obligaciones en esta tarea. Se trabaja además por fortalecer el vínculo entre el desarrollo agrícola sostenible y los sistemas alimentarios con el propósito de aumentar la disponibilidad de alimentos nutritivos, frescos, seguros y accesibles para toda la población.

Costa Rica toma esta oportunidad para agradecer la colaboración con la FAO y otros organismos del Sistema de Naciones Unidas que están acompañando distintos esfuerzos en la materia. Por ejemplo, el Proyecto Conjunto con el Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería y la FAO por revitalizar los cultivos tradicionales que están siendo subutilizados a fin de aumentar la disponibilidad de alimentos nutritivos que respalden mejores resultados nutricionales. Otro ejemplo de los valiosos proyectos coordinados con gobiernos y organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas que se están llevando a cabo, es el Proyecto de Fortalecimiento del Programa de Alimentación Preescolar y Escolar, impulsado en

conjunto por el gobierno de Costa Rica, la FAO y el gobierno de Brasil. En esta misma línea, el Ministerio de Salud en coordinación con la Caja Costarricense del Seguro Social, y con el apoyo de las agencias de Naciones Unidas, entre ellas la OPS, la OMS, la FAO y la UNICEF, han trabajado en una hoja de ruta para identificar prioridades de nutrición en el país mediante la metodología de la teoría de cambio con el fin de restablecer un plan nacional de nutrición según las prioridades identificadas.

Costa Rica toma esta oportunidad para celebrar el Informe sobre los Avances de los Compromisos de la CIN2 y reiterar su compromiso por hacer el abordaje de la lucha contra la obesidad una prioridad por continuar promoviendo el avance hacia la meta común de Hambre Cero. Muchas gracias.

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

We welcomed the International Conference on Nutrition. It was important in terms of focusing global attention on the issues around nutrition and non-communicable diseases and their broad impact.

The Global Action is said to have subsequently been initiated. I would like to highlight the importance of collective action. It is clearly not the responsibility of any one government or at a national level, but requires a partnership effort at the international, regional and national levels, and concerted action is needed. A systematic monitoring framework on progress is equally important and that is one of the major challenges.

If we look at the Pacific Region, we have among the highest levels of obesity and non-communicable diseases as was highlighted by our Minister in a statement yesterday. We also took note of the increasing recognition of the nexus between food safety and broader nutritional goals or objectives, and that it is an important challenge that we need to pick up at the global level. It is not simply about food safety, but it is also about ensuring that people eat the right kind of foods that are nutritious and contribute to better health.

The other comment I would like to make is to clearly highlight a number of international initiatives. The FAO, WHO and the WTO initiative around the food safety forum, as well as the earlier event in Addis Ababa on food safety, were very important to highlight and secure high-level recognition for food safety and investment in national regulatory systems. Overall, we think we are moving in the right direction, but it is important to maintain momentum and not let our guard down.

**Mme Isabelle OUIILLON (France)**

La France s'associe à la déclaration qui a été prononcée par la Roumanie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres.

La France voulait rappeler la nécessité de continuer à s'investir pour que les objectifs fixés par la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition deviennent réalité. La mobilisation forte qui avait permis l'avènement d'une Déclaration de Rome ambitieuse à la sortie de cette Conférence ne doit pas s'essouffler, car la malnutrition continue à freiner le développement humain et économique des pays, et à perpétuer les inégalités. Ce sont notamment les enfants, dans les pays touchés par des retards de croissance, qui partent dès la naissance avec un handicap et feront face à des difficultés de santé et d'apprentissage tout au long de leur vie.

C'est pour ces raisons que la France, dans le cadre de sa présidence du G7 centrée sur la réduction des inégalités et en collaboration avec le G5 Sahel, a souhaité mettre en lumière la nécessité d'accélérer la lutte contre la malnutrition dans la région du Sahel. La sousnutrition décroît trop lentement, pendant que le surpoids et l'obésité progressent en affectant toujours les plus pauvres de façon disproportionnée.

En outre, la France se félicite du processus en cours au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) pour élaborer des directives au long terme sur les systèmes alimentaires, et considère que le produit qui en sortira sera clé pour appuyer la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030 en lien avec les enjeux de nutrition, de santé, d'environnement et de climat.

La France appelle le CSA à continuer d'œuvrer en faveur de la nutrition et à contribuer à la mise en œuvre de la Décennie d'action des Nations Unies pour la nutrition. Nous voulions informer que dans le cadre de la Décennie, la France a lancé, en partenariat avec l'Australie, un réseau mondial d'action sur

l'étiquetage nutritionnel. Ce réseau vise à impliquer un nombre croissant de pays dans le monde, sur les politiques en matière d'étiquetage nutritionnel.

Il renforcera les politiques nutritionnelles nationales et, nous l'espérons, contribuera à réduire la fréquence des pathologies liées à une alimentation inadéquate.

Enfin, pour conclure, la France voudrait souligner l'importance de l'éducation et, en particulier, de l'éducation au goût pour aborder les questions d'alimentation et de nutrition, car manger c'est aussi un acte culturel et social. Prendre en compte ces aspects est important pour accompagner l'évolution des comportements alimentaires.

### **Ms Ying WU (China)**

China welcomes the Progress Report on the Implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and we commend the UN Agencies for the effort. Since the initiation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, global, regional and national nutritional campaigns have been in full swing which are significant for achieving nutrition-related SDGs.

China, in order to implement the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition has issued a Healthy China 2030 Plan, and the Plan of Action on healthy lifestyles for 2017 to 2025, and upgraded Healthy China as a National Strategy so that by 2030 we can substantially reduce nutrition deficiency and slow down the rise in the overweight population and obesity. China stands ready to work with other countries to achieve the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition Objectives and to make concerted efforts with other countries.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I have heard from many interventions of the importance of coordination and collaboration with others and particularly with the CFS, and on the importance of monitoring progress.

I did not hear any particular questions or queries but I will give the floor to Mr Torero in case he would like to make a few brief points in response.

### **Mr Máximo TORERO (Assistant Director-General of Economic and Social Development)**

First let me assure you that FAO and the Nutrition and Food System Division in FAO want to be a game-changer in all forms of malnutrition. I think all the activities we have been developing in the last years are a signal of that.

Now we are in the process of updating our nutrition strategy with a new vision where the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the Agenda 2030 will be at the core. The annotated outline will be released at the end of 2019 and the strategy in 2020.

FAO, as it has been mentioned, has made significant progress in terms of tools, data, and all the Conference work we have been doing.

The Ethiopian and Geneva meetings were of central importance because it brought the importance of food safety but also the importance of food quality. This is an important way to reduce a knowledge gap that we have today in terms of the quality of food being traded, as well as improving food safety standards.

Furthermore, we held an important symposium on the Future of Food which also helped to draft the agenda on how we will move forward. The SOFI and SOFA are bringing very good information in the new versions on nutrition and all forms of malnutrition. With this year's SOFI, we are launching the moderate scale of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) which brings all forms of malnutrition into the discussion, not only the severest cases. The SOFA is looking at the issues of food loss and waste and the relevance of that for nutrition.

In terms of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition will be drafted at the end of 2019, following the regional consultations that are happening from July to October 2019. All the regional consultations in Africa, Asia, The Pacific, Europe, Near East, Latin America and North America have already been arranged. The guidelines will

be submitted to the CFS in 2020, and we hope this will be a huge achievement for the Decade of Action on Nutrition.

With regards to data we are improving the information on micronutrient mobility across borders. This is for trade to understand what the movements are of the quality of food. Normally we talk about calories but now we are looking at all micronutrients. We are trying to look into the issue of nutrition indicators and productivity, but as you may understand this is extremely complex and it will take substantial time.

Finally, we appreciate the government of Japan's commitment to hold the Tokyo Nutrition Summit in 2020, and look forward to continuing to work together with WHO, WFP, UNICEF as well as other non-UN partnership partners to make that event a success as a milestone in the midpoint of the Decade of Action on Nutrition.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to propose some very brief conclusions to the delegates here. Under this item my proposal for our conclusion is as follows.

The Conference welcomes the Report and noted the work undertaken by FAO and its efforts in following up on ICN2 commitments and implementing a Decade of Action on Nutrition.

**Item 17. Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System**

**Point 17. Rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen quadriennal complet des activités opérationnelles de développement du système des Nations Unies**

**Tema 17. Informe provisional sobre la revisión cuatrienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo**

(C 2019/26)

We are ready to begin with Item 17, *Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System*. The Report is in document C 2019/26. Mr Daniel Gustafson, the Deputy-Director General of Programmes, will present the item.

### **Mr Daniel J. GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General of Programmes)**

It is always a pleasure to discuss our update on the QCPR in the Conference. The Quadrennial Report is the UN General Assembly's mechanism for policy setting for the entire UN Development System, and as such the Resolution that comes out of it from the General Assembly has a number of items that apply to all of us.

I think it is always an interesting exercise to report from our perspective how we have contributed and complied with those recommendations and at the same time, looking at the overall document to see how we fit into the larger picture.

I will be brief, as you have the Report. I am sure there will be a very interesting discussion on this. The first part concerning the funding of FAO's operational activities within the QCPR recommendation resolution on diversification and improvement of the donor base, we presented data for 2016 and 2017, but we also have updated figures for 2018. As you will see in 2016-17, as reported in the Programme Implementation Report, we mobilize USD 2.1 billion of voluntary funding, and in 2018 USD 1.14 billion for just the first year of this biennium.

Another highlight in that regard, for 2017 in particular, is the contribution from the World Bank as a donor for us. This is the first time we have reached an agreement with the World Bank to receive donor funds for application in a number of countries, particularly those in conflict. Over that period we also had significantly increased funding from the Global Environment Facility and also from the new Green Climate Fund.

What is also noteworthy for all of us is the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund, the contributions from African countries for application in Africa was a great success along with the unearmarked, or lately earmarked, Flexible Multi-partner Mechanism (FMM) that I think you are aware of.

With regard to another item of the QCPR overall Report on increasing transparency, we are very happy to report that in 2016 we joined the International Aid Transparency initiative and have been reporting quarterly since then within that format as required, which is something that had been in the works for a long time and I am delighted we are going ahead with it.

The other big part of the Report relates to UN reform particularly at the country office level. There I am sure we will get into a lot of discussion on where we are, but in general, as from the beginning, we are supportive.

We also had some concerns, almost all of which have now been clarified, over our satisfaction and what we recommended in terms of what would be a sensible approach to this, which has in fact been adopted. We are still in the process of implementation.

The new system has been up and running since January, while other mechanisms have been in place since March in terms of the funding arrangements, but I am sure this would be a topic for your questions and comments. We are fully supportive and fully engaged in the discussions and in the way this is unfolding at the country level where we hope we will continue to be a key player and a key partner for the entire system and for countries that are achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

There are still some challenges as you can see, but those will continue to be addressed to our satisfaction. I would stop there and just recommend to take note of this Report. We will report again in the next Conference on the progress and we look forward to your questions and comments.

#### **Mr Vlad MUSTACIOSU (Romania)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We thank FAO for this Report on its implementation of the 2016 operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the UN Development System (UNDS) Reform.

We welcome the fact that FAO exceeded its 2016-2017 biennium targets, USD 1.6 billion by USD 400 million, mobilising over USD 2 billion. We note that the 79 percent of total voluntary contributions come from FAO's top 20 donors. The EU and its Member States are glad to have increased their contributions and look forward to reporting on the results achieved.

We support FAO's work on enhanced transparency, including through meeting International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. We encourage FAO to publish all country programme frameworks (CPF's) and reviews, strengthening capacity to support Members through the Green Climate Fund which should continue to be prioritised with a real focus on food security and contributing to achieving SDG 2.

The EU and its Member States call on FAO to proactively support the implementation of Resolution 72/279 on UN Development System Reform endorsed by all Member States. We request FAO to share the revised CPF guidelines once finalised to ensure alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework.

Despite the document being posted just a week before the Conference, some reporting is already out of date, as FAO reported last month at an informal joint RBA meeting, the new Management in Accountability Framework (MAF) has now been finalised.

As noted, this will be key to increase the effectiveness of the UNDS country level. We look forward to having an update from FAO today on the timing of plans to revise job descriptions and performance evaluations and management systems for FAO, so all have at least one cooperation framework-related performance indicator.

We encourage FAO to deliver efficiencies including in country business operations through increasing collaboration and reducing gaps and overlaps to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG 2 on ending hunger which is at the heart of FAO's mandate, where it has been reported by the State Of Food Insecurity (SOFI) that progress is in decline.

We welcome FAO's commitment to doubling the UN SDG cost-sharing arrangements in line with Resolution 72/279, and encourage FAO, in addition to their preferred option, to support the agency-administrated option for 1 percent coordination levy on tightly earmarked non-core contributions.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our support for FAO's work on joint evaluations, strengthening the complementarity between humanitarian and development activities and strategically strengthening partnerships in this area.

**Ms Yissel GONZÁLEZ GARCÍA (Cuba)**

First and foremost I would like to highlight that Cuba fully supports the Report being presented on the application of the QCPR. Secondly, I would like to thank Mr Gustafson for his presentation.

Thirdly, we would like to look at Resolution 72/279 and, if possible, we would like FAO to provide periodical updates on its involvement in the UNDS Reform process, going beyond funding issues and beyond the application of its recommendations. Instead, we would prefer that the periodical updates include a more global fashion as FAO is involved in the Reform System.

Other RBAs do give us a regular update upon their involvement and we would like that FAO also give us a regular and timely updates, beyond questions of funding the reform process.

**Ms Cristina AMARAL (Director of the Office of Support to Decentralized Offices)**

It is a pleasure to update the Members and reply to questions. Regarding the FAO Representatives, we have already updated the Terms of Reference with the Office of Human Resources, so that during this next semester we will be proceeding with the changes in the Terms of Reference and new FAO Representatives and Assistant FAO Representatives will already have specific objectives and indicators related to the UN reform and the participation in the activities at the country level.

On the Performance Evaluation, this will be done by including in the Performance Evaluation and Management System (PEMS) one objective on the UN Reform that will be evaluated and assessed by the Resident Coordinator. Moreover, FAO participates in the evaluation of the UN country teams and the Resident Coordinators through the regional process and the regional representatives.

On the CPF's, new guidelines are final. They are through an internal clearance process and assessment and I am sure the Office of Support to the Strategy and Programme will soon be sharing the new guidelines. We have 19 countries that are already implementing the new UN Country Framework and we will be following up and supporting the FAO Representatives very closely.

**Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General of Programmes)**

I think Cuba's suggestion of regular updates is a very good one and I will take it up with the Director-General. He may like to see how he would want to do this series of informal seminars on this topic and others, but I think it is particularly important in the case of UN Reform because it is very easy to get lost in the details if you do not accompany the process.

There is a lot of moving parts to this and in some way, endless detail on what is happening. But in order to make sense of what the changes are and our response to them I think that would be a very good idea.

I have one final comment in particular that I should have mentioned in the area of humanitarian and development coordination and integration mentioned in the QCPR. In this area and a number of others, we believe that FAO is very far ahead.

It is somewhat easier for us in the case of humanitarian development. It is always in this space that we operated in the emergency resilience sphere, similarly with regard to the funding we manage, the blend of assessed contributions and voluntary contributions and other aspects. You will see in the overall document of the QCPR how we emphasise policy at the country level, policy support, how we work with countries on statistics.

These are the big issues that concern the overall UN Development System and I think FAO's role in that comes through very clearly. It is a very interesting document to read from a general sense and also to see how we fit within that.



**Mr Roberto RIDOLFI (Assistant Director-General of Programme Support and Technical Cooperation)**

The country analysis/strategic analysis will now be done inter-Agency, not only by FAO. Therefore the new country strategy will be a collective effort of our offices with the offices of other agencies and the response we give will therefore build on what we have best to offer.

That is why we are developing this business development portfolio that will be presented very shortly. It is packaging our response capacities in countries and if their country analysis shows a certain need or a certain strategic objective in an area that we can cover, we will be coordinated in the analysis with the response intervention.

This is very important because it will change how we do the planning, which will be much more close to the programme. Planning and programme will go become more hand-in-hand in the near future.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to propose a very brief conclusion for this item.

The Conference noted the Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System, and took note of the implications and funding of the UN System Reform called for in the UNGA Resolution 72/279.

**Item 18. Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (18--22 February 2019)**

**Point 18. Rapport de la dix-septième session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (18-22 février 2019)**

**Tema 18. Informe de la 17.<sup>a</sup> reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (Roma, 18-22 de febrero de 2019)**

(C 2019/25)

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would now like to move on to Item 18, *Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, which took place between 18 and 22 February 2019, and the Report is in document C 2019/25. I would like to invite Ambassador François Pythoud, Vice-Chairperson of the Session to introduce the item.

**Mr François PYTHOUD (Vice-Chairperson of the Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)**

It is a great pleasure to present to you the Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that was held in FAO from 18 to 22 February of this year under the Chairmanship of Mr William Wigmore, Cook Islands.

The Commission, one of FAO's largest intergovernmental bodies, considered, aside from topics related to the different sectors of animal, plant, forest, aquatic, micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources, a number of cross-sectional matters.

The highlight of the Commission's Session was the launch of the first Report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, which the Commission welcomed as an important milestone for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, together with other assessments, in particular the global assessment launched by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES).

Only two months later, the Report points to the urgent need for action to better conserve, even save and sustainably use, biodiversity and to the importance of cross-sectional and multidisciplinary collaboration among all stakeholders and all decision-makers at all levels.

The results of both Reports will be presented during a side event taking place this evening at 5:30 pm at the Sheikh Zayed Centre. You are all cordially invited to attend.

The Commission requested the Secretariat facilitate the development of the policy response to this important Report, with the motivation to have it adopted as a Global Plan of Action for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture at the FAO Conference at its next Session in 2021.

The Conference is therefore invited to welcome the Report and endorse the Commission's decision to develop a Global Plan of Action. The Commission also requested the preparation of a draft Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture upon consultation with the regions and in collaboration with the Committee on Fisheries. The Conference is invited to request the Commission to agree on such a global plan.

With regard to the forthcoming second assessment of The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and the third assessment of The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Conference may wish to invite and indeed encourage countries to contribute to the preparation of this global assessment.

Four years ago the FAO Conference welcomed the Commission's ABS (Access and Benefit-Sharing) Elements, a guidance document assisting countries in development and implementation of access and benefit-sharing measures for the agricultural sectors. At this session, the Commission finalized detailed subsector specific explanatory notes to the ABS Elements, which the Conference is invited to welcome.

Last but not least, the Conference may wish to endorse the Commission's Strategic Plan for 2019-2027 including its Multi-Year Programme of Work, and invite countries to continue reporting on progress in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2, Target 2.5. Beyond the above-mentioned sector work, the Strategy Plan includes Work Programmes on climate change and food security, nutrition and health.

I wish to close by sharing with you the widely felt concern that while the Commission mandate and activities have significantly broadened over the last decade, funding has not increased proportionally. Additional resources are therefore necessary to allow the Commission to continue its important work. I apologise to the Chairperson of Commission I, because I know this is an issue of Commission II, but I wanted to highlight this point.

**Ms Renata NEGRELLY NOGUEIRA (Brazil)**

It is an honour to be the first delegation to intervene in such an important item of our Agenda. Thank you very much Ambassador Pythoud for your summary of the debate during the last Session of the Commission.

We support the endorsement of the Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as contained in document C 2019/25. As a developing mega-diverse country where agriculture plays a major role in the economy and livelihoods, Brazil acknowledges the relevance of biodiversity for food security and sustainable development.

In this regard, we welcome the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) in promoting this conservation, sustainable use, access to and sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity. As a member of the Bureau of all four intergovernmental technical working groups of the Commission, we consider ourselves close collaborators in this endeavour.

Concerning the follow-up project to The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, we underscore that it shall be developed through broad consultations in a country-driven process. This follow-up project must have a voluntary, non-binding nature, and be coherent and complementary to the work under FAO and others, avoiding duplication of efforts.

It should also take into account regional and national realities, the specificities of different agriculture production systems and the special needs of developing countries.

**Ms Rosanna CHELL-OZDOWSKI (Australia)**

We express our appreciation to the Secretariat for organizing the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Particularly we congratulate William

Wigmore from the Cook Islands for his successful Chairing of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session which has contributed to the advancement of conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, especially in the Southwest Pacific region.

Australia is committed to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture to meet the challenges of climate change and food security. Diversification of crop varieties plays a key role in helping to maintain agricultural productivity growth, combating new pests and diseases, improving nutritional value of food and adapting to climate change.

As no one country is self-sufficient in its collection of genetic resources, the Commission plays a vital role in facilitating cooperation and collaboration for the enhancement of access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources. We look forward to working with the next Chair, the distinguished delegate from Switzerland, to address our regions' priorities.

**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The European Union and its Member States wishes to thank the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the document C 2019/25 containing the Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Commission for all its hard work and especially for the preparation and launch of The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture. This Report is truly a milestone for the Commission and it is particularly important as a contribution to the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

On that note, we welcome the process outlined by the Commission to follow up on this Report with a view to the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FAO Conference. We encourage all the Members, Observers, and donors to contribute actively to this follow-up process.

Regarding Access and Benefit-Sharing, we would underline the importance of the Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in supporting conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources.

We also stress the importance of disseminating the finalized explanatory notes to all the Members, regional and country offices of FAO, to the national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty), to other relevant national focal points, and of encouraging Members to consider the ABS Elements, including the explanatory notes, and to make use of them as appropriate.

Concerning the "digital sequence information" ("DSI") on genetic resources for food and agriculture, the Commission agrees that there is a need for further review. In this regard, we will stress the importance of coordinating with the ongoing process under the CBD and its Protocol and the Treaty.

We also consider it essential that the Commission address, at its next Session, the invitation opportunity offered by "DSI", the challenges of access to "DSI" and implication of using "DSI" for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

We emphasize that timely and unrestricted access to "DSI" is very important for the conservation, sustainable use and development of genetic resources in food security and for the protection of human, animal and plant health.

Lastly, we stress once again the need for close collaboration between the Commission, the Governing Body of the Treaty and the Conference of the Parties of the CBD on all issues related to genetic resources for food and agriculture. With these remarks the European Union and its 28 Member States endorse the Report of the Commission's 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session.

**Ms Anastasia PROKHOROVA (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We commend the Report submitted to the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture entitled The State of the World's Biodiversity Food and Agriculture. We support the decision of the Commission regarding the need to supplement the draft list of requirements and possible measures that will become the basis for the Global Plan of Action for Biodiversity.

We note the importance of concluding the preparation of the Report of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We support the Commission's agreed explanatory notes on the document Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We would like to report that the Russian Federation has appointed its national focal point for the main areas of work of the Commission. We hope to see an expansion of cooperation and the support of colleagues in this area.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

We have already seen the greatest rate of biodiversity loss in human history. The State of the World's Biodiversity Food and Agriculture and the IPBES Global Assessment Report on biodiversity and ecosystem services confirm this alarming fact. The evidence requires a transformative change in food and agriculture.

FAO has a clear role to play in achieving this transformative change and to promote biodiversity mainstreaming with relevant policies and programmes at all levels of governance. Switzerland wishes to comment on two of the points that the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture brings to the attention of the Conference.

First, Switzerland welcomes the first Report on The State of World Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture. The Report represents a solid basis for targeted and effective interventions, aiming at creating resilience and viability of food systems.

Second, Switzerland supports the development of a Global Plan of Action for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture as a follow-up to The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture Report to be adopted by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its next Session. This process should provide a holistic input regarding agriculture, fisheries and forestry to the upcoming post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Finally, this week, precisely on 29 June, the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the entry into force of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture can be celebrated. The challenges that led to the adoption of the Treaty by the Conference back in 2001 still exist today. We need to actively engage in the negotiations for the enhancement of the Treaty's multilateral system. Failing to meet the deadline of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Body later this year to finalize these negotiations risks weakening FAO's standing in the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

**Ms Kjersti Nilsen BARKBU (Norway)**

Norway warmly welcomes the Report on The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and together with the newly published Global Assessment by the IPBES, the status of biodiversity for food and agriculture is well documented.

The next step is to act on this knowledge. Norway supports the request for the Commission to develop a Global Plan of Action for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, to guide the global efforts on the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Furthermore, The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture provides a solid base on which the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity should be based. Fifteen years ago the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources entered into force. This agreement has proven important for the global effort to protect our seed diversity.

The Treaty and international commitment on collaboration enabled Norway to establish the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in 2008. After 11 years of operation, the seed vault is now a safe backup of more than 1 million seed samples from gene banks from all over the world.

Our valuable seed diversity also needs farmers and local communities to actively use and develop this treasure. Thus, Norway is highly supporting the further realization of farmers rights as recognized in the Treaty.

**Mr Hamoud ALHASNI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)**

Our country welcomes the Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the CGRFA. We agree with the conclusions of this document to the effect that food and access to such nutrition must be guaranteed and they should be used sustainably thanks to awareness raising among all sectors of the population in order to bring about food security.

With regards to access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources in food and agriculture, we pay tribute to the technical team and all the experts and we welcome what is said in the Report of the First Expert Group Meeting on Microorganisms and Invertebrates.

We emphasize the need to have guidelines related to the development of sustainable value chains for smallholder farmers in the area of livestock, and this should be extended through all the regions, because it will make it possible to develop genetic breeding programmes from which many countries can benefit.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will be reconvening at 14:30 sharp.

I would just like to remind delegates, perhaps those who were not here this morning when we discussed the arrangements for Item 15, that when we come back from the lunch break at 14:30 we are going to complete Item 18, and then we are going to move on to Item 19 and our proposal for Item 19 is to hear about all of them, but then approve them *en bloc*, ideally.

After Item 19, we are going to turn to Item 15, which is Progress on the SDGs. We did not discuss that this morning and one of the reasons we are postponing it until this afternoon is to allow an intervention from young members of the Netherlands delegation who want to give feedback from the side event yesterday evening on rural youth. We missed that because we worked through the side event slot yesterday.

***The meeting rose at 12:29***

***La séance est levée à 12 h 29***

***Se levanta la sesión a las 12 :29***



# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019</b>
<b>FOURTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I QUATRIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I CUARTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</b>
<b>25 June 2019</b>

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 14:31 hours  
Ms Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 14 h 31  
sous la présidence de Mme Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta reunión a las 14:31  
bajo la presidencia del Sra. Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Presidente de la Comisión I





**Item 18. Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (18-22 February 2019) (continued)**

**Point 18. Rapport de la dix-septième session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (18-22 février 2019) (suite)**

**Tema 18. Informe de la 17.<sup>a</sup> reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (18-22 de febrero de 2019) (continuación)**

(C 2019/25)

## CHAIRPERSON

A warm welcome back to this meeting of Commission I.

Just before we resume Item 18, I wanted to provide an update on the plans for the Drafting Committee and the adoption of our Report. We had hoped that the Drafting Committee will start this afternoon, but I am advised that the verbatim reports may not be ready immediately.

So, the plan is that the Drafting Committee will start tomorrow at 9:30 in the Mexico Room and we are hoping that their work will be straightforward and that we will be able to have a finalized Report that we can adopt here tomorrow afternoon once the Report is ready. At the moment the timetable suggests that we will be adopting the report on Thursday afternoon. It is our ambition and plan that we are able to adopt it tomorrow afternoon.

I would like to resume our discussion on Item 18, the *Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

### **Sr. Jose Luis DELGADO CRESPO (México)**

México agradece el importante trabajo realizado por la Comisión, así como la presentación de este detallado informe. También acoge el informe titulado *El estado de la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo*. Este informe muestra claramente que muchos componentes de la biodiversidad en este ámbito están disminuyendo de forma preocupante.

La gravedad de este diagnóstico radica en que sin biodiversidad, no puede haber desarrollo sostenible ni seguridad humana. En este sentido, México reconoce que la conservación y el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad son elementos centrales para promover el desarrollo sostenible y para encontrar soluciones a problemas como el hambre, la pobreza y el cambio climático.

Invitamos a la FAO a que continúe la amplia difusión al Informe sobre *El estado de la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo*, con mensajes específicos, tanto para el público en general como entre los responsables de las políticas, las múltiples partes interesadas y otras organizaciones internacionales.

México también desea respaldar el Plan estratégico de la Comisión para el período 2019-2027, incluido su programa de trabajo plurianual. Consideramos que este Plan estratégico con sus cuatro objetivos permitirá valorar y avanzar en la conservación de la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura, y fomentar su uso en apoyo de la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo sostenible a nivel mundial.

Finalmente reconocemos la alineación del Plan estratégico a los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

### **Ms Daak SADIA ELMUBARAK AHMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to express our gratitude to the Commission for the efforts exerted in the field of promoting and safeguarding biodiversity in order to achieve food security and nutrition for all generations. The Near East Group would like to support the content of the Report.

We are reiterating the importance of including genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as biodiversity within national and regional Action Plans related to food security and nutrition, in light of the growing role of genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture and the different food production systems, in order to achieve food security in all its dimensions and in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Group would also like to support the Report in terms of providing the necessary resources in order to analyse the proper data in developing countries and to support countries to promote their capacities and to enhance collaboration with the global information systems as well as early warning systems related to genetic resources in different sectors.

The Group would like to express its gratitude for the efforts exerted by FAO as well as the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for their continuous support to the Member States in drafting the different national reports on biodiversity.

The Near East Region has been a cradle for agriculture for many decades in light of its wealth of resources and genetic resources. Despite that, the basic natural resources that are supposed to support production and agriculture productively, including water, soil, plant and animal resources, are being eroded with the erosion of biodiversity which leads to a great loss in these countries and their capacity to adapt to climate change. This is compounded by the growth in demographic numbers, and this is why we need to preserve biodiversity and genetic resources.

Being aware of the importance of genetic resources in the region, it is important to preserve all types of genetic resources and to ensure their sustainable use and this is why our future challenge is to see how we can develop complementary and comprehensive agricultural systems amidst climate change.

Sudan, among the countries of the Near East region, would like to call upon FAO to give special attention to the priority countries in our region in order to promote genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture in terms of the sustainable use of natural biodiversity and to use that to guide national policies and to build proper institutions and promote regional cooperation. This is why I would like to support this Report.

**M. Gabriel MBAIROBE (Cameroun)**

Le Cameroun prend la parole à cet instant au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

Lors de sa 17ème session, la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture a examiné de nombreuses questions et elle est arrivée à des conclusions que nous soutenons.

Relativement au premier rapport sur *L'état de la biodiversité pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans le monde*, nous convenons qu'il s'agit d'une étape importante dans le cadre de la Décennie des Nations Unis pour la biodiversité.

Nous sommes disposés à participer activement dans la suite du processus de réflexion, ainsi qu'à la réunion à composition non limitée en vue d'élaborer un plan d'action mondial qui serait adopté par la Conférence de la FAO à sa 42ème session.

Par ailleurs, nous notons la demande de la Commission à la FAO de préparer la version préliminaire de *L'état des ressources génétiques aquatiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans le monde*, et d'élaborer après consultation des groupes régionaux, en collaboration avec le Comité de pêches et ses organes subsidiaires compétents, un projet de plan d'action mondial relatif aux ressources génétiques aquatiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

S'agissant de la publication du *Deuxième rapport sur l'état des ressources génétiques forestières dans le monde*, et du *Troisième rapport sur l'état des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans le monde*, nous prenons note de l'invitation faite aux pays de communiquer leur rapport au plus tard le 30 juin 2020 et le 31 décembre 2020 respectivement.

La question de l'accès et du partage des avantages dans les différents sous-secteurs des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, que la Conférence avait accueillie favorablement en 2015, continue à préoccuper notre Groupe tant que sa prise en compte n'est pas effective et ressentie par nos agriculteurs.

Nous avons aussi pris note de l'adoption du Plan stratégique 2019-2027 de la Commission et le Programme de travail pluriannuel y afférant. Nous approuvons ces deux outils de planification et attendons d'être régulièrement informés de leur mise en œuvre.

Le Groupe Afrique, après avoir examiné le document C 2019/25, s'est dit satisfait des délibérations de la Commission et invite la Conférence à l'adopter.

**Sr. Edison VALLEJO MADRID (Ecuador)**

Ecuador agradece al Embajador Pythoud por la presentación del informe de la 17.<sup>a</sup> reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para Alimentación y la Agricultura. Nuestra delegación acoge con agrado este informe y desea hacer algunos comentarios puntuales sobre el mismo.

Con respecto al tema 3 sobre las características distintivas y prácticas específicas de los diferentes subsectores de los recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura y, particularmente, sobre las notas explicativas, Ecuador considera que se debe tomar en cuenta el marco legal nacional relevante para la implementación de acceso y distribución de beneficios. Adicionalmente, es importante coordinar diferentes políticas y objetivos e integrarlos en una estrategia amplia y consistente.

Sobre el tema 4, “Información digital sobre secuencias”, Ecuador considera que la creación de “Información digital sobre secuencias” requiere el acceso inicial a un recurso genético físico y que, por lo tanto, un beneficio que se derive de la utilización de esta “Información digital sobre secuencias” se debería compartir de manera justa y equitativa en consonancia con el tercer objetivo del Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica (CDB), el objetivo y el Artículo 5.1 del Protocolo de Nagoya, y los objetivos del Tratado Internacional de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (TIRFA). Asimismo, dicha utilización debe beneficiar en forma directa a los pueblos indígenas y a las comunidades locales, que conservan la diversidad biológica a fin que actúe como incentivo para la conservación y la utilización sostenible de los recursos genéticos.

Sobre el tema 5, el papel de los recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura en la mitigación del cambio climático y la adaptación al mismo, Ecuador analizará con atención los resultados de los exámenes realizados por los distintos grupos de trabajo de la Comisión respecto al estudio de delimitación del alcance de la función de los recursos genéticos en la adaptación al cambio climático y la mitigación del mismo. Asimismo, analizará atentamente el Proyecto de Plan de Trabajo que comprende la preparación de una evaluación mundial dirigida por los países y que será analizada en las próximas reuniones de la Comisión.

Con respecto a la revisión del trabajo de los recursos genéticos y la nutrición, Ecuador concuerda con el informe de la Comisión que destaca la importancia de los conocimientos tradicionales y los alimentos nativos, así como la inclusión de las realidades de comunidades indígenas y locales en la formulación de políticas, programas y planes de acción sobre nutrición. Ecuador destaca también la importancia de la aplicación de las directrices voluntarias sobre la incorporación general de la biodiversidad en las políticas, los programas y los planes de acción nacionales y regionales.

En cuanto al estado de la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo, al igual que la Comisión, Ecuador acoge con agrado el informe titulado *El estado de la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo*.

Quisiera agradecer a la Secretaría por el esfuerzo realizado para promover la participación de los países en la realización y entrega de sus informes nacionales. Asimismo, extendemos nuestro agradecimiento a los países que contribuyeron con fondos para este fin. Ecuador considera que el informe debe ser difundido de una manera amplia a fin de que se convierta en un instrumento para compartir experiencias y como insumo para el desarrollo de políticas a nivel nacional.

Finalmente, con respecto al Plan estratégico de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, Ecuador está de acuerdo con que el Plan estratégico 2019-2027 se remita al Secretario Ejecutivo del CDB como contribución temprana al proceso de elaboración del Banco Mundial de la Diversidad Biológica posterior a 2020.

Adicionalmente, Ecuador desea resaltar la importancia de que los recursos genéticos de microorganismos e invertebrados, así como la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura, sean considerados temas transversales y permanentes de los grupos de trabajo en las reuniones de la Comisión, y espera el documento de la Secretaría respecto a las opciones y alternativas para este fin.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I have two simple points to deliver here. First, the United States welcomes The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and we recognize the need for a timely follow-up on the Report's findings. Through the process agreed by the Commission, the Commission specifically avoided a direct call for a Global Plan of Action for Biodiversity. The Commission's Report instead refers to a more general follow-up product that should complement and not duplicate other existing FAO initiatives such as the Commission's subsectoral Global Plans of Action and FAO's Biodiversity Strategy.

**CHAIRPERSON**

What I have heard is agreement on the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture, the importance of biodiversity, a warm welcome for the Report on The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and plans to follow it up.

I would like to propose the following conclusion for this Item.

The Conference welcomed and endorsed the Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and welcomed the first Report of The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and plans for its follow-up.

**Item 19. International Years and Days:****Point 19. Années et journées internationales:****Tema 19. Años y días internacionales:**

*Item 19.1 Proposal for an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables*

*Point 19.1 Proposition relative à une Année internationale des fruits et légumes*

*Tema 19.1 Propuesta relativa a un Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras*

*(C 2019/LIM/8 Rev.1)*

**CHAIRPERSON**

We are now going to move to Item 19, the proposals for the five *International Years and Days*.

Before getting into the review of the different sub-items for Item 19, and in view of Council's endorsement of these International Years and Days, I would like to propose that we approve Item 19 *en bloc* after we have heard from the podium and after we have heard from the countries that made the proposals.

The proposal is in document C 2019/LIM/8 Rev.1 which was endorsed by the Council at its 160<sup>th</sup> Session. I am now going to give the floor to Mr Torero to present the proposal.

**Mr Máximo TORERO (Assistant Director-General of Economic and Social Development)**

The Latin American and Caribbean Group propose the establishment of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021 in an effort to raise awareness on the nutrition and health benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption, advocate for healthy diets through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables and promote international efforts to boost fruit and vegetable production in a sustainable way and reduce loss and waste in their supply chains, from production to consumption.

This aligns with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution proclaiming the Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, and the need to implement sustainable food systems that promote healthy diets, which include a variety of foods and the abundance of the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

The 160<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council, convened in Rome in December 2018, endorsed the proposal to establish the observance of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021. Based on this, the Conference is requested to approve the Draft Resolution and to request the Director-General to transmit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring the year 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

**Sr. Alfonso VARGAS (Chile)**

En relación a este tema y, en representación del gobierno de Chile y del Presidente Sebastián Piñera, quiero expresar nuestro agradecimiento a las autoridades y representantes de los Estados Miembros así como a la FAO y al Director General, José Graziano da Silva, por el apoyo brindado en lograr el apoyo a esta importante iniciativa que busca, principalmente, crear conciencia en la población y en las autoridades sobre la relevancia de generar políticas públicas que promuevan sistemas alimentarios sostenibles apoyados en dietas saludables, definición que incorpora un significativo y equilibrado consumo de frutas y verduras, prestando atención a los sistemas de producción.

El Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras 2021 es una oportunidad que todos debemos aprovechar, desde los agricultores familiares, feriantes, organizaciones de productores, investigadores, educadores, gestores de políticas y autoridades para difundir la importancia de lograr un consumo mínimo de frutas y verduras en nuestra dieta diaria, para un saludable desarrollo de la población. Para promover y avanzar en prácticas agrícolas sostenibles, amigables con nuestro medio ambiente, que busquen aumentar la producción de calidad pero no a cualquier costo, para fortalecer a los agricultores familiares quienes proveen la mayor calidad de los alimentos frescos que consumimos y donde encontramos los principales bolsones de pobreza.

Para rescatar nuestras formas tradicionales de cultivo y alimentación, para impulsar con más fuerza políticas nacionales que apunten a la reducción de la pérdida y desperdicio de alimentos que afecta preponderantemente al sector hortofrutícola. Y, por último, y lo más importante, para reforzar y empoderar a la mujer, tanto en el campo, en su rol de productoras y trabajadoras de la tierra, así como en su rol familiar, responsables en la mayoría de los casos de la nutrición de sus familias.

Como lo hemos expresado en oportunidades anteriores, los problemas derivados de la malnutrición nos afectan a todos, independiente de nuestro nivel de desarrollo. De igual manera todos nos vemos afectados por los estragos del cambio climático.

La agricultura enfrenta un escenario desafiante y debemos producir más pero de mejor calidad, cuidando el medio ambiente, impulsando formas sustentables y amigables en el uso del suelo y del agua, recursos que se han visto tremendamente afectados, no solo por los efectos del cambio climático, sino también por prácticas agrícolas inadecuadas.

Es necesario trabajar en conjunto, coordinados y en alianzas para impulsar de forma urgente políticas que apoyen la transformación del actual sistema alimentario y lograr la seguridad e inocuidad alimentaria y una mejor nutrición para todos. Un entorno alimentario saludable depende de múltiples factores, que van desde la producción sustentable hasta la disponibilidad y acceso a los alimentos, incluyendo aspectos culturales y de valoración social.

Chile posee una agricultura potente. Poseemos 26 acuerdos comerciales vigentes con 64 países para exportar productos agropecuarios y forestales. Tenemos, además, un fuerte compromiso con el cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 y sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, como lo hemos demostrado en la entrega de nuestros planes y programas nacionales.

La iniciativa de celebrar un Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras es una herramienta más para avanzar en la consecución de estos objetivos. El Ministerio de Agricultura de Chile ha puesto el foco en la agricultura familiar, en la innovación de la pequeña agricultura, en el uso eficiente de los recursos hídricos, en facilitar el acceso a los mercados locales, regionales y globales, así como en la protección y conservación de nuestros recursos.

El gobierno de Chile se ha puesto el objetivo de avanzar hacia una agricultura comprometida con la sostenibilidad de los recursos, amigable con el medio ambiente para así proteger y sostener las necesidades sociales, económicas y ambientales actuales y también de las próximas generaciones. Con esta intervención, la delegación de Chile acoge y agradece la resolución sobre el Año Internacional de las Frutas y las Verduras, a la espera de que la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas declare el año 2021 para celebrar esta relevante iniciativa.

<b>Item 19.2</b>	<b><i>Proposal for an International Year of Rye</i></b>
<b>Point 19.2</b>	<b><i>Proposition relative à une Année internationale du seigle</i></b>
<b>Tema 19.2</b>	<b><i>Propuesta relativa a un Año Internacional del Centeno</i></b>
<b><i>(C 2019/LIM/9)</i></b>	

**Mr Hans Martin DREYER (Director of Plant Production and Protection)**

The proposal to establish the observance of the UN System of an International Year of Rye in 2025 originated from the Government of Estonia. This was endorsed at the 31<sup>st</sup> Regional Conference for Europe in May last year, and it was also endorsed during the Council Session in December 2018. The International Year of Rye is required to respond to the reducing cultivation and commercialization of rye products and to improve production efficiencies, research and development, investments and food sector linkages.

Rye has the ability to grow in environments where other cereals cannot grow. Rye is climate-resilient and able to survive in cool temperatures, semi-arid and high altitude zones and can be cultivated on a wide range of resource-poor soils.

Rye benefits from a vast genetic diversity and its adaptive capacities to adverse environments is critical. Rye grains are rich in dietary fibre and in carbohydrates and its grains also contain protein and other key nutrients that create specific market opportunities for rural family farmers. The observance of an International Year of Rye by the international community would contribute to the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and Recommendation 10 of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, ICN2, to raise awareness of the need to diversify cereal-based food systems and also diets.

To conclude, the Conference may wish to approve the Draft Resolution in the Annex of the document in front of you and to request the Director-General to transmit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring Year 2025 as the International Year of Rye.

**Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)**

Estonia is following the increasing pressure on nature and global natural resources for food production with concern. One of the first global priorities for SDG 2 is to feed the world's population. Nevertheless, it should be done in a sustainable manner.

One important aspect here is a loss of biological diversity. In grain production the concentration and thereby the pressure to nature is vast. The three major grains constitute more than 90 percent of the world's human consumption.

One valuable alternative is rye which has been grown on much larger areas until only a few decades ago. Rye has many advantages that have rightly been stressed in document C 2019/LIM/9. First, the nutritional values should be mentioned, which are of growing importance because of rising consumer awareness. This has increasingly brought rye to flour mixes in regions where rye is not traditional, such as southern European countries.

Two other advantages of rye are no less important. Rye is very sustainable and can be grown in harsh climate conditions and in soils with lower quality. This is very important with regard to climate change and the shortage of agricultural land. Rye is also known to improve the quality of soil. Rye as a crop is important in different parts of the world and is grown in substantial amounts on all continents.

The International Year of Rye would adequately respond to the calls of the Decade of Action on Nutrition and to the International Year of Soils.

Estonia is putting high emphasis on many of the aspects mentioned above. Estonia already had the National Year of Rye in 2015. On an international level, Estonia started the campaign More Attention to Rye in 2010 after suggesting the International Year at the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Yerevan, Armenia.

The success of Estonian rye dates back to 1896 with a gold medal awarded at the World Exposition to the Sangaste rye variety. Finally, Estonia supports the idea of the International Year of Rye and sees it as an instrument to draw more attention to healthy diets, the protection of biodiversity and soils and sustainability of food production and agriculture.

*Item 19.3      Proposal for an International Year of Millets*  
*Point 19.3      Proposition relative à une Année internationale du mil*  
*Tema 19.3      Propuesta relativa a un Año Internacional del Mijo*  
 (C 2019/LIM/10)

## CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to turn back to Hans Dreyer to take us through the proposal for Item 19.3, a proposal for an International Year of Millets. The proposal can be read in document C 2019/LIM/10 and has been endorsed by the Council at its 160<sup>th</sup> Session.

### **Mr Hans Martin DREYER (Director of Plant Production and Protection)**

The International Year of Millets in 2023 has been proposed by the Government of India. It was endorsed during the last Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Session in October 2018.

I would like to underline that from a crop production point of view, millets can help to respond to the challenges posed today as a consequence of the increasing populations and the associated food insecurity and changes in climate, particularly the drought.

Millets encompass a diverse group of cereals, including sorghum that have been a traditional staple for millions of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and also in Asia. Millets have a high nutritional content and can play an important role for human health. Millets can grow in poor soils with little or no inputs, are resistant or tolerant to many crop diseases and pests, and can survive adverse climatic conditions. The diversity of millets offer opportunities for economic development through income-generation activities in the food sector and through niche markets.

While millet cultivation has been historically widespread, there is a current need to promote the nutritional and ecological benefits of millets to consumers, producers and decision makers to improve production efficiencies, research, investments and food sector linkages.

To conclude, the Conference may wish to approve the Draft Resolution in the Annex of this document in front of you and to request the Director-General of FAO to transmit to the Secretary General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

### **Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)**

India proposes to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets to the United Nations. Millets are a group of cereal crops which are small-seeded, adapted to cultivation over a range of tropical, subtropical and temperate climates that can be grown with low inputs. The agriculturally important millet crops include sorghum, millet, finger millet, foxtail millet, Italian millet or German millet, proso millet, broomcorn millet or common millet, etc. These millet grains are a rich source of nutrition.

Millets are not only comparable to other cereals with respect to their nutritional features but are very good sources of carbohydrates, micronutrients and phytochemicals with nutraceutical properties. Sorghum is cultivated in 44 million hectares, poli millet in 31 million hectares and other millets in about 20 million hectares worldwide.

Millets form the backbone of dry land agriculture in many parts of Asia and Africa, as well as other specific regions of the world. Under the climate change scenario, millets are the most dependable food crops for the resource-poor dry land farmers of the world as they are resilient to climate change and assure sustainable grain production with minimum inputs.

The proclamation of an International Year of Millets will create a unique opportunity to encourage connections throughout the food chain that would better utilize a millets-based food, increase global

production of millets, better utilize crop rotations and adverse challenges in the trade of millets to bring back the millet to the food basket to ensure sustainable food and nutritional security of mankind.

The objectives to be achieved are:

- to provide a global initiative for spreading awareness about the goodness of millets for nutrition, health, climate and farmers;
- to catalyse the production and utilization of widely adapted, versatile and beneficial millets as future crops of mankind;
- increase millet consumption by educating the consumers about health and nutritional benefits of millets;
- improve the millet crop productivity and production worldwide;
- increase millet production in barren areas to improve the food and livelihood security of resource-poor farmers in those areas;
- enhance and strengthen coordination among researchers to address the key research gaps in millets, generating more data on the health benefits of millets, conducting population studies, developing global databases on all aspects of millet agriculture, processing, nutrition utilization and value addition;
- influence policymakers, international bodies in the food sector and researchers to include millets in policy development, public health initiatives and research.

Supporting millets is similar to supporting dry land agriculture ecology where food insecurity and malnutrition are commonplace. Eradication of hunger is a major priority in these regions as undernutrition accounts for 11 percent of the global burden of diseases and is considered the number one risk to health worldwide.

Encouraging millet production and consumption directly facilitates improving malnourishment and correcting the slow growth in correction of nutritional disorders such as anaemia, lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, metabolic syndrome, etc.

The Action Plan is the promotion of awareness of the goodness of millets for nutrition, health, environment and agriculture; knowledge and technical support to millet-growing countries for supporting millet-growing farmers and utilization of millets; linking of different stakeholders, farmers, processors, food industry actors and nutrition healthcare providers for promoting the millet value chain; technological support for farmer groups to set up post-harvest processing hubs for millets, crops and value addition; networking of regional groups working in similar areas to expand synergies by exchange of technical and material resources for the cause of millets.

<b>Item 19.4</b>	<b><i>Proposal for an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste</i></b>
<b>Point 19.4</b>	<b><i>Proposition relative à une Journée internationale de sensibilisation aux pertes et gaspillages de nourriture</i></b>
<b>Tema 19.4</b>	<b><i>Propuesta relativa a un Día Internacional de Concienciación sobre la Pérdida y el Desperdicio de Alimentos</i></b>

(C 2019/LIM/11)

## CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to turn to Assistant Director-General Torero to present the proposal for an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. The proposal can be found in document C 2019/LIM/11 and was endorsed by Council at its 160<sup>th</sup> Session.

### **Mr Máximo TORERO (Assistant Director-General of Economic and Social Development)**

The Government of Argentina proposes the establishment of an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste to be observed on 29 September each year in an effort to raise awareness at all levels of the need for concerted attention to reduce food loss and waste and promote global effort and collective action towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal target 12.3, which seeks, by 2030, to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level

and reduce food losses along the production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.



Reducing food loss and waste will contribute to increasing the efficiency and sustainability of food systems to deliver better on nutrition and food security as well as have a positive environmental benefit.

The FAO's 160<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council from December 2018 was appreciative of the presentation on the International Years and Dates and endorse the proposal to establish the observance of an International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste on 29 September of each year.

Based on this, the Conference is requested to approve the Draft Resolution and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next Session, declaring 29 September as International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

This is also of crucial importance for us because we have the SOFA, which will be on food loss and waste this year.

**Sra. Angela TEVES LIBARONA (Argentina)**

La delegación argentina desea agradecer a la FAO y a sus Estados Miembros por su apoyo a esta iniciativa. La Argentina ha presentado esta propuesta con miras a que la celebración de un Día Internacional de Concienciación sobre la Pérdida y el Desperdicio de Alimentos pueda impulsar la promoción de iniciativas y medidas a escala global que atiendan a este fenómeno y a sus impactos sociales, económicos y ambientales. Las iniciativas que se tomen en este sentido podrán contribuir no solo a la consecución de la Meta 12.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, como bien mencionó el señor Torero Cullen, pero también tendrá incidencia en otros Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, en especial si se considera que la pérdida y el desperdicio de alimentos incide negativamente en la sostenibilidad de los sistemas alimentarios y en la disponibilidad de alimentos y acceso a ellos.

En este sentido, quisiera mencionar que la Argentina también impulsó la incorporación de esta temática en la Declaración de Ministros de Agricultura del G20 en julio de 2018 que fue suscrita por todos los países miembros del G20. Quisiera citar un párrafo en particular de esta declaración, que consiste justamente en un mensaje para este foro: "Apoyamos el concepto de crear un día internacional de concienciación sobre la pérdida y el desperdicio de alimentos, según la observación especial de las Naciones Unidas, a fin de generar conocimiento y conciencia en la materia y de promover acciones sobre estas cuestiones. Por ende, animamos a los Miembros de la FAO a enviar propuestas para iniciar el proceso correspondiente dentro de la FAO para su posterior presentación ante la Secretaría General de las Naciones Unidas."

Con estos comentarios, la delegación argentina apoya la celebración del Día Internacional de Concienciación sobre la Pérdida y el Desperdicio de Alimentos todos los días 29 de septiembre y augura su declaración en esta Conferencia.

<b>Item 19.5</b>	<b><i>Proposal for an International Tea Day</i></b>
<b>Point 19.5</b>	<b><i>Proposition relative à une Journée internationale du thé</i></b>
<b>Tema 19.5</b>	<b><i>Propuesta relativa a un Día Internacional del Té</i></b>
<b><i>(C 2019/LIM/12)</i></b>	

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would now like to turn to Mr Ben-Belhassen, the Director of Trade and Markets, to present Item 19.5 a *Proposal for an International Tea Day*. The proposal can be read in document C 2019/LIM/12 and was endorsed by the Council at its 160<sup>th</sup> Session.

**Mr Boubaker BEN-BELHASSEN (Director of Trade and Markets)**

I am pleased to introduce to you the Agenda Item 19.5 on the International Tea Day. Following the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea held in Hangzhou from 17 to 20 May 2018, the Government of the People's Republic of China proposed the establishment of an International Tea Day to be observed on 21 May of each year.

The proposal was considered and endorsed by the Committee on Commodity Problems at its 72<sup>nd</sup> Session in September 2018 and subsequently by the Council at its 160<sup>th</sup> Session in December 2018.

Tea is an important sector. It contributes to eradicating poverty, that is SDG 1, and ending hunger, SDG 2, by creating jobs, generating incomes and improving the livelihoods of rural communities.

Tea is grown in more than 35 countries worldwide, often in some of the world's poorest countries. Millions of smallholders and their households depend on the tea sector for their livelihoods.

Furthermore, tea contributes to food security by helping the exporting countries generate export earnings and foreign exchange to finance their food import bills.

Tea production and trade can also contribute to the empowerment of women, SDG 5, who are largely involved in the picking, processing and marketing of tea. Tea is much more than a commodity. It carries an ancient heritage dating back some 5,000 years and is underpinned by a rich culture, history and a valuable contribution to socioeconomic development.

The objective of observing an International Tea Day each year is to raise awareness of the many benefits of tea for producers and consumers alike and to direct global efforts toward fostering the further development of the tea sector and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

The Conference is currently requested to approve the Draft Resolution and to request the Director-General of FAO to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the UN consider, at its next session, declaring 21 May of each year as International Tea Day.

**Ms Ying WU (China) (Original language Chinese)**

The Government of China proposes establishing the International Day of Tea. It is a very important cash crop. It is very important to improve livelihoods, particularly for less developed countries by helping these countries pay for imported foods. Tea and its sale help to reduce poverty (SDG 1), promote Zero Hunger (SDG 2), and empower women (SDG 5).

This day will allow us to raise awareness about the different important aspects of tea for reducing poverty and raising awareness among the public on the importance of tea for sustainable production. Tea is the second-most popular drink in the world after water. It is very healthy and China hopes to be able to explore the rich culture of tea to tell its story and make it shine around the world.

China asks the Conference to transmit this proposal to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and make 21 May of every year the International Day of Tea.

**Mr Salah Yousef Ahmed AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to give the floor to Kuwait, the head of Near East Group and after that I will take the floor.

**Ms Jeehan ALESTAD (Kuwait)**

These remarks are made on behalf of the Near East Regional Group concerning a Draft Resolution on the allocation of an International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. Perhaps the reasons behind the call for an International Day to raise awareness of food loss and waste have been rather late at a time when the crisis has been exacerbated for decades by high levels of food loss and waste in all regions and countries of the world without exception.

On this occasion, the Regional Group of the Near East would like to have the designation changed from an International Day to a Global Awareness Day on this serious global problem. In principle, we agree on the role that the private sector can play in reducing food loss and waste, not at the global level but at the country level in order to achieve concrete results in cooperation and direct coordination with the relevant government agencies in each country.

The Near East Regional Group wishes that this Resolution will be adopted after it has been ratified by the Member States to implement it in accordance with the possibilities available in each country along

with the assistance of the Organization and follow-up of its field offices and the government of the countries where those offices are located. The Near East Group hopes that this Resolution is translated into action through all professional and educational institutes of Member Countries.

The Near East Regional Group congratulates the Organization and the organs that sought to bring this Draft Resolution into reality, especially the Committee on Agriculture, and urges the implementation of it soon, expressing its full support for the Draft Resolution in its entirety.

**Mr Salah Yousef Ahmed AL TARWNEH (Jordan) (Original Language Arabic)**

We have had dialogue between the Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan and the Ambassador of Chile and we supported this Draft Resolution as I mentioned within the Council. I propose that the efforts this year be spread out over different countries and not only applied and implemented in a single country.

Four million tons of fruits and vegetables are produced in Jordan, particularly by smallholders and small scale farmers that produce fruits and vegetables.

We would like to see the Council take note of this and all producing countries implement activities for the International Years. Now regarding the International Awareness Food Loss and Waste we heard from the representative of Kuwait on behalf of the Near East Group, and we would like to press the need to raise awareness on this issue, because there are people who are suffering from hunger around the world and there is a lot of waste and loss. Many people need this food.

We need to raise awareness on these issues and we support Argentina as well. We can say that we are supportive of the Chinese proposal for an International Day of Tea very firmly.

**Sr. Jose Luis DELGADO CRESPO (México)**

México da la bienvenida a las propuestas presentadas para establecer diferentes años internacionales. En particular, México desea respaldar la iniciativa de Chile para designar el año 2021 como el Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras. Se trata de alimentos con muchos beneficios, particularmente por su valor nutricional y aporte vitamínico. Al tiempo que son de gran importancia para lograr dietas saludables y sistemas alimentarios sostenibles. El reto radica en que todos los sectores de la población tengan acceso a este tipo de alimentos.

El cultivo de frutas y verduras también ofrece oportunidades importantes para el desarrollo rural. En esta línea, el gobierno de México está impulsando un programa llamado Sembrando Vida, que busca incentivar sistemas productivos agroforestales que combina la producción de cultivos tradicionales y de árboles frutales con lo que se contribuirá a generar empleos, se incentivará la autosuficiencia alimentaria, se mejorarán los ingresos de los pobladores y se recuperará una parte importante de la cobertura forestal del país.

De nueva cuenta, México respalda con mucho entusiasmo esta propuesta de Chile.

**Sra. Diana CALDERÓN VALLE (Perú)**

El Perú expresa su respaldo a los años y días internacionales que se nos presentan hoy para aprobación. En particular, el Perú desea hacer eco de lo señalado por la delegación de la República Argentina sobre el Día Internacional de Concienciación sobre la Pérdida y el Desperdicio de Alimentos a celebrarse el 29 de septiembre y por el Subsecretario de Agricultura de la República de Chile en relación al Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras en 2021. Hacemos hincapié en este último punto a los beneficios del consumo de frutas y hortalizas y a la importante contribución de los mismos a la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición mediante la promoción de dietas saludables.

**Ms Danielle POIRIER (Australia)**

I will be talking about the Draft Resolution on the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021. Australia supports the Draft Resolution and raising awareness of the critical importance of fruits and vegetables to maintaining and improving nutrition and health across the world. Eating sufficient fruits and vegetables can protect from chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart and vascular disease and obesity.

The International Year of Fruits and Vegetables presents an opportunity to champion healthy eating in the community and for further engagement with food and agricultural industries. Australia highlights that enhancing nutritional choices that favour fruit and vegetables, increasing availability of and access to fruit and vegetables, and promoting crop diversification, will lead to increasing demand and production of fruits and vegetables.

This will in turn provide economic benefits for producers and other actors along the supply chain, and will contribute to improving economic outcomes for farmers. The International Year of Fruits and Vegetables will also provide a strong platform to promote the importance of planet health, bio-security and market access to facilitate and enhance the trade of fruits and vegetables.

While we are talking about International Years and Days, Australia is pleased the world will be celebrating the first ever International Year of Planet Health in 2020. It is a milestone for us all to have achieved global recognition of the importance of planet health to food security, and it is an opportunity to highlight FAO's role in the provision of expertise and technical skills on planet health which helps countries to manage planet health diseases, minimize the risk of transboundary diseases and trade plant products.

Australia will play an active role in the Year and we look forward to working with other Members to make it and other International Years a great success.

**Mr Mohammad Jawad RANJBAR (Afghanistan)**

Afghanistan wishes to deliver two statements on Item 19.1 and Item 19.3 on behalf of the Near East Group.

The production of world horticulture, which also includes medicinal plants, is estimated to be close to 2 billion tons, with Asia being the major producer, in particular China and India. In 2015 the value of the world's agricultural output was estimated to be valued at USD 2.4 trillion; horticulture accounted for no less than one third of this value. Horticulture is labour-intensive, fit for smallholder agriculture and produces more economic value per cubic meter of water than cereals, three or four times more.

The Near East Region is suitable for horticulture production and many countries derive no less than one third of their agricultural output from fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants. WHO and FAO recommend an intake of 400 grams of fruits and vegetables per person per day in order to prevent heart disease, cancer, diabetes and obesity.

With these observations the Near East Group endorses the proposal by the Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) to establish observance of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021, and supports the Draft Conference Resolution as presented in the Annex.

The world's annual production of millets, which grows in the same area of tropics of Asia and Africa, is estimated to be close to 30 million metric tons. The share of the developing countries is 97 percent of this global output. Although India and Nigeria are the two major producers of millets, the crop is grown in many countries of Asia, China, Myanmar, Pakistan, and West Africa, Burkina Faso and Niger and East Africa and Ethiopia and in Sudan.

Millet is consumed as a cereal such as roti in India as well as in some countries of Asia and Africa. It is rich, nutrient and superior to other cereals. It has a high content of fibre, digests easily and is good food for babies.

Given the important contribution that millets make, for food for human consumption and further for animals, the Near East Group supports the request of the Government of India to establish observance of millets for 2023 and supports the Draft Conference Resolution as shown in Appendix A of the document.

**Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

With regard to the proposed International Years and Days, Canada fully supports these proposals. As we have remarked at the meetings of Council and other Governing Bodies, there is a lot of merit to each of the points that they will consider and a lot for countries to benefit from.

First I would like to thank the countries for their specific interventions here this afternoon, and for providing additional details on the scope that is proposed. That has been very positive.

Canada is also very mindful that all of the Days of and Years of and other such initiatives are funded through extrabudgetary contributions and we are glad to see that the Resolutions presented for countries each reference this extrabudgetary point but, I think it is something worth reminding the Conference Members here today.

I would like to ask if some of the members from the Secretariat could speak to the modalities of how voluntary contributions are provided and how it is worked, and I ask that question because Canada had a very positive experience with the International Year of Pulses a few years ago, where through the voluntary contributions from industries around the world, many different initiatives were pursued in different countries in different regions that were tailored for the regions themselves, and were useful.

**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We thank the Secretariat for the documents provided under Agenda Item 19.1 to 19.5.

We would like to make a single statement for all those items. The proposal for International Years and Day under Item 19 can contribute to raising awareness on important subjects, such as the contribution of fruit and vegetables to sustainable diets, the role of rye and millets in global food security, the urgent need to address food waste and food loss along the whole production and consumption chain, and the role of tea production as a way of rural livelihoods.

We note that these activities will be financed from the voluntary contributions. At the same time we wish to recall the UN ECOSOC criteria for the proclamation of International Years and the FAO policy on the proclamation and implementation of International Years as set out in the document C 2019/INF/11.

We urge FAO to carefully assess future proposals against this framework before including them on the Agenda of FAO Governing Bodies. We also wish to draw attention to the importance of avoiding excess use of international dates in order to avoid an overload of events which would contradict their purpose of raising awareness. With this remark we support the Draft Resolutions in question, *en bloc*.

**Mr Joseph KATEMA (Zambia)**

Zambia, on behalf the African Group, would like to thank the government of Chile for raising awareness of the benefits of fruits and vegetables.

The health benefits of fruits and vegetables are well documented and research has shown that they are widely known, yet most people are still, for the most part, making unhealthy choices which have long term impacts on health. Together, we could develop promotional initiatives with a wide range of initiatives with local media, schools, retailers, hospitals and workplaces.

In addition to creating awareness about the health and other benefits of fruits, we would encourage people to make a tangible behavioural change by incorporating more fruits into their daily eating patterns. The African Group supports the Draft Proposal by Chile.

**Ms Noriko SHIMAUCHI (Japan)**

Japan fully supports all of the proposals.

We have several comments on the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. We expect that the observation of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste will contribute to raising awareness at all levels of the need to reduce food loss and waste and promote global efforts and collective action toward achieving SDG Target 12.3.

At the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting last month, the Minister declared that he was trying to take a leading role in the reduction of food loss and waste along food supply chains.

Furthermore, Japan enacted a law on food loss and waste reduction last month. Japan designates October as the month of food loss and waste reduction, and also designates 30<sup>th</sup> October as Day of

Awareness of Food Loss and Waste Reduction. The Japanese government will continue to promote these activities toward reducing food loss and waste.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The Russian Federation welcomes all five initiatives proposed by the Member States and the framework of this Item on the Agenda. Allow me to refer specifically to one of the initiatives. We would like to thank the delegation of Estonia for its many years of effort to draw the attention of the Member States of FAO to the importance of rye as a unique crop.

The cultivation of rye is traditional for Russian agriculture. Historically speaking rye has long been the most fundamental cereal crop in our country. Rye can play an important role in agriculture. It is not demanding in terms of soil quality, it provides good yields, it is resilient and frost-resistant. In many countries including Russia the cereal is used in the food industry to produce baked goods, non-alcoholic drinks and strong alcohol as well as starch.

Rye is used for the preparation of dietary, therapeutic foods. It is beneficial for diseases such as diabetes. Rye products help to regulate digestion and they improve metabolism. They have a positive impact on the cardiovascular system. Rye products are rich in protein, dietary fibre, sugar, amino acids, vitamins and minerals. We feel that the establishment of the International Year of Rye will give momentum to the sustainable development of this sector.

**Mme Josephine OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso)**

Le Burkina Faso intervient par ma voix au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

Introduite par le Gouvernement estonien, l'idée de consacrer une Année internationale au seigle en 2025 par les Nations Unies a été approuvée par la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe à sa 31<sup>ème</sup> session. Couramment appelé le blé des terrains pauvres et des climats rudes, la consommation du seigle a longtemps été marginale en comparaison aux autres céréales dans le monde.

Comme vous le savez, et comme il a été dit tout récemment par l'orateur qui m'a précédée, le seigle a l'avantage de pousser dans des milieux arides et semi-arides, et il résiste aux variations climatiques. Il survit dans des zones tempérées froides et en haute altitude. Riche en fibres alimentaires et en glucides, le seigle aurait plusieurs effets bénéfiques sur la santé et agirait, entre autres, contre les maladies cardiovasculaires, le diabète de type-II, et même le cancer.

Dans le cadre des objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et en ligne avec l'objectif d'éradiquer la faim et la malnutrition, nous devons investir dans la diversification des régimes alimentaires et ne négliger aucun produit alimentaire qui soutienne la réalisation de cet objectif. La célébration d'une Année internationale du seigle par la communauté internationale contribuerait à la fois à la Décennie d'action des Nations Unies pour la nutrition et à la mise en œuvre de la dixième recommandation de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Une telle célébration permettra de faire connaître largement cette céréale, également de mobiliser les moyens pour renforcer la recherche-développement, en vue d'encourager la production et la consommation du seigle dans les zones vulnérables.

C'est pourquoi le Groupe régional Afrique soutient la proposition du Gouvernement estonien, approuvée par la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe à sa 31<sup>ème</sup> session et par le Conseil de la FAO à sa 160<sup>ème</sup> session, à travers le projet de résolution soumis aujourd'hui à la Conférence pour la proclamation d'une Année internationale du seigle, qui serait célébrée en 2025, dans le cadre du système des Nations Unies.

**Sr. Luis Fernando CECILIANO PIEDRA (Costa Rica)**

Costa Rica también expresa su simpatía por las cinco iniciativas que han sido presentadas esta tarde, y quisiera referirse en particular a dos. En primera instancia, apoyamos en todos sus extremos la observancia de un Día Internacional de Concienciación sobre la Pérdida y el Desperdicio de Alimentos todos los 29 de septiembre como propuesto por la República Argentina. También acogemos con mucho entusiasmo la declaración de un Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras en 2021 a instancias de Chile. Sobre esto último, además de lo anunciado por la distinguida delegación chilena,

queremos agregar que seguramente existirán importantes sinergias y complementariedades en el marco del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Agricultura Familiar 2019-2028.

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

I would like to pick up on two proposals in this list. Overall, we have listened carefully to various proposals and have seen merit in many of them.

I would like to touch particularly on the proposal for the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. It is a very significant issue in the context of the SDGs, the global food security drive, and the 2030 Agenda.

But it is also of broader relevance in terms of advancing the overall goal of reducing the huge amount of food that is wasted. Our estimate collected from various statistics was something like 40 percent of the global food production that is potentially wasted. It has several dimensions.

Food loss and waste takes place across the food supply chain, from production to consumption, and concerted action is important to reduce it.

From that point of view this is going to be quite an important initiative to advance our global interest in this area. The proposed International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is complementary to the recently observed World Food Safety Day, which was observed on 7 June this year. There is a very strong linkage between reducing food loss and improving food safety. So, again there is all the more reason why we think this is very important.

I would just like to touch briefly on the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables. This is a very important one to advance the global public health goals. Balanced diets are critical and this is something that we all support at the national level. In New Zealand we have a slogan, “five plus a day” in terms of promoting a balanced diet and increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables. This is something that we support very enthusiastically and see as a worthy initiative.

**Sra. Norma RODRIGUEZ (República Dominicana)**

Dada la importancia de las frutas y verduras para la seguridad alimentaria, la nutrición, acabar con el hambre, la reducción de la pobreza, defender la cultura de los pueblos, las prácticas alimentarias tradicionales que forman parte del patrimonio de la humanidad y destacar el rol de la mujer en este proceso, nos sumamos al apoyo expresado por otras delegaciones que intervinieron y respaldaron la propuesta del gobierno de Chile para establecer un Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras en 2021.

Resaltamos los altos índices globales de obesidad, siendo América Latina y el Caribe una de las regiones más afectadas por lo que se hace urgente fortalecer las acciones que promuevan el consumo de frutas y verduras, así como concienciar a la población sobre sus comprobados beneficios nutricionales, y de salud. La celebración de este año no se puede postergar.

Con la designación de un Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras se armonizarán varios de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible vinculados al trabajo de la FAO y, sin duda, se mejorarían los medios de vida rurales reduciendo la migración rural a urbana y el consiguiente aumento de la pobreza. Con esta declaración deseamos apoyar las propuestas de los demás años y días internacionales que se presentan hoy a la Conferencia para aprobación, en particular, el Día Internacional de Concienciación sobre la Pérdida y el Desperdicio de Alimentos, propuesto por la delegación de Argentina a celebrarse el 29 de septiembre de cada año.

**Ms Vivi FERIANY (Indonesia)**

Indonesia supports the proposal for an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables. It is in line with our national programme and our movement on healthy living, which involves various stakeholders.

Indonesia has committed to achieve the recommended daily intake rate through several programmes that promote fruit and vegetable consumption and facilitation to increase access to affordable fruits and vegetables. Thus, Indonesia strongly supports any approach to increase fruit and vegetable consumption rates.

Since the consumption rate of fruits and vegetables in Indonesia is below the recommended daily intake, we hope this proposal will encourage more stakeholders to promote fruit and vegetable consumption and improve living standards.

Indonesia would also like to support the International Day Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. At the national and local levels, Indonesia is actively implementing a campaign to prevent food waste which is prevalent at the household level. Currently, according to the Food Sustainability Index, Indonesia is the second largest food waster with 300 kilogram per person per year.

We consider such campaigns and awareness to be very important. We also encourage FAO to continue its efforts to improve methods for the measurement of food loss and waste and sharing experiences and lessons learnt on reducing food loss and waste.

Indonesia also supports the proposal of China to observe an International Tea Day on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

To conclude our intervention, Indonesia welcomes all proposals on Agenda 19.

**Mme Halimatou TRAORE KONE (Mali)**

Le Mali adhère à la déclaration de l'Inde. Le Mali et Cabo Verde saluent le projet de résolution pour la déclaration de l'année 2023 comme Année internationale du mil. Comme cela a déjà été dit, le mil est moins demandant en eau, en engrais, et s'adapte aux zones arides. Il est résistant et tolérant à de nombreux ravageurs. Il constitue la base de l'alimentation des plus pauvres au sud du Sahara.

Au Mali, le mil est cultivé dans le cadre du renforcement de la résilience des petits producteurs. Il est transformé, passant par plusieurs mains. Actuellement, dans plusieurs pays de la zone sahélienne, le mil est transformé par les femmes et fait l'objet d'une transaction commerciale intrarégionale et internationale, toutes pratiques qui favorisent l'autonomisation des femmes.

Le mil sous sa forme fourragère permet de subvenir à l'alimentation du bétail et dans les pays du Sahel, les tiges de mil sont utilisées à cet effet. Dans les élevages extensifs, les animaux paissent sur les champs après la récolte de mil, ainsi l'apport en fumure organique enrichit les sols après le passage des animaux. Par conséquent, la proclamation d'une Année internationale du mil en 2023 pourrait bien ouvrir la porte à la promotion de recherches indispensables pour accroître sa production et augmenter sa consommation, contribuant ainsi à la réalisation des ODD 2, 3, 12 et 13.

Le mil permet d'augmenter et de diversifier notre source de nourriture, nécessaire pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, réduire la pauvreté et atteindre l'objectif Faim zéro. La proclamation de l'Année internationale du mil donnera un élan particulier à la coopération Sud-Sud. Coïncidant ainsi avec la Décennie de l'agriculture familiale, cette proclamation viendra à point nommé, car les producteurs de mil d'une manière générale sont des exploitants familiaux.

Par conséquent, le Mali tient à réaffirmer son soutien et approuve l'initiative de proposer une Année internationale du mil. Par ailleurs, le Mali approuve le projet de résolution de la Conférence pour la célébration de l'Année internationale du mil en 2023, et demande à la Conférence de la soumettre à l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU pour son adoption définitive.

**Ms Renata NEGRELLY NOGUEIRA (Brazil)**

I would like to thank the Secretariat and the distinguished country representatives for presenting the proposals. Brazil would like to reiterate its support for the declaration of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables which was presented by Chile and endorsed by GRULAC. We would also like to express our strong support for the Resolution on the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

The relevance of this issue has been repeatedly emphasized by several Regional Conferences and Governing Bodies of FAO, including the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean. Food loss and waste severely undermines global efforts against hunger and malnutrition. It represents a misuse of labour, water, energy, and all the natural resources, and accounts for a great share of greenhouse gas emissions. The declaration of this International Day will certainly contribute to raise awareness, scaling up activities and fostering cooperation worldwide on this highly important matter.



**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

The United States appreciates the Evaluation Report and found both the 2015 and 2016 International Years to be successful and valuable tools for raising awareness and sharing best practices on soils and pulses. The United States strongly encourages adherence to the 2013 FAO policy on the proclamation and implementation of International Years.

We do not support using FAO's regular budget to financing international observances and so we appreciate the proposals including the information about commitments by Member States or other stakeholders for fully funding the proposed observance through voluntary contributions.

Implementing international observances creates an organizational burden for FAO and other participating organizations including administration of costs for supplies, communication, travel and translation. Playing a leading role in the implementation of several International Years back to back could pose significant logistical and administrative challenges for FAO, and so we are weary of setting a precedent that may lead to this many proposals being put before the Conference for endorsement every biennium.

**Mme Houda AYOUCHE (Maroc)**

La délégation du Royaume du Maroc prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique pour appuyer la proposition de proclamer une Journée internationale de sensibilisation aux problèmes des pertes et gaspillages de nourriture.

La plupart des pertes alimentaires pour les pays en voie de développement se produisent durant les phases de post-production, récolte, transport et stockage. Elles sont essentiellement dues à des infrastructures inadéquates alors que le gaspillage alimentaire dans les pays les plus avancés est un problème qui survient au niveau de la commercialisation et de la consommation.

À cet effet, l'action de la communauté internationale visant à éliminer ou réduire les pertes et gaspillages de nourriture devrait se pencher sur l'investissement dans les infrastructures, notamment les routes et les chaînes de distribution, l'amélioration de l'information sur les marchés, mais aussi la sensibilisation des consommateurs.

Au moment où les gouvernements du monde entier se sont engagés à réduire de moitié les pertes et le gaspillage alimentaires d'ici 2030, et conformément aux objectifs de développement durable, les pays africains se sont fixé l'objectif ambitieux, conformément à la déclaration de Malabo, de réduire de moitié les pertes après récolte d'ici 2025.

Il est évident que l'état actuel de la gouvernance des politiques agricoles en matière de réduction des pertes et gaspillages requiert un renforcement sensible des capacités, ainsi que des apports en termes de nouvelles technologies. Le Groupe régional Afrique est conscient du rôle primordial que peut jouer le secteur privé à cet effet et encourage la FAO à continuer la mise en œuvre de ces initiatives de réduction des pertes de nourriture au sein de la filière agricole et dans tout le système l'alimentaire, à l'instar de l'initiative «Save Food».

Conscient que la réduction des pertes et les gaspillages permettront d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire, et tout en remerciant le Gouvernement argentin pour cette proposition, le Groupe régional Afrique appuie l'adoption de cette résolution et souhaite vivement que cet exercice de sensibilisation se traduise par des actions concrètes et durables.

**M. Baye Mayoro DIOP (Sénégal)**

Je voudrais d'abord m'associer aux différentes déclarations prononcées au nom du Groupe Afrique et nous féliciter des cinq initiatives soumises à notre assemblée cet après-midi.

Je voudrais insister particulièrement sur la proposition d'une Année internationale du mil. Au cours de la dernière session du Comité de l'agriculture de la FAO, la République de l'Inde a proposé que l'année 2023 soit déclarée Année internationale du mil. Le Sénégal souhaite appuyer solennellement cette idée.

En effet, outre les qualités nutritives du mil que nous connaissons tous, cette plante céréalière est déjà très largement cultivée dans le monde, y compris au Sénégal où elle nourrit près de la moitié de la population. Le mil est également apprécié pour ses impacts écologiques très positifs, car c'est effectivement une plante qui se conserve facilement et qui se consomme intégralement, de la racine au fruit. C'est donc là une initiative que nous souhaitons voir prospérer.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you to all the delegations that have spoken on this set of items. I have heard overwhelming support for them. I have also heard a couple of queries around how voluntary contributions are raised and how they are used to support the International Days and Years, and some comments around avoiding excess use of International Days and Years, ensuring that they do not crowd each other out. I would like to hand the floor to Ms Marcella Villarreal who is going to address those questions.

#### **Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Partnerships Division)**

I would like to refer to the question of funding for International Years. I confirm that FAO policy on proclamation and implementation of International Years, which was adopted by the FAO Conference in 2013, is fully implemented in terms of funding, and specifically in the case of pulses which Canada referred to.

We have set up an extrabudgetary trust fund where we receive contributions from both the private sector and other sources. In particular for the Year of Pulses, we had generous contributions from the Global Pulse Confederation, a global private sector entity, but we also had contributions from small and medium enterprises, including, for example, Colfiorito, a small Italian enterprise that produces pulses. These contributions came from the private sector. Otherwise we received contributions from governments and, in the case of pulses, an important contribution from IFAD. We bring together different sources of contributions which has proven to be very effective in fully implementing the policy on International Years.

Regarding the question raised by Romania on behalf of the EU, referring to the crowding and excess of International Years and Days, I should like to again refer to the policy, and note that there was an approval of sequential International Years on an exceptional basis, and the exceptional nature of this approval of subsequent years was noted in the documents. We expect that after we have this number of International Years that follow each other we will return to the one year gap between International Years.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I take it that we are happy to endorse and approve all of the five proposals before us.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

I will read you the conclusion on the first proposal for an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables. We plan to use that same format of language for each of the other four proposals, and I hope that will save a bit of time, if you are content with that approach. The format of the language that we plan to use is: "the Conference considered the Proposal endorsed by the Council at its 160<sup>th</sup> Session for the declaration of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021, and adopted resolution x, y, or z of 2019 as set out in appendix x, y or z of this Report."

If you are content with that we would use that wording separately for each of the five proposals. I will take it that you are all content with that approach and you agree.

- Item 15. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals/2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- Point 15. Progrès accomplis au regard des objectifs de développement durable et du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030**
- Tema 15. Progresos realizados en relación con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) y la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible**

(C 2019/28)

#### CHAIRPERSON

You will recall that this morning we decided to postpone Item 15 to this afternoon so that we could allow an intervention from the Netherlands who would like to intervene on the Youth Council.

I would now like to introduce Item 15, *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals/2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The Report for this Item is in document C 2019/28. Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources, will kindly present this item.

#### **Ms Maria Helena M.Q. SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General of Climate and Natural Resources)**

I am very pleased to present the *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals/2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The 2030 Agenda was approved in 2015 and we are in the fourth year of its implementation.

The global community is making progress in some key areas across the SDGs, but there are also serious shortcomings. Hunger and malnutrition are stuck at high levels, obesity is rising in all regions, poverty in rural areas persisting, natural resources degrading and biodiversity declining. As Ms Graça Machel reminded us during her McDougall Lecture last Saturday, the urgency seems to be lost on us.

The pace and scale with which we have been operating has not matched the magnitude of monumental tasks and noble results we set out for ourselves. I think this is where we stand but, in September the United Nation General Assembly will host the first ever SDG Summit. Heads of States will renew their commitment and pledge to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

If we are to achieve this ambitious vision we must accelerate and scale up our actions. Increasing evidence and content shows that food and agriculture are critical entry points for transformation, and this Conference is the chance for FAO to reflect upon its achievements and examine further use of its core assets and capacities to catalyze action.

The document in front of you summarizes FAO's contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which is focusing on four key capacities. These capacities are coming from the Secretary-General Report, and they are an improved collection and analysis of data, integrated policy support, partnerships for delivery of means of implementation, and scale up of finance and investment.

Building on its recognized expertise and experience in each of those areas and working closely with the UN family, RBAs and partners, FAO has assisted its Members substantially, and I will start with the first one, improved collection and analysis of data.

As you know, FAO has responsibilities being the custodian of 21 SDG indicators across six SDGs. So far we have been establishing methodologies and capacitating statisticians in around 80 countries. We have been establishing databases and data collection in order to improve the statistician capacity and to have data we can trust to monitor the progress towards the SDGs.

Regarding the implementation of integrated policies through FAO Strategic Programmes, we have been working closely with the regional offices and our country offices. We have developed frameworks and guidelines targeted toward countries to help them implement integrated approaches in policies and institutional environments in order to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I will just mention the guidelines for transforming food and agriculture to achieve the SDGs. We have 20 actions towards the country, we have developed the Corporate Framework on Rural Extreme Poverty, to mention just a few.

Regarding partnerships for delivery of means of implementation, we have strengthened our engagement in several multistakeholder partnerships aimed at transforming food and agriculture and mobilizing partners to support SDG implementation. The UN Decade of Family Farming that was launched on 29 May gives us this framework. We have the One Planet Network for Sustainable Food System Programme, and we have others, but let me start by only mentioning these two, and one regarding financing and investment; how FAO can help countries strengthen their efforts to mobilize resources to shape SDGs.

FAO is supporting countries in integrating the SDGs in their country investment plan in order to have a framework for resource mobilization. While progress was made, both FAO and Member Countries have a long way to go. Accelerated and scaled-up action is needed on all fronts if we are to reach the SDGs.

In this context, the Conference may wish to encourage Members to incorporate food and agriculture into national plans and leverage the invigorated UN country programming process as a means to achieve the SDGs. We think the UN Reform gives us the platform to leverage and to reinforce our process towards UN country programming processes.

The Conference may wish to take note of progress made by FAO in support to country, regional and global implementation, monitoring follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, encourage FAO in the context of its Strategic Programmes and the UNDS Reform to strengthen the provision of integrated policy to support the Members, consistent with FAO and UN norms and standards, assist Members in building their capacities for data collection, analysis and use of data for evidence-based decision making, especially in relation to SDGs indicators, support Members and their partners in developing partnerships to mobilize and deliver means of implementation, including technology and provide enabling frameworks for improved collective action at all levels to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, the Conference may wish to develop new business models to link FAO policy and technical work to finance and investment, guided by the vision of the 2030 Agenda. I am here with my colleagues Mr Daniel Gustafson, Mr Maximo Torero and Mr Pietro Gennari to reply to your questions and we look forward to our fruitful discussions.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now, I am sure we would all agree that in achieving the SDGs we want to ensure that we leave no one behind, and that is why I have agreed to the request from the Netherlands to make a five-minute intervention from the Informal Youth Council.

#### **Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands)**

Yesterday the Informal Youth Council for Zero Hunger was launched and we all know that we cannot achieve Zero Hunger and the SDGs without youth. So, listen to five pitches from the youth.

#### **Ms Amanda NAMAYI (CSAYN)**

My name is Amanda Namayi and I come from Kenya, a country whose greatest economic contributor is agriculture, and I am here because there is a cry, a cry from the young person not only in my country but the continent at large, and this cry is to have a seat at the table. It can be challenging to engage young people because we are always growing older, but the Youth Council provides this continuum where the young people would not just be discussed but they will discuss as well, and change the narrative of being policy takers and become policy makers as well.

#### **Ms Valerie STONE (4-H)**

My name is Valerie Stone and I come from Canada. I am here because of youth mentorship, both as a recipient of mentorship and as a mentor to youth. Youth provide a local to global perspective on agriculture. We are looking forward to invigorating our vision statement which is to be a valuable resource to the RBAs in a formative and inclusive youth-led advisory team that champions practical innovations and policies focused on the unique needs and strengths of young people in agriculture

globally. Our goal for the Youth Council is to set up structures that will outlive our own involvement after we, as individuals, are no longer youth.

**Mr Kevin MORAN (Nuffield International)**

My name is Kevin Moran. I am a farmer from Ireland. The Youth Council unites young people all around the world who are extremely passionate about agriculture and sustainability. The Youth Council is designed to give those youths a voice here in Rome. The Youth Council is about giving those youths all around the world a vehicle to allow them to grow and develop because ultimately, to be sustainable, we must ensure that we empower and nurture tomorrow's leaders, tomorrow's ambassadors and tomorrow's Director-Generals. I am going to leave you now as I ask for your support for the Youth Council with a quotation; "there is only one thing more expensive than to invest in your people and then leave, is to choose not to invest and they stay."

**Mr Jim Leandro CANO (YPARD)**

I am Jim from the Philippines. The Youth Council could be the platform where youth Action Plans of the RBAs are coordinated and sounded off with a young people's voice. The Youth Council composed at the various international organizations operating in each organizations work in different countries could be the platform where data from on the ground and each organization's work could rise and be brought to the global level. This data and information could inform policies, programmes and projects that would, in effect, make the RBA's direction responsive to the needs of the young people.

**Ms Cassie HAYWARD (Agrikua)**

My name is Cassie Hayward and I am from Canada and I am here today because I grew up in one the most developed countries in the world, in poverty, and over 10 years later the children in my community still do not have proper access to food.

I hope that over the past few days, if youth could have done anything, it is that they communicated a sense of urgency, because it is the urgency that we are feeling in our spheres and in agriculture, and they were hoping that the establishment of the Youth Council means that we have the opportunity to inspire, to motivate, and to empower other young people to get involved and to retain them within the agricultural field.

We believe that this is exceptionally important because we are going to be able to create an international agricultural hub that has never existed. Therefore, what we are here to ask you all today is to offer your support through the FAO for the Youth Council because although we are informal we need your support desperately if we are going to be successful in the future and to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands)**

To conclude, these voices give more than the reason why we should acknowledge the Informal Youth Council for Zero Hunger and hope just one brief sentence in a report could reflect this. Last month we saw school children, students and youth marching for climate change. Let us support the youth to go marching for Zero Hunger in the near future.

*Applause*  
*Applaudissements*  
*Aplausos*

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to thank the Netherlands and I would also to thank Amanda Nayami, Valerie Stone, Kevin Moran, Jim Cano and Cassie Hayward for your interventions.

**M. Gabriel MBAIROBE (Cameroun)**

Le Cameroun une fois de plus prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

La mise en œuvre, le suivi et l'examen du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 aux niveaux national, régional et mondial est une préoccupation permanente. Les États Membres de la

FAO attendent des rapports réguliers sur le point des travaux de la FAO, mettant en évidence les principales difficultés des propositions et solutions qui permettraient à l'Organisation d'accélérer les efforts destinés à renforcer l'appui qu'elle prête aux Membres en vue de concrétiser la vision ambitieuse du développement durable du Programme 2030.

Nous prenons acte des progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre des objectif de développement durable (ODD), du Programme 2030 et du travail de la FAO dans ce domaine.

Au niveau global, on note que dans beaucoup de domaines essentiels des ODD, le rythme de progression est insuffisant. Par ailleurs, les estimations les plus récentes font état d'une hausse de la faim et de la malnutrition sous toutes ses formes, ce qui se manifeste notamment par une progression alarmante de la dénutrition, de l'excès pondéral et de l'obésité.

Au niveau des pays, nous notons que la complexité des stratégies intégrées pose davantage de défis, notamment dans l'évaluation de la gestion des relations d'interdépendance entre les objectifs et les cibles, dans l'harmonisation des processus et des politiques entre les secteurs et les échelons gouvernementaux.

Concomitamment, la question de la mobilisation et de la disponibilité des ressources se pose avec acuité au niveau des pays pour assurer une mise en œuvre efficace, notamment la collecte et l'analyse des données, la prise de décisions fondée sur des éléments factuels, la mise en œuvre de politiques intégrées et le développement de partenariats. Au regard de ces grands défis, qui du moins ne sont pas insurmontables pour la concrétisation des ODD, nous croyons qu'une action accélérée et renforcée des pays et de la communauté internationale est nécessaire pour mettre en œuvre le Programme 2030.

Dans cette perspective et sur les plans global, régional et national, tout en soutenant les réformes du système des Nations Unies, nous encourageons la FAO à appuyer la mise en œuvre, le suivi et l'examen du Programme 2030 par les pays, qui devront intégrer l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans leurs plans nationaux et revitaliser leurs processus de programmation.

Le Groupe Afrique, après avoir examiné le document C 2019/28, apprécie toutes les informations portées à l'attention de la Conférence et attend avec intérêt la préparation du prochain rapport sur les progrès accomplis au regard des ODD et du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

World hunger is on the rise for the third year in a row. This is alarming and we need to accelerate efforts to make sure we leave no one behind. This requires a transformative change of food in agricultural systems as we know them today.

FAO has a key role to play in achieving this transformative change, including through strengthening its science- and evidence-based normative work, thanks to its convening power. This is why we recommend that FAO emphasizes the following three crucial aspects in its work towards achieving the SDGs.

First, the need for a systems approach to engage food and agriculture in the achievement of the SDGs.

Second, the importance of FAO's normative work to assist countries in mainstreaming sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishery international sustainability agendas.

Third, the need to measure sustainability performance of all agriculture and food systems. FAO should take a lead role to facilitate in collaboration with other relevant actors the development and the implementation of such methodologies. The approval of the SDG indicator 2.4.1, agriculture sustainability, is a major milestone in this regard. With these remarks Switzerland can go along with the suggested action as contained in document C 2019/28 and would support the acknowledgement of the Informal Youth Council by the Conference so that it can make sure that the voice of youth will be heard in these halls.

**Ms Renata NEGRELLY NOGUEIRA (Brazil)**

The 2030 Agenda is the cornerstone of a common vision on how to overcome global challenges leaving no one behind. Food systems have a major role to play in achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental, in a balanced and integrated manner.

We commend FAO for its efforts in supporting countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We believe the proposals contained in Item 5 of the suggested action by the Conference captured the essence of the guidance provided by the Secretary-General to the UN Development System. We would like to highlight the need to support Members in data collection and analysis, especially developing countries.

During the last Session of the FAO Council, the Chief Statistician presented quite a bleak picture of the gaps and challenges many countries face in this regard. We all know we cannot address a problem if we are not able to measure it and understand it first. We take note of the role of FAO in the development of methodologies for 11 SDG indicators, in the interagency and expert group on Sustainable Development Goals indicators.

We believe it will be useful for parties to be updated on the next steps of this process. In this regard, we would like to suggest a new Paragraph to the decisions to be taken by the Conference as follows; “request the Secretariat to update Members on the process of the comprehensive review of the SDG indicator framework until its final approval in March 2020.”

We would also like to propose a small amendment to the suggested actions, in order to improve the clarity and alignment with the 2030 Agenda. In Paragraph 1 after, “and to restoring a sustainable balance between people and planet”, we propose adding “integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions.”

We believe that whenever we refer to sustainable development, it is important to stress that the three dimensions must be taken into account as clearly as stated in the declaration, The Future We Want. In Paragraph two, instead of “hunger, malnutrition and obesity” it would be more accurate to say “hunger and malnutrition, including obesity.” In Paragraph three, after “encourage Members to incorporate food and agriculture in national plans and the reinvigorated UN country programming process as means to achieve the SDGs”, we suggest adding “in accordance with their needs and priorities.”

We recall that it is up to each country to decide how they want to pursue the SDGs including what should be the focus of the UN country programmes. Since the wording of the recommendations has not been assessed by any Technical Committee or the Council before, we would appreciate your consideration of those suggestions of amendment.

**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We welcome the document Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals/2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We would have appreciated its earlier availability in order to better prepare for this Session.

Food and agriculture are critical to achieve the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 2, but also other related and interlinked SDGs. The lack of progress in this respect makes it more important than ever to integrate the three dimensions of sustainability, economic, social and environmental, to restore a sustainable balance between people and planet.

Despite the progress made by FAO’s strategic programme to support our countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda, we note with concern the negative trends of hunger, social equality and rural development as well as the further loss of biodiversity. The world is not on track to reach the global targets on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture by 2030, and the deviation from this target is only widening.

We appreciate FAO’s engagement and work on the SDGs in close collaboration with other UN agencies and stakeholders to facilitate policy dialogue for increased consistency at global, regional and

national levels, and to increase the capacity of governments to implement, monitor, follow up and review the 2030 Agenda on policies within FAO's mandate.

We call on FAO to continue and deepen this work. We would also appreciate FAO's work on the SDGs indicator for which it has been designed as a custodian agency by advancing methodologies, collecting data from national sources, reporting on a global level and providing statistical capacity development and learning tools and clear guidance in support to Members. We note that sound methodological progress has been made. We call on all FAO Members to apply this work and on the effort to provide the necessary assistance to countries on data collection and monitoring, along with partners.

We highly welcome FAO's involvement in the high-level event on food and agriculture in times of crisis which was held in Brussels from 2 to 3 April 2019. This high-level event was an important call to action on food crisis to prepare for them to reduce their effects and to prevent them from happening. It called to step up cooperation along the humanitarian security access at global, regional and national levels. This work is essential to reverse the negative trends of hunger and malnutrition in the world. We encourage FAO to continue and accelerate this work in partnership with all other stakeholders involved in the global network against food crisis.

We support inclusive partnership with the involvement of all stakeholders and, in particular, the private sector to leverage funding in order to facilitate employment creation and faster transformational change.

We welcome the use of FAO's technical and policy capacities to promote inclusive private investments in the sustainable development of food and agriculture paying attention to the VGGT (Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests) and RAI (Responsible Agriculture Investment) principles.

Finally, recalling the negative trend of SDG 2, there can be no compliance when it comes to our collective work on agriculture and food security. We urge FAO to work closely together with the WFP and IFAD and the rest of the UN System in stimulating a reversal of the trends on hunger and malnutrition.

FAO will need to show leadership in the discussion on the 2030 Agenda to regularly and critically review SDG progress along with the CFS (Committee on Food Security) and to keep Members informed through clear reporting to the Technical Committees and Governing Bodies. We look forward to the new Director-General taking up this challenge.

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

We welcome the opportunity to comment on this Agenda Item which is clearly a very important one. Let me begin by thanking the Deputy Director-General for her clear presentation highlighting the successes, as well as the areas where significant additional work is going to be needed. That is something that we all need to take very clear note of because ultimately, success of the SDGs will depend on the actions at the national level with the support of the multilateral institutions.

In that context, we took note of the plans to convene this international Conference, international event, to secure high level support and engagement in conjunction with the UN General Assembly later this year. We support all of the key points made in the agenda paper. In particular we take note of the specific actions and recommendations of FAO to provide support both in terms of policy as well as in design and implementation of monitoring systems.

We are very supportive of the recommendations in the paper. I would just like to simply conclude by acknowledging the presentations from the members of the Youth Council which is very refreshing and ultimately the success as they have highlighted, galvanizing the youth to action and supporting global efforts is going to be very important to achieve the SDGs.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We welcome the close link between the work of FAO and the Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with the Strategic Programme Framework of the Organization.



SDG 14 and SDG 17, to different extents, have to do with issues within FAO's mandate. We feel that SDG 2, combating hunger, must remain the main specialized goal of FAO and be at the center of its attention. Among the key SDGs are also SDG 1, eradicating poverty, which is inextricably linked to ensuring food security and increasing levels of social and economic development.

We call upon the Organization to continue to pay particular attention to other issues within its competence including promoting a balanced diet, helping smallholders to increase their productivity, supporting rational governance of natural resources and building sustainable agri-food systems as well as ensuring food safety and quality.

The Russian Federation approaches to the development of the agricultural sector and rural territories are fully in line with the relevant aspects of the 2030 Agenda and the principles of FAO's work. At the national level this work is being carried out through the implementation of the strategy for sustainable development of rural territories of the Russian Federation for the period through 2030, as well as the fundamental government policy on the youth maintenance protection and replenishment of forests in the Russian Federation through 2030, as well as the doctrine on food security for our country.

The document for this item on the agenda was not presented by the FAO Secretariat within the deadline. Thus, we note the information on the activity of FAO to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and monitoring the SDG achievement and we trust that similar documents in the future will be presented early.

We are grateful to the delegation of Brazil for the amendments it proposed to the Secretariat in the document C 2019/28 but, we would welcome a more concise summary on this point of the Agenda in accordance with the work that was selected initially.

**Mr Mohammad Hossein EMADI (Iran)**

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Near East and North Africa Group (NENA). Following the recommendation of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference in July 2017 for continuous engagement in the implementation, monitoring, follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at national, regional and global level, the Near East and North Africa Region has attained significant progress to their achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2, based on the latest indicators for SDG target on Hunger and Food Security Target 2.1 and Malnutrition Target 2.2.

During the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC), it was stressed that building resilience and sustaining peace are key to attaining Zero Hunger and to improving people's wellbeing in the NENA Region. In NENA countries, particularly those effected by conflict with profound consequence for people's income and food security, achieving SDGs is a hard challenge.

Conflict and civilian instability in some countries, migration, rapid demographic growth, growing urbanization (SDG 11), low food production, climate change (SDG 13) and mitigation of the negative impacts of the sand and dust storms in the region which is a rising issue, are the main challenges to achieving Sustainability Development Goals.

By 2030, the key factors in the NENA Region remain to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and healthy diet (SDG 3), and promote sustainable agriculture with an enhancement of the resilience of agriculture, assisting improving management of natural resource livestock and range land management with a more effective management of genetic resources and biodiversity (SDG 2, SDG 14, SDG 15).

Agroecology is considered in the Regional Conference as a main approach for food and agricultural transformation to a more sustainable food system by guiding adoption strategies and developing important experience related to sustainable agriculture and support for the smallholders livelihood and small and medium farmers.

In this context, implementation of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) has become essential, with the designation of three new sites in the region after the NERC Conference, and due to this, other sites are also under evaluation.

The region, with an ancient agricultural heritage system based on traditional practice such as the small-scale family farming, traditional water harvesting, pastoralism and fisheries, has made significant progress in terms of access to water and sanitation facilities essential to ensuring proper conditions for the utilization of food.

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

Nigeria appreciates what management has supplied us with, in terms of the details of what has been done so far on the 2030 Agenda, document C 2019/28. Nigeria fully endorses Cameroon's position, speaking on behalf of the African Group on the 2030 Agenda.

Without a doubt, all of the recommendations that were in the document are well thought through and manageable. However, it is very important that we also do not forget, in spite of all efforts that have been made, to make sure that data collection should be properly monitored and supervised and that countries should be encouraged in terms of their awareness of the significance of the data that was collected, knowing that data will determine policies and actions in the future.

There are many organizations working together with FAO to get this done. The fear is that the efforts may not be as robust as they ought to be, knowing that time is critical in getting the proper information and the projections that are needed to encourage a successful sustainable development in the world.

I can assure you however from what I have heard from the youth this afternoon that 2030 is here if we give them the space that they ask for. I propose to the Conference to endorse the Informal Youth Council, so that they will be able to navigate through their own thinking with the availability of social media within their power and to cut off bureaucracy. Nigeria will therefore join others to support the endorsement of the Youth Council.

**Mr Semere AMLESOM (Eritrea)**

First of all, I would like to comment on the statement from the Ambassador of the Netherlands for bringing the issue of youth voices to the attention of this audience. I also fully encourage representatives of the Youth Council for airing their views on this important item of the Agenda. My delegation also believes that agricultural development in particular, and sustainable development in general, cannot achieve the set objectives if it is not based on science and technology.

Thus, the voices of the next generation should be heard, fully supported and encouraged in every aspect of this work.

This is a universal truth; it is equally applicable all over the world. It has, however, particular importance in the developing world. The millions of young graduates in technical, vocational and agricultural colleges could become agricultural entrepreneurs if given the right opportunity. My delegation urges FAO to continue and deepen its work in providing the needed support to make this endeavor a success.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

The United States recognizes the important role food and agriculture plays in achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals. The United States acknowledges the work that FAO has done in the development of the SDG indicators. We support FAO's continued efforts to collaborate with stakeholders on refinement of the indicators and measurement approaches.

The United States appreciates all of FAO to help countries strengthen and align their monitoring systems with the new goals, targets and indicators of the SDGs that Member States have chosen to pursue. FAO should continue to support countries to build sustainable capacity to advance their data collection, reporting and analysis for improved food security and nutrition.

**Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

We would like to express that we support, in principle, the suggested actions presented to us.

We would also like to agree with some of the remarks that Brazil shared concerning the suggested revisions, this definitely needs a little more consideration, where we also support remarks that a couple

of countries have shared regarding the short timeframe we have had to review this document, which reinforces the need to have a closer look at the suggested actions for FAO and for Members.

One of the points that I would like to focus on briefly is the idea that FAO advised to pursue new business models to support finance and investment, and I was struck by two things. Firstly, by how incredibly necessary that is. At the Committee and Agriculture Meeting here last fall we discussed briefly how the amount of investment required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is several orders of magnitude larger than all the Official Development Assistance in the world.

The notion being that investment from countries, private sector, and a lot of other sources, is instrumental to achieving the SDGs, and that is generally a new line of business for FAO. I think that it may merit more than one sentence or half a sentence to identify how FAO will provide guidance about what it can do in that regard. So, just to reemphasize the notion that we would like to give this a little more consideration.

The last point I will share is to, as others have expressed, thank the delegate from the Netherlands for bringing in the representatives from the Youth Council. Unfortunately our time here yesterday prohibited us from attending what I have heard was an extremely useful and informative side event where the participants we heard briefly today and others, had very useful, informative experiences to share.

My appreciation for the delegates from the Youth Organizations for their participation and the things they have shared with us today.

**Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)**

Afghanistan fully supports the intervention made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NENA countries. We wish to add only one point.

In support of national SDGs, the major contribution that FAO can make is to assist in improving the capacity of national institutions in the methodology and cost-effective practices of data collection and analysis, including indicators covering national SDG targets, and for this, collaboration with WFP and IFAD is crucial.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I want to reassure those who have highlighted the fact that this document was presented relatively recently, and has a number of recommendations and suggestions, that it is not my intention that we approve or endorse this document. In our conclusions, it would be my intention that we note it and in due course, I will share that language with you. I hope that will reassure some delegations.

I want to now pass the floor to Deputy Director-General Semedo and ask her for her views on how she might respond to the requests for changes in the document. Is it potentially something that we could send to the Programme Committee for review at some point and then to Council?

That is a suggestion and also perhaps to other colleagues on the podium about the several delegations that raised questions and concerns about data collection, and indeed the Brazilian delegate recommended some additional language for the Report.

**Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General of Climate and Natural Resources)**

I will ask Pietro Gennari if he can provide some information regarding the data collection and enforcement of the statistical framework regarding the countries and indicators.

**Mr Pietro GENNARI (Chief Statistician)**

I would like to thank all of the countries that have acknowledged the importance of the data work of FAO, both in terms of methodical development and in terms of support to countries in building their capacity to monitor and report on the SDG indicators.

Concerning the specific comments that were made on the work that FAO is doing on the continuation of this methodological work, FAO continues to be engaged with international fora for the further

specification of the methodology, especially to see how they can be implemented at country level in different country contexts, and to work on two other areas.

One is how to assess progress over time. To monitor trends towards SDG achievement and provide data disaggregated by different dimensions, for example by population group and territorial areas. FAO is committed to continue to report on these further developments and on the comprehensive review that will be conducted within the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) meeting on SDG indicators and then approved by the UN Statistical Commission next year in March.

FAO also continues to be committed to working on building the statistical capacity of countries. So far, we have targeted 80 countries, plus organizing a number of regional and global workshops. Of course, we need additional resources to continue to work in this area to scale up our support to countries, and we hope that resource partners will be investing in this work which is one of the key areas of FAO, and that has different possibilities of funding provided to countries.

**Ms Maria Helena M.Q. SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General of Climate and Natural Resources)**

I would like to thank the youth here with us whose presence changes the format of our discussion. I think it is the first time in a Commission we have the presence of youth and I would like to thank Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen for having facilitated their presence here today.

I would like to tell you that the 2030 Agenda is your Agenda and you will be the owners of this Agenda. What we are doing is creating a better world for you, and you are right to ask us to speed up the pace of implementation and to have the real sense of urgency because we are lagging behind what we promised in 2015.

With that said, I would like to thank you all for your comments. I think they are all valid. I would like to apologize for not having respected the deadline in uploading the document for reasons beyond our control.

Regarding the comments provided by Brazil, Switzerland and others, we accept them with only one comment in point 2 where you have expressed concern over the rise of hunger. Our proposal is that it will be “all forms of malnutrition including obesity”, instead of simply “obesity”.

I think this is more in line with FAO language. If you agree, I believe the Committee can accept this and we will integrate those comments. If I can summarize what has been discussed today, it is to request FAO to reinforce its support to the countries working at country level, particularly on policy, data and information and on improving investment, considering the magnitude of the investment we need to scale up our action. This new business model is also welcomed by the Conference.

I think they are all positive comments, they support FAO’s work and we will see how we can strengthen this work more in those areas; policy, data and investment.

**CHAIRPERSON**

On the requested amendments to document C 2019/28, it is my understanding that Ms Semedo and her team are willing to take the amendments proposed by Brazil on board and I would suggest that if others have any amendments, they email them. I understand that you will then reissue the document with those amendments made as a revision document. I hope that is satisfactory to everyone.

What I would now like to do is to propose my conclusions for this item. Perhaps we can see if we do want to add the additional conclusion that Brazil has suggested. My view is that it is a little bit too technical for the Conference and it might be something that you bring up or have your representative bring up in the Programme Committee at some point. However, let’s see what others think. Let me propose my summary of this issue so far:

The Conference:

- a) Noted the work undertaken by FAO and its efforts to implement, monitor, follow up and review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

- b) Noted the reversal of progress to achieve SDG 2 and stressed that more concerted action is needed by FAO, Member Countries and other stakeholders to address the increasing number of hungry people, leaving no one behind;
- c) Welcomed the launch of the Informal Youth Council for Zero Hunger.

Are Members content with that as a conclusion of this discussion?

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Could you please repeat Paragraph (b) and (c) once more?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will repeat all three as others have asked for that as well.

The Conference:

- a) Noted the work undertaken by FAO and its efforts to implement, monitor, follow up and review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- b) Noted the reversal of progress to achieve SDG 2 and stressed that more concerted action is needed by FAO, Member Countries and other stakeholders to address the increasing number of hungry people, leaving no one behind.
- c) Welcomed the launch of the Informal Youth Council for Zero Hunger.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

Can we propose to add in Paragraph (b), “hungry and malnourished people”.

We appreciate the engagement of youth and we do welcome their statement, it was brilliant. However, can the Conference welcome the launch of something new?

Is it the usual practice from a procedural point of view? Could you clarify if this is an Informal Youth Council of FAO or a UN Council? Probably the distinguished Ambassador from the Netherlands could once again clarify this.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think I heard around the room a very warm welcome for their intervention and I did not see anyone really object to acknowledging and welcoming the launch of the Youth Council. That is my take on the issue.

**Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands)**

Our appreciation goes to the delegate of the Russian Federation for also appreciating the work done by the youth, and as I said, it is not a formal Youth Council, it is an informal Youth Council which can form a platform to informally advise us and train youth on the formal procedures of FAO. It is not interfering with any procedure or rules of procedure of the FAO, it is an informal Council, and I think that is appreciated by everybody.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I would like to come back to a couple of things.

The first one is on the understanding and clarity of the offer of revising the document that Ms Semedo outlined. I wanted to ask if it is a little unusual that a Report be issued like this, which really is reporting on the progress of the FAO and the Secretariat in this area. I am wondering if advising comments from the Members is an appropriate way to bring that in.

I appreciate what Brazil and other countries have suggested, but I think we have to be careful in terms of these processes in getting into revising Secretariat Reports for information versus something different.

The second point is on Paragraph (c) that you read out. I want to take note of what my Russian colleague has raised. I also appreciate what my colleagues from the Netherlands have explained but, I am not sure that we could go as far as welcoming the informal launch. However, I do think that we

could offer some language that could be along the lines of “the Commission heard about the launch of the informal Youth Council” and if you wanted to say “notes with appreciation the individual statements” of the individuals, I think they were very inspirational.

I think there is an appropriate place for that, but I do think that giving it more than a welcome might get us into a precedent-setting stage that other side events, organizers and countries may want to seek similarly. Then we would be finding ourselves here with a long list of additions, if I counted all the side events that took place during the Conference. Maybe we can come back to that, those two points of clarity would help me to understand.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let me try and tackle the first one because I think the Russian Federation has more to say on the second one.

We are in your hands, I am not quite sure what the official procedure is. If we wanted to be very formal, then we could suggest that all Member States have an opportunity and the documents be re-submitted to the Programme Committee and the Council or, we could take a short cut by sending in comments and then have documents re-issued.

If you want to take the formal approach, we can do it that way, or we could try and make a few minor amendments and reach a place where everyone is happy with it.

#### **Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

What troubles me in the proposal is that, if all of us in this room were to submit written comments, then the Secretariat would produce a document. It would not come back to the Member States to again take up and review all those changes as a collective body. It would be left to the Secretariat to sort out the emphasis at place.

I am not quite sure we want to keep reopening documents for written comments. This is just for information. Therefore, I am willing to entertain proposals, however, I do not want to delay this either unnecessarily for tonight. I do think it is important that we understand that this is a Progress Report that the Secretariat is reporting to the Member States. It should remain as reported by the Secretariat without changes. Therefore, I am a little concerned as to why we are incorporating Member State input on such a document.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I suggest that we first deal with the point related to the proposed amendments to the Report, and then come back to how we reflect on the Youth Council.

I am assuming that the Russian Federation wants to talk about the Youth Council and Brazil wants to talk about the Report. I am not quite sure about what Canada would like to talk about.

Let us start with Brazil, I am conscious of the time. I will hear from all three of you and then we will take a decision about whether we need an evening Session. In fact, if we had another three hours, we could debate the whole of the Report again.

Over to Brazil, any suggestions on the way forward?

#### **Ms Renata NEGRELLY NOGUEIRA (Brazil)**

I understand your preoccupation about the time, but we think that this is not just about taking note of a Report. The Report entails suggested action to be taken by the Conference and we understand that if we are welcoming the Report we are also welcoming the suggested action which includes recalling, expressing concern, recognizing, taking note and encouraging FAO to take certain actions.

We are asking FAO to do something. It is important to debate it, but for us, the most important thing is that we agree on the actions the Conference encourages FAO to undertake, which I expressed in Paragraph 5 of the suggested action. We appreciate the Chief Statistician having answered our concern to be informed about the next steps on the review of the framework of methodologies on indicators.

We believe this is very important work and, unfortunately, we believe FAO Members have not been sufficiently informed about this process so far.

Therefore, I believe it would be in the interest of our Members to be informed about that but, considering the procedures that have been adopted by the Madam Chairperson of this Commission in trying to keep conclusions short, we could agree with not including this in the Report as long as we have the compromise of the Secretariat to keep Members updated about this very important issue.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I am not entirely sure if that addresses the United States of America's concern that should we take on Brazil's points, what would happen if all Member States wanted to make amendments and how would they be balanced? I think that if we are concerned about that, the only way forward that I can see is that we review the document in the Programme Committee.

I would also add that we are not planning to welcome or endorse the Report. All we are planning to do is to take note of it and certainly if it went to the Programme Committee then we could decide whether to welcome or endorse it at that point.

#### **Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I just wanted to make sure that I heard the suggestion from my Brazilian colleague, however maybe it needs to go back to Brazil. I think I heard that they were okay with not amending it at this point. Therefore, I do not know why we would continue to debate. Is that correct?

#### **Ms Renata NEGRELLY NOGUEIRA (Brazil)**

If all other Members are fully comfortable with all five paragraphs that are listed in the suggested action by the Conference, we could agree with not amending it. However, we believe it could be appropriate, as suggested by the Chairperson, to debate it further because we believe we are pointing toward very important directions to the work of FAO. We could also agree with the option of further debating it within the Programme Committee, and we could submit it to the Council afterwards.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you for clarifying that and my apologies for not understanding it the first time. Therefore, does everyone agree to not make or request any further amendments to the document or further review the document in the Programme Committee? If a delegate does not agree with that way forward, which would certainly be the most efficient, please raise your flag.

#### **Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

From the beginning, I wanted to say that we support your format and the content of your summary, except for a couple of things which I already announced. We would like to follow your summary rather than go back to the summary of the document because we will spend more time doing so, and we do not need to discuss it. As for the explanation given by the distinguished Ambassador, we are very satisfied with the answer and we would appreciate if this could somehow be reflected in the informal nature of the Youth Council. The theme of Youth in Agriculture is a priority for us in the work of FAO. But from a procedural point of view, it should be reflected that this is an informal entity. Nonetheless, generally, the idea is welcome.

#### **Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

This is very useful.

With regard to the Youth Council proposal, I wanted to focus on the text that you had suggested, "welcoming the launch". Canada can accept this text.

Conscious that others have had questions about it, or may have concerns, it may be useful to clarify what we are welcoming. For example, could I ask how the Informal Council may provide their views?

I made some assumptions that they would speak as Observers during the meeting or through other mechanisms that are already in place for other non-Members to share their views. If that is the case, it

seems like something we can all agree to, and also clarify if there would be any financial cost to FAO. That may help to make it easier for people to clarify or to agree to.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I fear that might be making it even more complicated, but, I am going to hand over to the Netherlands to respond to that point.

**Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands)**

As I said in my reply to my colleague of the Russian Federation, we do not want to change any rules of procedure. We are not giving the Youth Council a formal position in any of the Governing Bodies because that was not the idea.

It is indeed, as the Russian Federation said, the informal status of the Youth Council which is important. When it comes to its financing, we are not requesting FAO to finance the Youth Council as it is already supported by the private sector and by the Government of the Netherlands. All parties that would like to support the Youth Council are more than welcome, but we are not requesting funding from FAO for welcoming the launch of the Informal Youth Council.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The United States of America proposed some alternative language, which was along the lines of, “the Conference heard about the launch of the Informal Youth Council for Zero Hunger, and noted with appreciation the statements given by four Members of the Council.”

The Netherlands, is that language acceptable?

**Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands)**

Listening carefully to the discussion and the explanation of the Netherlands, could it not rather be “noted with appreciation the launch of the Youth Council”, because that gives a positive setting, and in only stating “heard about” I do not know when we will see the Youth group back in Rome.

**CHAIRPERSON**

United States, do you agree?

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON**

My proposal is, the Conference:

- a) Noted the work undertaken by FAO and its efforts to implement, monitor, follow-up and review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) Noted the reversal of progress to achieve SDG 2 and stressed that more concerted action is needed by FAO, Member Countries and other stakeholders to address the increasing number of hungry and malnourished people, leaving no one behind;
- c) Noted with appreciation the launch of the Informal Youth Council for Zero Hunger.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I think that some of the concept of what I read out in my proposal is being lost. In particular, I think I phrased it as, the Commission heard from the Informal Youth.

That concept is being dropped entirely and I think this gets to the concern that we have about noting with appreciation or welcoming a launch. A launch in a side event will open up this body, potentially, for another launch to want similar treatment and I think that is what we were trying to be careful of. So, I would feel a little more comfortable if we could get closer to the concept I originally read out.

**CHAIRPERSON**



The United States of America, are you happy with the language if we add the concept that we heard from members of the Youth Council?

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

If I understood that correctly, yes. I was okay with adding that add-on that we listened to the statements by the individuals. Some formulation of that, yes. I would be open to that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let me propose some language for Paragraph (c) which would be:

“The Conference noted with appreciation the launch of the Informal Youth Council for Zero Hunger and the statements given by four members of this Council to the Conference.”

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

The initial part of that is noting the launch. The launch took place in a side event. That is where my concern continues to remain. If we shifted that. Those Member States that were in the side event certainly heard about the launch. I was not in that launch because I was busy. I think there were other Member States as well that were busy. But, we are going a little bit far to say that Members did hear that. But, going to welcoming or noting, I cannot say that my delegation, how many there were and whether I have heard from them. So, I am very cautious about going so far as to push into the precedent territory that I have noted now, a couple of times in our back and forth. I do not want to continue to debate this though.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

What if I propose a compromise solution? If we say, “noted with appreciation the statement made by the Netherlands on the launch of the Informal Youth Council”?

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I think my Russian colleague said something with brilliance that I can accept.

**CHAIRPERSON**

So, Paragraph (c) would then read: “Noted with appreciation the statement made by the Netherlands on the launch of the Informal Youth Council for Zero Hunger and the statements given by four members of the Council.”

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

Just one point for clarification. What is “four members of the Council,” what is the rest of this sentence?

**CHAIRPERSON**

That was referring back to the suggestion made by the United States of America, however, perhaps the United States of America does not need that anymore? If we just keep it with your original proposal?

It would just read: “Noted with appreciation the statement made by the Netherlands on the launch of the Informal Youth Council for Zero Hunger.”

Are we all content with that?

Now, we have one item left on our Agenda. Do I have your agreement to go on, so we can finish off and round up Commission I?

<b>Item 21.</b>	<b>Biennial Theme 2020-21 - Promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition</b>
<b>Point 21.</b>	<b>Thème biennal 2020-2021 – Promouvoir une alimentation saine et prévenir la malnutrition sous toutes ses formes</b>
<b>Tema 21.</b>	<b>Tema bienal para 2020-21: Promoción de dietas saludables y prevención de todas las formas de malnutrición</b>

(C2019/31)

On our Agenda is Item 21, the biennial theme for 2020-21 - *Promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition*.

The theme is presented in document C 2019/31 which has been agreed by Council at its 161<sup>st</sup> Session for Conference endorsement.

I would now like to hand the floor over to the Assistant Director-General Torero to present this Item.

**Mr Máximo TORERO (Assistant Director-General of Economic and Social Development)**

Concerns have been raised by many stakeholders that our food systems are not delivering on the healthy diets needed for optimal health.

As countries become more urbanized and rich, eating patterns shift to the consumption of more processed foods high in sugar, salt, and fat with a heavy reliance on so-called fast foods. The impact of our failing food system is seen in the global nutrition situation where 821 million people are undernourished, 150 million are stunted, 2 billion people are micronutrient deficient and about 2 billion people are overweight or obese.

Poor diets are the underlying cause of all forms of malnutrition. Poor diet is now the leading risk factor for non-communicable diseases and adult death. FAO has taken a number of bold steps that has placed nutrition at the top of its agenda.

First, nutrition is now a cross-cutting theme within the Organization. Second, FAO is revising its nutrition strategy with the aim of addressing all forms of malnutrition.

Third, FAO has expanded its work on nutrition to also address obesity.

Fourth, following the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), we have secured for the world the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

At the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council, FAO endorsed as its biennial theme “Promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition”. The Conference is invited to approve this proposed theme for the 2020-21 biennium. It is noteworthy that the biennium falls within the mid-term of the nutrition decade.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of document C 2019/31. Switzerland continues to support the idea that the Conference approves the biennial theme with the aim to increase the focus of the Governing Bodies on the priorities and strategic global issues contained in the strategic framework.

Sustainable food systems are at the heart of improving nutrition, enabling healthy diets and fighting all forms of malnutrition. But, this is only one side of the coin. The state of biodiversity for food and agriculture, of our soils and the changing climate, make it necessary that we also focus on these challenges at the same time as improving nutrition.

We cannot afford to do one without the other. We need to improve nutrition and at the same time we have to make food systems more sustainable. Diets have to be healthy for human beings and the planet. This dual role that we call sustainable diets is prominently reflected in the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 that is to be taken into consideration when selecting the biennial theme 2020-21.

The suggested wording of the biennial theme does not adequately reflect this. As it stands now, the theme could as well be the theme of WHO. It fails to take into account both core competencies of

FAO which are food and agriculture. In line with what this Commission decided on different agenda items over the last two days, Switzerland, therefore, proposes that biennial theme 2020-21 to be changed to read as follows: “Promoting sustainable food systems for healthy diets and the prevention of all forms of malnutrition.”

**Mr Bodgan BAZGA (Romania)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We fully endorse and approve the proposal for the 2020-21 biennial theme promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition. In this context, we welcome the emphasis of combating all the forms of malnutrition and promoting nutrition-sensitive, sustainable food systems, especially at country level as a budget priority for the next biennium.

The number of undernourished people has risen in 2017 for the third consecutive year in a row, reaching the outstanding figure of 821 million. This alarming trend needs to be rapidly and permanently revised in order to attain Zero Hunger by 2030, by strengthening FAO’s contribution to the promotion of healthy diets and the prevention of all forms of malnutrition with those who wish to single out as an absolute priority the issue of undernourishment, including child stunting and wasting.

At the same time, it is imperative to provide an adequate response to the alarming increase of obesity and overweight. In 2017, over 2 billion adults were overweight and more than 670 million of those were obese. Combating all forms of malnutrition involves also preserving traditional diets, food diversity and healthy eating habits and lifestyle considering that food culture is also a key component of cultural identity and heritage.

We encourage FAO to promote policy advice aimed at attaining a healthy balance between food and nutrients in order to prevent all forms of malnutrition, including obesity and chronic non-communicable diseases reoccurring, by singling out specific food or products as harmful. Balanced, sustainable and healthy diets require eating food with moderation and not exclude any single food.

Food and agriculture lie at the intersection of the manyfold challenges that impact diet and nutrition and those on the health and wellbeing of people. It is precisely in the link between healthy diets and the prevention of malnutrition and sustainable agriculture, including, crucially, the promotion of nutrition education and information, that FAO’s work is invaluable. We encourage FAO to strengthen its efforts in these areas, proving appropriate evidence-based technical advice to countries in need.

In this context, we would like to caution against encouraging FAO’s activities in the health sector which as you know is the responsibility of other Organizations such as the World Health Organization. We should also continue to support the various global processes on nutrition in which FAO plays a decisive role, such as the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 and the second International Conference on Nutrition Commitments (ICN2).

We encourage FAO’s active engagement in the process of preparing the Committee on World Food Security Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. A transition to sustainable and nutrition-sensitive food systems is essential to combat all forms of malnutrition. This requires taking into consideration the positive and negative externalities of different food systems from an environmental and public health point of view on the basis of scientific evidence on the hidden cost of food.

The EU and its Member States stand ready to fully contribute with FAO to the 2020-21 biennium theme.

**Ms Jemina Kokot MOENG (South Africa)**

South Africa, together with Nigeria, would like to align themselves with the proposition of enriching the thematic area that is being proposed of promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition. We align ourselves with the proposition made by Switzerland on “Promoting sustainable food systems for healthy diets and prevention of all forms of malnutrition”.

We also note the fact that the thematic area was already discussed and that the Conference is aimed at endorsing it. However, this is just a point of view to enrich discussion that will be coming out of that biennial meeting.

Considering that sustainable consumption and production are actually enriching and in line with SDG 12, it is our view that if SDG 12 is fully supported, it will actually ensure the achievement of almost all the 17 SDGs.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I want to start with food systems and explain that the systems by which food is produced, processed and presented to consumers has delivered impressive results and continues to do so. In only a few decades, since 1990, they have succeeded in reducing the global level of undernutrition from around 25 percent to around 11 percent in 2017. The United States recognizes the mounting challenges facing food systems to provide adequate, affordable, safe and nutritious food for all in the face of population and income growth, urbanization and environmental pressures.

The United States also recognizes that advancing the goal of improved food security and nutrition requires a holistic, inter-disciplinary and inclusive approach that considers the interconnections among the actors and elements that comprise a food system. It is a mistake, however, to depict the food system as an entity that presents an external barrier to achieving our goals. Food systems do not exist outside of the social, economic and environmental context in which they operate.

To achieve a more holistic and interdisciplinary approach to advancing our goals on food security and nutrition, the United States urges going beyond one-dimensional descriptions of sustainable or unsustainable food systems. For a truly holistic interdisciplinary approach, we must dig down to consider the social, economic and environmental factors and the realities that underlie these systems.

**Mr Haitham ABDELHADY (Egypt)**

In seeking to finalize our items and not get in any back and forth, we must stick to the proposal of the Council. We had a discussion in the last Session of the Council and we agreed that we must stick to a generic theme for the next biennium as we have a new Director-General, and not to enforce specific schemes or specific matters.

Therefore, the delegation of Egypt sticks to the theme proposed to us from the last Session of the Council.

**Sr. Luis Fernando CECILIANO PIEDRA (Costa Rica)**

Nosotros queremos alinearnos con la propuesta que la delegación de Suiza ha lanzado al inicio de esta discusión. Para mi delegación no resulta posible tener dietas saludables sin que estas se enmarquen en un contexto de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles. En tal sentido, reiteramos nuestro apoyo a la propuesta de los colegas de Suiza.

**Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)**

En primer lugar, queremos agradecer las diversas propuestas y el interés que han mostrado las delegaciones por el tema bienal que es muy importante, pero la delegación argentina concuerda con lo señalado por Egipto. Hemos tenido una discusión muy rica en el Consejo sobre esta cuestión. Y para no prolongar las discusiones de esta Comisión que puede tomar varias horas y poder avanzar para prepararnos para el *Drafting Committee* mañana, consideramos que deberíamos mantener el tema como está. Esto no consta que haya flexibilidad. La única perspectiva que toma la FAO es la de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles, no admitimos otra, digamos.

Esto me parece que es fundamental. Entonces, en este sentido, confiamos que la FAO va a incluir esta cuestión de los sistemas alimentarios sostenibles aunque no esté necesariamente en el título. Hay muchos elementos que no están en el título o en el tema pero que necesariamente van a tener que ser incluidos, si no, no se podría abordar el tema de otra forma. Y, además, concordamos lo señalado por Egipto. Además, se eligió un nuevo Director General, y queremos escuchar qué tiene que decir a los Órganos rectores sobre esto.

Por lo tanto, pedimos flexibilidad y mantener el título lo más general posible, tal como lo tenemos ahora.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

The Russian delegation, at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the FAO, would like to support the proposed theme of promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition as a key theme for the Governing Bodies of FAO, for 2020-21.

The 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council recommended this theme for the Conference as the only theme, and the document prepared for this Conference indicates this theme. We would like to draw our colleagues' attention to not changing themes that have already been approved by a Session of the FAO Council.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have heard mixed views on this issue and I am going to hand over the Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department, Mr Torero, to give his view.

**Mr Máximo TORERO (Assistant Director-General of Economic and Social Development)**

Let me try to explain how we are seeing this. Essentially, in the Conference document that you have received, if you look at point 4 of the Executive Summary, you will see that as was mentioned by Argentina, we contextualized the decision of the topic around food systems and how they are being challenged. Furthermore, if we go into the details of the document from point 8 to point 12, we touch particularly on the framework of food systems and how we need to question and work with current policies within the context of food systems which is how FAO operates.

Therefore, our proposal is, given that this is well documented and, in a certain way, the proposal of Switzerland is well documented in the proposal, and given that the title was approved by the Council, we will prefer to keep the title as it is. Yet, within the context of what is presented in the document that clearly puts it in the context of a food system.

Now, why is this so important? Let me relate this to the work that we are doing. The problem is this. If we brought up food systems as it was proposed then, we have another issue which is, what is the definition of a food system? That could be very context-specific and could bring different dimensions and some confusion to what we are trying to do.

Essentially, the topic is trying to respond to what we observed today and how we can try to resolve that within the context of sustainability. Therefore, in that sense, and given that there is a parallel stream of work together with other RBAs on a proper definition of what a food system means and how we can look at trade-offs through a food system, we will recommend, at this point, to follow the advice of the Council.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

Indeed, I think we do have a strategic priority called sustainable food systems in this house. That should not be anything new to FAO and FAO Management when we talk about a food system and sustainable food systems.

I would like to recall that at the last Conference, we encouraged FAO to continue its involvement in the sustainable food systems programme and to strengthen its work on food systems. Therefore, we already have a decision by Conference on food systems and we do not see why we should all of a sudden no longer know what we tried to advise FAO to do last time.

The UN General Assembly last year called upon us to do more work in the area of health, nutrition and agriculture and to actually promote sustainable food system approaches. Therefore, in line with that, I think we would still insist that we make the title and the wording of the theme more closely related to the mandate of this Organization.

Now, I can make a different proposal if other Members of FAO would feel more comfortable. We are indeed very well aware of the decision of the Council. But, we are sitting in the setting of the Conference. Switzerland is not a member of the Council, and that is why we bring this point forward

here. We might have done that during the Council Session but, not being a Member, we have to do it here.

Therefore, we could be closer to the wording that was proposed. We could propose the following which is: “promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition through sustainable food systems.”

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I appreciate the discussion we are having here and I want to make a couple of points.

Switzerland and other Members mentioned the mandate, particularly the WHO mandate versus the FAO mandate. The operative word in the theme is “healthy” which puts that over to WHO. I also think that a lot of this topical area is fully covered in the work between the two Organizations on the Decade of Action for Nutrition that exists, and that many of our governments support. That work will continue for a decade.

On the one hand, I understand the arguments and debate here around the importance of the theme. I think the Secretariat’s explanation of the document gives a lot of the information needed by the arguments made by the Swiss proposal. So, we are just sitting here debating on what is at the top of the page and the title, and I recognize how important that is. I think we can work either way with Member States.

We do not take a particular view of keeping it the same or changing it, but I do think that if we come back to keeping the word in the title, when we get into sustainable food systems and healthy diets and agriculture, then this raises some concerns for the United States. Indeed there are several agreed terms for which we do not have an international definition.

We may have principles. We may have suggestions and lots of recommendations, but there is a lack of a definition. Therefore, I think that we can remain and work with the other governments and Member States here but there are a couple of key words that I do not think that I will be able to accept at the end of the day.

**CHAIRPERSON**

What are the couple of words you refer to?

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

If we continue to use ‘sustainable’ in the title, I think that is where I would have to go back and probably consult with my delegation. On healthy diets, as long as it is health however, linking the three areas together causes some concern. If I have to consult with my delegation, that might involve looking at more of the words in the title.

**CHAIRPERSON**

So, we are looking at an evening Session. I am not sure that we are going to be able to resolve this quickly. So, I think we will need to put in place some arrangements. I wonder if it might be worth taking a break nonetheless to have some informal consultations about the way forward on this. I am not quite sure how we are going reach consensus on it in this format at the moment.

**Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)**

Simplemente para comentar que entendemos varias de las cuestiones planteadas por la delegación de Suiza y otras delegaciones, pero realmente nosotros le damos mucho valor a la intervención que hizo la Secretaría.

Y creo que tendríamos que poner de relieve las seguridades que nos ha dado la Secretaría con respecto a que todos los elementos contenidos en el documento van a ser tenidos en cuenta en el tema bienal. Podemos hablar de sistemas alimentarios que son muy importantes –nosotros creemos que es así—, sistemas alimentarios sostenibles, así como la agricultura.

Nosotros somos flexibles respecto a cómo continuar pero no estamos seguros que valga la pena prolongar esta sesión. Estamos todos muy cansados. Hemos tenido una semana muy exhaustiva, realmente. Y mañana tenemos que hacer un muy buen trabajo en el Comité de Redacción.

Entonces, quizás, si pudiéramos incluir en su *summary* algunas de las cuestiones, por ejemplo las seguridades que ha dado la Secretaría respecto de que se tendrán en cuenta todos los elementos contenidos en el documento y de alguna forma poder acomodar las preocupaciones que han sido presentadas por algunas delegaciones y que nosotros compartimos, realmente. Pero nos parece que quizás podríamos encontrar una forma de que se asegure esto que la Secretaría dijo.

Además hay *verbatim records* aquí, entonces, nos parece que quizás –y esta es nuestra humilde sugerencia–, prolongar esta discusión puede no ser constructivo.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I know that we have had a long couple of days and we are keen to round up.

I am looking to Switzerland to see whether they would be prepared to agree on an approach that reflects the importance of food systems in the summary of this discussion and indeed I have some language that I could read out for you.

My proposal for our conclusion on this issue is as follows.

The Conference endorsed the biennial theme 2020-21 - Promoting Healthy Diets and Preventing all forms of Malnutrition, noting that FAO has a leading role in supporting countries to transform their food systems to deliver on healthy diets.

#### **Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

Certainly we appreciate the suggested text. Our original intervention was to make the point that we supported, as many of the countries did, the original proposal for the theme.

Canada will note that there already is consensus at a sub-Body to the Conference, and there already is consensus on that among countries. We certainly did not hear consensus in the room for even the need to change the theme. We are very much guided by your proposal.

#### **Sr. Luis Fernando CECILIANO PIEDRA (Costa Rica)**

No es nuestra intención prolongar las discusiones. Entendemos que hay divergencia de puntos pero sí quisiera rescatar la intervención previa que mi colega de la Argentina ha hecho en cuanto a las conclusiones. Nosotros podemos aceptar que el tema o el tópico se mantenga tal y como fue acordado en la última sesión del Consejo. Eso está bien, pero quisiéramos ver en sus conclusiones alguna referencia a sistemas alimentarios sostenibles. Eso es importante para nosotros.

Si es necesario especificar, por ejemplo, en los trece ejes de la sostenibilidad económica, ambiental, social. Eso no es ningún problema para nosotros pero sí quisiéramos, por favor, ver el concepto de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles reflejado de alguna manera en sus conclusiones, reiterando que entendemos que el tema se mantendría tal y como fue acordado por el Consejo en su última sesión.

#### **Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

We can certainly align ourselves with the statement made by Costa Rica and I just noted that you used the words healthy diets twice in your language. It may have been in another item where a group, some countries, were not content with the wording proposed. The decision was made to refer this wording to the Drafting Committee. This might as well be the case that we ask them to work on the wording a little bit more.

Just to note, with regard to the intervention made by my colleague from the United States of America, “healthy diet” is not an internationally defined term either. However, what we do have in this house, since 2010, is a working definition of “sustainable diets”. This might be a way forward as well.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

The proposal you made was very close to something that I could find acceptable but I wanted to come back to a couple of things.

The first is the comment by my colleague from Switzerland. I am not sure we can go in a direction to support sustainable diets. Healthy diets might be a little easier for the United States of America. It would not change from here to the Drafting Committee. We will still have the same concern.

Secondly, what you read out earlier. I thought it was somewhat of a good compromise to note, very short and concise. But I had a bit of a technical problem with it because the food systems are delivering food and products that consumers then choose to have in their diets. It is not about an individual meal, it is about their diet over time and therefore in that I could have found a way to make a small amendment with what you read out to transform food systems to deliver food for achievement of healthy diets.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am looking for reactions from others. Can I ask the United States of America if you have any suggestions on how we might also include the concept of sustainability, if not in the title of the theme, in the language of the conclusion?

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I think we could go back to Costa Rica's proposal and we could talk about sustainable development and the three pillars. While I do not have a specific textual proposal, conceptually I could see an additional sentence in the conclusion that might refer to the theme, acknowledging the Sustainable Development pillars. Something along that concept. We all agree that the SDGs fully embodied the three pillars in much of the work. That would be my preference.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The last part of the conclusion would therefore read: "noting FAO has a leading role in supporting countries to achieve sustainable development and transform their food systems to deliver food for the achievement of healthy diets".

**Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)**

As the UN declaration delivered beforehand stressed very well, we cannot accept any distinction between healthy or unhealthy food. If you mention food for healthy diet, it means you create a distinction between healthy and unhealthy food.

**Ms Lucianara ANDRADE FONSECA (Brazil)**

We have been following the discussion with interest. Here we are reopening a discussion of the Council. We also believe it is this Conference's prerogative to do it as there is a more inclusive set of countries.

I would say that we do appreciate the suggestion of including "sustainable food systems" because it does give context to what is being discussed here. On the one hand, we see that Switzerland has already accepted a compromise of having it noted in the summary and the conclusions, and not in the topic itself. On the other hand, we urge countries to accept the use of the expression "sustainable food systems" which has been used by FAO.

That would be our suggestion and we would also simplify to "Noting the work of the FAO in the context of sustainable food systems".

**Mme Isabelle OUIILLON (France)**

Je voudrais soutenir ce qui vient d'être dit par le Brésil, ainsi que la déclaration précédente de ma collègue italienne.

**CHAIRPERSON**



For the second part, I suggest: “Noting FAO has a leading role in supporting countries to achieve sustainable development and food systems.”

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

Could you slowly read that out again?

**CHAIRPERSON**

The conclusion would read: “The Conference endorsed the biennial theme 2020-21 - Promoting Healthy Diets and Preventing all forms of Malnutrition, noting FAO has a leading role in supporting countries to achieve sustainable development and food systems.”

**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

We agree with your proposal.

**Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)**

We support the wording you use.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I am going to try and make this easy with a one word amendment towards the end. I am not sure if I could repeat all of the earlier part but it is when we get to “achieve sustainable development and improving food systems”.

**Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)**

I would like to ask the colleague from the United States of America to repeat his statement again.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I would like to ask if the Chair has incorporated that one word amendment into what you had read out. If you could repeat, it would be better so that I do not get your wording wrong.

**CHAIRPERSON**

What we have in the conclusion is: “The Conference endorsed the biennial theme 2020-21 - Promoting Healthy Diets and Preventing all forms of Malnutrition, noting FAO has a leading role in supporting countries to achieve sustainable development and improving (or and improve) food systems.”

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

That captures the essence of my amendment.

**Ms Lucianara ANDRADE FONSECA (Brazil)**

I do not want to carry this discussion much further but I do see that the Concept Note prepared for this Conference mentions the concept of, “to enhance sustainable food systems”. So, we would prefer the previous language, “to improve sustainable development and food systems” so that we can keep in line with the concept and language used in the FAO.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am looking to the United States of America, I think they were not happy with that before and we were almost all happy with supporting countries to achieve sustainable development and improve food systems.

Can we accept that?

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

I think we would have certainly been happier with what Brazil just proposed but which we fear will not find agreement with the United States of America. So, instead of “improve food systems”, if it could talk about “transforming food systems”.

We also heard about the importance of FAO keeping within its competences, and in regards to competences of other international organizations.

We would propose, instead of “noting” the role of FAO, “stressing” FAO has a leading role, then it continues as you read out, and then instead of “improve food systems”, “transform food systems”.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

Yes. Regarding what Switzerland proposes in terms of clarifying the mandate, we are happy with that clarification because we intervened earlier on the WHO and the FAO mandate.

Regarding the change of words from “improve” to “transform”, I am a little mixed on that because if you look at it, there are food systems that are functioning very well, delivering very good food, if you look at fruits and vegetables in terms of the vibrant production that we see there for many of our countries, so transform introduces another idea or concept in there that maybe food systems need to be further transformed. I do not think they all need to be transformed. I think there are some that are working very well and maybe in some areas “transform” is necessary. So, I am a little torn between going in that direction.

Maybe if there is another word that can convey the same concept, I think we could work with that.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

Yesterday, we agreed or probably it was today, we agreed on the Resolution on “agricultural approaches”. In this Resolution, there is language which we can use; “transition towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems”. So, if we use exactly the same language from the Resolution we are going to adopt by this Conference, probably this will settle all the questions.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

This is very interesting because we fully support the Resolution and the language within it that was dealt with earlier. It is very difficult for me to sit here and suggest that I could not accept it in a different context. I think if it is kept very close to the verbatim, to what we agreed in the Resolution, we do not unravel any balance that was difficult to achieve. I can compromise and accept that.

**Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

With regards to the text the Russian delegate just shared. Could you reread what the actual text would sound like?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Using the language from the Resolution, it would read:

“The Conference endorsed the biennial theme 2020-21 - Promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition, stressing FAO has a leading role in supporting countries to achieve transition towards sustainable agricultural approaches and food systems.”

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

I proposed just to simplify this text because there is no need to put “approaches” there. There is a lot of text here. We can say: “transition toward sustainable agriculture and food systems”, full stop.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I can go further and make it even more concise. Add a full stop after “sustainable agriculture” and delete “and food systems” and I could accept that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Can you accept it with “food systems” included as well?

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

Could you repeat that?

**CHAIRPERSON**

My sense is that most in the room would rather include the words “food systems”.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

Yes. But, in terms of the language, it takes me back to the concern that I stated earlier, about having an interpretation from the text that would read sustainable food systems. That just gets back to what I noted much earlier.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Rather, stick with the language from the Resolution. All of the language from the Resolution? Okay.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

Yes. I stated that I could accept the Resolution language.

**Sr. Luis Fernando CECILIANO PIEDRA (Costa Rica)**

Lo que quería decir era que nosotros apoyábamos la conclusión antes de que los Estados Unidos hicieran su intervención. Es importante para nosotros mantener sistemas alimentarios.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

We would also support the inclusion of food systems and just indicate that the Resolution text states: “assist countries and regions to enhance their commitment and engage more effectively in transitioning towards sustainable agriculture and food systems.”

This is Paragraph (e) of the Resolution. We will be very happy to go along with this text.

**Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)**

I have been very clear that we could accept what I hear from Switzerland, reading that language. I think there are other Member States that are struggling with accepting that textual reference/quote being pulled over. We all agreed with that text. But, when you start changing that text, it opens us up to considering how to make amendments to it.

So, I am happy to accept the Resolution text as read again by Switzerland.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let me read the decision again using the exact wording from Paragraph (e) of the Resolution. It would read:

“Stressing that FAO has a leading role in supporting countries in transitioning towards sustainable agriculture and food systems”

That is a direct quote from the Resolution.

**Mr Haitham ABDEL-HADY (Egypt)**

Please repeat it again.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes. It would read:

“The Conference endorsed the biennial theme 2020-21 - Promoting healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition, stressing that FAO has a leading role in supporting countries in transitioning towards sustainable agriculture and food systems.”

It looks like we have agreement on that.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

Colleagues, I am about to close Commission I. I appreciate the spirit of collaboration and cooperation and I thank you for supporting some very concise conclusions.

I would like to remind Members of the Drafting Committee that it will start tomorrow at 9:30 in the Mexico room. We are hoping that we will have a Report to bring to you tomorrow afternoon. We will be in touch with you on the CPAC system and let you know if we indeed can submit a Report for adoption tomorrow afternoon.

Timing depends on how soon it is translated. I can see that Cameroon is suggesting 16:00. It slightly depends on the Drafting Committee but we can work towards 16:00.

**Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)**

Muy breve para no retenerlos. Nos gustaría proponer que mañana cuando empecemos las labores del Comité de Redacción podamos establecer las reglas bien claras para evitar rediscutir temas aquí.

Hemos pasados varios Comités de Redacción y muchos tenemos cierta experiencia en eso, y quisiéramos tener claro que vamos a basar nuestros debates en su *summary* y que no vamos a reintroducir nuevas cuestiones todo el tiempo.

Porque, como miembro del Comité de Redacción no queremos tener la responsabilidad de reabrir debates que tienen que ser discutidos en la plenaria. En este sentido, si hay temas que realmente que no quedan claros, nuestra delegación los va a volver a traer a la plenaria porque no queremos que el Comité de Redacción ocupe el rol del plenario.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That is absolutely right. We have agreed on very short, concise summaries for each item. I expect that the verbatim will reflect that. I do not expect any additional comments that have not been included in the summaries, and that we have all agreed on, to be brought into the Drafting Committee.

I would like to close the Commission.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*The meeting rose at 18:51*

*La séance a été levée à 18 h 51*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 18 :51*



# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Forty-first Session Quarante et unième session 41.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 22-29 June 2019 Rome, 22-29 juin 2019 Roma, 22-29 de junio de 2019</b>
<b>FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>27 June 2019</b>

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 14:31 hours  
Ms Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 14 h 31  
sous la présidence de Mme Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta reunión a las 14:31  
bajo la presidencia del Sra. Marie-Therese Sarch,  
Presidente de la Comisión I



**Adoption of Report / Adoption du Rapport / Aprobación del Informe**  
(C 2019/I/REP)

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is a pleasure for me to speak to you on behalf of Commission I for the adoption of our Report. I would like to thank you again for entrusting to me the responsibility of chairing the Commission.

I would also like to thank you all for your interventions which led to a productive discussion on the items on our Agenda. I would now like to invite Ms Jeehan Alestad of Kuwait and Chairperson of the Drafting Committee for Commission I to give us a presentation on the process, discussion and follow-up issue concerning the Report that is before us.

**Ms Jeehan Alestad (Chairperson, Drafting Committee Commission I)**

The Drafting Committee of Commission I was held on Wednesday, 26 June 2019 with a participation of delegates from the following countries as Members of the Drafting Committee: Argentina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, Peru, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Viet Nam.

The meeting had a very smooth and successful course. I am also pleased to say that the spirit of consensus and mutual respect shown by Commission I was fully maintained as well as consensus of the conclusions reached at the Plenary of the Commission.

Before submitting our Report, I would like to present an amendment under Item 11.1, *Report of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Africa* to better reflect the conclusions of this Item at the Plenary of the Commission.

Unfortunately, yesterday we did not have the chance to confront our work with the verbatim records. The proposal would be that Item 11.1, Paragraph 1, reads as follows:

“The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein and concerns raised about the seniority of FAO representatives in Africa and reiterated the request for FAO representatives to be at grade P5 and above.”

This is a direct quote of your conclusion on this Item from the verbatim records.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much for pointing out that Item 11.1, paragraph 1, did not follow the verbatim, but it will do in the Report that is prepared for adoption by Conference tomorrow. That was a mistake, it has been rectified and I am very pleased that it has.

I would now like to invite the Commission I to agree this amendment and adopt the rest of the Report *en bloc*.

*Applause*  
*Applaudissements*  
*Aplausos*

I think that means we are happy with it.

**Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

From the outset I want to appreciate the fact that the Drafting Committee realised the mistake that they made. However, it seems that their excuse is not quite acceptable, to say that the verbatim was not available or not considered.

One thing that the Chair of Commission I did was to say that she will make her conclusions short and sweet, which she did, and we all agreed to it.

It is important for the Secretariat to please take note that it will not be acceptable for this sort of costly mistake because if it were not detected, what would be adopted would be completely out of tune with



what was agreed, and the reason for that is that it is creating unnecessary bad blood for the Organization.

The integrity of the process and the integrity of the content of what was agreed to must always be paramount. And I do know that after speaking to my colleagues from the Africa Region, we felt that we will not accept a situation where we are told that the Report will be decided on the basis of the quantity, or amount of work that is being done in the country.

P4 officials do not have diplomatic immunity. P4 officials cannot have the amount of discipline or confidence that is needed to talk to top government officials. If they do not have diplomatic immunity, then that is a hazard.

So, we will believe that this amendment will show forth after this meeting. We will be on the look out for it at the Plenary tomorrow but, more importantly, we will ensure that it is not just noted but it is implemented.

If it were something across the board of every region, then we would not worry. But if it is targeting Africa, it is not acceptable. Let us all note this and make sure that the Secretariat should not erode the confidence between the Membership and the Secretariat. I am sure some of my colleagues would want to make one or two remarks.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you Nigeria and I would also like to thank you for pointing out the mistake to me last night. It is much appreciated and I can assure you that we have taken note of it, not just myself, but the Secretariat as well.

#### **Mr Vlad MUSTACIOSU (Romania)**

We would just like to thank you and congratulate you for the excellent job you have done in Chairing Commission I, and to all Members who participated, took part in the works of Commission I, Members who worked in the Drafting Committee and Secretariat also. Excellent job and we very much appreciate it.

#### **Mr Rabindre PARMESSAR (Suriname)**

First of all, I would like your guidance as I do not know the exact protocol. It is the first time that I participate in this meeting. Since Suriname is not in a Commission, I want to ask if it is permitted to ask the Assembly for their attention on what I have observed for the small states.

The way we are organized, the Caribbean, Suriname, is that we are in the Latin American context. So, the small states have their own characteristics, the big challenges, especially the results of climate changes and other things does not get full attention. New phenomena occur, I think this is also for the Pacific a very real reality.

I want to ask your attention and look into possibilities to give a specific place, in a Committee or something of that sort, for the new phenomena of the small states. I would strongly request that and put it under your attention.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Suriname, like you, I have been working with FAO for a relatively short time, so I do not know the ins and outs of everything. But from what I do know, and I am sure colleagues on the Secretariat can correct me, is that your first opportunity to have that discussion would be at the meeting of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, when they meet to focus on their regional activities. I understand Nicaragua will be hosting that meeting.

#### **Mr Rabindre PARMESSAR (Suriname)**

Forgive me for not agreeing with you, Madam Chair. This is not only a phenomenon of Latin America. I refer to Pacific also. So, this is not a regional issue. That is why through you I ask for the attention for the entire Assembly.

**Mr Salah Yousef Ahmed AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)**

We wish to thank Her Excellency, the British Ambassador and the Members of the Commission, for the excellent efforts they have expended in preparing this Report. We also wish to thank the Drafting Committee presided over by Ms Jeehan for the Report.

I also wish to thank the Ambassador of Nigeria, our dear friend Yaya, for his comment on the posts from P5 upwards. He said that this should not apply only to the African region. He also said that such posts should comprise all regions and in a fair and equitable manner. So, on behalf of the Near East region, I wish to thank Mr Yaya for his comment when he said that P5 and up should be for all regions because most regions are in dire need of such posts at the P5 level.

**Sr. Guillermo Valentín RODOLICO (Argentina)**

En la delegación argentina, antes que nada, quisiéramos unirnos a las palabras expresadas por el colega de Rumanía en agradecerle y decirle que valoramos altamente su liderazgo en la Comisión I. La verdad que es un placer.

Si ya estamos discutiendo los temas para la Comisión I en 2021, bien ya podríamos nosotros estar de acuerdo que esa comisión esté presidida por usted porque realmente hizo un trabajo fantástico. También agradecer a la Presidenta del Comité de Redacción porque se ven los resultados en este informe tan claro y conciso.

Brevemente la intervención es para hacer un pequeño comentario acerca del tema 19.4, que es un tema que ya habíamos hablado en el Comité de Redacción, de concordancia con respecto al título. Aquí vemos que en inglés dice *Proposal for an International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste*.

Entendemos que para tener un poquito de concordancia con el título de la resolución, deberíamos reemplazar “on” por “of”. Es decir, an *International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste*. Es un pequeño detalle, pero no queríamos dejarlo pasar pues lo hemos hablado en el Comité de Redacción y para que no haya confusión.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Argentina, and your appreciation is very much welcomed. Yes, we have spotted that and I can assure you that that mistake will also be corrected in the Report that comes to the Conference tomorrow. I have gavelled it through but I trust that Members will agree that is such a small change that we do not need to agree again. I do not have any other requests for the floor, so again I would like to thank you so much for your interventions, for the spirit of cooperation, and with that I would like to close Commission I.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*The meeting rose at 14:52*

*La séance a été levée à 14 h 52*

*Se levanta la session a las 14:52*

