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Organisation des Nations
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Forty-second Session - Quarante et deuxième session - 42.º período de sesiones

**Virtual Meeting, 14-18 June 2021
VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Réunion Virtuelle, 14-18 juin 2021
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION I
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Reunión Virtual, 14-18 de junio de 2021
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN I
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**Forty- second Session
Quarante et deuxième session
42.º período de sesiones**

**Virtual Meeting, 14-18 June 2021
Réunion Virtuelle, 14-18 juin 2021
Reunión Virtual, 14-18 de junio de 2021**

**FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
PRIMERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

15 June 2021

The First Meeting was opened at 13:47 hours
Ms Eudora Hilda,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 13 h 47
sous la présidence de Mme Eudora Hilda,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera reunión a las 13.47
bajo la presidencia del Sra. Eudora Hilda,
Presidente de la Comisión I

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CHAIRPERSON

Dear colleagues, good afternoon from Rome and greetings to all of you from wherever you may be joining us for this Conference. I am pleased to open the first meeting of Commission I.

I am honoured to have been elected as Chairperson of Commission I and very much appreciate your trust in me to chair the discussion on the core technical work of FAO. I would like to remind delegates that this Commission will focus on substantive policy and regulatory matters.

The programmatic and budgetary matters should be raised under Commission II. I also welcome and congratulate the Vice-Chairperson of Commission I, elected by the Conference through the First Report of the General Committee, His Excellency Mr Carlos Bernardo Cherniak of Argentina. Congratulations, Excellency.

Together with my Vice-Chairperson and the Secretariat, we will do our utmost to ensure the efficient and smooth running of the work of the Commission. In this regard, I would like to underline the process for our discussions. There will be introductions only for items on the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees. I will listen very carefully to your statements and, after each item, we will draft very short and concise conclusions and I will read them out.

I hope I can count on your support in keeping our conclusions short. My intention is to only put on the screen those conclusions which may need further discussion, whereby there may be some 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 Members present with this.

Items addressed through the written correspondence procedure are scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. For these, we will go directly to the conclusions. The introductions have been published on the website of the Conference ahead of the Session, together with the written statements from Members and Management responses. As you are all aware, we are running quite behind schedule and therefore I encourage and entreat all of you to be as precise and concise as possible. This is for reasons of good practice and time management. I count on your support to keep your statements less than five minutes. When the time on the screen shows that time is up, I will respectfully request you to end your submissions.

The priority order will be given to the Regional or joint statements. Members who deliver the regional joint statement, please raise your hand in advance once the item is open for discussion.

Upon consultation with the Regional Groups, the following have been nominated as Members of the Drafting Committee: Argentina, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kuwait, New Zealand, Peru, Russian Federation, Sudan and Uzbekistan. The European Union is coordinating and will let us know their nomination later. We will also receive the nomination for the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee in due course. May I take it that the Commission agrees on the proposed Membership of the Drafting Committee?

I do not see any hand up, nor objection from the floor. It is so decided then.

The timing of the meeting of the Drafting Committee will be announced at a later stage. It is important that we start each meeting on time. Today we had to wait for a quorum, but now that we know where we are, we will be able to start the discussions only when the quorum is achieved. Please note that we will finish Items 10, 11 and 12 as much as possible today. The Session may go beyond the published time and could go on until maybe midnight.

We may need to take a break in between and if you do need to take a break, please do so but do not leave the Zoom so that we maintain a quorum all through the meeting. If we do have to close late, we may take a dinner break and we will announce a time to suit all, so that we can all refresh ourselves and come back, so we finish the agenda for yesterday and today as much as we can in the time allotted for today. Thank you.

With these introductory remarks, I will ask the Secretary to give us some housekeeping rules.

SECRETARY

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, good afternoon from Rome. I am Ms Jiani Tian. I am the Secretary of Commission I of the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference.

I would briefly introduce some housekeeping rules as follows: please kindly stay in mute mode during the meeting, unless you need to speak. Please use the “raise hand” function to request the floor. Please speak concisely, slowly and clearly.

Interpretation can be selected in the bottom bar. Use proper voice and audio tools to ensure a stable internet connection. More information is available in the Conference platform, Meeting Rooms, Commission I, information for participants. Audio quality may deteriorate unexpectedly due to poor internet connection and become insufficient for interpretation purposes. Interpreters will indicate this verbally and they will resume interpretation as soon as the sound quality permits. Please kindly send your statement, preferably in Word format, to the email addresses we are going to share in the “chat” function.

Regarding the Members of the Drafting Committee, our Secretariat will contact your Permanent Representations or embassies to collect the email addresses of the delegates. If you prefer, you are more than welcome to contact me directly with the contact information. Finally, for any other assistance regarding Commission I or the Drafting Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or by mobile using the contact details displayed now on screen. Thank you very much.

- Item 10. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**
Point 10. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:
Tema 10. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:

- Item 10.1 Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (26-28 October 2020)*
Point 10.1 Rapport de la trente et unième session de la Conférence régionale pour l’Afrique (26-28 octobre 2020)
Tema 10.1 Informe del 31.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África (26-28 de octubre de 2020)

CHAIRPERSON

With these housekeeping rules that we have just heard, we can move on to the agenda for Commission I. We will start with the first Item that is Item 10, *Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters arising from Regional Conferences*.

Let us move straight on to Item 10.1, which is the *Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa*, which was held between 26 and 28 October 2020. Reference document is *C 2021/14*.

I invite the Chairperson of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa, the Honourable Anxious Jongwe Masuka, Minister for Land, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement of the Republic of Zimbabwe, to introduce the Sub-Item. We are calling on Zimbabwe, which hosted the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa to present the Africa Regional Conference Report.

Mr Munyaradzi Amon Benedict TUMBARE (Zimbabwe)

Chairperson of the Conference, Director-General of FAO, Distinguished Members of the Conference, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the African countries, I have the distinguished honour and privilege to present to you the outcomes of the 31st FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC31).

The Regional Conference saw its highest ever participation from Members. 874 delegates attended, including 95 ministers from 44 countries. Also present were 20 Ambassadors, 12 private sector organizations, 28 civil society or non-governmental organizations, 10 intergovernmental organizations, including the African Union Commission represented at the highest level, six United

Nations Organizations and four Observer nations. This made for a dynamic and engaged Regional Conference conducted in a virtual mode.

Allow me to submit to this Conference a summary of the main recommendations from ARC31 on regional and global policy matters.

Stemming from the discussions on COVID-19 and its impact on agri-food systems, food security and nutrition in Africa, the Regional Conference recommended that FAO continues to support Members to strengthen their response to the pandemic, particularly in the area of agriculture and food systems.

It was recommended that this support include, among a range of interventions: socio-economic impact assessments; support to design and implement more efficient, cost-effective and innovative social protection programmes; support to governments and the private sector to enable agri-food enterprises along food value chains to ensure improved food security and nutrition; continued support for the successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA); continued dialogue on establishing an Africa Food Safety Agency, particularly relevant this month as we mark World Food Safety Day; and support Members and Regional Economic Communities to seize opportunities for accelerating innovation and digitalization.

Further, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative was also an important item on the agenda. The Initiative was welcomed by the Regional Conference, which recommended that FAO: Support and strengthen national and regional institutional and technical capacities for knowledge and data generation and management to support evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation; secondly, promote effective public and private partnerships inclusive of small-scale producers; and thirdly, to encourage experience-sharing among participating countries of the Initiative, among other actions.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, as we well know, food insecurity is on the rise in Africa, driven in recent years by multiple, overlapping shocks including climate crises, conflict, and economic slowdowns and downturns. The situation has been further compounded by the worst Desert Locust outbreak in 25 years and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this context, the Regional Conference discussed building resilient food and agriculture systems, and recommended that FAO reinforce its priorities on investments and partnerships for integrated, comprehensive and innovative solutions for resilience. These include holistic social protection schemes, across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, to enable a shift from delivering humanitarian assistance to ending the need for it.

Members also recommended creating a continental platform for food security and information systems for use by countries.

The Regional Conference also invited development partners to consider further integrating humanitarian assistance with longer-term multi-year development support, including food and agriculture. It was recommended that this include investing strategically to strengthen countries' and people's resilience to shocks, in the context of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, with a greater focus on reducing dependence on a few commodities, and promoting inclusive structural transformation.

The Regional Conference also recommended that countries increase their support and contributions to the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund for building resilience and transforming agri-food systems.

Discussions on FAO's Regional Programme in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Countries in Africa led the Regional Conference to recommend that FAO supports and strengthens collaboration among land-locked African countries and their transit neighbours, including the formulation of policy priorities and public and private investments for enhanced food security and trade, and pays special attention to the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS component of the Global Action Plan, among other actions.

Further, The Regional Conference encouraged Members to increase their engagement with land-locked African countries within the framework of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, based on the good practices of FAO's Regional Programme in SIDS, and encouraged partners to allocate adequate resources to the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS to address the priorities of the Programme.

In preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit later this year, the Regional Conference discussed actualising inclusive food systems transformation in Africa through leveraging innovation and digitalization. The Regional Conference affirmed the centrality of food systems to the Sustainable Development agenda and the urgency of investing in more sustainable food systems.

The Conference recommended that FAO firstly, assists Members in collaboration with the African Union and its institutions, to best integrate sustainable food and agriculture into national investment and strategic actions; secondly, promote innovations and enable more small-holder producers, including young people and women, to have access to these tools; and thirdly, develop open data-sharing platforms for modelling and analysis, and roll out data systems and technologies to local communities and small-holder farmers, among other interventions.

Cognisant of the particular importance of digitalization for the transformation of food systems, the Regional Conference requested that FAO provide support to Members to develop a digital agriculture strategy to achieve sustainable development objectives; to promote policy-level interventions to tap into private sector investment and innovations in digital agriculture to extend the benefits of digital technologies to small-holder and family farmers; to support the creation of regional Digital Agriculture and Innovation Hubs as think tanks and incubators for digital agriculture innovation and experimentation in the region, and create data standards and operation procedures for data collection, verification, synchronization and sharing for the agricultural sector. This would help Members integrate isolated digital agriculture systems, develop cross-sectoral digital solutions and create a digital agriculture index or scoreboard.

Regarding the role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in food systems and nutrition, and promoting cross-sector policy convergence, the Regional Conference recognized the unique multi-stakeholder nature of the CFS in fostering the right to food and in shaping food systems to respond to shocks.

The Conference committed to supporting the national and regional implementation of CFS policy instruments and recognized the importance of the ongoing policy convergence process on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition as an essential reference document to address food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms within a food systems perspective in the coming years, emphasizing the importance of finalizing the Guidelines as an important input to the Food Systems Summit.

The Conference encouraged Members to actively engage in the implementation of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work 2020-2023, and invited the CFS to revitalize its work and knowledge products to make them relevant and applicable for regional and country-level policy-making and programme implementation.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, with regard to the next Regional Conference for Africa, I am pleased to inform you that the 32nd Conference will be hosted by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in the first quarter of 2022.

I wish you all the best for the FAO Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to the delegations. The floor is open. You can use the “raise hand” function in Zoom to request the floor.

Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

The United Kingdom would like to thank the Government of Zimbabwe and the FAO Regional Office for Africa for organizing the Regional Conference and express our regret for not being able to attend this in person due to the pandemic.

The United Kingdom is committed to our relationship with African Member States and the recent event held by FAO and the United Kingdom on how African countries can access FAO support to apply for the Green Climate Fund is an example of this.

The United Kingdom would like to align with the African Regional Members on the following issues that have specifically been highlighted in the region: (i) COVID-19 and its impact on the agri-food system, food security and nutrition and the implications and priorities for the African region; (ii) building resilient food and agriculture systems in the context of overlapping multiple crises, for example, climate extremes, transboundary pests and diseases, conflicts and economic downturns, addressing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in Africa; (iii) progress made on FAO's regional programme in the Small Island Developing States and towards development of an action programme to address food security and nutrition challenges in the landlocked countries in Africa; (iv) actualizing inclusive food system transformation in Africa through leveraging innovation and digitalization towards the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, the role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on Food Systems and Nutrition, are how we can promote cross-sector policy convergence.

I will conclude by expressing our grave concern about the food insecurity situation in Ethiopia. We call on FAO Members to urge all the parties to the conflict to seize hostilities immediately to allow humanitarian agencies to deliver lifesaving aid safely and to allow communities into Tigray to urgently carry out agricultural activities such as planting and to allow those who are unable to farm to travel safely to seek assistance.

We also call on all parties to the conflict to uphold their obligations towards international humanitarian aid.

With these comments, United Kingdom endorses the Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa that was held between 26 and 28 October 2020.

Mr Addisu Melkamu KEBEDE (Ethiopia)

I am grateful for this wonderful session. I took the floor to give a little glimpse regarding the statement or the points that were raised by the United Kingdom regarding the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia, regarding the northern part of the Tigray region. As you all understood, the Ethiopian Government has taken the law enforcement operations six months ago and successfully implemented it. The point that I want to reiterate is the fact that the Government of Ethiopia has granted undeterred humanitarian access to the Tigray region. Besides, the Government of Ethiopia are working in collaboration with international partners, including countries and organizations like WFP and FAO, especially in mobilizing farmers to engage in the upcoming rainy season. They have been providing seeds, fertilizers and other such things. Therefore, I want to assure that the point raised by the United Kingdom will be totally addressed by the Government.

However, there is some evidence that attempts by organizations to try to smuggle some ammunitions to the anti-peace elements in Tigray region. That is a little bit which impairs the humanitarian access in Tigray region.

Finally, I want to reiterate the commitment of the Government to continue granting the humanitarian access as well as work with the international partners on this issue.

CHAIRPERSON

Zimbabwe and Management, if you wish to comment please raise your hand.

Thank you Zimbabwe for the presentation and I thank you all. My conclusions for Sub-Item 10.1 are as follows:

Item 10.1, *Report on the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa* held between 26 and 28 October 2020;

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed gratitude to Zimbabwe, the host country, for their flexibility and collaboration in holding the Regional Conference in virtual modality.

- Item 10. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**
Point 10. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:
Tema 10. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:

- Item 10.2 Report of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (1-4 September 2020)*
Point 10.2 Rapport de la trente-cinquième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (1-4 septembre 2020)
Tema 10.2 Informe del 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (1-4 de septiembre de 2020)

CHAIRPERSON

With these comments, we move to the next Item on the Agenda, which is Sub-Item 10.2, *Report of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific*, held between 1 and 4 September 2020, reference document *C 2021/15*.

I invite the Chairperson of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, the Honourable Lyonpo Yeshey Penjor, Minister for Agriculture and Forests of the Kingdom of Bhutan to introduce this Sub-Item.

His Excellency Yeshey PENJOR (Minister for Agriculture and Forests of the Kingdom of Bhutan)

On behalf of the FAO Regional Conference of Asia and the Pacific, it is my pleasure and privilege to take this opportunity to report to this august gathering the outcomes of our Regional Conference, hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan from 1 to 4 September 2020. For the first time, for any FAO Regional Conference, the Session was convened virtually in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan, it was an immense privilege for me to chair the Regional Conference of Asia and the Pacific. I, on behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan and on my own behalf, thank the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of FAO and the technical experts and express our sincere appreciation for their hard work and strong support for making arrangements to host successfully the meeting in February 2020.

Their expertise, dedication and the support in organizing the virtual conference was commendable and perfect. The Regional Conference was attended by representatives of 41 Member Nations, also as observers, representatives of nine inter-governmental organizations, 34 international and non-governmental organizations and 13 sister United Nations organizations and specialized agencies attended the Conference.

The final Report includes a summary of the main recommendations requiring the attention of the FAO Council and another requiring that attention of this Conference. Please refer to the Conference document *C 2021/15*.

With reference to the agenda item on the impact of COVID-19 on food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific and FAO's response, the regional conference emphasize the imparity to build back better through sound policies and programmes that place better focus on resilient food systems, nutrition-sensitive food diversification and improved fisheries, sustainability given its important role in food security.

The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

1. provide technical assistance for transformative solutions and long-term recovery and resilience;

2. support Member Nations to improve mechanization, commercialization, diversification and climate-smart investments, reduce post-harvest losses and ease level constraints and improve data collection and statistical analysis capabilities;
3. leverage the COVID-19 umbrella programme and play a strong role in the United Nations Multipartner Trust Fund;
4. assist countries in identifying partnership opportunities, including with the private sector through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and matchmaking platforms; and
5. emphasize the crucial role of digital technologies and innovations, digital literacy and a strengthened One Health approach for improved and sustainable food systems.

With reference to agenda item on the *State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific region*, the Regional Conference recommended FAO to:

1. provide comprehensive technical and policy assistance to smallholders and family farmers to increase labour and land productivity and safeguard livelihoods within the context of the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration; and
2. assist governments in addressing food system challenges and developing new innovations, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and public-private partnerships.

Regarding the agenda item *Setting Regional Priorities to Manage Water for Agriculture Under Conditions of Water Scarcity*, the Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

1. deliver coordinated multisectoral actions that improve policy and governance mechanisms in effectively addressing water scarcity;
2. establish a regional high-level collaborative platform on water scarcity; and
3. lead a high-level regional consultation on managing and adapting to water scarcity in agriculture in the Asia Pacific.

Considering the agenda item, *Building Resilience of Small-scale Fisheries to Ensure Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific*, the Regional Conference welcomed the invitation to celebrate small-scale fisheries through the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022. The Regional Conference also recommended FAO to:

1. support countries to strengthen the resilience of small-scale fisheries to disasters and climate change;
2. strengthen connected ecosystem management and support good governance and management in small-scale fisheries, including combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;
3. provide technical support to address fisheries across food systems and reduce gaps in value chains; and
4. assist countries in their sustainable and safe transition from coastal and small-scale lagoon fishing to small-scale pelagic and oceanic fishing.

Regarding the agenda item *Building Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Asia and the Pacific*, the Regional Conference welcomed FAO's attention to achieving sustainable food systems in the context of national situations and capacities.

The Regional Conference recommended FAO to:

1. provide guidance on multi-stakeholder interventions and mainstream the food systems approach into national planning processes, including policymaking and programme of work of regional bodies;
2. use trade-linked instruments and harmonize procedures and processes using digital technologies and mobilize and improve public and private sector investment in agri-food value chains; and
3. optimize the COVID-19 response and recovery to expand food safety interventions and the One Health approach and strengthen the Tripartite collaboration between FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

With regard to the next Asia Pacific Regional Conference, I am pleased to inform you that the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has offered to host the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which will be held from 8 to 11 March 2022.

With this I end my Regional Conference reporting. I thank you all for your attention and I wish you all a successful 42nd FAO Conference.

Ms Elsa Barbosa DE OLIVEIRA MARCELINO SIMÕES (Cabo Verde)

Chairperson, allow me to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairperson for your election to chair this Committee, I wish you a successful chairpersonship.

Cabo Verde, together with Mozambique, speak on this Agenda Item on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Our Regional Group congratulates the Asia and Pacific Regional Group for hosting their 35th Regional Conference, since it was the first to be held in the midst of the pandemic and welcomes their Report and recommendations. It is a comprehensive report, and it provides information on both the national and international context and sets forward the priorities for FAO's work in the region.

The report recognizes the advances in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specially SDG 1 and 2 but also sets forth the regression which is expected in the face of the negative impacts of COVID-19, and the disruptions caused in the food systems.

This Regional Conference brings to our attention the impact of COVID-19 on food and agriculture, as well as the state of Food and Agriculture, including future prospects and emerging issues, it sets regional priorities to manage water for agriculture under conditions of water scarcity, as well as building resilience of small-scale fisheries to ensure food security and nutrition while building sustainable and resilient food systems in this region.

The Africa Regional Group fully supports these matters and encourages FAO to make available technical expertise and assistance, including innovations and digital technologies to low and middle-income countries and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in this region in order to allow them to recover from the consequences of the pandemic to support their long-term recovery actions and transformations in food systems.

We also support the regional initiatives, namely, Zero hunger; Blue Growth; Climate Change and One Health as well as the interregional initiatives on the SIDS Pacific component. We urge FAO to support the mobilization of financial resources to improve data collection, especially in SIDS, supporting the management of small-scale fisheries, including Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, water scarcity, and the role the Hand-in-Hand Initiative can play in promoting the achievement of SDG 1 and 2.

We lay emphasis on the importance of addressing a greater inclusion of smallholders, family farmers, indigenous and vulnerable people, women, and youth in all aspects of the development to contribute to equitable development, sustainable intensification of production and development of value chains, and building resilience climate change shocks in arid areas.

To give adequate support to these priorities we underscore the importance of FAO Headquarters to fully support the Decentralized Offices in order to guarantee proper implementation of projects at regional, sub-regional and national levels.

To conclude, the African Regional Group recommends the endorsement of the FAO Report of the 35th Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference and its recommendations.

Ms Fleur DOWNARD (Australia)

I would like to thank the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Royal Government of Bhutan for a successful Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. The Conference was one of the first FAO meetings to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and we commend the organisers for their persistence in bringing countries together from across the region for a successful virtual Conference.

I would also like to thank the Government of Bangladesh for agreeing to host the next Regional Conference.

A pressing global challenge lies in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the face of disruptions such as the pandemic. The urgency in addressing this challenge is greater in regions such as the Pacific, where many countries are import-dependent and livelihoods are already vulnerable to the ever-increasing influence of climate change. The maintenance of open and stable agriculture and commodity markets, including through sustainable management of fisheries resources, is a critical priority in ensuring food security. This process can be supported by the collection of data on agriculture and food production to inform policy decisions, as well as by measures to mitigate the impact of climate change.

We take this opportunity to highlight some priority areas of FAO's work in the region.

Firstly, we commend FAO's continued focus on improving food safety and biosecurity and addressing zoonotic disease risk through a strengthened One Health approach. Given the enormous impacts of COVID-19 on global progress towards SDG 2 and related targets, we believe it is vital that the world works together to address the future threat of zoonotic diseases. Australia advocates for major reform across the animal supply chain; through targeting high risk interactions between humans and animals and working closely with individual countries to ensure the risk mitigation measures are appropriate in the local context. Australia has recently made a voluntary contribution to support the FAO's work on a strengthened One Health approach.

Secondly, transboundary animal diseases and plant pests continue to threaten our region through impacts on both livelihoods of smallholder farmers and on biodiversity. Biodiversity is essential in maintaining productivity and resilience of crops, livestock, forestry and other sectors. We emphasise the need for FAO's continued focus and prioritisation of work on Fall Armyworm, African Swine Fever, invasive ants, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, and contaminant pests that are spread through unclean conveyances such as sea containers.

Finally, we emphasise the important role that digital technology and innovation plays in supporting agricultural productivity and sustainability, and commend FAO on its work with digital innovation, in particular, platforms such as the Agriculture Market Information System. FAO is well placed to leverage its partnerships, particularly with the private sector, to harness the full potential of digital agriculture technologies to contribute to secure and sustainable food systems. Australia looks forward to working with other members of the international community to help shape and deliver actions that can help to improve the sustainability, health and resilience of our global food systems, including in the important Asia Pacific Region.

Mr Anthony SIMPSON (New Zealand)

As this is the first time I am speaking in the Session, please accept my congratulations for your appointment and the full confidence of my delegation in your careful stewardship of these discussions.

New Zealand thanks FAO and the Kingdom of Bhutan for the successful organization of last year's Regional Conference for the Asia and Pacific, held for the first time in a virtual format.

The convening of this meeting, which is so important for ensuring the countries of our region have a voice on some of the most critical issues facing the international community, was a truly impressive achievement in the circumstances.

We particularly appreciated the flexibility demonstrated by the FAO Management in establishing the modalities for the meeting, including their efforts to time sessions to better accommodate Members from the Pacific. This made it more feasible for Pacific Island delegations to participate and contributed to their strong representation in the meeting.

As our delegation has often emphasized, Pacific Island countries and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face unique challenges and vulnerabilities when it comes to achieving food security and adequate nutrition for their peoples.

FAO has an important role to play in helping them meet their goals in this area, as well as in helping them deal with the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We agree with the Report's conclusion that FAO expertise in developing technical and economic cooperation could be used to improve living standards through sustainable and inclusive growth, particularly in low and middle-income countries and SIDS, including in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

In particular, New Zealand welcomes the focus on increasing support to countries to improve their data collection and statistical analysis capabilities. As is well known, you will not mend what you do not measure.

New Zealand welcomes the Report's recognition of the importance of working closely with other multilateral and regional organizations, such as the Secretariat for the Pacific Community, or SPC, to collect and disseminate agricultural and food systems information.

New Zealand also strongly supports FAO's efforts to improve food safety and biosecurity in fresh markets and to address zoonotic disease risk through a strengthened One Health approach. We agree that developing capacity for trade facilitation and opening up trade as well as functional food market chains is critical going forward.

Finally, we are pleased to see the importance of the Blue Economy to Pacific Island countries acknowledged in the Report. Indeed, the continued availability of marine resources is critical to food security in the Pacific, and we welcome the references to the practical measures including the ones to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in this regard. However, my delegation would like to note that the subsidization of global fishing fleets continues to undermine efforts to sustainably manage regional fish stocks. Therefore, it was disappointing to see language on this issue omitted from the final text of the Conference Report, given its fundamental importance for our region.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, New Zealand, on behalf of myself and my Vice-Chairperson for your very kind introductory words. I was informed by the Secretariat that Bangladesh will speak on behalf of the Asia Pacific region. They are represented by their Honourable Minister.

His Excellency Muhammad Abdur RAZZAQUE (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. Allow me to start by thanking the Royal Government of Bhutan and the FAO Secretariat, especially the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok, for the successful management of the first ever Regional Conference in virtual modality. The 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) evidenced several matters requiring the attention of the Conference, all of which are equally relevant, and recommended for implementation. For the sake of time, we only highlight the following six most urgent issues.

First, the need to build back better for sustainable recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, a greater focus on resilience and nutrition-sensitive food systems, digital innovation, green and climate-resilient technologies, reduced food loss and waste, and improved food safety. In this context, we encourage FAO to further mobilize resources to the COVID-19 umbrella programme.

Second, the need for FAO support to involve the role of agriculture in national development policies with enhanced focus on smallholders and family farmers in order to increase productivity of their level and land, also in view of more diversified nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

Third, the need to urgently tackle the rising threat of water shortages and water scarcity and their immediate repercussions on food security and nutrition. We encourage the establishment of the proposed regional high-level collaborative platform soon on water scarcity to assess best practices in water accounting, water allocation and water governance. We also encourage the establishment of the high-level regional consultation on managing and adapting to water scarcity in agriculture in the region.

Fourth, the need for technical support to address fisheries in a food system approach, increase fishery sustainability and in particular the resilience of small-scale fisheries and coastal fisheries.

Fifth, a share group urges FAO to continue supporting governments to provide comprehensive support for smallholders and family farmers in the context of the Decade of Family Farming and the Decade of Equal System Restoration to strengthen their resilience and help harness their food potential to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Last but not least, we encourage FAO to continue its path to achieve sustainable agri-food systems in the context of national situations and capacities and to support a mainstreaming food system approach into national planning process and encourage the implementation of Hand-in-Hand Initiative and strengthening of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the region.

With these comments, Bangladesh would like to invite all of you, especially our Asia Pacific region colleagues, to join the 36th Asia and Pacific Regional Conference to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 8 to 11 March 2022.

We strongly believe that with all your active support and cooperation, including FAO, we will be able to organize a very successful APRC, aiming for better solutions to our problem.

Ms Seta Rukmalasari AGUSTINA (Indonesia)

Indonesia associates itself with the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia Group.

We would like to congratulate the Government of Bhutan and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, who successfully organized the first ever APRC virtual meeting last year, during this challenging time of the pandemic.

We note the importance of FAO's work in the Asia and Pacific Region and support the continuation of the efforts of the FAO Regional Initiatives for the region.

On this note, the unprecedented multidimensional crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have hampered progress in realizing food security and nutrition and ensuring sustainable agriculture in the region. As such, Indonesia supports the outcomes and recommendations in the Report of the 35th Session of APRC, and underscores the need for stronger multistakeholder cooperation to overcome the growing challenges in realizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2, to end hunger.

In this regard, it is important to focus on increasing the welfare of smallholders, small-scale fisheries and family farmers, due to their vulnerability to the devastating impacts of the pandemics, as well as other challenges such as natural disasters and climate change. Technical and policy assistance are also a prerequisite to help them increase labour and land productivity as well as ensure sustainable production of various food commodities.

Therefore, we request FAO to continue its support to governments, not only with policy advice to overcome the COVID-19 impacts, but also to provide technical assistance that could lead towards transformative solutions and ensure long-term recovery and resilience.

Furthermore, with regard to the issue of addressing the challenges of water management in the agriculture sector, Indonesia hopes that FAO will continue to facilitate knowledge and technology sharing among Members. Toward this objective, the establishment of a regional collaborative platform could be useful in improving water policy and management in the region.

Finally, we welcome the proposal to have the next Regional Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2022.

Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)

Malaysia would also like to congratulate you on appointment as the Chairperson of Commission I. At the outset, Malaysia would like to align itself with the statement of the Asia Group, delivered by the Honourable Minister from Bangladesh.

Malaysia would like to join others in thanking and congratulating the Honourable Minister and the Royal Government of Bhutan, the FAO Secretariat and FAO Regional Office in Bangkok on the excellent arrangements of the virtual Conference.

Malaysia echoes the need to accelerate innovation and digital transformation in agricultural policies but this initiative must be accompanied by targeted enablers such as incentive financing, private sector participation, supportive policies and infrastructure, sound inflation and equitable access to technology. On this note, Malaysia is keen to see the Hand-in-Hand Initiative using digital agriculture as an approach to assist targeted countries.

Malaysia recognizes that the resilience and the sustainability of food systems remains the main priority for Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC). Since the exact trajectory of our recovery is highly uncertain and the recovery stage will vary geographically, it must strengthen our cooperation and recovery efforts at a national level to ensure the continuity of the food systems value chain, especially for the most vulnerable people and communities.

We must shift our strategy and embrace the use of technology as well as creating innovative approaches that can help society and make them more sustainable, resilient and robust so they will be able to withstand uncertainty of future shocks and volatility.

It is prevalent to stress the need to transform our food systems and rebalance the way we produce, process, market, consume and dispose of our food. We must realize that food systems provide enormous opportunities to improve food security but the challenging is to ensure that no one is excluded from fully securing benefits. Malaysia appreciates FAO's active role in strategies to prioritize countries with potential vulnerabilities in terms of international support and capacities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind.

In conclusion, Malaysia encourages FAO to leverage more resources to support the implementation of programmes and projects at the APRC that could further scale up the innovative dimensions to empower more developing countries, especially to furthering cooperation in the food and agriculture sector, particularly in the area of technology and innovation, exchange of technical expertise, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing.

Finally, we look forward to the next meeting in Bangladesh.

Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original Language Chinese)

I congratulate you on your election. I thank the Secretariat for the Report. China aligns itself to the joint statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia Group. China highly appreciates the fact that thanks to the help of FAO and the joint efforts of the countries in our region, the past 20 years have witnessed a rapid progress in reducing urban and rural poverty and the non-farm income has played an important role in improving livelihood in rural areas.

We have noted with concern that, like other regions, our region has suffered extensive impact from COVID-19 on the food and agriculture development. As a result of multiple challenges, our region still has hundreds of millions of people facing hunger, poverty, serious food insecurity and malnutrition. Greater the risks, greater the need for stable agriculture.

China encourages FAO first to promote regional cooperation and policy coordination to help countries address multiple challenges of increasing food security and nutrition through provision of an intellectual and project support. Secondly, to promote partnership building through North-South cooperation, Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, as well as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative so as to help priority areas and populations in our region, especially to ensure livelihood for smallholders.

Thirdly, to further ensure the supply of agricultural products, stabilizing agricultural trade, ensuring smooth international logistics and safeguard trade order and market stability.

Fourthly, to conduct a practical cooperation to prevent the risks of transmission of plant or animal diseases and pests through coordination.

Fifthly, to strengthen regional sharing of information and the experience on agricultural production, so that we work together with all countries for agricultural and rural development in our region.

Ms Ratchanok SANGPENCHAN (Thailand)

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group to commend the Royal Government of Bhutan and FAO for their leadership and collaboration in arranging the first virtual Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We commend FAO for its swift response to perform rapid assessments of the impact of COVID-19 to mitigate the threats and disruption of food security, food supply chains and livelihoods in Member countries. We encourage FAO to continue its support in providing policy guidance, technical assistance, tools, and best practices to help design recovery programs for the Members in the aftermath of COVID-19 in the short and medium terms.

We encourage the need for FAO to continue its collaboration with the government and strengthen the resilience of small-scale fisheries, smallholders, and family farmers to build back better. In addition, to promote the implementation of Asia and the Pacific projects in line with the context of the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration

Thailand encourages FAO to scale up the effort and work in partnership with other UN Agencies and existing regional institutions, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and through South-South and Triangular Collaboration.

Thailand stands ready to work hand in hand to share good practices and technical cooperation to promote the healthy sustainable and resilient food systems for all.

With this statement, Thailand supports the conclusions and recommendations of the Report of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC), and we appreciate the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the 36th Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference, and look forward to the next meeting in Dhaka in 2022.

CHAIRPERSON

My conclusions for Sub-Item 10.2 will be as follows:

Item 10.2, *Report of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific*, held on the 1st to the 4th September 2020.

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Bhutan, the host country, for their flexibility and collaboration in holding the Regional Conference in virtual modality.

Any comments?

In the absence of any comments, this concludes Agenda Sub-Item 10.2.

- Item 10. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**
Point 10. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:
Tema 10. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:

Item 10.3 Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (2-4 November 2020)

Point 10.3 Rapport de la trente-deuxième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (2-4 novembre 2020)

Tema 10.3 Informe del 32.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (2-4 de noviembre de 2020)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move to Sub-Item 10.3, which is the *Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe*, held from the 2nd to the 4th of November 2020, reference document C 2021/16. This Report will be presented by the first Vice-Chairperson, Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen of Netherlands. The Chairperson of the 32nd Session has conveyed his regrets for his inability to be here with us.

- Item 10. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**
Point 10. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:
Tema 10. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:

- Item 10.4 Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (19-21 October 2020)*
Point 10.4 Rapport de la trente-sixième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (19-21 octobre 2020)
Tema 10.4 Informe del 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (19-21 de octubre de 2020)

CHAIRPERSON

We have just been informed that he may be available in a few minutes, so we can move to Sub-Item 10.4, which is the *Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean*, held on the 19th to the 21st October 2020, document reference C 2021/17. I invite the Chairperson of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, His Excellency, Edward Francisco Centeno Gadea, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, of the Republic of Nicaragua, to introduce this Sub-Item.

Su Excelencia Edward Francisco Centeno GADEA (Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería de la República de Nicaragua)

Queremos también felicitarle por su nombramiento al igual que al Vicepresidente de esta importante comisión, saludos Vicepresidente. Quiero saludar también desde Nicaragua, al Sub-Director General de la FAO y Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, el Señor Julio Berdegué y a todos ustedes con nuestro respeto, a todos los Representantes de países en esta Comisión.

Es un honor dirigirme a esta conferencia en representación de los países de América Latina y el Caribe para presentar el resumen de las recomendaciones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe que Nicaragua tuvo el honor de hospedar virtualmente del 19 al 21 de octubre de 2020.

El documento en referencia es el C2021/17, haré mención específicamente a la sección sobre asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación, pero antes me gustaría destacar y agradecer a los 545 participantes y 33 Miembros, entre ellos: dos Vicepresidentes de la República, un Primer Ministro, 92 Ministros y Viceministros, 14 Embajadores, dos Observadores, más diez representantes de organismos de las Naciones Unidas, nueve organizaciones intergubernamentales, diez representantes de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil, un representante de los frentes parlamentarios contra el hambre, cinco representantes de las organizaciones del sector privado y cinco representantes de las organizaciones científicas y académicas.

En la Conferencia, los participantes resaltaron la importancia de la Agenda 2030 y recomendaron que la FAO apoye a los Miembros para avanzar en su cumplimiento, centrando los esfuerzos en el sector Agroalimentario y Nutricional, las poblaciones rurales y el desarrollo sostenible sin dejar a nadie atrás.

Excelencias, damas y caballeros, la Conferencia Regional considera los siguientes asuntos de políticas para la región:

El impacto de la COVID-19 en la alimentación y la agricultura en América Latina y el Caribe y las respuestas de FAO.

Sistemas alimentarios sostenibles a fin de proporcionar dietas saludables para todos.

Mano de la Mano para lograr sociedades rurales prósperas e inclusivas.

Agricultura sostenible y resiliente.

La Conferencia Regional reconoció la relevancia del Marco Estratégico de la FAO respaldando su mayor fundamentación en los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible y recomendó que la FAO continúe priorizando el fortalecimiento de los enfoques de género, juventud y resiliencia y la inclusión de pueblos indígenas afrodescendientes y otros grupos.

Recomendó también que adapte las políticas, los enfoques y las asistencias a los contextos, prioridades y capacidades nacionales, teniendo en cuenta la heterogeneidad de los Miembros de la región y en particular la singular vulnerabilidad de los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo.

En este contexto y en relación a los asuntos relacionados con las políticas y la regulación, la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, invita a esta Conferencia a considerar y acordar que la FAO:

Preste apoyo en el diseño, la implementación y la evaluación de políticas y programas de recuperación de la crisis provocada por la COVID-19 y facilite la movilización de inversión público-privada y las alianzas público-privadas para la recuperación de los sistemas alimentarios, la producción agrícola y otras actividades rurales no agrícolas como el turismo.

La Conferencia apoye la adopción de medidas e inversiones orientadas a lograr sistemas alimentarios sostenibles a fin de proporcionar dietas saludables para todos y todas, proveyendo apoyo y movilización de recursos e inversiones públicas y privadas para sus sistemas alimentarios, focalizando la atención en el incremento del suministro de alimentos y el acceso físico a dietas saludables y en la facilitación de acceso económico, información y hábitos de consumo para lograr dietas saludables.

Que FAO promueva el crecimiento económico y la producción sostenible y resiliente acompañado de políticas de inclusión social para lograr sociedades rurales prósperas e inclusivas, haciendo hincapié en la iniciativa Mano de la Mano como un instrumento y focalizando la atención en la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza extrema en aquellos territorios más rezagados con énfasis en la inclusión productiva y la creación de nuevas oportunidades en los territorios rurales.

Que FAO apoye a los Miembros en incrementar la sostenibilidad y la resiliencia de la agricultura y los sistemas alimentarios, así como de los productores, las comunidades y los ecosistemas terrestres y marinos ante las crisis económicas, sociales y ambientales.

Que FAO apoye la implementación de los Años Internacionales de las Frutas y Verduras 2021 y la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanales 2022.

Finalmente, Señora Presidenta, en nombre del Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Presidente de la República de Nicaragua y en mi calidad de Presidente de la 36° período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe de FAO, deseo nuevamente agradecer a los Miembros, la confianza depositada en mi país.

Reafirmo ante esta conferencia nuestra satisfacción con la Dirección Estratégica de la FAO y la necesidad de seguir contando con la Organización para la cooperación técnica y la movilización de recursos al fin de alcanzar las metas de erradicación del hambre, eliminación de la pobreza e impulso del progreso económico y social y uso sostenible de los recursos naturales, avanzando hacia el logro de la Agenda 2030.

CHAIRPERSON

We now open the floor up for the delegations. You can use the Raise Hand function.

Sr. José Teófilo ESONO ASANGONO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La República de Guinea Ecuatorial hace esta intervención conjuntamente con la República de Guinea-Bisáu en nombre de los países de África, los cuales agradecen a la Secretaría por la información.

Estamos satisfechos del informe del 36 período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en la Ciudad de Managua, Nicaragua, del 19 al 21 de octubre del año 2020 de manera virtual.

Esta conferencia se desarrolla en el Marco Estratégico de Cooperación de la FAO para el desarrollo sostenible y el análisis común sobre los países, viene a ser el resultado de un proceso de reflexión conjunta: los gobiernos, la FAO, la sociedad civil, el sector privado y los socios internacionales. Este Marco de Cooperación constituye un mecanismo basado en la colaboración, orientado a los esfuerzos y los compromisos adquiridos a través de la Agenda 2030 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Apreciamos los esfuerzos realizados por la FAO a los países de la región en la elaboración de políticas y programas encaminadas a erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición, trabajando así en estrecha colaboración con los coordinadores residentes y con la totalidad de los equipos de las Naciones Unidas en los países, para incrementar la eficacia y eficiencia de su labor.

Animamos los procesos de descentralización y los progresos realizados en materia de [XX] de los países, así como la iniciativa Mano de la Mano que viene a acelerar el proceso. Deseamos entonces el reforzamiento de la capacidad de las oficinas regionales y de los países por la dotación en personal de alto nivel. Pedimos un esfuerzo en la capacidad de movilización de recursos para apoyar los programas sobre el terreno.

Recomendamos a la FAO a colaborar con los países para medir de manera más eficiente los progresos en relación con los ODS a fin de mejorar la información disponible para la toma de decisiones basada en los hechos comprobados y continuar acordando la importancia, la cooperación Sur-Sur y la cooperación Triangular. Invitamos por lo tanto a la FAO, a seguir con este instrumento de planificación estratégica, diálogo y cooperación, teniendo en consideración los principales desafíos de los países, las prioridades del gobierno.

El valor agregado que la FAO puede proporcionar en la asistencia técnica e innovación particularmente en los pequeños productores y en la población rural más pobre en la actual crisis de la pandemia de Coronavirus y sus consecuencias en la economía de los países en el conocimiento de la experiencia compartida y buenas prácticas para fortalecer las capacidades del sector público y la sociedad civil, en aras de garantizar el máximo impacto en las agendas de desarrollo de los países de manera que nadie se quede atrás.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Gracias mi querida hermana, Su Excelencia Embajadora Quartey Koranteng, Señores Ministros, Autoridades, Responsables Regionales, Distinguidas Delegaciones. En primer lugar, gracias por el apoyo para tener la responsabilidad de ser vuestro Vice-Presidente en este Comité.

La 36° Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe organizada de manera excelente por Nicaragua fue una oportunidad única para que latinoamericanos y caribeños pudieran unificar su voz frente a los profundos impactos y desafíos que produce el COVID-19 en materia de seguridad alimentaria, nutrición, desarrollo social y actividad económica. Nuestros pueblos, según estadísticas de las Naciones Unidas, se encuentran entre los más afectados por las consecuencias erosivas de esta pandemia y frente a este hecho, más allá de los niveles particulares de ingresos, todos estamos llamados a trabajar en conjunto.

En esa idea, apreciamos la posibilidad de haber enviado un claro mensaje a la FAO, sobre nuestro entendimiento de que la región está llamada a cumplir un rol clave en la recuperación económica, social y ambiental a nivel regional y global. Como saben, nuestros países se ubican dentro de los principales proveedores mundiales de alimentos sanos, nutritivos y de calidad y, al mismo tiempo, nuestros sistemas agroalimentarios funcionan, en general, de conformidad con la Agenda 2030.

Así, nuestra Región reafirmó su compromiso de continuar produciendo alimentos de forma sostenible, respetando el equilibrio entre los tres pilares de la sostenibilidad, de manera de contribuir a la reducción de la pobreza y la distribución progresiva del ingreso, el uso eficiente y responsable de los recursos naturales y el desarrollo económico de nuestros países.

No obstante ello, reconocemos que los sistemas de producción de alimentos son particularmente vulnerables a los efectos adversos del cambio climático. Los desafíos de este fenómeno, hacen que sea imprescindible que centremos nuestros esfuerzos en la adaptación, a fin de garantizar resiliencia a nuestros sistemas, mientras mantenemos niveles productivos suficientes para contribuir a seguridad alimentaria.

Especialmente, entendemos la importancia de ofrecer resiliencia a los micro, pequeños y medianos productores, en particular a las mujeres rurales y jóvenes, para fortalecer la recuperación de sus actividades y prevenir futuros impactos frente a eventuales episodios disruptivos. Las trabajadoras y trabajadores de nuestros sistemas agroalimentarios, incluyendo agricultura, ganadería, pesca, acuicultura, actividad forestal y turística, entre otras, necesitan que se les brinden las herramientas adecuadas para construir conocimientos, acceder a tecnología, ser parte de la innovación y sumarse a cadenas de valor locales, regionales y globales. En este punto, la FAO tiene que jugar un papel trascendental.

Asimismo, y dada la heterogeneidad de la región, no olvidamos los apoyos diferenciados que necesitan los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo que, en muchos casos, presentan altos niveles de vulnerabilidad en estas crisis. Aquí también le cabe a la FAO una responsabilidad primaria.

También discutimos acerca del llamado a transformar los sistemas alimentarios. Al respecto, coincidimos en que estos procesos, si correspondieran deberían darse conforme a los contextos específicos, las prioridades y capacidades nacionales. Es fundamental que sean reconocidas y respetadas las realidades locales de las diferentes regiones del mundo y sus particularidades, sociales y ambientales.

Insistimos en que no hay un modelo único de desarrollo que sirva a todas las naciones del mundo, así que es fundamental una visión inclusiva de la sostenibilidad de los sistemas alimentarios con soluciones que se adapten a las realidades y necesidades particulares, sobre la base de argumentos científicos sólidos. Si seguimos esta visión, sí creemos que “nadie va a quedar atrás”. Permítame afirmar que “generalizar” es más ideológico que científico, y nosotros queremos una FAO que se base en el rigor científico para sus trabajos.

Me gustaría compartir cuatro puntos finales.

Uno, cuando debatimos sobre los servicios ecosistémicos, siendo que nuestra región es la mayor proveedora de estos servicios en el mundo (ya que tenemos el privilegio de poseer más de la mitad de la biodiversidad mundial), coincidimos en que la comunidad internacional se debe un debate franco y profundo, sin estrategias regionales por detrás, para tratar de manera seria este tema.

Este punto, me lleva a hablar del principio de Responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas. Como ya sabemos, todos los países deben cooperar para la preservación del medio ambiente, pero, teniendo en cuenta las responsabilidades históricas, así como las capacidades nacionales por su nivel de desarrollo y condición socioeconómica. Así, aquellos países que tienen responsabilidad principal, histórica y presente, por la degradación ambiental deberían proveer las herramientas económicas y tecnológicas adecuadas que permitan a los países en desarrollo mejorar la sostenibilidad en la producción.

Este punto tiene que ver con el comercio internacional de alimentos que desempeña un papel clave para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS).

Es fundamental el logro de un sistema de comercio internacional más justo, transparente y previsible. Los subsidios distorsivos de la producción y el comercio, así como las barreras paraarancelarias son negativos para los consumidores y productores. Hacemos un llamamiento a los miembros de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC) a limitar y a reducir, al menos a la mitad, de aquí a 2030, la suma de los niveles autorizados de ayuda interna causante de la distorsión del comercio y la producción que se mantienen actualmente en la agricultura mundial. Las contribuciones de los distintos miembros de la OMC a estas reducciones tendrán que ser proporcionales a la magnitud de los niveles autorizados actuales de esos miembros y a su posible repercusión en los mercados mundiales, y tener en cuenta las necesidades de los distintos miembros en materia de desarrollo, a fin de lograr el alcance de la Agenda 2030.

Por último, como lo indican todas las estadísticas de Naciones Unidas, nuestra región es una de las más inequitativas del mundo y esta situación, a causa del COVID-19 en nuestros países, se agravará. Diferencias en los accesos a los alimentos, grandes desbalances sociales y desequilibrios económicos generarán que más hermanos y hermanas de la región incrementen su vulnerabilidad. Para enfrentar esta situación, necesitamos más que nunca, que la FAO se concentre en generar mayor y mejor sinergia en el terreno, ya sea con ayudas de las Organizaciones Basadas en Roma (OBRs) o con otras Agencias que puedan colaborar en este desafío. La FAO tiene un rol clave que cumplir, y estamos aquí para apoyar su trabajo.

Con estos comentarios, me congratulo por el trabajo de la 36 LARC por los compañeros y compañeras de la Región y con los que nos encontraremos seguramente de manera física en Ecuador en la próxima Conferencia Regional.

Gracias a Nicaragua por haber organizado la Conferencia anterior, gracias Ecuador por ofrecer su hospitalidad.

Sr. Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brasil)

Brasil apoya firmemente el trabajo de la FAO y América Latina y el Caribe para alcanzar la Agenda 2030, en especial los ODS uno y dos. De hecho, Brasil fue el país de la parceria estratégica con la FAO que aportó más fondos para la región en el 2020. Desde hace diez años, financiamos un sólido programa de Cooperación Sur-Sur y Trilateral con la FAO y América Latina y el Caribe, que ha alcanzado resultados muy positivos para la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional por intermedio del fomento de la agricultura familiar y de programas locales de meriendas escolares.

En su parte de la FAO es aún más importante en el contexto actual en que la pandemia del COVID-19 amenaza los progresos de la región en favor del desarrollo sostenible. Respecto a la conferencia regional, Brasil apoya sus recomendaciones, resultado de intensos debates sobre las prioridades de nuestra región. Queremos alcanzar una región libre de hambre, de extrema pobreza a través del desarrollo sostenible e inclusivo y de una agricultura resiliente frente al cambio climático.

Brasil recalca sobretodo la solicitud de que la FAO apoye a los países para fomentar nuevas oportunidades económicas rurales incluyendo la bioeconomía, el desarrollo de energías renovables y la prestación de servicios ecosistémicos.

Finalmente, Señora Presidenta, subrayamos la recomendación del Párrafo 29(iv) de que la FAO revise el proceso de consultas para la reformulación o elaboración de las iniciativas regionales, de manera que incluya participación más cercana y transparente de los Miembros.

CHAIRPERSON

My conclusions for Sub-Item 10.4 are therefore as follows.

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Nicaragua, the host country, for their flexibility and collaboration in holding the Regional Conference in virtual modality.

Any comments to the conclusions?

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

En términos de lo expresado en mi intervención y en términos de importantes puntos de la Conferencia Regional, quiero proponer agregar dos párrafos que los voy a leer a velocidad de dictado en inglés.

Continues in English

“Highlighted the importance of global food supply chains and open, rules based, non-discriminatory, and predictable international trade, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its centre, as a key driver to achieve food security.”

The second paragraph is *“Recognized that, following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, cooperation, and solidarity, developed countries could provide sufficient, predictable, and adequate means of implementation that allow developing countries to enhance their agri-food*

systems while focusing on climate adaptation to guarantee the systems' resilience and maintain the production necessary for food security."

Sr. Luis Fernando CARRANZA CIFUENTES (Guatemala)

Agradezco al distinguido colega de Argentina por presentar estas propuestas, sin embargo, mi Delegación considera que estos párrafos le dan un sentido muy específico y quizás de alguna manera injusto a todo lo que se conversó en la Conferencia Regional y creemos que el texto original propuesto por la Presidencia tiene esta visión general que pueda incluir en efecto todos los temas que se discutieron en la Conferencia.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

In general, Brazil supports the proposal made by the distinguished delegate from Argentina, but if possible, it is better to see the proposal written. I could ask the Secretariat to show and to facilitate our understanding of it, and then we can approve it, as proposed by Argentina.

CHAIRPERSON

Secretariat has put the proposed additions from Argentina on the screen. Are there any comments from the floor?

Ms Rose MARKS (United States of America)

I would just like to echo Guatemala's intervention and suggest that the language in the Report remain formulaic for the Regional Conferences and avoid getting too specific and calling out very specific ideas that are not representative of the umbrella of the Regional Conferences.

Mr Nuno Miguel DE OLIVEIRA MANANA PIRES FRANCISCO (Portugal)

I have the most respect for the proposals that have been made on the screen. However, I do have to agree with colleagues from Guatemala and with the United States that especially the second paragraph, this is going too far from the subject. Therefore, I would be pleased if we do not retain that, in writing it at this stage.

Su Excelencia Edward Francisco Centeno GADEA (Nicaragua)

Quisiera hacer una reflexión sobre la propuesta de Argentina, con todo respeto. En la Conferencia Regional, este tema no fue discutido y yo considero que no es apropiado que estas propuestas sean incorporadas en la Declaración, toda vez que la Declaración ya fue discutida y aprobada por los Países Miembros, por lo que pediría con todo respeto, mantener la declaración tal y como fue aprobada en la fecha en la que se desarrolló la Conferencia Regional del [XX].

Sr. José Luis DELGADO CRESPO (México)

Por supuesto, los temas que propone la delegación de Argentina son relevantes, sin embargo consideramos en la misma línea con lo expresado por Guatemala, Nicaragua, Estados Unidos y Portugal, que preferimos conclusiones más generales que reflejen el contenido íntegro de lo que se abordó en la Reunión de Managua.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Simplemente dos aclaraciones y una conclusión. La primera es que ambos temas fueron conversados en la Conferencia Regional y están incluso en las conclusiones, obviamente con un wording específico, pero con el mismo sentido. Pero si no existe consenso, no hay ningún problema. Argentina no pretende imponer ningún tipo de visión a ningún Miembro, pero sí esto fue conversado en la Conferencia y además fue incluido dentro de las conclusiones del Consejo en el último Consejo de la FAO.

Así que, no voy a presentar ningún tipo de insistencia si no tiene el consenso de mis colegas, pero simplemente quería marcar que estos son temas muy importantes y relevantes para los países en desarrollo y para nuestra región, y esto fue conversado en la conferencia y también fue expresado y receptado en el Consejo. La idea como siempre es construir consensos, así que nos mantenemos en la

línea de que si no hay consenso para avanzar en esta línea, no tengo ningún inconveniente en dejar sin efecto la propuesta.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Argentina, for your flexibility on these two points raised and in the spirit of reaching a consensus. If, following from what you have just said, you are okay to have these two paragraphs not included in the conclusions. They can be removed from the conclusions as I presented earlier on.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

I respect the decision from Argentina, just two paragraphs, but reflects the discussions during our meeting and I suppose that it is a general comment that if we are going to discuss, in the future, the Report of one Regional Conference, inputs and comments and suggestions regarding this Report should be proposed by the Member countries which belong to this region. Therefore, of course if inside the region there is no consensus, we go ahead, we move along, but in the future I think it is better to keep the discussions restricted to the Members of FAO which belong to the Regional Conference.

Sra. Adriana LUPINACCI (Uruguay)

Es un placer estar aquí con todos ustedes. Quisiera agradecerle a todos los países que han intervenido y hablado y simplemente destacar que bueno, son temas sumamente importantes y apuntamos a generar un ámbito donde encontremos un equilibrio en función de nuestros sistemas productivos y poder así construir consenso con toda la comunidad, impulsando estrategias que converjan en el apoyo a todos los países de Latinoamérica y del resto del mundo.

Apoyo a Argentina en gran parte de sus palabras en el sentido de que nosotros somos grandes productores de alimentos, y por ende tenemos que buscar la forma de sentirnos apoyados por parte de la FAO. De todas maneras esperamos poder construir, como ya mencioné, un consenso para toda la comunidad y así estar todos en la misma sintonía.

CHAIRPERSON

Argentina had already, in the spirit of consensus building, agreed to have the proposed two paragraphs deleted from the conclusions, so we put it again to the floor whether there is a consensus to have those two paragraphs not to be included in the conclusions, then we can move on in the spirit of building consensus and unity in our discussions.

I think with that we can conclude the discussions on Sub-Item 10.4, in the absence of any further comments. Thank you all.

- Item 10. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**
Point 10. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:
Tema 10. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:

- Item 10.3 Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (2-4 November 2020)*
Point 10.3 Rapport de la trente-deuxième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (2-4 novembre 2020)
Tema 10.3 Informe del 32.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (2-4 de noviembre de 2020)

CHAIRPERSON

I move back now to Item 10.3, which we suspended while we waited for His Excellency to give the Report, which is the *Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe*, held between the 2nd and 4th of November. The Report will be presented by Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen of the

Netherlands, the Chairperson of the 32nd Session has conveyed, as I said, his regrets for not being able to attend.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands)

It is an honour and a pleasure for me as Vice-Chairperson of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) to present the Report on behalf of the European and Central Asian countries. In this Report of the outcome of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe, which was held from 2 to 4 November 2020 and was chaired by His Excellency Jamshid Khojaev, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and of course we thank Uzbekistan for the excellent hosting in a virtual form for this Conference.

In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns, the Session was convened firstly on an exceptional basis, thus suspending the respective articles of the rules of procedures of the ERC required to hold a physical meeting. The Session recorded historic participation and coverage by 51 FAO Members, three Observers FAO Member countries, 50 Ministers and 60 Vice-Ministers, over 300 Delegates and Observers, in addition to more than 1500 who followed the proceedings and the webcast on Twitter.

The Regional Conference was preceded by our consultations of civil society organizations and for the first time ever a consultation of the private sector where representatives delivered their views during the ERC Sessions. The Regional Conference Report is available in Conference document *C 2021/16*, which outlines in particular those recommendations that require the Conference's attention. I will therefore limit myself to a short introduction and presentation of some of the highlights of the debates during the Regional Conference.

Under the umbrella of the main theme of the Session, delegates debated about sustainable food systems and healthy diets in Europe and Central Asia. The ERC affirmed the importance of adopting a sustainable food system approach for healthy diets that maximizes contributions to the threedimensions of sustainability, environmental, economic and social, while addressing trade-offs across activities, actors and overall goals as a key commitment in achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fostering synergies between policy measures.

The ERC also underlined that the COVID-19 pandemic further threatened the achievement of the SDGs, showing the importance of resilient and sustainable food systems that functions in all circumstances. In this regard, the Regional Conference acknowledged the role of smallholder and family farmers as key contributors to ensuring food security through the period of the pandemic and confirmed support for the United Nations Secretary-General's call to build back better from COVID-19.

The Regional Conference also encouraged Members to provide an enabling environment for implementing the food system transformation agenda, preferably consisting of a national multi-sectoral coordination mechanism with a broad mandate to use a food system lens with representation from the relevant government and non-state actors, including the private sector. The promotion of dialogue was highlighted, in particular on the roles of the various actors and a fostering of policy coherence for sustainable food systems and healthy diets.

The Regional Conference further emphasised to Members, in the context of social sustainability and leaving nobody behind, the need to address inequalities in food systems, foster a more people-centred approach and empower vulnerable and marginalized groups in order to provide affordable healthy diets for all. The ERC also acknowledged short supply chains, local markets and Agroecology and all innovative approaches as a significant segment in promoting sustainable food systems that are resilient to climate change, but also to other shocks, such as those related to the pandemic, while at the same time contributing to the reduction of food loss and waste.

The importance of innovation, research and well-functioning agriculture extension services as an important prerequisite for the technology and knowledge transfer to farmers and small enterprises was equally recognized by the Regional Conference.

Emphasis was also given by the Regional Conference to the need to invest in data collection for evidence and science-based policymaking as well as to the central importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and young people in accelerating progress in achieving the SDGs.

In relation to the ERC item, FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative: a New Approach, the Regional Conference appreciated the strengths and organizational focus on SDG 1 and SDG 2 and the confirmation of the potential contribution of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to the attainment of other SDGs as well. The Regional Conference further recognized the importance of strengthening national capacities for improved data indication, analysis and visualization in order to identify interactions and quantify trade-offs amongst actions designed to address multiple objectives under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with primary ownership of the beneficiary country and the resource partners.

Regarding the item on the Solutions for Youth, Employment and Developing Rural Areas in relation to the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, the Regional Conference recognized the need to revitalize rural areas with a special focus on empowering rural youth and young women and of course strengthening rural services and rural infrastructure to ensure the stimulation of inclusive economic development, the empowerment of smallholder farmers, and promotion of sustainable economic growth and green economy.

The ERC also highlighted the negative effects of youth migration on productivity, income generation and local supply and emphasised the role of youth as key agents of change in the revitalization of rural areas and in the transformation towards sustainable food systems. It was recognized by the Regional Conference that without empowerment and access to decent employment and rural services, young generations will have limited opportunities in rural areas.

In this regard, the Regional Conference suggested promoting the empowerment of youth through their participation in national and international governance and decision-making processes to improve their social and economic wellbeing, addressing the drivers of economic or distress migration and maximizing the positive impacts of migration for rural communities and the use of remittances for investment in agriculture and rural development.

The importance of Agroecology and other innovative approaches of digital transformation and of the sharing of information, knowledge and research as key elements to transform the agriculture sector and make it attractive for young professionals, was also strongly recognized. The key role of rural women in performing critical roles in family and non-family environments and the lack of development opportunities and safety nets amongst rural women, especially from risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, were also noted by the Regional Conference.

The ERC stressed the importance of complementing policy support for family farms, particularly smallholders, with a private sector involvement strategy and with the adoption of territorial and integrated community development approaches that recognize the importance and value of the local needs of economic diversification, which addresses both the agri-food supply chain and non-agriculture economic activities in rural areas.

Furthermore, the Regional Conference encouraged the preparation of the national action plans for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 that envisages tangible steps and specific undertakings and support of family farming at country level in the context of the UN Development Framework.

With regard to the other matters, Reports from the Regional Commissions were presented as an integral part of the Regional Conference in line with recommendation of the assessment of FAO's governance reforms, which is to be found in document *C 2015/26 Rev.1*. The Regional Conference noted the recommendations in the Report of the 30th Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Agriculture Advisory Committee and called for Members to nominate and support the operational focus to this Commission as the only European Commission on inland fisheries and agriculture and to encourage other countries and non-governmental organizations in the region to participate in this Commission's Sessions as Observers.

The Regional Conference encouraged Members through their operational focal points to participate in the Commission projects addressing regional priorities as identified in the technical and scientific committee of this Commission. In reviewing the Report of the 6th Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, the Regional Conference encouraged relevant Members of the Regional Conference, particularly from Central Asia and the Caucasus, to announce their intention to join the Commission.

Finally, I would like to inform you that the consultation meeting of Civil Society Organizations took place before the original meeting and that selected representatives of Civil Society Organizations actively participated in the Regional Conference Sessions to present their contributions, which are fully integrated in the discussion.

Ms Liron MAOZ (Israel)

I am very honoured to speak on behalf of the European Regional Group, which we are chairing. The Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) Member Countries would like to thank the Republic of Uzbekistan and FAO's Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia for organizing the first Regional Conference ever to be held in a virtual format due to the pandemic. The inclusive manner and the very cooperative atmosphere in which the Conference took place should not go under-mentioned.

We would like to highlight the clear commitment expressed by Members with regard to a number of key issues, in particular the transformation towards sustainable and resilient food systems and healthy diets, the importance of implementing the One Health approach, the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance and the importance of specific measures to counter the impacts of COVID-19.

The Conference also addressed other important issues such as youth unemployment, the development of rural areas, innovation and preventing and reducing food waste and losses.

With these comments, the European Regional Group Members endorsed the Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe that was held from 2 to 4 November 2020.

Mr Victor VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

I was very happy to hear the Report, though I was not able to see the person who gave the report earlier, and I hope that others will be able to come onto the screen.

First of all, I would like to join together with the congratulations of the European Group to congratulate Uzbekistan on a very high quality and timely session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), with the support of the Regional Office of the FAO for Europe and Central Asia.

Despite the fact that this was carried out in an online format, this event ended up being very rich in content. We would like to especially note the constructive atmosphere which allowed us to achieve very good results.

We would like to single out the conclusions and recommendations on the transformation of agri-food systems, the increase in their sustainability, including when faced with challenges of pandemics, the stimulation of the development of agricultural production, keeping in mind today's trends, as well as regional and country specificities. We would also like to note the increase in the quality of food, as well as the minimization of food loss and waste and the support for small-scale farming.

We are basing ourselves on the fact that the final Report of the Regional Conference will serve as a substantive portion of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit.

We would like to note the innovation of the FAO with its Hand-in-Hand Initiative. We feel that it is very important that the first to receive assistance through this innovation be Tajikistan. We are counting on the fact that with time this initiative will be rolled out, if necessary, to other countries, which are also receiving assistance from Russia.

We would also like to note that the development of agri-food systems in Russia is being determined quite a bit by the new doctrine on food security, which was approved by the President of the Country in January of 2020. We are very happy to share our experience with other countries that are interested.

In conclusion, we would like to note that Russia supports the approval of the final Report of the Regional Conference for Europe, as well as its recommendations.

Mr Tim KRÄNZLEIN (Switzerland)

Switzerland would like to congratulate Uzbekistan for its successful effort in hosting the virtual format of this Conference.

Switzerland wishes to comment on three of the points that the Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia brings to the attention of the Conference.

First, regarding the discussion on Sustainable Food Systems and Healthy Diets in Europe and Central Asia, Switzerland welcomes Regional Conference's reaffirmation of the importance to adopt a sustainable food systems approach for healthy diets. We thereby encourage FAO to build on its long-standing experience and work on developing and promoting the sustainable food systems approach through its contribution to the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the United Nations' Ten-Year Framework for Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

In this same regard, Switzerland wants to remind the FAO Conference of paragraph 34, requesting FAO to incorporate the conceptual connection between sustainable agriculture production and Healthy Diets in its Regional Priority Areas for Action for 2022-2025. In order to be in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), food should not only be healthy for humans but also healthy for the planet and therefore based on sustainable agricultural production. Sustainable food systems are at the heart to improve nutrition, enable healthy diets and fight all forms of malnutrition. We encourage FAO to work on this conceptual connection between healthy diets and sustainable food production and transformation and take on a holistic and systemic food systems approach.

Third, regarding the discussion on Solutions for Youth, Employment and Developing Rural Areas, we highlight the need that the Rural Youth Action Plan although mainly developed for FAO, needs to be closely implemented with other Rome-based Agencies (RBAs). On the ground, a coordinated and coherent approach of the three RBA's is absolutely necessary to foster professional opportunities of youth in rural areas. We also recommend FAO to strongly engage in the upcoming policy convergence process of the Committee on World Food Security on promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems, as stated in Paragraph 29 (n).

Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

The United Kingdom fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Europe Regional Group (ERG). We would like to extend our thanks to the Republic of Uzbekistan and the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia for organizing an exceptional Regional Conference, the first ever to be held in a virtual format in the Region, due to the pandemic.

While we would not want to duplicate those issues mentioned by the ERG, the United Kingdom would want to highlight the following clear commitments made by Members. Firstly, the importance of implementing the One Health approach, including on zoonotic and transboundary diseases. Secondly, the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance. Thirdly, encouraging FAO's full participation in the United Nations Development System Reform, specifically at country level. Fourthly, FAO's ensuring that institutional reforms are embedded at country level, including on risk management, transparency and accountability, preventing and responding to sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse and, finally, the importance of specific measures to counter the impact of COVID-19, focusing on supporting economic recovery and building back better.

In conclusion, the United Kingdom wants to thank the Director of Evaluation and his team for the synthesis of evaluation findings in the Europe Region and calls on the Conference to include in our report an endorsement of the ERC request for a progress report on the implementation of recommendations made in the synthesis report. We recommend syntheses of regional evaluation findings as a regular feature in future Regional Conferences as an opportunity to improve accountability at the regional level. We urge Conference to include this recommendation in our report.

With these recommendations, the United Kingdom endorses the Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe that took place between 2 and 4 November 2020.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings to the end our list of speakers for this Item.

I will now read my conclusions for Sub-Item 10.3, which are as follows.

Sub-Item 10.3, *Report on the 32nd session of the Regional Conference for Europe*, held from 2 to 4 November 2020.

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Uzbekistan, the host country, for their flexibility and collaboration in holding the Regional Conference in virtual modality.

Any comments?

Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

I would like to recall the last paragraph of my intervention, requesting that the Conference include as part of the recommendation of the Report the following: “The United Kingdom wants to thank the Director of Evaluation and his team for the synthesis of evaluation findings in the European Region and calls on the Conference to include in our report an endorsement of the Europe Regional Group (ERC) request for a progress report on the implementation of recommendations made in the synthesis report. We recommend syntheses of regional evaluation findings as a regular feature in future Regional Conferences, as an opportunity to improve accountability at the regional level.”

We urge Conference to include this recommendation in our report.

CHAIRPERSON

To make it easier to include it in the final recommendations, if you could send your comments by chat or alternatively my conclusions can be up on the screen and you could read your proposed additions by reading it in dictation mode, so that the Secretariat can capture it precisely as you have read it out.

I think the conclusions will go up on the screen and if you would kindly read your proposed additions in dictation mode for the Secretariat to be able to capture it appropriately.

Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

If I might respond. If you can allow me two or three minutes to just consult with my colleagues. If we could just break for three minutes and I will come back with a paragraph to propose for the Report.

CHAIRPERSON

We will wait your three minutes. In the meantime, we will hold ourselves ready to look at Item 10.5.

Mr Victor VASILIEV (Russian Federation)

I understand that the Distinguished Representative of the United Kingdom wants some time to consult with his advisors on the text, but I understand that we need to have a coherent approach regarding all regional groupings and in case we are engaged in the drafting session, the whole Regional Group must be engaged in the drafting procedure.

CHAIRPERSON

The proposal from the United Kingdom will be noted when they present it and will be taken up by the Drafting Committee.

In the meantime we will take a short three minute break

The meeting was suspended between 16:06 and 16:12

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 06 à 16 h 12

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.06 a las 16.12

Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

We have a single line to propose, if we could get the Secretariat to upload the script for us that would be very useful.

CHAIRPERSON

The script is up and if you could take your proposal at dictation speed, so that the Secretariat can get it down for us.

Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

The proposal we would like to put forward is the following. “The Conference welcomed the synthesis of evaluation findings in the European Region and requested that a progress report on the implementation of recommendations be provided as a regular feature in future Regional Conferences.”

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Netherlands)

Just to answer the question or the remark made by my dear colleague from the Russian Federation. The presentation was made by me as Vice-Chairperson of the Regional Conference for European and Central Asian countries, but I think due to a technical failure somewhere I was not shown on the screen. I hope that I appear now on the screen, so that at least people know that I was the person who was presenting the Report of the Session as Vice-Chairperson.

Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)

I do confirm that I see my dear friend Mr Hans Hogeveen on the screen now. With regard to the Report of the Regional Conference and its recommendation, if you look at the Report itself, you will see that it combines the matters that require the attention of the Council of FAO and then it also summarizes the matters which require the attention of the Conference.

We have no problem about the synthesis of evaluations, but this recommendation was included to the Council and not to the Conference. My question to our distinguished colleague from the United Kingdom is, why shall we single out this evaluation to bring it to the attention of the Conference because we have some other important recommendations by the Regional Conference which applied to the agenda of the Conference itself? For example, a sustainable food system and healthy diet in Europe, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and some other important recommendations for the Conference.

Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

I would like to respond to the distinguished Ambassador of Russia, indicating that the various other issues that have been raised by the Regional Conference will be addressed throughout the other items that are on the Agenda of the Conference, whereas the synthesis of evaluation findings are not discussed in more detail.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

Of course, Brazil is not going to interfere in other Regions’ discussions and Reports, but I believe that the United Kingdom proposal is very specific and the wording should reflect that. At the end, when the language says ‘be provided as a regular feature in the future Regional Conference for Europe.’ I believe that is very specifically for Europe and so it should be reflected in this paragraph.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any other comments on the proposal by the United Kingdom on the floor? I see the hand of the United Kingdom is up again. I think maybe this is one area where we need to have some consensus in how we are going to conclude on the Conference Report.

Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

I can understand where our Distinguished Colleague from Brazil comes from, but ideally we would like to see uniformity across Regions. While I fully acknowledge I cannot talk on behalf of the other Regions, we would want to know if the other Regions that are all represented at Conference, at this discussion, could align with the request that we have put forward.

CHAIRPERSON

With this proposal on the screen coming from the United Kingdom, it requires some consideration by Delegates generally, but more specifically in the context of this Report that we are considering. Maybe if we could have some consensus on the inclusion of this particular intervention or proposal in the Report of the Regional Conference from Europe.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

It is not customary that we provide input into a Report of a Regional Conference, which is not the Regional Conference of Africa, but we have a standard presentation of the adoption of the Report of Regional Conferences in the Conference. This is the standard, so when you add something specific to a Regional Conference, first it should remit within that Regional Conference.

I believe that the comment made by the Russian Federation is a genuine one. Those issues that are to be discussed in the Council shall remain within the Council and those that are discussed with the Conference should remain with the Conference.

I am still wondering if the United Kingdom can indulge me in that this addition might not really be good for a Report like this because firstly you should know that those synthesis reports are usually discussed by the Committees of the Council, so they go straight to the Council, and the Council takes action on that. Bringing this to the Conference, I do not know, but it is up to the Europe Region if they want to add it. They have to agree among themselves.

Mr James BREITHAUPT (Canada)

Just very briefly to echo the comments made by my distinguished colleague from Cameroon. I certainly have no issues in the content of what has been proposed here in the third paragraph and I do not purport to speak on behalf of what was discussed in the Regional Conference for Europe. However, just some concern about the practice of opening up or singling out additional items here and moving away from the standard reporting in this Item, the thinking being that the relevant items and recommendations would likely all be in the Regional Conference Reports mentioned.

CHAIRPERSON

I think we are trying to build some consensus in the practice and the common practice that has been used at Conference and adoption of reports, so we may be guided by that in arriving at our conclusions, in the same vein of building consensus for how we conclude on our Conference Reports.

Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

I am just, as we speak, consulting with our Delegation and we are willing to remove this paragraph if we cannot reach consensus.

CHAIRPERSON

United Kingdom is showing the flexibility and consensus building that our Conference is known for in our Conference deliberations. With that intervention, showing that they are willing to have this proposal not included in the conclusions of the Conference Report, we may delete the proposals.

I saw the hand of the United States of America up, but with the comment from the United Kingdom that they would be flexible and have that proposal not included, I see the United States has put their hand down.

This concludes our discussion on Sub-Item 10.3.

- Item 10. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**
Point 10. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:
Tema 10. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:

Item 10.5 Report of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (21-22 September 2020)

Point 10.5	<i>Rapport de la trente-cinquième session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (21-22 septembre 2020)</i>
Tema 10.5	<i>Informe del 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (21 y 22 de septiembre de 2020)</i>

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move to Agenda Sub-Item 10.5, the *Report of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East*, held from 21-22 September 2020, reference document C 2021/18.

I invite Mr Ahmed Bin Nasser Al-Bakri, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman, on behalf of the Chairperson of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference of the Near East, to introduce this Item.

Mr Ahmed Bin Nasser AL-BAKRI (Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman) (Original Language Arabic)

Ladies and gentlemen. I am pleased to take part in the 42nd FAO Conference.

I would like to present to you the outcomes of our Regional Conference, which was held from 21 to 22 September 2020, in virtual modality given the COVID-19 pandemic, this, of course, following consultation among Members of our Region. There was a preparatory meeting among senior Management for the preparation of this Regional Conference. There were two technical consultations from 21 to 22 January in Cairo, Egypt, and from 1 to 3 July 2020. There were also a number of virtual meetings hosted by Oman.

This new approach allowed for broader participation on the part of the Regional Representatives. Over 300 participants took part, including 20 Ministers, two Vice-Ministers and Delegates representing 29 countries from the Region out of 30 Members. Also three United Nations Organizations took part and 13 intergovernmental organizations, as well as 32 actors from the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutes and Civil Society Organizations.

This innovative approach allowed us to undertake broad-based debates on the key priorities and challenges that we face in the Region, namely transforming food systems with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to address the challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. This also enabled us to stress the importance of preparation when it comes to shocks and conflict and the importance of investing in the agriculture sector, in particular responsible investment with a view to achieving food security and generating employment, especially for youth and women.

The creation of regional sovereign funds to offset the negative impacts of COVID-19, so as to guarantee food and nutritional security was another key aspect. Strengthening participation of the public and private sectors and the participation of civil society organizations, strengthening inter-regional trade and the aid that goes hand in hand with this for the most fragile categories. These are all matters we discussed.

We also highlighted the importance of new technologies to strengthen agricultural production through the use of digital technologies and new technologies in support of food and nutritional security in the Region.

The Regional Conference called for the following:

- The establishment of a clear protocol to guide members in the Region in their work when it comes to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Providing support to countries to strengthen development and innovation when it comes to external shocks and resilience to these shocks and the establishment of innovative activities to strengthen agricultural production based on a One Health holistic approach to respond to animal diseases and plant diseases, as well as transboundary diseases and a strengthening of resilience *vis-a-vis* climate change.
- Greater support to youth, women and farmers' organizations and in particular the most marginalized among our populations.

- Help Members garner resources to respond to the challenges that stem from climate change.
- Establish digital platforms for the exchange of knowledge and knowhow among states in the Region and the exchange of information on the food surplus in the Region, so as to also facilitate the trade of food commodities among our countries.
- Strengthen the data analysis capacity and stress the importance of the analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on production and production lines.

As for agricultural development, based on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, we welcome this Initiative, which is Member-led. This is an urgent matter for the States in the Region and we call for greater participation among the different stakeholders in the Region. We need to provide opportunities for youth to take part and participate actively in the agriculture sector and also for support to smallholder farmers through financial resources and inputs. This can all be done through measures that are part of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

We would also like to stress the main challenges that the Region faces and the work that needs to be done in a collective fashion to tackle all the challenges that we face. We welcome civil society's participation, as well as that of the private sector and many other stakeholders throughout our Regional Conference. We would like to welcome and recognize their role in responding to the pandemic.

There is no doubt that Regional Conferences strengthen regional cohesion through the exchange of opinions and views on the Region's priorities and challenges. Therefore, on behalf of the Near East Regional Conference, I would like to support the strategic work and tracks of FAO with a view to strengthening cooperation at the regional level and would also like to ask for these work streams to be deepened. We look forward to the 36th Regional Conference, which will be held next year.

Mr Fayez KHOURI (Jordan) (Original Language Arabic)

I am very proud to be able to take part in this Session of the FAO Conference. I would like to convey the apologies of the Chairperson of our Group, who was unable to take part in this meeting.

I would like to start by commending the efforts of the Director-General and all of the FAO Management in this initiative. I would like to thank you on behalf of our Group and also thank the Sultanate of Oman for their efforts in organizing the Conference and all that was done to highlight the opportunities and challenges that are well illustrated in the Report.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express Iraq's willingness to host the next Session of the Regional Conference, which will take place next year, in 2022, in Baghdad.

It is important for us all to take into account the priorities in the Region and give special attention to those countries that are facing challenges, political, economic, social challenges, as well as conflict. These various crises have had a negative impact on the agriculture and the food security of the different countries and people and there is a need for an urgent response with deepened cooperation and active cooperation with participation at all levels, national, regional and international, focusing in particular on capacity building of youth, on the role of women and mainstreaming women in all the different programmes. Also building the capacity of member states. We need programmes that are customized to meet the priority needs of each different country.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance of coordination with FAO and the different relevant Organizations in the implementation of the outcomes of this Regional Conference, which will make it possible for us to carry out the necessary reforms and ensure global food security and wellbeing.

CHAIRPERSON

My conclusions, therefore, for Sub-Item 10.5, are as follows.

Item 10.5, *Report of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East*, held from 21-22 September 2020.

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to the Sultanate of Oman, the host country, for their flexibility and collaboration in holding the Regional Conference in virtual modality.

There being no comments this will therefore conclude our discussions on Agenda Sub-Item 10.5.

- Item 10. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**
Point 10. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:
Tema 10. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:

- Item 10.6 Report of the Sixth Informal Regional Conference for North America (22-23 October 2020)*
Point 10.6 Rapport de la sixième Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord (22-23 octobre 2020)
Tema 10.6 Informe de la sexta Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte (22 y 23 de octubre de 2020)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move to Sub-Item 10.6, which is the *Report of the Sixth Informal Regional Conference for North America*, held from 22-23 October 2020, found in document reference C 2021/LIM/1. I invite Mr Tom Rosser, Assistant Deputy Minister for Agriculture and AgriFood of Canada, to introduce this Item.

Mr Tom ROSSER (Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture and AgriFood of Canada)

Let me begin by wishing you, and indeed all distinguished Delegates a very good morning from Canada. I am very pleased to be speaking to you on behalf of the North American Region today.

Canada and the United States, as the two countries in FAO's North America Region, chose once again in 2020 to hold an informal Regional Conference, supported by the Liaison Office in North America, under the leadership of Mr Vimlendra Sharan.

The Informal North American Regional Conference, known by the acronym INARC, took place virtually from 22 to 23 October 2020, as you noted in your preamble. It is our expectation that the views and strategic direction that emerged from these meetings continue to inform FAO's priorities, budgets and governance in a manner similar to the formal Regional Conferences.

The 2020 INARC opened with a commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of FAO's first Conference, which was held in Quebec City in 1945. Canada's Minister of Agriculture and AgriFood, Marie-Claude Bibeau, and then United States Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu, and Quebec Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Nadine Girault, each delivered remarks.

The speakers highlighted the role of the North American Region in the founding of FAO and spoke of the importance of continued collaboration as FAO faces tremendous challenges ahead, from responding to COVID-19 to addressing climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

When FAO was founded, World War II had brought devastation, severe food shortages and a loss of agricultural production capacity, as well as a major decline in soil fertility. It was agreed that the FAO should be brought into being to collect and disseminate information, give advice and technical expertise and recommend action to other international agencies and to Governments. Now, 76 years later, as we grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have looked to FAO to provide analysis and evidence-based advice to countries around the world to help us weather the storm, just as was envisioned in 1945.

The INARC resulted in five key strategic recommendations for FAO to consider. They are:

1. FAO should pursue an inclusive innovation Agenda that promotes all forms of innovation that contribute to fostering environmental, social and economic sustainability.
2. FAO adds most value delivering the critical functions in its core mandate, normative and standard setting work, scientific evidence-based and impartial analysis and serving as a knowledge repository.

3. FAO will best build resilience to persistent and emerging threats by focusing on timely science-based responses and highlighting the importance of global supply chains and international trade.
4. FAO will be most effective by adopting a gender transformative approach and increasing its focus on women, youth and indigenous peoples.
5. To meet the global challenges and emerging threats before it, FAO must optimize its comparative advantage by leveraging partnerships with the private sector, civil society, the Rome-Based Agencies and other international organizations.

The INARC also brought together senior Government leaders from the United States and Canada, the Director-General and other FAO senior leaders, as well as representatives from civil society and private sector mechanisms of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security to discuss FAO's approach and response to COVID-19.

Providing a platform for civil society and the private sector to engage directly with Government and FAO leaders on this issue was very important to the North American Region.

Panellists praised FAO for its data collection, analysis and policy recommendations in response to the pandemic. Participants made particular reference to FAO's efforts to highlight the need for international trade to keep flowing in the wake of the pandemic and called for continuing and deepening focus on women's empowerment and equality in all of FAO's work.

The 2020 INARC was a great success and Canada and the United States are committed to convening the INARC again in 2022.

Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)

The United States joins with Canada to strongly encourage FAO to pursue the inclusive innovation agenda that promotes scientific, digital, technological, and other innovations that contribute to fostering environmental, social, and economic sustainability. We warmly welcome FAO's leadership in delivering on new ways to sustainably increase agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, conserve resources, and build resilience, all while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon.

We are inspired by FAO's strategic direction for better channeling scientific advice, knowledge, and extension services to enable farmers to choose from proven available tools and technologies and to let them decide how best to sustainably boost their production. We warmly welcome the appointment of the new Chief Scientist and Director of Innovation of FAO. We also welcome the new Strategic Framework's reflection of North American priorities.

We firmly believe that the FAO has a unique role as a neutral, science-based convener for all countries and a responsibility to provide all countries, regardless of their size or development level, with the information and analysis to support science-based decision-making.

It is critically important that FAO leverage its resources and comparative advantage, including through its support to the international standard-setting bodies, and that FAO fully supports and adequately funds the scientific work that underpins this setting of international standards.

The COVID-19 pandemic, as highlighted by my colleague from Canada continues to cause significant contractions in world economies, increasing market uncertainty, and reducing trade prospects. We need to avoid policies that further restrict the trade in safe food or that could unnecessarily exacerbate market uncertainty. The North America region sees supply chains, international trade, and well-functioning markets as engines to foster sustainable, economic, social, and environmental outcomes.

Women, youth, and indigenous peoples in agriculture are helping to pave the way for a better future; they have been a critical part of agriculture around the globe for centuries and are essential to our societal and economic well-being.

A key element of the US Administration's Agenda is advancing gender equity and equality as a strategic imperative for reducing poverty and promoting economic growth, increasing access to education, improving health outcomes, advancing political stability, and fostering democracy.

FAO's collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is essential. It is critical for the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) to bring closer together key agriculture, food security, food assistance, and nutrition actors to join international efforts for advancing coherent interventions and resilience-based approaches in humanitarian or emergency situations, as well as preventing and addressing protracted food insecurity or the impacts of extreme weather or shocks.

Finally, the United States greatly appreciates the inclusive process that led to the updating and completion of FAO's Private Sector Engagement Strategy, as well as its broad all-scales definition of "private sector partners" and we look forward to that Strategy's full implementation.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings to the end our list of speakers on this Sub-Item.

My conclusions for Agenda Sub-Item 10.6 are as follows.

Report of the Sixth Informal Regional Conference for North America held from the 22 – 23 October 2020.

The Conference took note of the Informal Regional Conferences for North America held to allow Member Nations of the region to make inputs into the organization's prioritization process.

This concludes our discussions on the Agenda Sub-item 10.6. With this we have concluded all the Sub-Items under Agenda Item 10 on the Regional Conferences. I thank you all for your attention and cooperation during these discussions by which we reached consensus on the conclusions.

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| Item 12. | Report of the 46th (14-18 October 2019) and 47th (8-11 February 2021) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security |
| Point 12. | Rapports des quarante-sixième (14-18 octobre 2019) et quarante-septième (8-11 février 2021) sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale |
| Tema 12. | Informes de los períodos de sesiones 46.º (14-18 de octubre de 2019) y 47.º (8-11 de febrero de 2021) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial |

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move to Agenda Item 12, which is the *Report on the 46th and 47th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security*.

I invite the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, to introduce this item.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security)

Distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen, in my capacity as Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), I am delighted to present to you the Reports of the 46th and 47th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. A separate Report for the CFS 48 Special Session held on the 4th of June 2021 must be first reviewed by FAO Council, hence it is not part of this update. CFS 46 took place from 14 to 18 October 2019 in Rome. The theme of the Session was '*Accelerating Progress on SDG 2 to achieve all the SDGs*'.

Let me highlight some of the key outcomes of CFS 46. The Session celebrated the 45th-year anniversary of the Committee and its 10th anniversary since the 2009 reform. At its 46th Session the Committee endorsed the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2020 – 2023 (MYPoW 2020-2023). This was the first time that the Committee adopted a four-year programme of work, a major achievement, as it was the result of a year long process of inclusive consultations.

The four-year MYPoW includes policy convergence processes on food systems and nutrition, agro-ecological and other innovative approaches, gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition, promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food

systems, data collections and analysis tools, and reducing inequality for food security and nutrition. It reflects the long-term vision of the CFS and signals renewed ambitions of this Committee.

Yesterday, you have heard Mr Bill Gates mention the issue of how to improve data analysis for food and agriculture. I invite all of you to engage in CFS activities and serve as champions of the CFS within your respective capitals, Regional Groups, and within the governing bodies of FAO, IFAD and WFP, together with members of the CFS Bureau. The Committee also celebrated the kick-start of the UN Decade of Family Farming by assessing the impact on the smallholder family farmers of some of its most recent policy recommendation for food security and improved nutrition, and celebrated the International Day of Rural Women with a keynote address by an African woman farmer sponsored by IFAD.

At CFS 46, the plenary agreed to amend paragraph 1, Rule IV of the CFS Rule of Procedures to allow FAO, IFAD and WFP to participate as official members of the CFS Advisory Group. This provides the opportunity to strengthen the CFS Advisory Group, including the possibility of welcoming new Members and broadening representation in line with recommendation of the CFS evaluation.

The CFS 47 plenary session of the committee was the first to be held virtually from 8 – 11 February of this year. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the CFS 47 began with an address from UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, delivered by the Special Envoy for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, Dr Agnes Kalibata.

The Secretary-General called for fundamental systemic change to address hunger, sustainability, and malnutrition, while upholding human rights, alleviating poverty, and supporting inclusive and sustainable development for all. He recalled that CFS is the unique platform for multi-stakeholder engagement on SDG 2, bringing together governments, civil societies, private sectors, scientists, financial institutions, United Nations experts, and others, and reminded participants that CFS is an important example of inclusivity that I hope can be emulated at the national level.

During the CFS 47 Session, the Committee welcomed the latest report of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), entitled *Food Security and Nutrition: Building a global narrative towards 2030*, and expressed appreciation for its vision and conceptual framework connecting food and agricultural systems to health, environment, economic, social and other systems.

The Committee further acknowledged the report's emphasis on two dimensions of food security, agency and sustainability, as crucial to achieving global food security and nutrition grounded in the right to adequate food. As the main item of the agenda of the CFS 47 Session, the Committee adopted the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN). The Committee commended those countries that have voluntarily pledged to utilise the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in their own national policies and encourage other countries to take similar steps to utilise this CFS product as a tool for national-level coherence and multi-stakeholder action to promote sustainable food systems and address malnutrition in all its forms, and other related social, economic, and environmental issues.

The Committee underlined the valuable input the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition will provide to the UN Food Systems Summit, both preparation and follow-up, and requested the governing bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD to support their utilization at country level. A session on uptake and implementation of the VGFSyN will be held at CFS 49 in October this year, and all of you are invited.

During the 47th Session, the Committee also organized an event to take stock of the use and application of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA). With regard to the work on gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment, the Committee endorsed terms of reference for the preparation of Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment which will be presented for endorsement at CFS 50 plenary, in October next year.

In view of the huge challenge posed by the global pandemic of COVID-19, the Committee commended the CFS Chairperson, Bureau Members and Advisory Group, the CFS HLPE Steering Committee, and the Secretariat for their work to promptly address the impact of the COVID-19

pandemic on global food security and nutrition, and review and update it in a Multi-Year Programme of Work. This review resulted in a special session of CFS 48 which was held on 4 June this year, when the Committee adopted the CFS Policy Recommendation on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches.

Clearly the convening power and inclusive nature of the CFS remains evident. The CFS continues to be the UN System's foremost inclusive intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platform for global coordination and policy convergence for food security and nutrition. With the support of the Secretariat, of all Members and participants, we will be working to strengthen the CFS, increase awareness about its policy products, and build partnerships to further implement its work for the purpose of achieving SDG 2.

Let me conclude by thanking you for the opportunity to present the progress made by CFS, and I look forward to your comments and questions. I would like to emphasise that producing the policy products is only the half job and we still have the other half – that to implement those policies at the county level, and you are the ones who can make this happen.

Mr Donald Geoffrey SYME (New Zealand)

Thanks to a very able Chair for the very useful summary of the 46th and 47th Sessions.

Firstly, New Zealand welcomes the Reports of the 46th and 47th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and is happy to endorse all of the recommendations in those Reports.

We would like to say that we welcome the efforts of the CFS Secretary and Secretariat, the CFS Members and the Advisory Group for all their efforts to work together to develop and implement an ambitious and important Multi-Year Programme of Work.

The CFS has played an important convening role as a multi-stakeholder platform for sharing experiences and challenges relating to COVID-19, in commissioning the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) analysis, and in convening special events.

We support the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition as an important contribution to the Rome-based Agencies work on food systems and in informing discussions in the context of the UN Food Systems Summit.

Given the inclusive and lengthy negotiations, the Guidelines provide countries with an important reference point that can be utilized in a range of country contexts.

Finally, New Zealand is also fully supportive of the CFS's work on youth, gender, data and inequalities, and we expect also that the impacts of COVID-19 will be carefully considered across all of CFS's work programmes as a cross cutting issue going forward.

CHAIRPERSON

As I said at the beginning of opening the floor for discussions, there is a very long list of hands up waiting to make comments and I would encourage delegates to abide by the time of five minutes. We have been doing so well so far, so we have made quite good progress in catching up with what was outstanding from yesterday. If we are able to maintain that momentum of keeping to time we may not be working late into the night as we had projected.

Ms Hyo Joo KANG (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. First of all, we welcome the report of 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and appreciate the continued efforts of CFS Members and stakeholders to work together towards achieving food security and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We commend the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) for the 15th Report entitled '*Food Security and Nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030*' as valuable science- and evidence-based inputs for the CFS discussions. We highlight the proposed two new dimensions of food security, namely "agency" and "sustainability", as relevant tools to achieving global food security and nutrition. We stress the importance of putting people at the centre of sustainable development at the local level

to achieve global food security and nutrition. We encourage FAO to fully utilize all major CFS policy governance instruments to ground the Food Systems Summit's preparatory work.

We value the global thematic event on the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) as a tool to improve the food security and nutrition of world populations affected, or at risk of, protracted crises. We encourage to promote a broader and systematic dissemination and application of the CFS-FFA. In order to foster adoption, context-specific adaptation and up-scaling of CFS-FFA implementation, we acknowledge that effective practices be evidence-based and country-owned, in order to increase resilience and maximize benefits to vulnerable and marginalized people, as well as to ensure inclusive and multi-sectoral engagement in decision-making processes.

We would like to echo the crucial role of women and girls in transforming our agri-food systems toward increased sustainability. Advancing gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment is critical to achieving food security and nutrition for all as well as for achieving all Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030. In this regard, the Asia Regional Group approves the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Woman's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition, which will be endorsed by CFS at its 50th Session in October 2022.

We welcome the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN). We underline the valuable inputs the VGFSyN will provide to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 discussions and follow-up processes. We encourage their uptake and implementation taking into due consideration different national capacities, levels of development, policies and priorities as well as individual circumstances in particular its climate and natural environment. We encourage all Members and stakeholders to share lessons learned from using the VGFSyN and to disseminate the VGFSyN to the widest possible audience.

With regard to the CFS MYPOW, we support the CFS continued efforts in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 on global food security and nutrition, and highlight the value of the data collection and analysis workstreams, which will support the evidence-based policy guidance in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

With this statement, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Reports of the 46th and 47th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security.

Mr Asmerom KIDANE TECLEGHIORGHIS (Eritrea)

Eritrea, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Burundi prepared a statement on behalf of Africa Regional Group (ARG) and the State of Eritrea is honoured to present a statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group on the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was conducted from 14 to 18 October 2019 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The theme of the Session was "Accelerating Progress on Sustainable Development Goal 2 to achieve all the SDGs".

The main concern on World Food Security (CFS) is the immense challenge posed by achieving Zero Hunger by 2030, with 820 million still suffering from hunger today. Hence, the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind, to support people in vulnerable situations and to reach the furthest behind first, is very pertinent and very crucial.

In line with the 2030 Agenda, the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2020-2023 has addressed and prioritized thematic workstreams, such as food systems and nutrition; Agroecological and other innovative approaches; gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.

Therefore, it is pertinent and necessary to promote youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems and reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition particularly in developing countries. To confirm this ideology, financial and capacity building are the primary ones. This means particularly the implementation of the Multiyear Programme of Work (MYPoW) will be contingent upon sufficient financial and human resources. To that extent, robust resource mobilization strategy to in support of the developing countries is required.

Furthermore, Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition is pertinent in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, as well as ensuring food systems that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

Hence, advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment is critical to achieving the vision of ending hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all, and for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

The ARG underlines the valuable input of the implementation of the MYPoW, and hence appreciates the three Rome-based Agencies for their further support and consideration regarding supporting the utilization at country level. Hence, the ARG appreciates and invites the Conference to endorse the decisions and recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security, and attention is drawn in particular to the State of Food Security and Nutrition.

The ARG endorses the MYPoW 2020-2023. The implementation of the MYPoW is pertinent, however it requires financial support and human resources. Hence, it is very important that the three Rome-based Agencies as usual upgrade consistently and contribute to the implementation of MYPoW.

Therefore, the ARG recommends and appreciates FAO to provide technical assistance in an upgraded manner and sustainable way as a whole for developing countries, so that all developing countries could be involved actively in upgrading food security and nutrition to combat all forms of malnutrition.

Ms Madeleine KAUFMANN (Switzerland)

Switzerland wishes to comment on two of the points that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) brings to the attention of the Conference.

Firstly, on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. The Voluntary Guidelines acknowledge the critical interlinkage between sustainable production and a healthy and sustainable consumption, and we hope that they will represent a first common understanding as we jointly move towards the 2021 Food Systems Summit and then beyond with the achievement of the Agenda 2030 at the horizon.

However, in many other respects, they fail to go beyond the current status quo. Indeed, the Guidelines show little ambition to guide those seeking the transformative renewal of food systems.

Nevertheless, Switzerland endorses these Guidelines and supports FAO's role in the use, implementation and dissemination of the Guidelines.

Secondly, on the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) 2020 Report "Building a global narrative towards 2030", the perspective of the HLPE on food systems and their challenges should be the departure and reference point for all our future discussions in CFS and beyond. This is also the case with the Panel's conclusion that a critical policy shift is needed in order to avoid falling short on the Agenda 2030, that a radical transformation of food systems is necessary and that moving towards more sustainable food systems is key.

Particularly, we would like to highlight the expanded understanding of food security and nutrition through the dimensions of agency and sustainability. Hence, food security is only given when food is available, accessible and utilizable, when individuals and groups are their own food agents and when the food is sustainably sourced.

It will be of utmost importance that the ongoing and future work of the CFS fully integrates this evolved understanding of food security and nutrition.

The Report proves once again that the decision to establish the HLPE in 2009 as a key component of the CFS was the right one. The HLPE enables us all to work based on hard evidence and state of the art knowledge.

To conclude, Switzerland is looking forward to the publication of the HLPE Report on "Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems" planned for July 5th and the

launch of the policy convergence process during CFS 49 and calls on FAO to play an active role in this process. Young women and men are key agents of change in the transformation towards sustainable food systems. The upcoming process is of importance in this regard.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Nuestro país desea reiterar su compromiso con el trabajo que desarrolla el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) y destaca su importancia y vigencia para buscar caminos y alternativas que nos permitan alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en los distintos países, especialmente en el contexto de los desafíos que nos plantea el COVID-19 y sus impactos en materia del aumento del hambre en el mundo.

En este sentido, la Argentina estuvo visiblemente involucrada en las Sesiones 46° y 47° del Comité que, a nuestro juicio, produjeron interesantes resultados y aprendizajes para las futuras actividades del Comité.

Así, nos gustaría destacar algunos aspectos de los informes del Comité. En primer lugar, con relación al diseño y ejecución del Programa de Trabajo Plurianual del CSA creemos que, en materia de objetivos, el plan incluyó temáticas sumamente relevantes para abordar las problemáticas que inciden en el funcionamiento de los sistemas alimentarios. Al respecto, coincidimos en la necesidad de analizar propuestas y pensar alternativas que nos permitan fortalecer y mejorar nuestros sistemas de producción de alimentos a fin de poder alcanzar la meta clave del Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) 2, que tiene una particular relevancia para los países en desarrollo.

Por otro lado, en cuanto a la puesta en práctica del Programa de Trabajo, entendemos que los plazos y el volumen de actividades que fueron establecidas no necesariamente responden a las posibilidades reales del Comité, como así también de sus miembros, para afrontar adecuadamente las metas fijadas.

Prueba de ello, son las dificultades que tuvimos que enfrentar para finalizar a tiempo, y en algunos casos, en detrimento del contenido de los documentos, las negociaciones sobre de las Directrices Voluntarias de Sistemas Alimentarios y de las Recomendaciones de Políticas sobre Agroecología y otros Enfoques Innovadores.

Desde nuestro punto de vista, y como lección aprendida, en el futuro debemos evitar que nos gane la ambición no realiza al estructurar el Programa de Trabajo del Comité y, en vez, concentrarnos en objetivos temporalmente alcanzables y plausibles. Quizás adoptar la práctica de iniciar negociaciones sobre borradores que se basen en conceptos multilateralmente acordados nos pueda ayudar a mejorar la eficiencia del CSA.

Por otro lado, en relación “Marco de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición en Crisis Prolongadas” del Comité, quisiéramos indicar que el documento adquiere una relevancia particular, ya que, a través de sus guías y recomendaciones, fundamentalmente en los Principios 1,2, 5, 7, 9 y 10, aporta una serie de “buenas prácticas” que permiten a los Gobiernos diseñar acciones concretas, de acuerdo a sus capacidades y circunstancias específicas, para crear resiliencia y abordar apropiadamente las causas subyacentes de las crisis.

Igualmente, insistimos en la relevancia de actualizar las consultas regionales y buscar mecanismos para dar a conocer los instrumentos del CSA que contienen herramientas pertinentes para afrontar situaciones críticas en distintos países.

Asimismo, nos gustaría realizar una especial mención sobre el documento “Directrices Voluntarias sobre Sistemas Alimentarios y Nutrición” recientemente aprobado, toda vez que constituye un instrumento válido para pensar el funcionamiento de los esquemas agroalimentarios.

Celebramos que las Directrices contengan un firme mensaje sobre la necesidad de matizar las propuestas de transformación (sobre la base de contextos y capacidades nacionales), y que hagan referencia concreta y positiva sobre el comercio internacional de alimentos y sobre el principio de “Responsabilidades Comunes pero Diferenciadas” como ejes claves para motorizar la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, particularmente en los países en desarrollo.

En la misma línea, celebramos los avances en los trabajos de cara las negociaciones de las “Directrices Voluntarias sobre la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres y niñas en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria”. En Argentina, la temática de género es valorada como un elemento esencial y transversal para la construcción de mecanismo de producción sostenibles.

Entendemos que el contenido de las Directrices debería centrarse en el diseño e implementación de políticas públicas que fortalezcan la autonomía económica de las mujeres y la eliminación de brechas de género en los sistemas agroalimentarios.

Como últimos puntos nos gustaría, reconocer el trabajo del Grupo de Alto Nivel Expertos en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición debido a que sus propuestas constituyen disparadores adecuados para fomentar el debate entre los miembros. En segundo lugar, y en vísperas al inicio de la pre-Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios, nos gustaría indicar que frente a la gran incertidumbre que envuelve el proceso y los potenciales resultados de la Cumbre, no sería correcto presumir o circunscribir las futuras actividades del CSA a las eventuales conclusiones de este proceso.

El Comité, desde nuestra perspectiva, tiene valor por sí mismo y no necesita de un evento internacional para guiar tu trabajo.

Con estos comentarios Sr. Presidente, nos congratulamos por el trabajo de las Sesiones 46^o y 47^o del CSA.

Mr Sean COX (United States of America)

The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition are the culmination of an enormous effort by the Committee on World Food Security to reach consensus on a set of recommendations to improve performance across food systems for nutrition.

The Voluntary Guidelines lay the foundation for a “sustainable food systems” approach to food security and nutrition that recognizes the complexity of food systems and the fact that decisions made at one point in a system can reverberate throughout the system.

This approach seeks to balance the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and recognizes the need to assess and manage tradeoffs. The balanced, holistic and sustainable food systems approach outlined in the Guidelines provides a strong foundation for our efforts to build more sustainable food systems and for the UN Food Systems Summit.

The United States endorses the conclusions and recommendations of Report of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. However, we would like to reference what is noted in paragraph 3 regarding Appendix F – Explanation of the Position on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition by the United States of America.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the United States of America, working towards consensus language in all negotiating areas of the Voluntary Guidelines, the United States requested that an Explanation of Position by the United States be included in the CFS Plenary reporting. In particular, comments by the United States on paragraphs 3.2.4(d) and 40 of the Guidelines, and the United States disassociating from paragraphs 44, 45, 65, 66, 3.1.1(c), 3.3.1(a), and 3.1.4(a) of the Guidelines.

Ms Supajit SRIARIYAWAT (Thailand)

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group.

We welcome the Reports of 46th and 47th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. We would like to thank the former CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Mario Arvelo from the Dominican Republic for his engagement, and appreciate the continued efforts of CFS Members and stakeholders to work together towards achieving food security and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We welcome the update of CFS MYPoW, and support the continued efforts of the CFS in policy convergence processes and appreciate its prompt response in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on global food security and nutrition.

Thailand expresses its sincere appreciation to Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen from the Netherlands, and Ambassador Yaya Olaniran from Nigeria, and all Members for their strong contributions and

commitment in delivering two important CFS products: “the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)” and “the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches”. We stress the urgent need to promote their implementation on the ground. In this regard, we are glad to announce that the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition have been translated into Thai language to facilitate their uptake at national and local community levels.

Thailand expresses its appreciation to the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) and the Steering Committee for the great efforts in delivering the important analytical report on “Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030”. We support the proposed two additional dimensions of food security, namely ‘agency’ and ‘sustainability’, to better frame the concept of Food Security and Nutrition and support food systems thinking.

Thailand underlines the importance of putting people at the center of sustainable development which is also in line with the principles of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy that focus on educating people to be self-reliant, self-sufficient, and resilient. Moreover, in order to accelerate our transition towards increased sustainability, we recently adopted the Bio-Circular-Green Economy model by which we aim to balance People-Planet-Prospersity and Profit by leveraging innovation and technology to boost nature-positive production methods and thus enhance the sustainability of our food systems.

Thailand encourages and urges for full integration of all CFS works and HLPE reports as important inputs for the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit, and we look forward to the implementation of its recommendations at regional and national levels.

With this statement, Thailand endorses the Reports of the 46th and 47th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security.

Ms Esti ANDAYANI (Indonesia)

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Republic of Korea on behalf of the Asia Group.

We welcome the 46th and the 47th Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Reports and express our appreciation for the leadership of the CFS Chair, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the Rome-based Agencies.

We would like to commend the outcomes of the Report prepared by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition and its relevance in preparation of the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit 2021.

We particularly support further the endorsement of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN). These guidelines are an important step for us to progress the sustainable food systems and improved nutrition, based on three dimensions of sustainable development.

The Guidelines reflect the diversity and complexity of food systems aiming to promote policy coherence and coordination, while recognizing national capacities and priorities, fostering an inclusive dialogue among all relevant stakeholders in the food system.

It is now our common task to implement them in line with our national priorities. We stand ready to work collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders. We believe the voluntary and non-binding nature of the Guidelines makes them more agile and adaptable to be implemented.

Mr Nuno Miguel DE OLIVERA MANANA PIRES FRANCISCO (Portugal)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino and Turkey also align themselves with this statement.

We are using this opportunity to reiterate our support and commitment to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as a unique multi-stakeholder and central platform to discuss food security and nutrition issues, as well as broader food systems issues, and an important example of multilateralism and inclusiveness. In this regard, we emphasize the need to improve the dialogue with non-governmental players, as valuable contributors to the CFS discussions on food security and nutrition.

We also welcome the achievements of the CFS over the last two years, in particular the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGsFSyN), which are a valuable and important contribution to the transition to sustainable and resilient food systems, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030. The guidelines will feed into the process of preparing for the UN Food System Summit 2021 and the pre-Summit. In this regard, we would like to commend the High-level Panel of Experts (HLPE) for its role in providing valuable science- and evidence-based input in the preparation of the guidelines, and for the CFS discussions in general.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the adoption of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches, and their contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and pre-Summit discussions, as well as to the follow-up process and the SDGs of Agenda 2030. We express our appreciation for the work of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and welcome the endorsement, at the 47th Session of the CFS, of the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment for Food Security and Nutrition. The guidelines, which are to be presented for endorsement in October 2022 at the 50th Session of the CFS, will contribute to all the Agenda 2030 SDGs. We are looking forward to engaging in the inclusive consultative process that will follow.

We welcome the updated Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023, stressing the need to include in the MYPoW the basis for the CFS to be able to react and adapt its response to current and future crises.

Furthermore, we would like to reiterate the need to improve the dissemination and implementation of CFS products, including monitoring and reporting on their impact. In this regard, the strong involvement of all members is essential.

Finally, as the CFS and the HLPE represent a core component of global food systems governance in the UN system, we express our wish to have them actively associated in the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, including in the pre-Summit in Rome in July.

Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)

La France s'aligne sur la déclaration prononcée à l'instant par le Portugal au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres. La France salue le travail remarquable accompli par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire (CSA) et son groupe d'experts de haut niveau, le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition (HLPE), depuis ces deux dernières années. Malgré la crise sanitaire, qui a bouleversé les conditions de travail, le CSA est parvenu à adopter deux textes majeurs pour la transformation des systèmes alimentaires tout en assurant l'inclusivité et la participation de toutes les parties prenantes à ces travaux.

Il a ainsi démontré, une fois de plus, son rôle d'enceinte centrale pour discuter des enjeux de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition et plus largement des questions relatives au système alimentaire. Nous saluons aussi la réactivité et la contribution du CSA et du HLPE en réponse à la COVID-19. Par ses travaux publiés dès le début de la pandémie en mars 2020, le HLPE a contribué de manière significative à l'évaluation de l'impact de la crise sanitaire sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition permettant au CSA de tenir un événement spécial dont l'une des sessions était consacrée à la COVID-19 et d'inclure dans ses directives volontaires des orientations pour renforcer la résilience des systèmes alimentaires face aux pandémies.

Les Directives Volontaires sur les Systèmes Alimentaires et la Nutrition abordées en février, sont le premier texte international qui aborde l'ensemble des aspects relatifs aux systèmes alimentaires. Et elles doivent être une contribution majeure pour le sommet des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires. De même, les *Recommandations Politiques sur l'Agroécologie et autres Approches Innovantes*, récemment adoptées, sont une étape supplémentaire pour contribuer à la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition, tout en engageant la nécessaire transitions des systèmes alimentaires durables.

Nous appelons la FAO et tous ses membres, mais aussi les parties prenantes de la recherche du secteur privé et de la société civile à jouer un rôle clé dans la promotion et la diffusion de ces deux produits du CSA. Aujourd'hui, la France est pleinement engagée dans les travaux qui aboutiront à l'élaboration de directives volontaires sur le genre dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

La lutte contre les inégalités femmes-hommes est une des priorités diplomatiques de la France et sera mise en avant à l'occasion du Forum Génération Égalité co-présidé avec le Mexique du 30 juin au 2 juillet à Paris. Enfin, nous appelons à une participation active du CSA et du HLPE à la préparation mais aussi au suivi du Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires, y compris au pré-Sommet à Rome fin juillet.

Ces deux structures sont au cœur de la gouvernance mondiale des systèmes alimentaires. Il est donc nécessaire qu'elles soient associées aux actions qui seront lancées pour renforcer la durabilité des systèmes alimentaires dans toutes ses dimensions.

Mr Rahman Nazar BELIM (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan is honored today to deliver this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. First of all, we welcome the Report of 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and appreciate the continued efforts of the CFS Members and stakeholders to work together towards achieving food security and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Furthermore, we appreciate the efforts on the preparation of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) for the 15th Report entitled 'Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030' based on the analysis of food security and nutrition concepts, outcomes and critical policy directions.

We value the global thematic event on the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) as a useful opportunity to share experiences and good practices in the use and application of the CFS-FFA at all levels. Protracted crises require special attention and an appropriate action in short term crisis or non crisis development context. The use and application of the CFS-FFA should be done at the national level.

We would like to recognize the importance of the role of women and girls as crucial contributors across all of the Agenda's goals and targets. Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment is not only fundamental to the realization of human rights, it is also essential for poverty reduction and economic growth. Empowering women is one of the most effective ways to improve nutrition outcomes of all family members. In this regard, the Near East Group approves the Terms of Reference for the work of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition, which will be presented for endorsement by CFS at its 50th Session in October 2022.

The Near East Group endorses the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN). We encourage all Members to utilize CFS products as the main tool for the national level. We encourage all Members and stakeholders to share these lessons in order to assess their continued relevance, effectiveness and impact and support and promote the dissemination, use and application of the VGFSyN.

We endorse the document CFS Multiyear Programme of Work (MYPOW), and we support the CFS's continued efforts and attention in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food systems, agriculture and nutrition at all stages, and highlight the value of the data-collection and analysis workstreams.

With this statement, the Near East Group endorses the Reports of the 46th and 47th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We welcome the outcome of the last Session of the CFS and the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition which were developed over a period of three years. We support the

comprehensive measures that are included in it, on agriculture and working for healthy nutrition. The document is balanced and rich in content and is an important contribution of the United Nations to food systems.

There was an important discussion and the CFS is an important platform, also in terms of the development of the recommendations that can be made. The Russian Federation shares the principles of the 2030 Agenda, and the need for collective efforts to achieve the SDGs, in particular SDG 1 and 2.

The CFS is one of the examples of cooperation of governments and Civil Society and we would like to draw attention to the fact that the governments have the primary responsibility for achieving the welfare of their populations and, in this connection, we would like once again to stress the importance of maintaining the intergovernmental character of the CFS and the importance of governments in taking decisions and in the adoption of CFS documents.

Distinguished colleagues, the Russian Federation has consistently called for an enhancement of the effectiveness of the CFS, for quality intergovernmental decisions and recommendations reached on the basis of broad consensus. We think that it not necessary to achieve very ambitious documents to the detriment of the quality. It is important to consider the mandate of the CFS and it should be based on expert data. It is important that we consider the agenda of the document, we would not want to support the adoption of documents, and unfortunately the statements made by the CFS and the concerns on the Programme of Work have been confirmed. We see that there is an overload of work and we would like to draw the attention of the Members to this situation and it may have a negative impact on the quality of the work of the CFS and, in this way, reduce the effectiveness and the advantage of this Committee.

It is important to work on the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women and Girl's Empowerment for Food Security and Nutrition. We are convinced that this document must be in line with the CFS mandate, and this work is not aligned with the mandate the CFS. The principles therefore can lead to a reduction in the quality of the document that is produced.

Sr. Juan PIETRO GOMEZ (España)

España quisiera manifestar en primer lugar el apoyo integro a las declaraciones efectuadas por la Unión Europea (UE) en su nombre propio y de los 27 Estados Miembros (EEMM), y los otros Estados citados, al tiempo que deseamos hacer hincapié en los siguientes aspectos en relación con este punto del orden del día:

En primer término, quisiéramos reconocer la importancia del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) para lograr la consecución del Hambre Cero en 2030, así como el respaldo pleno a sus líneas de trabajo, basadas en el fomento de la inclusividad, y a la labor del Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición (GANESAN) a la hora de aportar evidencias basadas en una sólida base científica.

Subrayamos que la aprobación y la adopción de las “Directrices Voluntarias sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios y la Nutrición” junto con las “Recomendaciones sobre políticas relativas a los enfoques agroecológicos y otros enfoques innovadores”, van a contribuir positivamente a los debates y a cualquier proceso de seguimiento de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Sistemas Alimentarios de 2021 y van a reforzar, a su vez, el Marco estratégico mundial para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición.

Acogemos con satisfacción la aprobación del mandato para la elaboración de las “Directrices voluntarias sobre la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la mujer en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición” y animamos a todas las partes interesadas, incluido al Mecanismo de la Sociedad Civil y los pueblos indígenas (MSC), a que lleven a cabo un proceso inclusivo y abierto para que se sometan a la aprobación del Comité en su 50.º período de sesiones.

Respalamos la actualización del Programa de Trabajo Plurianual (PTPA) del CSA para el año 2020-23, ya que sus líneas de trabajo prioritarias van a permitir acelerar los progresos hacia el cumplimiento de las metas relativas al Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 2 (ODS) en 2030.

Finalmente, tal y como ha informado el Embajador Dastis en el plenario de este 42.º Período de Sesión de la Conferencia de la FAO, aprovechamos la ocasión para reiterar el firme y permanente compromiso de España con la labor del Comité, que se verá ahora reforzado con la decisión del Gobierno español de presentar la candidatura a tiempo completo del Embajador en Misión Especial el Señor Gabriel Ferrero, una persona con amplia experiencia en el logro de los ODS de la Agenda 2030 y, en especial, en el ámbito de la seguridad alimentaria y la cooperación internacional a la presidencia del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original Language Chinese)

China aligns itself with the Republic of Korea on the joint statement that was made on behalf of the Asia group. We commend the work carried out by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

We have a few specific comments. First of all, the CFS should focus its work on its key functions. The focus should be on food insecurity in the world and it should develop solutions and contribute its expertise to the eradication of hunger and the reduction of poverty, and should not move too far away from these key functions so that we do not broaden the scope of our discussions too much.

The CFS must strengthen its work in the area of research and analysis, suggest specific measures and contribute to coordinating policies in food security in the post-COVID-19 world.

It is important to make it possible for countries and regions to be more aware of the CFS publications and these should be available equally in the six United Nations languages.

It is important that we mobilize the necessary resources to implement the actions set out in the documents and contribute in this way to achieving the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda.

Ms Julie ÉMOND (Canada)

Canada welcomes the Reports of the 46th and 47th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). We also welcome the High Level Panel of Experts report on building a global narrative towards 2030, highlighting the importance of a food systems approach. This was reflected in the important VGFSyN, the first CFS product to have taken a systems approach, which is a great achievement.

Canada, like others, is pleased that the Committee on World Food Security has endorsed the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's And Girl's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

We look forward to the development of draft guidelines and will actively engage in the consultations and negotiations that are to come.

Canada also underlines the importance of the guiding principle of gender equality and women's empowerment for the voluntary guidelines and food systems and nutrition and of promoting gender transformative approaches.

Canada recognizes the crucial and intense negotiations needed to develop CFS products which show the importance of keeping the multi-year programme of work manageable, taking into account available resources and capacity and workload.

We acknowledge that policy convergence takes time and it is important to ensure the good quality of CFS products.

Mr Naoki HAYASAKA (Japan)

Japan aligns itself with the joint statement delivered by the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. In this regard, Japan has two short additional comments.

First, Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition is a valuable input to the United Nations Food Systems Summit and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2021. Meanwhile, the culture and lifestyle for each country is diverse, so it is important to implement the unique approaches of each region when disseminating and using these voluntary guidelines.

Secondly, in order to realize a sustainable food system, it is necessary and important to change the agriculture production system to an environmentally friendly system, while maintaining and improving the income of the producer. For this purpose, it is important not only to introduce regulations on production activity, but also to promote investment, such as for digital agriculture and smart agriculture, that contributes to a sustainable food system.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security)

In my capacity as the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) I would like to take this opportunity to express my great appreciation to the Members. We take note of all of your comments and suggestions and advice, which will help the Committee to improve and strengthen the work of the CFS.

We know that during the last two years, the Members and other participants have provided a lot of contributions and support to the work of the Committee and that is why we could manage to deliver the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and also the policy recommendations and other innovative approaches and other activities that we organized during the years. That is why we look forward for your further support.

We also would like to make sure that the work of the Committee will focus and will create more impact and better outcome at the country level.

Sr. Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Cometí un error imperdonable, al no haber felicitado a mi querido amigo, Thanawat, el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria (CSA) por el trabajo excepcional que ha hecho durante estos años y que indudablemente nos deja una vara muy alta que debemos tomar en consideración. Simplemente era eso, un reconocimiento al trabajo excepcional de mi querido, hermano, Thanawat de Tailandia como Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)

Just briefly, to support what has been said by my dear friend, the Ambassador from Argentina to recognize and to express our gratitude for the outstanding work made by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any other comments? I see no hands up.

I will thank you all for your interventions and thank you particularly for keeping within the time allotted for interventions and comments, which continues to help us make good progress. In the absence of any hands coming up for comments, I will move to my conclusions for Item 12, which are as follows:

Item 12, *Reports on the 46th and 47th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security.*

The Conference endorsed the Reports of the 46th and 47th sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and in particular:

- Welcomed the approval of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition; and
- Encouraged the use of CFS-agreed policy instruments by all stakeholders.

Are there any comments? I do not see any hands coming up.

That brings us to a conclusion on our discussions on Agenda Item 12. I thank you all very much again for your very encouraging comments and time management as we have moved along today's long agenda.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

Could you kindly confirm that there will only be one paragraph with the conclusions?

CHAIRPERSON

That is what the Chairperson is proposing.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

Okay. One paragraph, general conclusions. Thank you. That is agreed.

CHAIRPERSON

With that conclusion by the Chairperson, we bring again the discussions under Agenda Item 12 to a conclusion.

The Secretariat had asked for a five minute break, so we will take another comfort break. We are making good time after this long list of comments and interventions.

After the break, it is 18:10 hours at the moment, we will reconvene at 18:15 hours Rome time to return to take up Item 11.

The meeting was suspended between 18:08 and 18:12

La séance est suspendue de 18 h 08 à 18 h 12

Se suspende la sesión de las 18.08 a las 18.12

Item 11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:

Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:

Tema 11. Asuntos mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:

Item 11.1 Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (28 September-2 October 2020)

Point 11.1 Rapport de la vingt-septième session du Comité de l'agriculture (28 septembre - 2 octobre 2020)

Tema 11.1 Informe del 27.º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (28 de septiembre – 2 de octubre de 2020)

CHAIRPERSON

We move on to Agenda Item 11, *Global Policy and Regulatory Matters* arising from various reports under that heading.

We will proceed with the Item 11 on the Agenda. This was actually set down for today as the first Item for today's Agenda, so we are actually now tackling the Timetable that was originally set down for today. We have finished with what was for yesterday because we were not able to work yesterday, and we are now going to look at today's Agenda items.

The item is *Global Policy and Regulatory Matters Arising from the Technical Committees* and I welcome you all back to the meeting of Commission 1 on that Agenda item.

I will start with sub-item 11.1, *Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture*, held from the 28th of September to the 2nd of October 2020. Reference document *C 2021/21*.

Please also note that the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction is in a separate document, *C 2021/27*.

I now invite the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr Bommakanti Rajender from India, to introduce this Sub-Item.

Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)

It is an honour for me to present to you today the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), which was held from 28 September to 2 October 2020, and was for the first time conducted as a virtual event.

Of the 129 Members of the Committee, 121 registered for the Session, including 9 Ministers, and there were 850 participants who attended the Zoom Platform. The Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture is submitted to the Conference in document *C 2021/21*.

COAG 27 discussed as a main theme, the livestock sector, contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and a range of substantial technical matters. The following points are brought to the attention of the Conference:

First, please let me refer to the request of the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture in 2018, that FAO take the lead in collaboration with relevant actors, to develop voluntary codes of conduct for the reduction of food loss and food waste. In response to COAG's request, FAO developed a Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction, framed by a food systems approach and aligned with the interconnected Sustainable Development Goals. The document addresses both food loss and food waste within the same document.

The draft Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction was presented to COAG 27 in 2020. The Committee provided a number of comments and suggestions for the improvement of the document and requested FAO to prepare a revised document in consultation with Members and under the guidance of the COAG Bureau.

The 165th Session of the Council, in endorsing the Report of the COAG 27, stressed the importance of the proposed *Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste reduction*, and looked forward to the preparation of the revised document to be submitted to the 42nd Session of the Conference for endorsement.

For the preparation of the revised document, FAO obtained comments from Members via email from 7 December to 18 January 2021, and during a virtual consultation that took place from 12 to 13 January 2021 with 164 participants. Members reviewed the final version of the document during the virtual consultations - two were held in March and two were held in April 2021. To agree on the text before submission of the document to the FAO Conference, a total of 60 Members attended these consultations.

The current version of the revised Code, document *C 2021/27*, is submitted to the Conference for consideration and endorsement.

Secondly, the Committee requested FAO to develop a new Food Safety Strategy to serve as an international guidance, policy and advocacy instrument for decision makers that can be used to encourage increased investments and the consistent integration of food safety into the development of sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition policies and agricultural development strategies. It will be submitted to the 28th Session of COAG.

Currently, with respect to the Global Soil Partnership at its 27th Session, the Committee requested the Secretariat to carry out a detailed analysis of legal and financial implications, including on the involvement of non-state actors, the decision making process, the roles of the Regional Soil Partnerships and focal points in case of an institutionalisation of the Global Soil Partnership as an FAO Statutory Body. The Committee asked that the findings of the assessment be submitted to COAG 28.

Moreover, I wish to bring briefly to your attention the following matters arising out of COAG 27 that have been discussed under the written correspondence procedure. The Committee, in accordance with Rule VII.1 of its Rules of Procedure, established a Sub-Committee on Livestock. The Joint Meeting of the 129th Session of the Programme Committee, and the 183rd Session of the Finance Committee endorsed the proposal, as did the Council at its 165th Session.

The Council recommended that the Conference at its 42nd Session endorse its Sub-Committee (*C 2021/LIM/12*), and to hold subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, the first Session of the Sub-Committee during the first quarter of 2022 prior to the 28th Session of COAG, and agreed with the recommendation to consider revisiting the funding arrangement at subsequent COAG sessions with a view to explore other funding options.

The Conference is invited to endorse the proposal for establishment of the Sub-Committee on Livestock, and to hold, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, the First Session of the Sub-Committee during the first quarter of 2022.

At its 27th Session, the Committee requested that the Draft Resolution for the consolidating the implementation of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP), be submitted to the Council at its 165th Session and subsequently to the FAO Conference at its 42nd Session for adoption. This Item was also discussed under the Written Correspondence Procedure. The Draft Resolution is published in *C 2021/LIM/8*.

I would formally like to inform Members that the proposals for International Years and Days have been discussed through the Written Correspondence Procedure under Agenda Items 11.1.3, 11.1.4, and 11.1.5. Delegations are therefore invited to address relevant issues under the specific agenda Sub-Items.

Lastly, I wish to inform that at its 27th Session, the Committee considered the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agriculture Sectors.

I can inform you that 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of FAO Strategy on Mainstream and Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors has been approved by the Council at its 166th Session.

Under the same Item, the Committee had noted the important role of the Strategy and its Action Plan in guiding and facilitating FAO's support to countries in their implementation of outcomes of biodiversity-related intergovernmental processes, including the global plans of action of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The Committee, at its 17th Regular Session in February 2019, initiated the preparation of two important policy documents which, once they have been agreed by the Commission, will require adoption by the Conference. These are firstly a policy response to FAO's landmark report on the State of World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, which, as the Commission stressed, should be considered by the Commission at its 18th Regular Session, "with the motivation to have it adopted as a Global Plan of Action by the FAO Conference at its 42nd Session". Secondly, the draft Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for consideration by the Commission.

The Commission's 18th Regular Session, originally planned for March 2021, had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to September 2021 and will therefore take place after the 42nd Session of the Conference.

The Conference is therefore not in a position to adopt the Global Plans of Action on Biodiversity and Aquatic Genetic Resources respectively, at this Session. The Conference is therefore invited to consider giving a mandate to the Council at its 168th Session, to consider and endorse the Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

In conclusion, in view of the foregoing, the Conference is invited to endorse the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee in Agriculture with the aforementioned additions.

I take this opportunity to thank the COAG Secretariat and the FAO Secretariat for organizing all the meetings very successfully.

I took long time because it is a very important Item.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

La Argentina participó activamente en los diversos e interesantes debates que se produjeron en el marco del vigésimo séptimo Comité de Agricultura (COAG) de FAO basados en un enfoque constructivo. Intentamos enriquecer los distintos intercambios y discusiones compartiendo nuestra experiencia en la producción agrícola-ganadera a fin de brindar una visión científica sobre cómo podemos dotar de mayor sustentabilidad los sistemas agroalimentarios. En este sentido, me gustaría realzar algunos aspectos del Informe final del COAG.

En primer lugar, compartimos la visión sobre la necesidad de mejorar los rendimientos de los sistemas agroalimentarios para superar la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición, cuyos efectos negativos han sido particularmente agravados por la pandemia del COVID-19. De todas formas, entendemos que no es posible generalizar la propuesta de transformar todos los sistemas agroalimentarios, puesto que muchos de ellos actualmente presentan altos niveles de sustentabilidad. Eso no quiere decir que no haya espacio para mejorar la calidad de estos sistemas. Simplemente, comprendemos que no hay una

solución única para incrementar la eficiencia de los sistemas agroalimentarios y que, en todo caso, si fuera necesario estos procesos deben llevarse a cabo de manera coherente según corresponde y dependiendo de los contextos y capacidades nacionales.

Por otro lado, en cuanto a la promoción de enfoques innovadores para optimizar el uso de los recursos naturales, conservar la biodiversidad y robustecer los parámetros de sustentabilidad, creemos que fomentar la intensificación de la agricultura, la siembra directa, la agricultura inteligente, la edición genética, entre otros, son opciones confiables y comprobadas científicamente para garantizar la producción de alimentos de alta calidad para todos.

Por supuesto, aquí también nos gustaría destacar el rol fundamental de las innovaciones tecnológicas que son y serán esenciales para la agricultura y ganadería del siglo XXI. En esta línea, saludamos la propuesta de FAO de crear la Plataforma Internacional para la Alimentación y la Agricultura Digitales. Siguiendo la temática de alimentos inocuos y accesibles, nos gustaría resaltar particularmente el rol del comercio internacional para promocionar dietas saludables variadas y a precios accesibles para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria. Así, deseáramos destacar la necesidad de promover un sistema comercial multilateral abierto, basado en normas y datos científicos predecibles, no discriminatorio y equitativo, sin barreras arancelarias proteccionistas que distorsionan su funcionamiento.

Estamos convencidos que si todos abogamos por estos principios avanzaremos un paso adelante en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza, especialmente en los países en desarrollo. Asimismo, compartimos la visión del Informe del COAG sobre la necesidad de promocionar el uso prudente y responsable de los antimicrobianos en los sectores alimentarios y agrícolas. En esa línea, el enfoque “Una Salud” y los aportes de la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OIE) y el Codex Alimentarius son clave. Lo mismo se aplica para redoblar nuestros esfuerzos a fin de erradicar la peste de los pequeños rumiantes.

Por otra parte, me gustaría manifestar nuestra satisfacción y acuerdo con la propuesta del establecimiento del Subcomité de Ganadería en el Comité de Agricultura. Nos parece que esta iniciativa es fundamental para demostrar las contribuciones positivas de la ganadería a la seguridad alimentaria, los sistemas alimentarios sostenibles, la nutrición y las dietas saludables. En especial, dentro de un contexto donde se pretende crear una narrativa negativa, sin ningún soporte científico, sobre los aspectos nutricionales de la carne a las dietas saludables a fin de fortalecer los relatos de algunas regiones.

La Argentina está comprometida con el funcionamiento del Subcomité de Ganadería y muestra de ello es la puesta a disposición de expertos de nuestras agencias especializadas para que contribuyan con la elaboración de informes técnicos sobre los aportes de la ganadería al desarrollo sustentable. En esa línea, sería positivo que evaluáramos la posibilidad de que el Subcomité se financie con aportes ordinarios de la FAO, ya que si supeditamos su funcionamiento a los aportes extraordinarios, estaríamos fragilizando sus actividades antes de que generen resultados.

Con respecto a las negociaciones del Código de conducta voluntario para la reducción de la pérdida y el desperdicio de alimentos, queremos ratificar el compromiso de nuestro país con esa línea de trabajo.

Para concluir, manifestamos nuestro aporte para establecer el Año Internacional de los Pastizales y los Pastores, el Día Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal y el Año Internacional de la Palma Datilera.

CHAIRPERSON

If I may take the opportunity to encourage Members' comments to keep within the five minutes. We have made such good time, that if we maintain the five minutes I think we will be able to make the best use of this evening, and the interpretation time that we have allotted to us for this evening.

There is a very long list. I see maybe about 21 hands up, so to ensure that we can all give each other equal time, so that no one is left out, if I may borrow that phrase, if we can use our time more effectively. Thank you.

Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

The United Kingdom would firstly like to thank the outgoing Bureau of the Committee of Agriculture for their work and to congratulate the incoming Chair and the Bureau Members.

The United Kingdom endorses the Report of the Committee on Agriculture and its recommendations. However, I would like to highlight two issues in particular and to make a suggestion to the Conference.

Firstly, on One Health. We note that UN Member States passed a highly relevant Resolution at the World Health Assembly at the end of last month. This called on the World Health Organization (WHO) to build on and strengthen the existing cooperation among WHO, FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), to develop options for consideration by the respective governing bodies, including establishing a common strategy on One Health, including a joint work plan on One Health to improve prevention, monitoring, detection, control and containment of zoonotic disease outbreaks.

The United Kingdom calls on the FAO Conference to echo this call for action in our own Report.

We would also like to highlight the G7, the recent G7 Agreement, to encourage the Tripartite Plus to conduct a comprehensive One Health intelligence scoping study to identify potential opportunities for further technical harmonisation of their systems.

Secondly, and finally, the International Day of Plant Health. The United Kingdom strongly supports the proposal for the 12 May to be declared as the International Day of Plant Health, and the desert locust outbreak has shown us all how important plant health is to preventing transboundary pests and diseases.

Ms Ratchanok SANGPENCHAN (Thailand)

Thailand has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

We appreciate the comprehensive presentation made by the Chairperson of COAG and congratulate the successful conduct in virtual mode of the 27th Session of Committee on Agriculture (COAG 27). The Asia Group appreciates the outcomes of the Committee, its main theme on the livestock sectors contribution to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other deliberations on crucial topics to accelerate implementation of the SDGs.

We would like to highlight a few points of particular interest.

The Asia Regional Group expresses its appreciation for the revised Voluntary Code of Conduct on Food Loss and Waste reduction, and fully supports its adoption by the 42nd Session of the Conference. The document was revised by an inclusive process and will constitute an important contribution towards reducing food loss and waste globally.

The Asia Group supports COAG's request to FAO to develop a new Food Safety Strategy to serve as an international guidance, policy and advocacy instrument, and its submission to the 28th Session of the COAG. This new strategy shall foster the integration of food safety into the development of sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition policies and agriculture development strategies.

We support COAG's request to the Global Soil Partnership Secretariat to carry out a detailed analysis of the legal and financial implications, the decision-making process, and the roles of the Regional Soil Partnerships and Focal points in case of an institutionalization of the Global Soil Partnership and to submit the findings of this assessment to the 28th Session of COAG.

We appreciate FAO's work to reduce the burden of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Food and Agriculture and to promote the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in food production, in line with the FAO's new Action Plan on AMR 2021-25 approved by the 166th Session of the Council.

We also support the Rural Youth Action Plan as a living document which can be updated to align with FAO's new Strategic Framework and emerging issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

We wish to emphasize, as indicated in the Written Correspondence Procedure for the COAG-related agenda sub-items, the central role of livestock in rural development, food security and nutrition and poverty alleviation. We fully support the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Livestock and we

look forward to its first meeting in early 2022 and call for Members' support to this important intergovernmental forum.

As discussed through the Written Correspondence Procedure for relevant sub-Items, the Asia Group supports the endorsement of the Draft Resolution for consolidating the implementation of the PPR (*Peste des Petits Ruminants*) Global Eradication Programme and the proposals for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, and the International Year of Date Palm and the International Day of Plant Health by the 42nd Session of the Conference.

Finally, we support giving the mandate to the Council, at its 168th Session, to consider and endorse the Report of the 18th Regular Session of the CGRFA (Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture).

In conclusion, the Asia Regional Group expresses its full support to the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr Sean COX (United States of America)

The United States thanks the Secretariat for this Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and thanks the Committee for its work.

The United States applauds the Committee's underlining the importance of enabling access to innovative technologies and enhancing innovative approaches to production, providing information and advisory services for farmers, especially in remote areas, in order to increase the sustainability in agriculture, food systems and nutrition, and lift millions of people out of poverty and food insecurity.

The new Digital Platform will provide an inclusive multi-stakeholder forum to further open access to best practices on digital technologies and innovation for agriculture and food. We also note that Members will have oversight and authority over the digital platform and any decision to develop voluntary guidelines will come from its Members.

We also appreciate FAO's initiatives and leadership to ensure and strengthen global food security amid the pandemic. We value the vital information on market conditions and food supply, the use of data for decision making, dissemination of policy briefs, and longer-term efforts to support more resilient food systems.

The United States appreciates the updated Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition and we commended FAO for the inclusive and transparent consultative efforts taken in the process.

We look forward to the FAO developing a new Food Safety Strategy.

The United States notes the recent 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution calling for updating the World Health Organization (WHO) global strategy for food safety. We encourage FAO to work collaboratively with the WHO to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure that the two organizations' goals for food safety are based on sound science-based approaches that will meet the needs of Members. Likewise, to explore with the Director-General of WHO a method for coordinating the two agencies' strategic efforts on food safety, and to report on this proposed method.

It is critical to strengthen FAO's capacities and resources for fulfilling its leadership role, together with WHO, as founding organizations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in promoting the use of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations, and in providing support to Members, upon request, in developing and implementing food safety policies.

Finally, the United States supports the United Kingdom's proposal to echo the WHA Resolution in this Report, and supports the call to action for closer collaboration with the Tripartite Plus and One Health initiative.

Mr Ulrich SEIDENBERGER (Germany)

Since it is the first time that I take the floor, let me express my compliments and my gratitude for your strong leadership in chairing this Session, very much appreciated.

Thanks also to my dear friend, Mr Bommakanti Rajender, for the introduction to the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and Germany aligns itself with the statement that will be given by Portugal later on, on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Promoting the One Health approach is of utmost importance. We welcome the establishment of the One Health High Level Expert Panel involving FAO, WHO, OIE and UNEP in this regard. Also, we would like to support a Resolution which Ambassador Sarch from the United Kingdom has already referred to, and which highlights the recently adopted World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution WHA/74.7 on strengthening WHO preparedness for, and response to, health emergencies. We support the call to build on and strengthen the existing cooperation between FAO, WHO, OIE and UNEP, and reiterate the call for a common strategy on One Health, including a joint work plan on One Health.

Finally, we underline the importance of fighting Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Antimicrobial stewardship and prudent use of antimicrobials, exclude the use for production purposes. Therefore, we support a more ambitious approach to the phasing out of the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters.

With these comments, we endorse the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

China commends the work of FAO. With regard to the Report we would like to make the following comments.

The 27th Session of the Committee of Agriculture addressed important issues on global food and agriculture. The participants reached important consensus, which China welcomes.

The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) is a key programme of win/win cooperation between FAO and its Members. It raises awareness of the protection of traditional agricultural heritage, preserves biodiversity, and enhances food security. In order to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we noted the importance of regularly reporting on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture, including GIAHS.

China supports these measures. We also encourage FAO to strengthen the GIAHS work and the Secretariat, as well as to raise the visibility of GIAHS outcomes, and continue to promote GIAHS. We also encourage FAO to guide and support Members in their application for GIAHS site, in order to increase the influence of GIAHS in the world.

China commends FAO for its efforts and the measures taken for animal and plant health, to support the Members, and we encourage FAO to strengthen coordination with other international organizations, and international cooperation, through concrete actions so as to enhance the capacity to control serious animal and plant diseases and pests such as African Swine Fever, Desert Locust and Fall Armyworm.

China supports the goal of eradicating small ruminant plague by 2030. The proposal for the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock in the Committee for Agriculture, as well as the proposal for the celebration of the International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists, the International Plant Health Day, and the International Year of the Dates. These days can raise the awareness of the international community on food and agricultural issues, and contribute to agri-food development.

China encourages FAO to continuously improve the selection criteria and adoption process of International years or days to guide the work in the field.

Lastly, China supports the approval of the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture by the Conference.

Ms Alyssa WEINSTEIN (Australia)

Australia is pleased to endorse the findings and recommendations of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

We extend our sincere thanks to FAO for the strong advocacy role it has played in maintaining resilience in global agri-food systems in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, we

welcome the focus on more vulnerable tourism-dependant regions, such as the Pacific, where decreased economic activity may result in heightened food insecurity. Sustained investment in data collection and analysis at a country level, and initiatives such as the Agriculture Market Information System, the Global Soils Partnership, and Mainstreaming Biodiversity, are key tools in achieving food system resilience and sustainability.

Australia welcomes COAG's focused discussion on preventing high-impact animal and plant diseases and pests and we would welcome an increased focus on invasive species management by FAO, including as part of the Mainstreaming Biodiversity work. It is important that biodiversity mainstreaming can be applied effectively across all landscape types, and that it complements other international initiatives such as the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Australia appreciates COAG's recognition of the important role of the livestock sector in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the proposed efforts to strengthen policies through data collection and evidence-based global assessments. As such, we welcome the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock.

We also express our appreciation for COAG's recognition of the importance of plant health, and for highlighting the key role of plant health in human health, food security, safe trade, and in maintaining a healthy, productive, and sustainable planet.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in line with the WHA Resolution 74.7, Australia calls for increased global leadership, collaboration and coordination, starting with the Tripartite Plus partnership of FAO, OIE, WHO and UNEP), to prevent future pandemics through the application of a One Health approach. It is pivotal that we identify potential high-risk areas, such as supply chains and practises involving wildlife, and the mismanagement of antimicrobial agents. We must mitigate these risks both locally and internationally by coordinating policy positions across and beyond FAO. We welcome recent developments in this regard including the establishment of the new FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and more broadly of the One Health Global Leaders Group on AMR, of which we are an active Member.

Addressing the challenges of food systems sustainability and resilience should be of paramount importance for this FAO biennium, and must be both supported by FAO's excellence in normative and standard-setting work and informed by scientific evidence. In this regard, we were pleased to have expert participation from Australia in the development of the Voluntary Code of Conduct on Food Loss and Waste and look forward to its adoption by a wide range of stakeholders. Similarly, we look forward to working with FAO on a new Food Safety Strategy.

Mr Kirill ANTYUKHIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We support most of the recommendations contained in the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). In particular, we appreciate the outcome of the discussions on sustainable livestock and the problems that exist in that sector. We believe that sustainable livestock farming is needed to achieve food security and nutrition, one of the drivers of inclusive economic growth.

We, in this connection, support the proposal to establish an FAO Sub-Committee on Livestock.

We support FAO's work and its proposed priority measures to improve the effectiveness of the control of dangerous pests, and animal and plant diseases. We consider it necessary to continue to monitor the excess use of antimicrobials in livestock, especially in the context of the One Health approach. We do not object to the consensus adoption of a draft Resolution to implement the *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) Global Eradication Programme, to eradicate PPR worldwide by 2030.

We highly appreciate the draft Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Food Waste reduction. We are not opposed to its endorsement and adoption by FAO of the following measures: Supporting the development of context-specific technical guidelines to permit practical application of the Code of Conduct; monitoring the application and implementation of the Code of Conduct; and reporting to COAG on progress made; and bringing the Code of Conduct up to date on a regular basis.

We commend the Organization's work in the area of sustainable soil management, particularly through the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). We support the introduction of key GSP tools and initiatives, such as the International Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of fertilizers, the protocol for Management, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of Soil Organic Carbon in Agricultural Landscapes, and the Global Soil Doctors programme, AFOS Agro Initiative.

We welcome the continuation of the FAO Secretariat's practice of holding annual events to mark World Soil Day on 5 December, and the awarding of the Glinker World Soil Prize. All the same, we call attention to the lack of funding to ensure the work of the GSP can continue. Russia is already making a significant financial contribution to the GSP and we call on Member Nations to mobilise resources to support the GSP's activities.

Colleagues, the Russian Federation has consistently supported FAO's work in the area of food safety. We support the development of a new FAO strategy in this area. We expect the new strategy to be geared towards synchronising FAO's work in this area, with the Organization's efforts to transform food systems and ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We also call on FAO to engage in partnerships to promote cross-sectoral cooperation.

CHAIRPERSON

If I may just comment that I am advised that according to the laid down procedure, Members' comments will be taken in the order that they appear on the list, before Observers will be given the floor. If I may appear to have jumped anyone, it is not by deliberate oversight, but because I have to follow what is the laid down procedure for allowing delegates to take the floor.

Mr Donald Geoffrey SYME (New Zealand)

Thank you for presenting the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 27). New Zealand can endorse all of the COAG recommendations and we will just touch on a few areas here.

New Zealand supports COAG's acknowledgment of the importance of the livestock sector and its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In particular, we support FAO's development of evidence-based data and global assessments, knowledge, and tools to guide countries in the implementation of livestock policy and investments.

We strongly agree that to achieve the SDGs, it is critical that FAO collaborates with other international bodies and initiatives on the planned assessments and tools to ensure an efficient use of resources. Further, that reports must add value to the global conversation, and build on, rather than duplicate, similar work.

New Zealand welcomes the continued focus of FAO on preventing, anticipating and responding to high-impact animal and plant diseases and pests and the importance of the One Health approach. We endorse the key areas and actions FAO should focus on to support capacity development and also the importance of investing in the capacity to monitor, analyse and develop adequate guidance and tools to assess and mitigate pest and disease risks, and this is critical.

We fully support international activities such as those of the FAO to minimize the negative effects of the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in the agricultural sector as a Member of the Tripartite Plus. In this light, we can agree to the United Kingdom suggestion earlier on recalling the risks in the WHA Resolution. We also acknowledge the significant efforts FAO has taken to consult and address Member efforts and concerns on the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and we look forward for its implementation.

Consistent with the above, we welcome the FAO's perseverance in consulting on the Mainstreaming Biodiversity Action Plan and the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste. These are both important documents which we fully support and we now support FAO focusing on implementation and outreach to others working in these areas internationally.

Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)

The 27th Session of the Committee in Agriculture (COAG) worked on different topics that are crucial to accelerate the transformative change of food and agriculture systems towards more sustainability needed to reach the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda. We would like to highlight some findings and recommendations that are particularly important for Switzerland.

On Biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors; the world suffers the greatest rate of biodiversity loss in human history. At the same time, agro-biodiversity forms the basis of all crops and livestock. We have to power up the efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity in food subsistence. FAO has a key role to play, particularly in supporting Members to implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to be adopted during COP 15 of the CBD (UN Biodiversity Conference) in Kunming, China. Biodiversity for food and agriculture must remain one of the central work items of FAO, including of its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

On youth; the shift towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems is only possible if young people are engaged. FAO's Rural Youth Action Plan needs to be closely implemented in collaboration with other Rome-based Agencies (RBAs). A coordinated and a coherent approach of the three RBAs is absolutely necessary on the ground, to foster professional opportunities for youth in rural areas.

On digital food and agriculture; efficient and secure data management is critical for the transition to sustainable food and agriculture systems. The International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture offers a potential to discuss questions around the digitalization in the agri-food sector, with a wide range of different stakeholders, and to support Members in addressing challenges of sustainability in international trade. We encourage FAO and Members to work for an efficient, modern, well-governed organizational set up of this platform.

On food safety; we call on FAO to strengthen its collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) in order to ensure that the respective food safety strategies are aligned and mutually supportive. Furthermore, Switzerland can endorse the Code of Conduct on Food Waste and Loss Reduction. I would suggest that FAO, in supporting Members in the implementation of the Code of Conduct, collaborate with relevant organizations such as UNEP, and multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (YFP) on Sustainable Food System Programme.

On the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock we are pleased to announce that Switzerland will provide financial support for the First Meeting of the Sub-Committee, and we call on other Members to do the same.

Finally, Switzerland supports the endorsement of the Report of the 27th Session of the COAG, and the recommendation contained therein.

Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)

Thank you Madame Chairperson for your leadership and we express our appreciation to the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr Bommakanti Rajender, for all his work and for presenting the Committee Report.

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. The Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of San Marino, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Turkey align themselves with this statement.

Having already welcomed the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture at the 165th Session of the Council, and having provided separate statements on the Sub-Items, including on the Sub-Committee on Livestock, the EU and its Member States would like to focus our intervention on the following;

We highlight the importance of a One Health Approach in cooperation with other relevant organisations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). As a stark reminder, COVID-19 has shown the interconnectedness of humans, animals, plants and environment, and the devastating effects a failure in protecting our joint health can have.

Likewise, the importance of preventive work as well as ensuring a swift response to high-impact animal and plant diseases and pests, must be prioritised. In this regard, we highlight the role of FAO's Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) as well as the standard setting bodies, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), OIE and Codex Alimentarius.

Another important step is the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). We welcome the new Action Plan on AMR but underline the need to develop the plan to include a more ambitious approach to the phasing out of antimicrobials as growth promoters.

We also highlight our appreciation of FAO's work in the field of food safety, in particular the new Food Safety Strategy. In this regard, we urge FAO to continue strengthening its cooperation with other relevant entities, primarily with the WHO.

Progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda is too slow, and it is clear that an acceleration is necessary in areas connected to how we produce, consume and dispose of our food. As we approach the Food Systems Summit, we have high expectations regarding the implementation of a food systems approach.

We need transformative ideas and practical tools in order to achieve a transformation of food systems. The EU and its Member States take the opportunity to express our appreciation and support for FAO initiatives in this regard, such as the work on enabling smallholders and family farmers to access and participate in innovation, information and advisory services and the Agricultural Transformation and Urban Food Agenda.

Other important initiatives are the Rural Youth Action Plan, the development of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture and the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste, which we support. We encourage FAO to continuously update Members on the developments and implementation in relation to these initiatives.

With these comments we endorse the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)

La France s'aligne avec la déclaration que le Portugal vient de faire au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 Etats Membres. Comme plusieurs de ses interlocuteurs précédents, la France encourage la Conférence à prendre note de la résolution adoptée par les Etats Membres de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) le 31 mai dernier à l'occasion de sa 74^e assemblée générale qui vise à renforcer la préparation de l'OMS face aux urgences sanitaires. En particulier, la France encourage les organisations membres de l'Alliance tripartite, la FAO, l'OMS et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE) ainsi que le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE), à renforcer leur coopération et à développer une stratégie commune sur l'approche « Une seule santé », incluant un programme de travail commun pour améliorer la prévention, la surveillance, la détection, le contrôle et l'éradication des crises sanitaires d'origine zoonotique.

En effet, la pandémie actuelle a montré l'interconnexion entre les humains, les animaux, les plantes et l'environnement, et l'importance vitale de renforcer et d'accélérer la mise en œuvre de l'approche « Une seule santé ». Nous saluons à ce titre la création du panel d'experts de haut niveau « Une seule santé » par la FAO, l'OMS, l'OIE et le PNUE. Ce panel s'est réuni pour la première fois les 17 et 18 mai derniers. Nous souhaitons insister à cet égard sur le paragraphe 10 de la résolution de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé qui rappelle la nécessité d'accumuler et de diffuser les connaissances relatives à l'approche « Une seule santé » à travers l'action de ce panel. Et nous souhaitons aussi que le Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires soit l'occasion de souligner l'importance de cette approche et de ce panel.

Je me félicite également de la collaboration entre la FAO et les organismes de recherche français dans le cadre de l'initiative de recherche « Prévenir les risques d'émergences zoonotiques et de pandémies (PREZODE) », lancée par le président de la République française lors du One Planet Summit en janvier, et qui est destinée à prévenir l'émergence de nouvelles zoonoses renforçant les collaborations de recherche internationale et l'intégration des systèmes de santé sur le terrain selon une approche

« Une seule santé ». Enfin, je souhaite rappeler le soutien de la France à la création du Sous-Comité de l'élevage adopté par le Comité de l'agriculture (COAG) lors de sa précédente session.

Ce Sous-Comité permettra à la FAO et ses Etats Membres de faire émerger des solutions adaptées à la diversité des systèmes d'élevage, pour répondre aux enjeux qu'ils rencontrent et contribuer à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans différents contextes naturels, économiques et sociaux tout autour du globe. Enfin, je souhaite féliciter notre collègue Monsieur Rajender, président du COAG, pour la conduite des travaux. Je vous remercie, Madame la Présidente.

Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Please allow me to make this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. In the context of the deliberations on the Committee of Agriculture, our group would like to praise the FAO for its endeavours in order to coordinate the activities of the various countries, so as to achieve a sustainable agriculture and food situation through the exchange of knowledge and the implementation of technologies that can improve production, productivity and the rural areas at large.

We welcome the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Livestock, given its importance for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its link with food security, nutrition and the livelihoods, especially of smallscale herders in our part of the world and welcome the work being done by FAO to control and prevent zoonotic diseases, and its efforts aimed at addressing that problem regionally and nationally.

A good example of that is what the Organization did in our region in order to fight against the desert locust and other cross-boundary diseases. We encourage FAO to continue to deploy efforts to fight against the Red Palm Weevil and other diseases affecting palms. We also welcome the work being done to fight against food losses and waste, in order to achieve better sustainability of food because in our region there is a high rate of food losses and waste throughout the entire supply chain. We hope FAO will provide assistance to countries in order to gage and address the situation.

Our Group also supports the Action Plan on Rural Youth that play a very important role in the production of food, and because of their important role in sustainable agriculture development. We invite FAO to look at the priorities of young people, especially in rural areas, and the types of financing mechanisms that can be made available, and support farmers in their access to markets and also find solutions that would provide alternatives to migration.

We reiterate the importance of the sustainable agricultural programme in drylands. Because of climate change we know that our region has registered as one of the lowest in water resources. We hope that that can be remedied. Most of the land in our region is dry or semi-dry, with a very low level of humidity and moisture of the soil, and most of that land is now affected by salinization and a drainage or run-off of nutrients. Therefore we hope that it will be possible to adopt national strategies with very advanced technologies in order to provide for a better integrated management of agriculture resources.

We ask the Organization to establish an evaluation programme in collaboration with countries that have sufficient resources, technologically speaking and scientifically, in order to reinforce the situation of our countries.

Finally, we support entirely the statement made to protect plants and we also support all of the recommendations that are included in the Report.

Ms Esti ANDAYANI (Indonesia)

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Asia Group.

Indonesia endorses the findings and recommendations in the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Report and supports FAO's continued efforts, particularly in assisting Members to accelerate its contribution to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

We were pleased with the outcomes of the Committee's deliberations over the last years and would like to highlight a few points of particular interest.

We appreciate the Secretariat's written responses to our comments regarding sub-items on the proposal for the establishment of Sub-Committee on Livestock and we reiterate our support on the formation of this Sub-Committee to encourage the exchange of achievements and experiences of Members in managing the livestock sector that contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. For us, the livestock sector is one of our national strategic priorities to achieve an independent, modernized and prosperous agricultural sector.

With reference to the discussion on the prevention and management of animal and plant pests and diseases, we would like to underline the importance of ensuring that prevention mechanisms to control and tackle pests and diseases should be in line with international standard setting bodies, such as Codex Alimentarius, as well as consistent with the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

Finally, we welcome the proposed Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction and hope that FAO can continue to provide technical assistance to Member countries in handling food loss and waste reduction, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Naoki HAYASAKA (Japan)

We commend FAO's work in the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). Japan aligns itself with the joint statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. In addition to that we have two short comments. First, we appreciate FAO's support for Members on the issue of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Under the One Health approach, Japan hopes that FAO continues to work actively in close cooperation with international organizations such as the WHO and the OIE so that there are no gaps or overlaps between the organizations.

Second, regarding the new 5 year Action Plan of AMR as discussed at the 166th Council meeting, it is necessary and important to clarify that this Action Plan is a guide to assist countries in implementing their Action Plan. Also, it is important that we recognize this Action Plan is voluntary and non-binding.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

We note that the decisions taken on the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) have led to meaningful outcomes, now being addressed by this Conference. In this context, we would like to thank the COAG Secretariat, as well as its Chairpersonship, for the excellent work in conducting us through a heavy agenda towards a successful conclusion of debates.

We particularly welcome the Committee's decisions on the livestock sector contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We believe the Session allowed us to make progress in consolidating the importance of livestock to food security and nutrition, livelihoods, and sustainable management of natural resources. We note, with satisfaction, that COAG 27 recognized integrated systems and low-carbon livestock among the sustainable production practices.

Brazil is of the view that the Sub-Committee on Livestock can help us further to exchange information, dissemination of good practices and technical cooperation in this area. We also believe the Sub-Committee can play a fundamental role by housing debates based on scientific evidence and, thus, contribute to demystifying sweeping generalizations regarding livestock production. Therefore, we are pleased to endorse its establishment and commend FAO for all the efforts made so far for the organization of its first session in the beginning of 2022.

Furthermore, we would like to highlight COAG's request for the development of a new Food Safety Strategy, together with the encouragement for FAO to include an approach in the new Strategy that assists countries in the implementation of existing instruments. As with other similar tools, we hope the new Strategy will go through an inclusive consultation process, counting on the active participation of Members.

In this context, we would like to express our appreciation for the inclusive and transparent process that led to the new FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025. We also welcome the Organization's work under the One Health Approach and Tripartite Partnership and request that any new strategy or work plan in the matter be subjected to the respective governing bodies of the

involved organizations. In FAO, we believe that any initiative in this respect would initially have to go through COAG.

As for the Code of Conduct on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, we believe that the negotiation process was also able to pave the way for a balanced text that has both depth and comprehensiveness and are pleased to endorse it. Regarding the suggested actions contained in document C 2021/27, despite our engagement and positive expectations of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021, we caution against including any language that might prejudice its outcomes. Finally, it is important to note that the proposal of additional technical guidelines to permit practical application of the Code is to be developed at the national level.

Ms Jackline YONGA (Kenya)

Let me take this opportunity, since I am speaking for the first time, to congratulate you for holding the Commission I chair together with your Vice-Chairperson.

Kenya, together with Ethiopia and Libya, make this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

The Africa Regional Group congratulates the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) for the detailed Report that casts across the entire spectrum of agriculture. The Group welcomes the report and its recommendations, and we want to congratulate the Chairperson, Mr Bommakanti Rajender for presenting it today. We further note that the Report recognises the importance of the livestock sector and its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We therefore support the adoption of and the subsequent implementation of the *Peste des Petits Ruminants* Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP), which is geared towards achieving the goal of a PPR-free world by 2030.

The Africa Group supports the development of a Food Safety Strategy and its integration into the development of sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition policies and agricultural development strategies. We welcome the proposed Voluntary Code of Conduct on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, and we take note of the importance of the Code of Conduct and the role it plays in contributing to food loss and waste reduction globally and to sustainable food systems development and in achieving the SDGs.

We urge FAO to follow a holistic approach to include all stakeholders along the whole food chain and to prepare a revised document in consultation with Members and under the guidance of the COAG Bureau to be submitted to the FAO Council at its next Session.

The Report recognises the impact of COVID-19 on food security nutrition and food systems. It calls for collaborative efforts to protect lives and livelihoods to maintain the functioning of food value chains and open markets at the global, regional, national and local levels as we keep sight of the 2030 Agenda.

The Africa Group supports the endorsement of the Resolution for the international exchange of soil samples for research purposes under the Global Soil Laboratory Network. We, however, emphasised the need for a simplified procedure for the international exchange of soil samples for research purposes. We welcome the proposal of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Secretariat and laboratories to submit the refined procedures to FAO.

The African Group recognises that healthy rangelands are vital for contributing to economic growth, resilient livelihoods and the sustainable development of pastoralism in Africa and beyond.

We endorse that the year 2026 be declared as the, International year of Rangeland and Pastoralists by the United Nations.

The Africa Group supports the declaring of 12 May as the International Day of Plant Health. We recognise that plant health is the key to the sustainable intensification of agriculture to feed a growing global population. We further recognise that the sustainable plant health contributes to protecting the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests and diseases and supports efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

We endorse the proposal to declare 2027 the International Year of the Date Palm, recognising the historical contribution of dates to food security, nutrition, livelihoods and incomes of smallholder farmers in the Middle East and North Africa, which is very well renowned.

In conclusion, with these comments the African Regional Group endorses the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and its recommendations.

Mr James BREITHAUPT (Canada)

Thank you for the presentation of this Report and for the work of the Committee. Canada is pleased to endorse this Report and I will briefly make some short comments to highlight some important areas for Canada.

Canada is pleased that the 27th Committee on Agriculture welcomed the proposed Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction. Canada recognises the interconnected economic, environmental and social burden of food loss and waste and supports food system-based approaches to addressing these challenges.

Under the food policy for Canada our ambitious roadmap for a healthier and more sustainable food system, Canada has identified food loss and waste as a priority for near-term action. We support FAO's focus on innovation and digitalization, and we, like many others today, strongly support a One Health approach and appreciate the importance of the livestock sector to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

We appreciate the 27th Committee on Agriculture stressed the key role on indigenous peoples as protectors of biodiversity and knowledge holders about natural resource management, innovations and food systems. Indigenous peoples continue to face tremendous gaps in many areas such as food security, access to health and economic security.

The global pandemic has exacerbated these issues and shines a light squarely on this inequality. We welcome the launch of the Global Hub on Indigenous Knowledge and Food Systems which will offer an opportunity to engage in a structured dialogue and build evidence and methodologies from the field. For example, Canada is co-developing and undertaking science projects with indigenous partners to support indigenous-led agriculture priorities which include the revitalisation of traditional indigenous agricultural systems.

Part of our lessons learned is involved in developing intercultural competency among Canada's scientists in order to prepare them for meaningful and positive engagement with potential indigenous partners.

Sr. Juan PRIETO GOMEZ (España)

España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la Unión Europea UE en nombre propio y de sus 27 Estados Miembros (EEMM), al tiempo que desea hacer hincapié en los siguientes aspectos concretos en relación con este punto del orden del día:

La implementación del enfoque "Una salud" y sus principios por parte de FAO en cooperación con otras organizaciones pertinentes, como la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OIE) y el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA), resulta una herramienta irrenunciable para combatir eficazmente las actuales amenazas sanitarias y medioambientales y, consiguientemente, también alimentarias, económicas y sociales, a los que ha de enfrentarse una sociedad global como la nuestra, como bien ha resaltado la actual epidemia por COVID 19.

En este contexto, la lucha contra la Resistencia a los antimicrobianos (RAM) se revela un asunto crucial, más aún si cabe, si tenemos en cuenta las proyecciones científicas actuales, que estiman que en apenas unos años la antibioresistencia será la principal causa de mortalidad humana a escala global.

Asimismo, en aras de la consecución de sistemas alimentarios triplemente sostenibles, hemos de avanzar en cuestiones tales como la lucha contra la pérdida y el desperdicio alimentario o la reducción progresiva del uso de plaguicidas químicos, así como en la promoción de alternativas ecológicas, compatibles con otros modelos de producción sostenibles, como siempre, desde su triple óptica.

Todo ello en el marco de un encomiable trabajo de FAO en el ámbito de la seguridad alimentaria, en particular la nueva Estrategia de Seguridad Alimentaria, por lo que instamos a FAO a seguir reforzando su cooperación con otras entidades internacionales competentes. Necesitamos, asimismo, y a fin de cumplir con los Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), avanzar en los retos que plantea la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios 2021 y que tendremos ocasión de analizar en la próxima precumbre de Roma, sin dejar a nadie atrás y permitiendo que los pequeños agricultores y los agricultores familiares participen en la innovación, la digitalización y la triple sostenibilidad de los sistemas alimentarios, e impulsando la participación de la juventud rural y de la mujer de forma explícita.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Quisiéramos agradecer a la Secretaría del Comité de Agricultura (COAG), así como a la Presidencia de Canadá por el excelente trabajo que nos condujo a través de una intensa agenda hacia la conclusión exitosa de los debates. Chile endosa el Informe del 27º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura y solo queremos realizar algunos breves comentarios.

Queremos expresar nuestro agradecimiento por el proceso inclusivo y transparente que condujo al voluntario y no vinculante nuevo *Plan de Acción de la FAO sobre la resistencia a los antimicrobianos (2021-25)* en el cual apreciamos la intención de no ser una imposición y carga para los países, sino que un apoyo en la lucha contra la resistencia a los antimicrobianos a través de promover el uso responsable y prudente de los antimicrobianos tomando en cuenta la realidad sectorial de los Países Miembros con la suficiente ambición y aspiración que permitirá mejorar los sistemas productivos hacia la sustentabilidad. Esperamos que FAO se enfoque ahora en su implementación.

También acogemos con beneplácito el trabajo de la Organización bajo el enfoque “Una Salud”. La asociación tripartita y la cooperación con el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y otras organizaciones internacionales pertinentes de conformidad con sus respectivos mandatos.

En respuesta a las referencias que se han realizado hoy a una resolución adoptada en el marco de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), solicitamos que cualquier estrategia o plan de trabajo en la materia sea sometida a los respectivos órganos rectores de las organizaciones involucradas. Concordamos con Brasil en que en la FAO, cualquier iniciativa en este sentido, tendría que pasar inicialmente por el COAG.

Con respecto a las acciones sugeridas contenidas en el Informe del 27.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, a pesar de nuestro compromiso y expectativas positivas de la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios de las Naciones Unidas, solicitamos evitar la inclusión del lenguaje que pueda prejuzgar sus resultados. Como ya hemos señalado para incluir cualquier resultado no acordado multilateralmente en la Cumbre, en el trabajo de la FAO, esto debería pasar por los órganos rectores de la Organización.

Mr Jean Philippe DOP (World Organization for Animal Health) (Observer)

I am speaking on behalf of the World Organisation for Animal Health, the OIE, and I take this opportunity to thank FAO for inviting the OIE to speak. This is further evidence of the excellent relations between our two Organisations, which have existed for over 70 years, to the benefit of our Members.

The OIE supports the positions expressed by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in its Report (C 2021/21), in particular with regard to paragraph 18 on preventing, anticipating and responding to high-impact animal and plant diseases and pests. The OIE also gives its full support to FAO in its efforts to combat animal diseases, whose impact on human health and on the functioning of the production chain is well known, including the aggravation of food losses and waste.

Protecting animal health means protecting human health and strengthening the position of farmers and breeders.

It is also the reason why the OIE supports the proposal for the establishment of a COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock, which is mentioned in paragraph 19 of the Report. Our organization is looking forward to contributing and providing inputs in its capacity of Observer.

The OIE is already participating actively with the FAO in various mechanisms, such as EMPRES (Emergency Prevention System), and the GF-TADs (Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases), which are perfectly highlighted in the Report.

In this regard, I am happy to mention joint activities such as the next event “Stop African Swine Fever (ASF): public and private partnering for success” to be held next week and the development of a new GF-TADs Global strategy.

Regarding *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR), one of the top priorities of the GF-TADs, the OIE fully supports the draft Resolution to be adopted by the FAO Conference about the eradication of this animal disease which affects the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers.

The OIE also congratulates FAO on its ambitious Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) that fully recognizes the Tripartite collaboration between FAO, OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO) and the existing work conducted by partners.

AMR is part of the One Health approach, gathering human, animal and environment health in one single concept. As we know, One Health is now at the top of the international agenda. This was reminded this afternoon by several participants and Members, including by mentioning the WHA Resolution, which aims at strengthening and building on the existing preparation between the Tripartite Plus.

The OIE will continue to be addressed through the Tripartite Plus cooperation mechanism, including UNEP, to better address zoonotic threats at the environment interface.

This cooperation already led to the newly established One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), which was also mentioned by several delegations. This Panel brings together one of the best global and inter-sectoral expert networks to provide scientific guidance on this matter. No later than today, the panel had a Meeting on surveillance. FAO and OIE Staff were there and they can assure you that this Panel is very active.

In conclusion, the OIE reiterates its thanks to FAO and confirms its full availability to strengthen our partnership and thus contribute to improving the sanitary level of animal production chains and reducing the zoonotic risk.

Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)

First of all, I would like to thank all the distinguished Members for their full support for the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, especially the Code of Conduct, the formation of Sub-Committee on Livestock and Global Soil Partnership, biodiversity. I do not want to repeat again, so thank you again to all the Members for their warm support.

I would also like to thank for the kind words for the best work done with the Secretariat and the leadership. I think Management is available because some Members have raised certain issues. Very briefly the Management would like to comment very briefly especially the One Health approach and other issues raised by many distinguished Members.

Ms Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)

Thank you to all of the distinguished delegates for the very strong support of so many of the activities of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). I will be very brief in also thanking Mr Bommakanti Rajender for his leadership. I would also very much like to point out as we reflect back on the implementation and the execution of COAG 27, the very outstanding work that was conducted by then Chairperson Jennifer Fellowes of Canada who stepped in with short notice to guide the important work of the COAG 27th Session.

There are clearly a number of cross cutting and very important technical issues that the Committee on Agriculture takes up and we are very pleased at the support that has been offered by all of you on so many of these important issues and upcoming strategies. I would like to especially thank all of you for your support of the important considerations of the International Years, and the International Day of Plant Health. I would also like to turn to my colleague Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo

for some reflections on the comments that were raised on a number of the livestock matters and also One Health-related topics.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General)

Madame Chairperson I would like to start by congratulating you on your leadership and guiding us in this Commission. I would like to thank all the Members for their comments, the guidance and for the strong support. I think we really see the strong support as enabling us to continue to work on items proposed in the matters requiring attention of the Conference and I believe there is support for us to continue to work, particularly I will refer to the matters under my coordination and under my supervision.

I would like to start with One Health, I think, as my colleague from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Jean Philippe Dop said, One Health has been on the top of the global agenda as it is also in FAO and our Members of the Tripartite. We have been working together, FAO has the coordination of the Tripartite and one of our main goals is to develop a common strategy on One Health and I think it is in line what has been proposed in the World Health Assembly and it has been endorsed by the majority of the Members here today.

We also established, in record time, the Expert Panel on One Health, and these will bring science to our work, which is missing in this very important linkage between the human, animal, plant and also environment and how we can have this coordination and this interlinkage of those areas. The Expert Panel will help us bring science to whatever we do and for sure they will be contributing to our common strategy on One Health.

I would also like to say that the support on the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Livestock will give us a strong leadership on the work in the livestock sector inside the COAG, particularly for a sector which brings livelihoods to the people and also employs a big majority of the people in rural areas, particularly in Africa and in Asia. The work of FAO, in its normative work, particularly the work of Codex Alimentarius, it has been mentioned. We continue to strengthen our normative work to Codex guidelines and our setting and the same to the Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and biodiversity.

We are very committed to contribute to the COP 15 where a new framework will be established, and equally to the COP 26 on climate and how to link climate and biodiversity, because we have to connect our planet, our climate and human all together.

This is what I wanted to share now. I would like to thank our colleague Mr Dop from OIE, for the support and for always showing in FAO Governing Body meetings how the three organisations work together, also with the contribution of UN Environment Programme (UNEP), bringing the ecosystem approach to our work. I also refer to the work we are doing with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a normal part of FAO where we have a centre together.

Thank you again for your support and contributions.

Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)

Just to thank you enormously for the support for the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture, which will be a reality coming through with the support of all the Members, and also thank you for the support on the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction, which is something central, especially now, being so close to the Food Systems Summit. It will help enormously to empower a Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste. Thank you very much for the support from all the Members.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you all for your contributions and your consistency and time management once again.

I will give my conclusions on Sub-Item 11.1 which are as follows.

Item 11.1, *Report on the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture* held from 28 September to 2 October 2020.

The Conference endorsed the conclusions and the recommendations contained in the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), and in particular:

- a) Endorsed the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction; and
- b) Mandated the Council at its 168th Session to consider and endorse the Report of the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

Those are my conclusions on this Report, this Item 11.1.

Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

I would also like to join others in thanking you and complimenting you on your leadership of our Session of Commission I.

I do want to make an additional proposal to your conclusions and that is one that I made in my intervention earlier on this afternoon and one indeed that several other Members have endorsed.

I would like to propose an additional subparagraph at the end of your conclusions that reads, “recalled WHA Resolution 74.7 and called on FAO, similarly, to build on and strengthen the existing cooperation among WHO, FAO, OIE and UNEP, to develop options for consideration by their respective governing bodies including establishing a common strategy on One Health including a joint work plan on One Health to improve prevention, monitoring, detection, control and containment of zoonotic disease outbreaks”.

That is a direct quote from the WHO Resolution that was endorsed by all of us as Member States on 31 May, so quite recently. I hope that is acceptable to Members.

CHAIRPERSON

Secretariat can we have my conclusions with the additional proposed words from United Kingdom on the screen?

Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)

I want to express our support for the proposal just made by the United Kingdom, and we are very grateful for it indeed regarding what we heard during this Session and the reference to the importance of the One Health approach and the reference to the One Health approach we have in the Committee on Agriculture Report.

We have that in several work streams in FAO. I think it is more than justified, this proposal from the United Kingdom, especially and in particular, the joint work plan on One Health, mentioning that it is important to be developed by the organizations.

Moreover, regarding our position and the statement we just delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, we would like to add to our conclusions, with your permission, the following text that I will read in dictation speed with your permission, if you allow us to do that.

Our proposal is, “highlighted the One Health and the need to continue developing the Action Plan on AMR to include the phasing out of antimicrobials as growth promoters”.

This is a general position from the European Union. I think it is understandable for all Members regarding what we just heard from several Members, from the OIE and from the FAO side. We are very grateful for all the work on this.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

Before entering in any kind of substantive discussion I ask your indulgence to some guidance on this subject. I have three very specific questions here. One is regarding the proposal made by the Secretariat regarding letter 1.(b). Here we are discussing the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and there is a proposal of language regarding the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and I do not understand this proposal.

Secondly, this afternoon just a few hours ago we were discussing the Latin American Regional Conference Report and the distinguished delegate from Argentina made a very concrete, positive suggestion to make this report even better but some delegations including the distinguished delegate from Portugal made specific proposals and blocked those suggestions, very good suggestions, by Argentina.

I do not see any reason why we are adopting this kind of double standards. I have to be very blunt, and I have to be very clear over here. We cannot accept that in the same Conference, in the same afternoon, Members propose something or block something according only to their interests, without maintaining a minimum of balance between national interests. This is just a very frank discussion I would like to have because after this discussion we had this afternoon, the idea to bring something that was produced in another Organization and introduced here in the report of the Committee on Agriculture I do not think it is a good idea.

Of course, the One Health approach is very important. This Organization had discussed that this issue in COAG during the Programme Committee, the Council, so we have a lot of language that we have already adopted and I believe it is hard to import something that has been adopted a few weeks or days ago and insert it here.

Of course, this issue, number three, we all know that the subject of phasing out raised many questions, many issues, of course it is an important one, but once again we do not want to embark on a new negotiation on that. We have adopted the Plan of Action and I believe that everything that brings all Members together is already there. I do not feel that we need to insert any message, any kind of new language in this Report of the Conference.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I hope we will come to a good understanding because you are chairing this meeting so well and people will give you the full support to help you finish the meeting well.

We have two proposals here. We strongly believe that the One Health approach is something essential which FAO should embark on. We also strongly believe that regarding Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), people should think of phasing out antimicrobials as growth promoters. But I am trying to ask a simple question. We are all Members of the World Health Assembly, and before a decision is taken by the World Health Assembly, it goes through a process. I believe that before this decision was taken by the World Health Assembly it had come through the normal process, deciphered everywhere, until it reached the highest levels for decision-making. Now we want to copy and paste in a different context, without allowing it to be examined by the various other units.

It is very difficult to understand at this level. I trust that, if there is a suggestion that we could make, that you can take that into consideration because I am hesitant even to make that suggestion because it is like cherry picking in the Report of the Committee on Agriculture.

This suggestion is that we can come to an understanding that probably the Sub-Committee on Livestock will look into this matter. That is just to consider it but not to put it in the Report. That is where it should start to examine it and before it goes to the Committee on Agriculture, then the Council, and the Conference, we cannot just build something into Conference because it is coming from somewhere else. It is difficult to understand. I have never seen that, and I strongly believe that the United Kingdom will help us to go through that normal process before it comes to the Conference. It is a very good proposal, but it has to be endorsed and owned by the Membership before it comes to the Conference.

Now, the second proposal from Portugal; it is good, we have discussed it very lengthily in the Committee, but if you see paragraph 1, it says it all. We are not getting into the element of discussions of picking anything in the Report of the Committee, to bring it. That last suggestion of Portugal is like picking one or two points or picking one point that was discussed, and it is not relevant here. I believe that One Health is always something that we discuss.

My suggestion is that we keep your conclusions the way they are because they are sufficient. I understand that Brazil has some issues with small (b) that I do not have, because this is something that

was discussed in the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), and was discussed in the Committee. We leave it at 1 a) and b), and the rest we can start reflecting in other circumstances.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Estuve muy atento a los comentarios de mis colegas. Agradezco especialmente a Brasil por recordarnos que cuando propusimos mejorar el Report de las conferencias regionales, varios Miembros explicaron que no querían poner énfasis en solamente un aspecto del Report de la Conferencia Regional, sino dejar en términos generales.

Y ante esa situación, mi reacción fue jugar en favor del consenso. Si eso generaba alguna preocupación en algunos Miembros, creo que era positivo no abrir una discusión si no había un consenso general sobre las propuestas.

La segunda cuestión que quiero marcar es que Argentina tiene un compromiso muy fuerte con el enfoque Una Salud, incluso apoya el esquema tripartito de cooperación de la FAO y piensa que debe ser ampliado a otras agencias y organismos internacionales. Por otro lado, no tiene inconvenientes con respecto al tema antimicrobiano. O sea que, en los temas de fondo aquí planteados, Argentina no tiene objeciones.

Ahora, si está alguien de la Consejería Legal presente, quisiera consultar cómo es el procedimiento para evitar una discusión de contenido cuando estamos todos de acuerdo.

Los procedimientos son los que nos dan las garantías, sobre todo a los países más débiles. Entonces, yo quisiera que la Consejero Legal nos explique si el procedimiento lógicamente de lo que siempre hablamos que es defender del voto NAP aproche, que las diferentes cuestiones sean discutidas en los comités técnicos para luego pasar al Comité de Programa, para luego pasar al Consejo y luego a la Conferencia. Porque para eso existen los diferentes organismos, los diferentes comités y los diferentes órganos de gobierno de la FAO. Es decir, existen por una razón porque de alguna manera el proceso así está previsto que sea.

Aquí no estamos discutiendo los compromisos que los Países tenemos sobre los temas de fondo. No es que haya algunos que defienden el sistema de Una Salud y otros que están en contra. Estamos todos a favor. Entonces, hay un tema de procedimiento. Me gustaría que alguien de la Consejería Legal nos explicara cómo es el procedimiento. La propuesta hecha por el Reino Unido y me parece que sería, para poner en el primer tema de agenda del Comité de Agricultura (COAG), en la próxima sesión, por ejemplo, pero no sé si es así.

CHAIRPERSON

We continue with the comments on this as we refer the matter to the Legal Counsel, who will come back to us as soon as they have a response to give us.

Sra. Costanza VERGARA (Chile)

A nosotros como País, tal como lo expresó recientemente Argentina, también nos importa muchísimo y aplicamos en nuestros planes de acción el enfoque de “Una Salud”. Además, tenemos acciones para la resistencia ante los antimicrobianos. Pero en concordancia con lo expresado por Brasil, nos sorprende la inclusión de estos dos párrafos que traen los intereses de algunos Países y en temas en los cuales no llegamos a consenso durante la discusión realizada en el 27.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura.

El Informe del 27.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, sin embargo, se hace cargo de estos dos temas, resalta la cooperación entre la Organización Mundial de la Salud, la FAO, la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OIE) y el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente. Además, considera y reconoce que hay otros organismos internacionales en cuyos mandatos es pertinente de incluir el enfoque “Una Salud”.

Respecto del párrafo tres, incluido por Portugal, no estamos de acuerdo, pues no fue un tema en el cual llegamos a consenso durante el Comité de Agricultura y, por lo tanto, no representa la visión de todos los Miembros.

Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original Language Chinese)

Thank you for proposing the texts, because it is very simple and clear. We support what was said by Argentina, Brazil and Cameroon. For us, FAO is a UN specialized Agency and I do not think that this Report of the Conference ought to make mention of conclusions reached by other Organizations. FAO should work with all international organizations and not just a single one.

We wish to thank you for your effective chairing skills and we encourage you to continue in this direction, and we would like the text to continue to remain as simple as the original was.

Ms Jackline YONGA (Kenya)

Thank you so much for your patience and how you have been steering decisions so far, we are actually now getting exhausted. We would also want to respect what the United Kingdom has put in front of us. However, I believe One Health is important, but this is a matter of procedure because we are all Members of the FAO Council, we are the ones who are supposed to be facilitating those lower Committees that have been established to filter through the sentiments before they come for adjudication to the higher levels.

Now, we should not then be seen to be going back before it has gone through the processes, then to bring it at the final Conference level, because what will stop us again from next time now not following the rules? I think it is a matter of procedure, the point definitely is good on incorporation, but I believe the lower level should be given an opportunity, the Committees, to first of all adjudicate, synthesize and then bring it in the normal process, so that we are not seen to jump the gun.

I think with that we should then endorse the two recommendations that were already put, so that procedurally we are going to be advised by the Legal Counsel, but from the point of view of Kenya and having sat in this Committee throughout and the processes that are followed in most places, and even in FAO itself, we should not be going against our own processes and procedures of synthesizing the outcomes before they are tabled in a Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

I see United Kingdom has their hand up, so if they have any comment to make, to proceed, we will take their comment and then see how best we can come to a consensus on this.

The inclusion of these proposals in the conclusions, working on the basis that whatever we are discussing here is tabled for us to talk through and arrive at a conclusion or consensus that would definitely be based on what we understand the principles of our discussions to have been all through the meeting and the basic principles of the FAO system.

Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

I have to say I recognize that this is unusual, and I know that we are all aiming for a very concise Report and indeed I support that aim.

I would just like to take this opportunity to explain why I do think it is important to leave some scope for this proposal. I think, firstly, it is worth saying that the language I have proposed is directly relevant to FAO and indeed our Governments and their Representatives in Geneva have agreed to this language. It went through a very long process in Geneva to reach agreement, and indeed here we have the World Health Assembly calling on FAO to work with the other Members of the Tripartite Plus, so it is directly relevant to FAO and indeed it is calling on FAO to take action, and that is why I do think it is worth recognizing that in our conclusions here.

CHAIRPERSON

We will continue to listen to comments from the floor while we wait for the Management, including the Legal Counsel, to help us unravel this procedural knot that we find ourselves in. In the meantime, I would urge us to try, in-between the comments on the floor, to find out if we can find a way of reaching some consensus on this issue. It should not be difficult, once we apply the basic principles that have been guiding us all through and we also know what the FAO principles are when it comes to procedure.

Mr Naoki HAYASAKA (Japan)

We object to the new paragraph 3, especially the last part, to include the phasing out of antimicrobials as growth promoters. Regarding growth promoters, it is sensitive language and we need to use carefully this word. We should remind the previous discussion on 27th COAG Session, the discussion of the growth promoter is too substantial to insert in this broad conclusion. We support a broader opinion and we echo Brazil and object to inserting new sentence, the growth promoter part.

Mr Asmerom KIDANE TECLEGHIORGHIS (Eritrea)

Madam Chairperson, I appreciate the way you are leading us, it is wonderful. Now we are talking about the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and, therefore, what we are bringing here in conclusion has to pass that way. It should be something which is mentioned in that 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and at this point in time, I think the recommendation, which is number one, that you have put forward, is wonderful, because in general it endorses the conclusions and the recommendations.

Therefore, if these two new issues, number two and number three, which are proposed by United Kingdom and Portugal are already mentioned on there, 27th Session of the Committee, then it means they are included in number one, because we have already recommended the conclusions and the recommendations to be endorsed.

What I would like to say is that previously Brazil, Cameroon, Argentina explained it very well, and you have to stick on the same ways and means. Therefore, I do not think it is really appropriate now to include number three. Where I say I do not think it is appropriate, I do not mean that they are not important, they are really important, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and the One Health approach, they are very important, but let us not forget that now we are talking about the Report of the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and this is already well explained by number 1, by a) and b), so I think we have to stick on that.

Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)

Listening to the discussion and also reflecting on the interventions that were made, I would like to put forward a proposal in relation to the language that the Ambassador from the United Kingdom has very usefully suggested, to ensure that the Conference is seen as keeping up with the latest news and contemporary movements, and what is going on in other multilateral fora. I would need to work on the words, if the approach was to be acceptable, but recognizing what we did during our discussion is recognize the importance that the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) did put on the One Health approach.

We could commence the new paragraph 2 with “noting the findings of the COAG with respect to the importance of One Health.” So, “noting the findings of COAG,” and this language will need to be refined, I am sorry, “with respect to the importance of One Health, recalled WHA Resolution 74.7 to build on and strengthen the existing cooperation,” and then we can just pull the language from that Resolution.

So, we are essentially saying that we recognize the COAG said One Health is important and we, as the Conference, there were numerous delegations who actually called out this particular Resolution have noted the relevance of this Resolution to FAO moving forward. It is just one suggestion, Chairperson, and I would welcome to hear what other people have thought of that. In terms of the proposal by Portugal to include something on Antimicrobial Resistance, I believe that that issue is too controversial for us to try and tackle tonight and it is a discussion which occurred during the COAG, which I do not think we should open here.

CHAIRPERSON

I would just like to remind us all that it is now 20:30 hours, Rome time, we have been here quite a long time, we made very good progress during the day and it is unfortunate that we may be getting maybe tired, but I would really recommend that we listen to each other in the spirit of how we have been doing business, conducting our discussions all through today, and find a way of some reciprocity or consensus building, so that we can arrive at a consensus that meets everybody's expectations. As I

have said before on this, in such situations, we find that applying principles of how we were guided before are usually very helpful in arriving at a consensus or medium ground that can accommodate all our interests, all our concerns, and at the same time emphasize the reasons for ensuring that we maintain the essence of what we are doing in the discussions.

Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)

We are very grateful for your wise words.

We are listening carefully our colleagues, as always, we are here in a positive and constructive mode, trying to get the best solutions for what we think is the best way for the Organization, especially considering its normative work.

We can go along with the proposal to make the Report short and focused on the operational side, so we can accept the majority of the voices we have heard until now and recognize that while the very important question of antimicrobials as growth promoters is in fact a question that was not solved during the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), we can accept that this is not mentioned.

Saying this, in order to facilitate and to go forward, yes, we can go along and understand what we just heard from Members and keep this Report on the operational side. Saying this, I want to say that we are listening to a very good proposal from the Australian side, we are very grateful to Australia for that. In fact, as we also heard from FAO's Secretariat from the Deputy Director-General and also from the distinguished representative from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), I think that the mention of One Health is important, Members also agreed on that.

I should say that if we go through the COAG Report, we have at least six references in six different work streams of One Health throughout the Report, the first one is on the contributions on livestock to the SDGs, the second one is in the Action Plan of Antimicrobial Resistance, the third one is on the impact of COVID-19, the fourth one is on the new FAO Food Safety Strategy, the fifth one is in the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity and its mainstreaming was enabled through all sectors, and the sixth is on FAO's work on agriculture and the new Strategic Framework.

So, while sticking to the operational side, we fully agree on that, and of course we can go along with that, listening to all Members, I think that the proposal from Australia is a good one, and I think it could be maintained as an alternative to what we had before from our side.

CHAIRPERSON

As I said, we are listening to each other, we make some progress on this discussion, but in order to conclude on a note of consensus and understanding, we will continue the discussions.

Mr Sean COX (United States of America)

We were originally going to say that we agreed with many other delegations to get rid of this Antimicrobial Resistance point just because there has not been consensus on a number of these. I believe that also what Portugal was allowing was to remove number three, so we would ask that that be reflected. In regards to number two, we are very sensitive and understand many delegations' concerns with keeping FAO separate from the World Health Organization (WHO) or WHO Resolutions. However we do also want to note that we have, a number of times, called on them to avoid duplication, called on these Organizations to work together, and, as Portugal mentioned, One Health is very much in the COAG Report, so we would support the Australian proposal.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Yo creo que a esta altura de la noche, me parece que estoy viendo que la funcionaria de la Consejería Legal está conectada, estoy pidiendo desde hace un rato largo, tratar de que nos explique si el procedimiento habitual es el de que cuando tenemos una nueva propuesta, si esa nueva propuesta debe ser girada primero a los Comités Técnicos y luego a los Órganos de Gobierno de la FAO para que terminen en el proceso final de la Conferencia.

Yo creo que este es un punto central. Yo no voy a discutir ni me voy a poner en contra ni de la propuesta originaria del Reino Unido, ni tampoco de la propuesta de Australia porque no estamos

discutiendo contenido, por lo menos en mi caso, estoy planteando un tema de procedimiento. Y el tema de procedimiento, no es que uno use un procedimiento cuando está de acuerdo y cuando uno quiere un fast track, no lo usa el procedimiento.

El procedimiento debe usarse siempre. Son las normas, son las buenas prácticas, de eso hemos hablado mucho durante las discusiones en estos debates en este año sobre las buenas prácticas. Creo que, sería muy útil que la funcionaria de la Consejería Legal nos explique. Y, a partir de ello, si este es el procedimiento habitual, podemos discutir los contenidos, pero si no es el procedimiento habitual, yo creo que tenemos que ser respetuosos de los procedimientos siempre, sin ningún tipo de excepción porque si no es complicado en una organización utilizar las normas a veces sí, a veces no.

Entonces, no voy a discutir el contenido, voy a discutir el procedimiento. Le pido a la Consejería Legal que por favor, que nos explique, cómo es el proceso habitual de una nueva propuesta de estas características o de cualquier otra, cómo es el procedimiento.

CHAIRPERSON

Before we go on I will just remind us again that I had hoped we would be breaking for maybe a short dinner break while we refresh ourselves to try and conclude the agenda for today. We have reached almost a point where we could have adjourned for the day and it would be useful if we could arrive on a consensus on this procedural new proposal that has been tabled, so that we can all understand exactly what we should be doing. In the meantime, Brazil, please take the floor and at the end of it all, when all the hands that are up have made their interventions or comments, we will ask the Legal Counsel for their considered opinion on this for guidance.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

Brazil aligns itself with the recent intervention made by the Argentinian Ambassador. It is a matter here of principle and not substance. Of course, we support One Health approach, we have said that before during the Council, during the negotiations of many documents in FAO, but here it is a matter of principle, it is a matter of congruence. Here, we are discussing the Report of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) which took place last year and now people are trying to bring the language from another Organization, from a meeting that took place a few days ago, in order to give importance to a very important subject, but I am very sure that in the COAG Report we have other important subjects that should deserve the same kind of approach.

We are not comfortable with the idea to give just one subject to insert in this report right now. As we understand, the procedure adopted this afternoon was very clear, a very brief, a very concise Report made by you, Chairperson, and during the discussion we have accepted that. As the Ambassador from Argentina mentioned, he made some suggestions to improve our text regarding the Latin American and the Caribbean Conference Report, it was not accepted, he accepted the idea to delete the proposal, so I think we should continue in the same way. Keep it brief and short in order to move and to advance our work here in the Conference.

Sra. Costanza VERGARA (Chile)

Nos alineamos con lo expresado por Argentina y Brasil. No estamos cómodos con la mención de la resolución de la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud en este contexto. Acá lo que se resaltaba fue lo discutido en el Comité de Agricultura el año pasado y en la cual se hace — como también fue resaltado por uno de los Miembros —, bastante mención al enfoque “Una Salud” en cada uno de los párrafos en los cuales es pertinente.

No creemos que este agregado propuesto por Inglaterra y modificado luego por Australia, traiga al reporte o a las conclusiones, valor agregado. Además, esto corresponde a otra Organización. Si bien existe la cooperación y la colaboración a través de la Organización Mundial de la Sanidad (OMS), la FAO, la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OIE) y el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA), tenemos que tener en cuenta que cada una de estas organizaciones contribuyen desde sus mandatos a lo que es el enfoque “Una Salud”.

Por lo tanto, creemos pertinente que este Reporte solo debería involucrar las discusiones sostenidas por los Miembros en los Consejos de la FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

I will continue to draw your attention to the time, the time of day, and encourage us to find a way behind the scenes to talk this through and make way for a consensus so we can end today on a consensus note, as we have been doing all through the discussions of today.

Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

While I have listened carefully to everyone's statement, so I think we should respect the procedures, the rules of procedure and, secondly, we should not reopen the discussions on the text. Third, I think this is the only way to ensure the efficiency of our work here.

Mr Wakaabu SIRAGI (Uganda)

We are caught in a hard place: our commitment to AMR and One Health approach is very strong, but we find it difficult to support the inclusion of paragraph 2 and the alternative paragraph here.

During the voices that have sought clarity on procedure, whether we can include these paragraphs here, for example, I like the clever way paragraph 2 was made, it makes a reference to what we have discussed in the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Report, but similarly this could go for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) because in section (b) we have a vast discussion in that Report on AMR. So, we could cleverly have such a loose link to that discussion, which are still qualified to be here.

My thinking is that, good as these proposals are, and that has to be underlined, they are wonderful proposals, but I am afraid they do not have a place here. I think it would be okay for us to proceed, delete them and adopt your proposal.

Ms Jackline YONGA (Kenya)

I did not quite intend to come back, but I just wanted to reinforce that if we have met rules and procedures under lower technical teams that filter, I still feel, procedurally, that we should not be able to bypass the synthesis of giving everybody a chance to discuss the issue at the right level of the Technical Committees.

I still feel it is a matter of procedure, and definitely I will not underestimate the significance of One Health, including in my country, they are very significant issues, but at what point will we stop next time introducing new items at the Conference level when it has not gone through the Technical Committee. The example that was given this morning or afternoon, we are discussing the regional and the global policy matters, and it was not accepted and it was deleted. To me, it is a matter of procedure that needs clarification and if it is possible, United Kingdom, really to reconsider this admission of paragraph 2.

CHAIRPERSON

We have come to the end of the list of hands up for interventions. On that note, I would call upon Management, the Legal Counsel, to clarify the issues of procedure and principle that have been canvassed for and against the adoption of the proposed additions to the conclusions.

DEPUTY LEGAL-COUNSEL

My understanding from the discussion seems to centre around the Resolution of the World Health Assembly, Resolution 74/7. The Resolution, as you all have noted, is asking the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General to take steps. It is not for the Conference to respond to the World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution, that very high level, and as mentioned already by some of the delegations it is true that the Council and its Committees, including Technical Committees, have paid due regard to the subject-matter, paying due regard to FAO's mandate, Members have urged to promote One Health approach.

The FAO Conference may make a similar request to the Director-General of FAO, asking him to promote a collaboration with these agencies without really specifying, at this stage, which areas for collaboration, as this would be for the Technical Committee and Council committees to probably come to more precise areas of collaboration. It is also true that what could be used possibly is

language, which has been used by the Council, which urged already FAO to continue its collaboration with these agencies and other relevant international organizations, in line with their respective mandates in this respect.

The Council recalls the importance of the One Health approach, which is certainly not being doubted, and rather than instructions to the Director-General, this Item should be put on the Agendas of the various Council committees, including the Committee on Agriculture.

To summarize, it is not appropriate for the Conference to respond here to this WHA Resolution, instead it could go along the same lines. The FAO Conference may request the FAO Director-General to continue its collaboration with WHO, etc. with a view to further promoting the One Health approach. I would suggest that the wording used in the Council is more appropriate at the present circumstances.

I confirm that actually work should come from bottom-up not from the Conference down, asking the Director-General to taking steps in this regard, it will then be put on the agenda and discussed in the Council Committees, that would also be in line with the rules of procedures set out in the Basic Texts and in the Committees and rules of procedure of the various Council Committees.

CHAIRPERSON

I think we have it very clearly from the Legal Counsel that we should be working from the bottom up and that the adoption of the World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution 74/7 specifically here in our conclusions may not be appropriate, unless I am not understanding the comments made adequately.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Creo que es claro que el voto NAP Approach es el procedimiento que utilizamos en la FAO. Además quedó claro con las intervenciones de los diferentes colegas que no logramos encontrar un consenso. Cada uno sigue con sus posiciones. Quería respaldar la sugerencia de la Presidenta de cerrar este debate con la versión breve del resumen del Comité de Agricultura (COAG) como fue la práctica de resolver la falta de consenso en otras instancias dentro de este Comité.

Por lo tanto, solicito poder avanzar y que podamos concluir hoy con este tema para mañana estar más frescos para los próximos temas que tendremos que discutir.

Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

I would like to thank the Deputy Legal Counsel for her advice and I am very willing to take her advice. Indeed, I think her advice was to, and perhaps it would be good if she might clarify, I was not entirely sure whether she was suggesting that we should refer to Council language here, or whether we should refer this WHO Resolution to the Council Committees and the Committee on Agriculture. I was not sure which or indeed whether she was proposing to do both of those things.

I would be grateful to have clarification on that.

CHAIRPERSON

Legal Counsel, if you could have very clear statement on your recommendations on how to deal with this proposal.

DEPUTY LEGAL COUNSEL

What I was suggesting, is that a similar request from the Conference to the FAO Director-General could be made asking him to promote collaboration with the other agencies. On the substantive areas for collaboration, it may not be appropriate to use the wording of the World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution, which is directed towards the Director-General of WHO and, as you all know, will have our different areas, respective mandates in this respect, while we all agree to promote the One Health approach, respective mandates are the context. But, if something is being inserted in the Conference Report, than the language coming from the Council could be used, the language used by WHA is different from what the FAO Council has used for urging collaboration in this context, focusing more on the respective mandates of the different organizations.

CHAIRPERSON

If I may just ask United Kingdom whether your enquiry has been clarified? Before you take the floor, I see the hand of Cameroon and Argentina up.

Mr Mougui MÉDI (Cameroon)

We appreciate what the Legal Counsel has said, there is only one hiatus, we are dealing with the Report of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), we are not dealing with the Report of the Council.

It is becoming a little bit like a melting pot, what is said in the Council, we are endorsing the Report of the COAG and with everything that is inside it, so we seek our colleagues' indulgence to refrain from going beyond what we are trying to endorse here, that is the Report of COAG.

I believe that what you have put in your report as a summary of the discussion is clear enough as a guidance for our future work in COAG and I think that we are fine with that. We can probably discuss other things later on, but we must avoid getting out of the context in which we are, we are in the Report of COAG and let us deal with the Report of COAG and not with any other thing.

I think that we can get that inbuilt in ourselves for a way for us to promote the One Health approach within FAO will probably be to start a discussion on that within the appropriate Governing Bodies and that's the way forward. We have a new Sub-Committee on Livestock, which we can discuss that, and then the COAG itself, and probably other Governing Bodies. I plead with our colleague from the United Kingdom to withdraw that proposal and we keep your summary, Chairperson.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Quizás yo me equivoqué al haber tenido una actitud constructiva tan rápida y buscando el consenso cuando discutimos el tema de la Conferencia Regional, pero, la verdad que, lo primero que siempre uno debe hacer es escuchar a los colegas. Si es tan grande la cantidad de colegas que no están de acuerdo, lo inteligente es reconocerlo y tratar de trabajar de una forma consensuada.

A esta altura, tenemos claro que esta propuesta sugerida en el párrafo (ii), no vuela. seamos constructivos y vayamos con la versión corta que, en definitiva, no nos afecta a ninguno. Estamos de acuerdo en términos generales y, en definitiva, así funcionan los consensos en el marco de esta Organización.

Ms Costanza VERGARA (Chile)

We would like to support what was expressed by Cameroon. We do believe that One Health is something important for all the Members, and this is reflected in the COAG Report. Your conclusion also reflects what was discussed at the COAG. To be noted, these new insertions from the United Kingdom didn't bring anything that was not in the COAG Report.

I think that your proposal for conclusion is something that we can all be happy with, so for us it is clear and it is comprehensive of everything that is in the COAG Report, including the mention of the One Health approach importance, the collaboration between the Tripartite Plus, and other international organizations. We do not need to bring language from other international organizations into our FAO Report. So, with that, we also echo Cameroon in asking United Kingdom to withdraw the proposed paragraph 2 and the alternative amendment proposed by Australia.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

After listening very carefully to your words, the advice of the Legal Counsel, and the previous speakers, Cameroon, Argentina, Chile, I believe that we should follow your guidance, your proposal, and keep this language to the simplest one and delete the suggestion made. I believe it was in good spirit but they do not belong here. Once again, it is not a matter of substance, it is a matter of procedure right now.

Sr. Gustavo Eduardo MOSTAJO OCOLA (Perú)

Como ya lo han manifestado varios Países y a lo largo del extenso tiempo que nos ha tomado este tema en particular, aceptaríamos la propuesta que nos hizo inicialmente la Presidenta.

No descartamos obviamente la importancia que representa para nosotros también el Enfoque “Una Salud”, sin embargo, dado que el objeto de esta Sesión es debatir el informe del 27 período de sesiones del COAG, creo que debemos centrarnos en ello. Deberíamos dejarlo tal cual fue presentado como texto original, eliminando los párrafos 2 y 3.

Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

I have listened very carefully to all of the colleagues who have spoken, indeed I have made a very careful note, and I very much welcome their support for the substance of this issue. I welcome the suggestion that I think Argentina made that we put this on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). On that understanding that we will put this Resolution and its implications for FAO on the Agenda for the next meeting of COAG, then I can withdraw the paragraph. I would also note that it does have a lot of support from the European Union and its 27 Member States, as well as the United States, Australia and many other countries that supported it during the discussion. I hope there will be no controversy when it comes to putting it on the Agenda for the next meeting of COAG.

CHAIRPERSON

We have, as I intimated at the beginning of the discussion, listened to each other and that is the basis of consensus building, to find a way to accommodate everybody’s concerns. I think with the comments that the United Kingdom has just made about recognizing that previous speakers have indicated the importance of the principle of what the United Kingdom had wanted to put in the proposal and the fact that, based on the conclusions that were already before the Commission, they seem to encapsulate the sense of what the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Report was intended to give. We have arrived at a consensus.

We have spent a lot of time on it, but I think at the end of the day it has been worthwhile maintaining that spirit of building a consensus between us and arriving at a conclusion that is acceptable to all of us.

With regard to Sub-Item 11.1, the conclusions that we had on the screen, as I read out, are my conclusions on that topic. I do not think I need to repeat them.

In the absence of any further comments on that topic this would conclude our discussions on Agenda Sub-Item 11.1 and I thank you all for your cooperation in arriving at this consensus.

We have spent the better part of an hour and a half on this topic and I think this would probably be a good time to adjourn today’s discussion. I am waiting for the Secretariat to update me on something that they wanted to tell me.

Thank you, delegates. I am being reminded that we have interpretation until 23:00 hours Rome time, which gives us an hour and a half more of discussion time at Commission I.

I recognize that it is late and that we did not break all afternoon for any meaningful time for anyone to get some adequate sustenance to see us through the rest of this discussion until so late. I will give the United Kingdom the floor and then after that we will take a decision on how we are going to proceed for the rest of the time that we have interpretation.

Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

In my previous intervention I suggested putting the World Health Organization (WHO) Resolution on the Agenda for the next Item of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), but in the meantime I have had several messages from many colleagues who would much rather see it on the Agenda of a FAO Governing Body much before then, so could I suggest that our understanding is that it is discussed at a FAO Governing Body as soon as possible?

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Me parece que tenemos que ver el borrador de las conclusiones del párrafo 11 de Agenda. Nosotros habíamos entendido que había quedado solo el texto original propuesto por usted para este ítem.

Queríamos ver el texto de las conclusiones. Era nuestro entendimiento que habían quedado las conclusiones originalmente propuestas por usted para el ítem 11 de Agenda, sin ningún lenguaje adicional. Así que, quisiéramos comprobarlo. Quisiéramos ver las conclusiones del ítem 11.

CHAIRPERSON

Secretariat, please put the conclusions on the screen. Delegates, please, we have my conclusions on the screen, as requested by Chile. They are the conclusions as I read out earlier on.

Mr Wakaabu SIRAGI (Uganda)

Just like Chile, we wanted to be sure of the language that we are adopting and we are satisfied with the language we see on the board.

On the proposal by the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom, these are difficult for us to understand where her request can be put because if this is the language we are adopting I just do not know where we shall place it, otherwise, it is a very important request. Maybe we will be guided.

We are satisfied with the language we see on the board and we will be glad that you gavel it.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Igualmente que Chile quería ver cómo había quedado el texto final porque después hay procedimientos para establecer las agendas de los comités técnicos. Entonces, en el Report debe ser tal cual como está siendo presentado aquí y, en todo caso, cuando sea el proceso de establecer las agendas en los diferentes comités técnicos, allí se establecerá la agenda de las próximas reuniones.

El tema está cerrado y me gustaría poder apagar la cámara sabiendo que lo que está aquí es lo que terminó.

CHAIRPERSON

I think we can all share that sentiment. To close it, we need to be sure that we are all on the same page, so when we come back tomorrow we start a new page feeling very fresh.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

We just wanted to check on the proposal of the Report and we are very comfortable with the document right now. We believe that the Bureau of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) can deal with the issue raised by the United Kingdom. Just to check, because we raised this point two hours ago, the idea to include here the Report of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is just to mention that the Report should go to the next Session of the Council. It is just a clarification, if possible.

CHAIRPERSON

I think on the point put forth by the United Kingdom we are going to be guided by the Basic Texts in the procedures for putting issues before Governing Bodies and working from the bottom up. That should not be much of a problem for us to have to dissect here.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General)

It was just to respond to the question from Brazil regarding on point (b) on the summary. You are right, but we are in a very particular situation now. The last meeting of the Commission, the 17th Regular Session, held in February 2019, initiated the preparation of two very important documents, which they agreed to be approved by the Conference. Unfortunately, we could not have the 18th Regular Session of the Commission, which was originally planned for March 2021, due to the COVID-19, and it was postponed to September. Therefore, those two important documents were not able to be presented to the Conference and this is the reason why, on exceptional basis, it was requested to be presented to the next meeting of the Council for adoption. Otherwise we need to wait for an additional two years. They are the Action Plan on Biodiversity and Action Plan on Aquatic Genetic Resources. Just for clarification.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Deputy Director-General, your comments have been well noted.

In terms of proceeding on this particular Agenda Item, I think we have reached a consensus with the position taken by the United Kingdom to retract the proposal and leave the text as it was, which I had read out earlier to the Commission. I think the discussion on Item 11.1 has come to a definite end with the consensus that we have reached.

I did suggest that we have a little more time left with the interpreters, but considering that we worked consistently through the whole afternoon without taking any meaningful break, it may be just more efficient for us to end today's discussions at the end of this topic of Item 11.1 and come back tomorrow refreshed, so we can move, as we have moved today, quickly through the remaining items on the Agenda.

I thank you all for your patience, understanding, cooperation and everything that it has taken, even us not having our supper or dinner in time, to reach this consensus. It has been important that we do reach a consensus. That is our mode of working and it is to our credit that we have been able to do so this evening, despite the challenges of working late that we have had to work through. I thank you all for your cooperation in this regard.

SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION I

We are going to meet tomorrow at 14:30 hours Rome time and starting with the pending items we have not finished today, which is starting with Sub-Item 11.2.

CHAIRPERSON

We will meet together here, Rome time, tomorrow at 14:30 hours and I wish you all a very good evening.

The meeting rose at 21:33 hours

La séance est levée à 21 h 33

Se levanta la sesión a las 21.33

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

**Forty- second Session
Quarante et deuxième session
42.º período de sesiones**

**Virtual Meeting, 14-18 June 2021
Réunion Virtuelle, 14-18 juin 2021
Reunión Virtual, 14-18 de junio de 2021**

**SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
SEGUNDA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

16 June 2021

The Second Meeting was opened at 15:00 hours
Ms Eudora Hilda Quartey Koranten,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 08 h 32
sous la présidence de Mme Eudora Hilda Quartey Koranten,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda reunión a las 08.32
bajo la presidencia del Sra. Eudora Hilda Quartey Koranten,
Presidente de la Comisión I

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

- Item 11.2 Reports of the 73rd (Extraordinary) (22 January 2021) and 74th (10-12 March 2021) Sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems*
Point 11.2 Rapports de la soixante-treizième session (extraordinaire) (22 janvier 2021) et de la soixante-quatorzième session (10-12 mars 2021) du Comité des produits
Tema 11.2 Informes del 73.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (22 de enero de 2021) y el 74.º período de sesiones (10-12 de marzo de 2021) del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos

CHAIRPERSON

Welcome to today's sitting of Commission I of the 42nd FAO Conference. Once again, good afternoon from Rome and the Secretary has already given you a few housekeeping points so can move straight to the Agenda for today.

I am pleased to inform you that the Membership of the Drafting Committee of this Commission, that is Commission I, has been completed.

The Members are: Argentina, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kuwait, New Zealand, Peru, Russian Federation, Sudan and Uzbekistan. We have received a nomination of the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee in the person of Mr Donald Syme from New Zealand. This is your Drafting Committee for Commission I.

May I take it that the Commission agrees to the proposed Membership of the Drafting Committee and the Chairperson?

I do not see any objections, so we will take it that the Membership of the Drafting Committee has been duly endorsed and we can therefore proceed.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

As I said we have to deal with some housekeeping and coordination matters and something has come up again in connection with the Drafting Committee. We have additional nominations that have just come up and they are, in addition to the names I listed earlier, we have Portugal and Luxembourg being added to the list.

We have Argentina, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kuwait, New Zealand, Peru, Russian Federation, Sudan and Uzbekistan, in addition to Portugal and Luxembourg who have also just been added. Once again I put it to the floor.

I take it that colleagues agree on the proposed Membership of the Drafting Committee and the Chairperson who was named as Mr Don Syme of New Zealand. Congratulations to the Chairperson and the Members of the Drafting Committee of Commission I. Our Drafting Committee is in place and they will be dealing with their assignment at the appropriate time.

The meeting of the Drafting Committee is planned for this evening. The exact time will depend on how efficiently we manage our time, so that we give them enough time to start their work and finish, for us to have our Report to deliver to Plenary, according to the Timetable. I would encourage us, using the same work format that we had yesterday, so that we can get through the items on the Agenda as efficiently and as quickly as possible, with consensus-building as we go along. We will have the work of the Commission really cut out for us if we do that.

The relevant documents will be sent to your email addresses and communicated to you later. The Secretariat will inform the Drafting Committee by email and by notification through the Conference

App. If you need any assistance please contact Ms Jiani Tian, the Secretariat of the Drafting Committee and she is putting together the mailing lists, so she will be available for any information you may need.

I think with that we have all our housekeeping issues in place unless there are any explanations somebody may require, I would suggest that we move now to Agenda Item 11.2, which is where we left off yesterday.

Just a reminder on time management for the rest of this afternoon, for the issues to be considered by Commission I, we have four Sub-Items under 11. Yesterday we finished at 11.1, so today we are going to deal with items 11.2 to 11.4. Then, we will move to the Written Correspondence Items and in all there are eight of those. If we add the four to the eight we have eleven Agenda Items to get through.

Once again, I would encourage that we be as efficient as possible and listen to each other, compromising where we need to, so that we can get through and have a very successful Commission I for today.

On that note, colleagues, Agenda Item 11.2 refers to the *Reports of the 73rd (Extraordinary) and 74th meetings of the Sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems*, reference document C 2021/22 and C 2021/25.

I invite the Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems, Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait from Indonesia, to introduce this Item.

Mr Gustaf Daud SIRAIT (Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems)

I wish to firstly congratulate you, Madame Chairperson of Commission I, for your election and convey my admiration for your strong leadership and able guidance. I am fully confident that your wisdom will guide our deliberations to a fruitful outcome. It is an honour and great pleasure for me as the Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) to present to you today the Reports of the 73rd and 74th Sessions of the CCP. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both Sessions were convened virtually.

The 73rd Extraordinary Session was held on 22 January and 19 February 2021 and devoted to the Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition. The Committee reviewed the draft strategy and provided valuable guidance for its finalization from the perspective of markets and trade with the objective to ensure its relevance to fulfilling FAO's mandate and support to Members in their efforts to end hunger and malnutrition and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Regarding implementation, the Committee recognised the importance of FAO Decentralized Offices in working with national governments and called on the Organization to continue strengthening its partnerships with governments, other relevant international organizations, and other stakeholders to transform the Strategy into concrete results on the ground. The Report of the 73rd Extraordinary Session of the CCP is submitted to Conference in document C 2021/22.

Now, with regards to the 74th Session of the CCP, held from 10 - 12 March 2021, we had a very rich agenda, covering a number of important and topical issues. I would like to note that the programme and budgetary matters arising from the session were brought to the attention of the Council in April 2021.

Please allow me to highlight several points from the Session under the Item on COVID-19, agricultural markets and trade, and FAO's response. The Committee expressed concern about the impacts of the pandemic on hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition, and commended FAO for its immediate and concrete response.

Members acknowledged the importance of trade for the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food, as well as disability of markets and the limitation of extreme food price volatility and recalled and underlined the importance that, in line with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and in keeping with their commitments under the WTO agreements, Members correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions as well as eliminate and not create unnecessary and unjustified barriers to

trade in agricultural markets. Furthermore, the Committee called on governments to avoid policies that could undermine the proper functioning of agri-food markets.

Under the World Agricultural Commodity Markets, the Committee reviewed the global market situation and examined the short- and medium-term outlooks. The Committee underlined the importance of FAO's commodity market monitoring, assessment and outlook, and early warning work as a global public good, especially in view of growing risks and uncertainties and urged Members to continue improving the timelines and quality of data and statistics and to make them available and accessible in a timely and regular manner.

In reviewing the trends and assessing the prospects for food and agricultural markets for the next 10 years, the Committee acknowledged the challenge posed by the continued decline of real prices for producers, in particular, smallholder and family farmers and requested that due consideration be given to this matter. Furthermore, the Members highlighted the importance that the medium-term projections assess various scenarios, including on COVID-19, to be considered when addressing the call for food systems transformations.

Under policy matters, the Committee welcomed the 2020 edition of the flagship report '*The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets*' or SOCO, on the theme 'Agricultural markets and sustainable development and its findings'. Further to the deliberations on SOCO 2020 the Committee received an update on WTO agricultural negotiations, regional trade agreements, and FAO's support to Members. It emphasised the significant role that agri-food trade can play as an enabler to achieve the SDGs and increase the resilience of markets including in facing the crisis.

The Committee underlined the importance of a freer, fairer, predictable, non-discriminatory, and rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO and consistent with its rules for promoting agriculture and rural development and contributing to achieving food security and improve nutrition for all. It further highlighted the importance of adhering to international standards, including those set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in line with the WTO agreement on application of sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures and the WTO agreement on technical barriers to trade, to facilitate and expedite regional and global trade in food and agriculture.

The Committee also stressed the importance of regional trade agreements and intra-regional trade for expanding markets and promoting value chains. Under governance methods, the Committee appreciated FAO's support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognised the CCP's mandate and work in contributing to the achievement of all SDGs.

The Committee highlighted that markets and trade are important in promoting sustainable development and form an integral part of food systems. Members also expressed appreciation for the annual inputs of the CCP to the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development. Under FAO's programme of work in markets and trade, the Committee welcomed the proposed Programme Priority Area on transparent markets and trade under the new Strategic Framework 2022-2031.

At the end of its work, the 74th Session of CCP elected the new Bureau. I had the honour to be elected as the Chairperson. The other elected Members are Australia, Brazil, Canada, Nigeria, Sudan and the United Kingdom. In line with the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the United Kingdom has been appointed by the Bureau as first Vice-Chairperson.

The Report of the 74th Session of CCP is submitted to the Conference in document C 2021/25.

In concluding, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the support provided by the Members of the CCP, the CCP Bureau and the Secretariat. With this, I am pleased to submit to you the double Reports of the 73rd Extraordinary Session and 74th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems for your endorsement.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Permítame romper el hielo. Con su liderazgo, Presidenta, estamos teniendo una muy buena Comisión I y con el excelente apoyo de la Secretaría por parte de Jiani. Permítame también hacer una felicitación

especial al trabajo del Chair del Comité de Productos Básicos, nuestro querido Gustaf de Indonesia que hizo un trabajo impresionante para construir y ayudar a facilitar el consenso. Permítame, también, agradecer a Don de Nueva Zelanda por su cargo como Presidente del Comité de Redacción y a todos los colegas que lo integran. Y reconocer especialmente también al señor Boubaker de la FAO por el trabajo extraordinario que está realizando junto a todo su equipo.

Nuestro país valora con particular interés la tarea que realiza el Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos de la FAO, dado que a través de sus trabajos podemos encontrar soluciones y alternativas para fortalecer las virtudes del comercio internacional de alimentos para alcanzar el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODD) 2. Es así que la Argentina se involucró activamente en los debates de las sesiones 73 y 74 del Comité. En este sentido, nos gustaría rescatar algunos elementos que se plasmaron en los informes finales.

En primer lugar, como lo hemos expresado en distintos foros, entendemos que el comercio internacional de alimentos es un catalizador esencial para estimular el funcionamiento de los sistemas agroalimentarios ya que promueve el acceso a dietas saludables, variadas e inocuas, facilita el consumo de alimentos a precios accesibles, motoriza las economías regionales y promueve el desarrollo de los pequeños y medianos productores.

Es decir, desde nuestra óptica, el comercio internacional de alimentos constituye una herramienta inigualable para alcanzar el desarrollo sustentable en sus tres dimensiones. Ejemplo de ello, comprobado por la FAO en diversas publicaciones, es el papel que desempeñaron las cadenas regionales y globales de alimentos y suministros que, a pesar de las dificultades logísticas y sanitarias que impuso la pandemia del COVID-19, continuaron funcionando casi sin sobresaltos para garantizar la satisfacción de la demanda mundial de alimentos.

Esta circunstancia demostró cómo pudieron actuar en sinergia países exportadores e importadores de alimentos para satisfacer sus necesidades, beneficiando especialmente a los países en desarrollo. Como está plasmado en el Informe del Comité 74, y tal cual está establecido en el ODD 17 de la Agenda 2030, la Argentina aboga por la promoción de un sistema de comercio multilateral universal basado en normas, abierto, no discriminatorio y equitativo en el marco de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC).

Consideramos que, si todos los Miembros asumimos este compromiso, podremos contribuir de forma mancomunada a la disponibilidad de alimentos, a su accesibilidad y a su asequibilidad. De forma contrapuesta, Señor Presidente, hacemos nuestro el llamado del Informe del Comité 74 respecto a la necesidad que los miembros corrijan y prevengan las distorsiones comerciales y eliminen la imposición de obstáculos innecesarios e injustificados al comercio en los mercados agrícolas. Observamos que muchos Miembros se encuentran preocupados por la dimensión ambiental del desarrollo sostenible. Nosotros también. Sin embargo, esos mismos países utilizan subsidios, incentivos y esquemas proteccionistas para mantener artificialmente funcionando algunos de sus sistemas agroalimentarios, muchos de ellos ineficientes, en detrimento de esquemas que cuentan con ventajas comparativas naturales.

Pues bien, entendemos que estas acciones, en realidad, terminan perjudicando la sostenibilidad ambiental en algunas regiones, ya que los sistemas alimentarios que se mantienen de manera ficticia terminan perjudicando a la biodiversidad, el uso de recursos naturales y la propia calidad de los suelos. En el mismo sentido, quisiéramos resaltar la importancia de cumplir con las normas internacionales, especialmente las establecidas por la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius (CODEX), la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria y la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OIE), de conformidad con lo dispuesto en el acuerdo sobre la aplicación de medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias y el Acuerdo sobre obstáculos técnicos al comercio de la OMC. Ello con miras a facilitar y agilizar el comercio regional y mundial de productos alimentarios agrícolas.

Quisiéramos destacar, para terminar, la contribución que realiza el sistema de información sobre el mercado agrícola para alertar sobre la alta volatilidad de los precios e insistir sobre la necesidad de reducir la brecha digital y promover la digitalización de los sistemas agroalimentarios.

Nos gustaría celebrar el llamamiento a promocionar más ampliamente el mandato de este Comité y la labor que desempeña la FAO con relación al comercio a los mercados.

Sr. Roberto MELGAREJO (Paraguay)

El gobierno del Paraguay desea manifestar en su carácter de Presidente del Consejo Agropecuario del Sur, CAS, conformado por los Ministros de Agricultura de Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Uruguay y Paraguay, en su última reunión virtual ordinaria del 4 de mayo de 2021, considerando que los países de la región enfrentan desafíos comunes que se plantean en el marco de las negociaciones internacionales en materia de desarrollo sostenible y que atento a ello resulta sumamente valioso compilar los principios y valores compartidos por los ministros señalados.

Así, el mayor desafío de que estos principios y valores ampliamente reconocidos en el plano internacional sean cooperativos. Para ello, los países del CAS hacen un llamamiento a la comunidad internacional, concertar los acuerdos y mecanismos globales que permitan poner estos principios y valores en práctica, pasando de lo declarativo a lo operativo. Por tanto, declara, sobre la seguridad alimentaria, en el marco actual de la pandemia, la región está llamada a cumplir un rol central frente a los desafíos que presenta el contexto internacional. Nuestros países que se ubican dentro de los principales proveedores mundiales de alimentos sanos, nutritivos y de calidad; y, de conformidad, con la Agenda 2030 y, en particular, con los ODD uno, objetivo de desarrollo sostenido, el fin de la pobreza y ODD dos, Hambre Cero, se reconoce que el cambio climático es un desafío de toda la humanidad al adoptar medidas que reviertan este fenómeno, debemos dar prioridad fundamental para salvaguardar la seguridad alimentaria y acabar con el hambre.

Los sistemas de producción de alimentos son particularmente vulnerables a los efectos adversos del cambio climático y los desafíos que impone el cambio climático hace imprescindible centrar los esfuerzos en la adaptación a fin de garantizar la resiliencia del sistema y mantener la producción necesaria para la seguridad alimentaria. Necesitamos producir más y mejores alimentos al mismo tiempo que generar mecanismos que aseguren el acceso físico, social y económico a estos. Destacamos el aporte de la agricultura y la ganadería sostenible a la seguridad alimentaria, al desarrollo económico y al arraigo territorial sobre el desarrollo sostenible.

Reafirmamos nuestro compromiso de producir alimentos de forma sostenible, respetando el equilibrio entre los tres pilares de la sostenibilidad de manera a contribuir a la reducción de la pobreza y a la distribución progresiva del ingreso, el uso eficiente y responsable de los recursos naturales y el desarrollo económico de nuestros países. Asimismo, reconocemos que existen importantes desafíos a nivel ambiental, en particular, en lo relativo a la adaptación al cambio climático, al nivel social en asegurar sea inclusivo. Resaltamos la importancia conforme a la Agenda 2030, de avanzar en medio de implementación efectivo, entre otros, propiciando mecanismos de financiamiento adecuados, inversión en nuevas tecnologías e innovaciones orientadas a incrementar la productividad de forma sostenible favoreciendo la transferencia de tecnología y capacitación técnica.

Sobre las responsabilidades comunes, pero diferenciadas, todos los países debemos cooperar para la preservación del medio ambiente, pero teniendo en cuenta la responsabilidades históricas, así como, las capacidades nacionales por su nivel de desarrollo y condición socioeconómica. Los países menos desarrollados son los más susceptibles a los impactos del cambio climático debido a los factores físicos, sociales y económicos. Tal como reconoce la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el cambio climático, tanto históricamente como en la actualidad, la mayor parte de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero del mundo han tenido sus orígenes en los países desarrollados. Los países que tienen responsabilidad principal histórica y presente por la degradación ambiental deberían proveer las herramientas económicas y tecnológicas adecuadas que permitan a los países en desarrollo a mejorar la sostenibilidad de su producción.

Sobre la transacción justa y respecto a las adversidades locales, la transición hacia la sostenibilidad en los sistemas productivos deben ser gradual y en las formas de tiempo que decida cada país en base a su relatividad productiva, económica y social. Es fundamental que sean reconocidas, respetadas, las realidades locales de las diferentes regiones del mundo y sus particularidades productiva, social y ambiental.

Finalmente, sobre la cooperación internacional, destacamos el valor de la cooperación internacional como herramienta para compartir experiencias, transferir conocimiento y tecnologías y crear sinergias positivas para la acción climática y la sostenibilidad ambiental. Se deben fortalecer las acciones de cooperación Sur-Sur ajustada a las necesidades locales. Sobre el comercio internacional, es fundamental el logro de un sistema más justo, transparente y predecible. Además, el comercio abierto desempeña un papel fundamental para garantizar y respetar la seguridad alimentaria mundial y el cumplimiento de los ODD. Atento a ello, insistimos en la necesidad de avanzar en forma decidida con el proceso de reformas de la agricultura en el marco de la OMS.

CHAIRPERSON

If I may use these opening moments to plead with Members to try and sum up your comments in such a way that you make the maximum time or use of the five minutes that we have agreed would be the time that each Delegates would use for making its comments.

I need to stress this because I do not want to be seen to be unfair to somebody, I think I have allowed some overrun of time but I am hoping that between us we will be able to do things in such a way that I will be spared the effort of having to call in and ask you to sum up. It is very difficult for me when I have to do that and I hope you cooperate with the Chairperson and ensure that we all have equal time to make our presentations and be fair to each other as we go along.

Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

We are intervening on behalf of the G77 in China at this meeting, the 73rd meeting of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We have heard a complete evaluation and there are repercussions that COVID-19 has had on food security and malnutrition and our group welcomes the One Health approach to curb the risk of diseases and we have guidelines that need to be science-based.

We want to press that international criteria must be upheld in terms of trade and it is very important for us to have a more open and fair multilateral trade system that is non-discriminatory and based on World Trade Organization (WTO) rules in terms of rural development and agricultural development. We need to do this for healthier food for us all and we have a need to lift restrictions and any unjustified barriers to trade, according to the WTO rules. The Group insists on the importance of following these rules for commodities and the early warning system in the face of risks of climate change, natural disasters, and pests.

The Near East Group welcomes the efforts of this Organization to help smallholders in developing countries and help integrate them in local markets. We express our appreciation of FAO's efforts and the support that they have given to Member States in trade policies, enabling us to work to uphold food security. We have particularly seen plant health measures and programmes to respond to problems after the COVID-19 crisis. We need to implement WTO rules working on, and based on, the market and we follow all recommendations contained in the Report of the 74th Session on Commodity Problems.

Mr Willi SCHULZ-GREVE (European Union)

I am honoured to address you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries for EU accession, Turkey, Montenegro, and Serbia, as well as Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

The EU welcomes and endorses the Reports of the 73rd and 74th Session of the CCP with the following remarks. The EU would like to acknowledge the quality and relevance of FAO's monitoring of commodity market developments and welcomes the information provided on issues and prospects for international raw materials and tropical commodity markets. The EU values the role of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD)-FAO Agricultural Outlook as a global consensus on medium term trends in world agricultural markets and encourages FAO to continue its cooperation with the OECD in this area and to strengthen it, in particular, in the context of the 2021 Food Systems Summit.

Considering the existing uncertainties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU considers it important that the impact of the pandemic is kept under review, even subject to sensitivity analysis, as guidance

for FAO's future work we suggest that scenarios are considered to support the follow up to the UN Food Systems Summit and that FAO strengthens its foresight analysis in longer term projections beyond 2030.

On the WTO agricultural negotiations and regional trade agreements, the EU would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the comprehensive update and to highlight the importance of an open, transparent, non-discriminatory, inclusive, and rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO. We strongly believe that the WTO's central role is more essential than ever if we are to address the challenges before us, starting with the economic recovery from the pandemic. We would also recall that FAO should ensure that it remains strictly within its mandate on trade issues without pre-empting decisions to be taken at the WTO.

In relation to the guidance provided on FAO's programme of work in commodity markets and trade under the Strategic Framework, the EU would like to stress the Committee's support commending the role of the Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS) and encouraging Members to continue supporting its work.

Lastly, considering the unanimous concern expressed by Members regarding the way working methods are used in the meeting, leading sometimes to very long Sessions, we would like to request to follow up on the Committees' call to review the working arrangements. In consultation with the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the Chairpersons of the other FAO Technical Committees with an objective of improving the efficiency in the use of time and effectiveness of the FAO bodies work, including the Committee on Commodity Problems.

Mr Donald Geoffrey SYME (New Zealand)

New Zealand strongly supports the work of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) and we congratulate FAO on the excellent report on The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets that shows good evidence of the positive contribution of global value chains in acting as a buffer in times of supply shocks and disruption, as well as assisting with nutritional goals. Rather than viewing local markets in competition they should be seen as complementary based on local context.

In acting as a buffer in times of supply shocks and disruption, as well as assisting with nutritional goals, rather than viewing local and global markets in competition, these should be seen as complementary, based on local context.

New Zealand also strongly supports the Committee's acknowledgment of the importance of free trade in terms of contributing to the availability, accessibility and affordability of nutritious food and the stability of markets.

We agree with the Committee's conclusions that the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, and Members' commitments under the WTO agreements, can prevent worsening of trade restrictions and distortions and eliminate unnecessary and unjustified barriers to trade in agricultural markets.

This does not however preclude the need for further reform of existing trade distortions to benefit global security and nutrition goals, and rural development.

The work done to reach the Report's conclusions highlights the importance of transparency in market conditions and policies in food and agriculture. We agree that this must be through the provision of up-to-date and credible data and information including on the relationship between trade and nutrition.

Finally, the Committee usefully acknowledges the importance of data, analysis and evidence in guiding interventions and policies.

Mr James BREITHAUPT (Canada)

Thank you to the Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) for all your work and for your excellent presentation today. Canada is pleased to endorse the Reports of the 73rd and 74th Sessions of the CCP. Canada would like to take this opportunity to thank the FAO again for inviting Canada's Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Aaron Fowler, to the multi-stakeholder high-level policy panel of the launch of the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2020.

This edition of the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) was published at an absolutely critical juncture for the global economy and for food systems across the world, and Canada was happy to play a role in amplifying its messages. COVID-19 has impacted global value-chains, worsened food insecurity, and destabilised agricultural markets across the world. SOCO 2020 showcased the interwoven relationship of global value-chains, trade, and sustainable development.

A predictable trading system promotes the growth of global value chains which in turn contributes to economic development. Canada believes that having a predictable rules-based system, rooted in science-based regulations, and underpinned by the World Trade Organization, is critical to achieving SDG 2, to ensuring the economic sustainability of our agriculture and agri-food sectors, and to providing safe and nutritious food around the world. We have seen throughout the pandemic how critical and robust agricultural trade has been. This has allowed food to flow from areas of abundance to areas of scarcity, but there is certainly more work to do to promote transparent science and rules-based trade, and to eliminate unnecessary and unjustified barriers to trade.

We know this is an important component of promoting food security. Canada would also like to commend FAO once again for its markets and trade-related response to COVID-19, particularly the Director-General's calls to resist export restrictions, as well as the provision of relevant data and policy recommendations in the early days of the pandemic. We would specifically like to reiterate the importance of FAO's agricultural market monitoring. The information generated is a valuable tool for policymakers and producers around the world.

Finally, Canada supports the draft Vision and Strategy of FAO's work on Nutrition, noting the importance of international trade and standard setting bodies in this vision and strategy.

Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

The United Kingdom would first like to thank the outgoing Bureau of the Committee on Commodity Problems and the excellent Secretariat for their work, particularly on moving a number of issues forward, and also to congratulate our distinguished colleague, Mr Gustaf Siriat from Indonesia, on his election as Chairperson of the incoming Bureau.

The United Kingdom is pleased to be elected as the representative of the Europe Regional Group and Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau, and we look forward to working closely with the Bureau and all the other Members.

The United Kingdom welcomes the updated draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition and appreciates the inclusive consultation process that went into developing it. We also underline the importance of food safety and plant and animal health in terms of achieving positive nutrition outcomes and, as the Report highlights, the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in this regard. We also encourage FAO to continue to strengthen its focus on an enhanced One Health approach to mitigate the risk of genetic diseases and support the development of science-based international standards, guidelines and recommendations, and the effect of mitigation measures for zoonosis control.

As the Report notes, FAO has a key role in providing timely and reliable data to inform decision-making and policy recommendations as well as in facilitating effective partnership internationally. The United Kingdom recognises the important work of the Committee, including in reviewing FAO's response to COVID-19, agricultural markets and trade, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Committee's mandate, and FAO's flagship publication 'The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets', the SOCO Report for 2020. With these comments, we endorse the Reports of the 73rd Extraordinary and the 74th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

Mr Tim KRÄNZLEIN (Switzerland)

Over the past years, the international community has progressively reached the understanding that the way food is currently produced, traded, and consumed is not sustainable.

Food systems need to be an integral part of the solution to the global challenges we face and markets and trade have an important role to play in the needed transformation of food systems.

Therefore, Switzerland welcomes that the Report of the 74th Session of the CCP stresses that markets and trade are an integral part of food systems and they should be given due consideration when addressing the need for sustainability in agriculture from a food systems approach perspective.

In these times of challenges and uncertainty, long-term predictions are important and working on best possible information on future scenarios is crucial. This makes comparative ex-ante risk analyses and risk assessment essential for sound decision-making.

Countries, but also actors along the supply chains of food systems are in need of not only short-term projections, but also of ex-ante analysis looking further into the future in order to ensure resilience to future shocks.

Switzerland therefore appreciates the recommendation of the CCP for FAO to enhance its capacity for ex-ante risk analysis and risk assessment and suggests for FAO to start to invest in this area, to strengthen its partnerships and to make available and accessible the results to actors along the value chains as a relevant modern public good.

With regard to the question of the role of trade in sustainable development of food systems, Switzerland can offer experience. Following a public vote, the Swiss Constitution addresses cross-border trade relations, which are required to contribute to the sustainable development of the agriculture and food sector. Therefore, we work with our trade partners to promote and strengthen sustainable food systems, e.g. through regular information sharing, dialogue and monitoring, but also by strengthening sustainable value chains in Regional Trade Agreements.

As this reflects what is currently happening in markets, FAO should take a lead role in sharing information and showcasing examples of trade and sustainable development in food and agriculture. This work will help inform a future normative backbone for trade as an important tool to promote the achievement of sustainable food systems.

This work by FAO will assist countries in their evidence-based promotion of sustainable food systems transformation, including through trade policy instruments.

Hence, it is important that FAO maintains, but also further strengthens and makes available its normative, science and evidence-based knowledge and remains the platform where issues related to markets and trade can be discussed in an integrated way.

Ms I-Lyn LOO (Australia)

Australia commends the work of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are pleased to endorse the findings and recommendations of the 73rd and 74th Sessions of the CCP. We welcome the greater emphasis placed on the linkages between trade and nutrition and would appreciate the CCP's future consideration of how countries' applications of trade and distribution policies affect food security. These policies are instrumental in the delivery of open and efficient trade, and thereby in reducing hunger and improving nutrition to achieve the SDGs.

Australia recognises the importance of open and stable agriculture and commodity markets in ensuring food security. We welcome FAO's demonstrated advocacy for the role of trade in mitigating a food crisis from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also appreciate FAO's continued focus on market and food security monitoring. To inform the design and implementation of effective policies for managing both long term (or chronic) and short term (or acute) food security challenges, the collection, analysis, and dissemination of quality data is needed. This approach is particularly important for Small Island Developing States in the Pacific. We therefore encourage FAO to continue to include the Pacific in these efforts and to work with other relevant Organizations in order to provide Pacific countries with the information that can best meet their needs.

Australia welcomes the CCP's recognition, through the State of Agricultural Commodity Market's 2020 Report, that digital technologies are becoming increasingly instrumental in supporting agricultural productivity and sustainability. Digital technologies also increase the safety, efficiency and inclusivity of trade in agriculture and food markets. We are pleased to see FAO's commitment to digital innovations such as eCert, ePhyto, the Global Information and Early Warning System

(GIEWS), and the Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS). All of these tools played a key role in maintaining market transparency and stability in the face of disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Australia is also investing in digital innovation and is currently developing the Digital Foundations for Agriculture Strategy. This Strategy aims to foster the uptake of Agtech across agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors, in Australia and globally. Australia has also recently provided additional support to Agriculture Market Information System and e-Phyto through a voluntary contribution. We look forward to working with FAO on these and other tools which support open and stable agriculture and commodity markets into the future.

Mr Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)

Japan has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. First of all, we welcome the Reports of the 73rd (Extraordinary) and the 74th Sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP).

On the Report of the 73rd Extraordinary Session, we would like to highlight some of the points as follows. We commend the FAO Secretariat for the inclusive consultative efforts, including within the CCP framework on the draft Vision and Strategy on FAO's work in Nutrition. We recognize the crucial role of markets and trade in contributing to healthy diets and ending food insecurity and malnutrition in all of its forms, especially for the poor and vulnerable. We also recognize that there is 'no one size fits all' solution, highlighting the diverse contextual realities of national circumstances and the large diversity of food systems.

Therefore, we call on FAO to continue strengthening its partnership with governments, and stress the importance of FAO's Decentralized Offices in the implementation of the Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition.

The Asia Group looks forward to the finalization of the draft Strategy and its Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan.

With regards to the Report of the 74th Session of CCP, we would like to highlight some pertinent points as follows. On COVID-19, Agricultural Markets and Trade, and FAO's response, the Asia Group stresses the urgency to address the multiple adverse effects caused by the pandemic on agri-food systems, and calls for particular attention to the needs of family and smallholder farmers and fishers (including Indigenous people and local communities).

On Commodity Market Situation and Short-term Outlook, we call for FAO to continue supporting Members in improving the timeliness and quality of data and statistics on production, utilization, trade, stocks, and process of food and agricultural commodities and to make the information available and accessible in a timely and regular manner.

On the Medium-term Outlook, we urge FAO to promote the uptake of the commodity medium-term projections and analysis by national and regional institutions, including through capacity development.

We emphasize the importance of digital technologies and electronic-based tools for facilitating trade. These can be leveraged to make agricultural and food markets more efficient, inclusive and sustainable, and urge the need to reduce the digital gap and promote the digitalization of agri-food systems through appropriate policies, regulations, and investments, particularly in rural areas.

We request FAO to continue strengthening its analytical and capacity development activities and to enhance knowledge on the contribution of agricultural markets and trade to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

On the 31st Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils, and Fats that took place on 4-5 March 2021, we noted that the Session could not conclude its agenda and decided to suspend the meeting and looked forward to the resumed session at the earliest possible opportunity.

With this statement, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Reports of the 73rd (Extraordinary) and 74th Sessions of the CCP.

Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to say thank you for the Report, we support the Joint Statement made by Japan on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. China supports the adoption of the Report and we welcome the work carried out by the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP). We have the following comments we would like to make. The Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition is a roadmap to improve diets. We think that eradicating hunger is the first stage to achieve healthy diets. Thus, it must be highlighted as a priority in the implementation plan.

China supports the proposal in the Report, to strengthen support for smallscale farmers so that they can be integrated into modern food value chains, and so that they can be offered support mechanisms and policies. We encourage FAO to provide holistic assistance to smallscale farmers in developing countries, closing the digital gap, taking into account online trade, especially for agricultural products, and creating an environment which is positive for the international trade and agricultural products.

Sr. José Luis DELGADO CRESPO (México)

Las conclusiones del Informe del 73 período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos son de importancia para México en cuanto que resaltan las acciones para contribuir a la disponibilidad de alimentos y a la eliminación de la inseguridad alimentaria. Dichas conclusiones también destacan la importancia y el valor de incluir a los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales, los pequeños productores y los agricultores familiares en las cadenas de valor alimentarias y en las estrategias para combatir el hambre y la malnutrición. Temas que son de gran importancia para México.

En cuanto a las conclusiones del Informe del 74 período de sesiones de este Comité, México las considera relevantes en virtud de que se revisa la situación de los mercados de productos básicos y las perspectivas en el contexto de la pandemia provocada por el COVID-19, así como la respuesta de la FAO. Este es un tema crucial para el sector agroalimentario, por lo que es importante continuar dando seguimiento a la información que la FAO presente, en particular, sobre las negociaciones agrícolas en la OMC, los acuerdos comerciales regionales y el apoyo de la propia FAO a los Estados Miembros.

Coincidimos también en la importancia de mantener reglas comerciales claras y de evitar medidas injustificadas de restricción al comercio para así fomentar la seguridad alimentaria de los países. Teniendo clara la importancia del comercio internacional, México considera que también es importante prestar mayor atención a los mercados locales.

La pandemia ha demostrado que tenemos como tarea pendiente entender mejor las dinámicas de los mercados y de las cadenas de suministro locales, especialmente de aquellos mercados que se encuentran en zonas urbanas y periurbanas pobres. Esto es relevante porque es en estos mercados en donde se puede tener un mayor impacto sobre la seguridad alimentaria de los países. Los mercados locales ofrecen, además, la oportunidad de llevar productos frescos y de temporada a los consumidores.

Es fundamental que la FAO continúe ayudando a entender cómo funcionan estos mercados para apoyarlos a proveer alimentos sanos, inocuos y asequibles para los consumidores de menos recursos, así como la forma en que los mercados locales interactúan con los mercados internacionales y que la promoción de ambos no es excluyente.

Con estos comentarios, México respalda los informes del 73 y 74 Período de Sesiones del CPP.

Ms Esti ANDAYANI (Indonesia)

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement made by Japan on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. Indonesia believes that production, market and trade of agricultural commodities plays a crucial role in the realisation of sustainable agri-food systems, and preventing hunger and malnutrition. In this context, the urgency of addressing most people's adverse effects caused by the pandemic in the sector of agricultural commodities, becomes even more pertinent. To tackle such challenges, Indonesia would like to highlight the following aspects.

First, stronger multistakeholder cooperation and greater mobilization of support will be key factors that determine the success of our common efforts. Availability of timely and reliable build-up of information to guide policy decisions are also instrumental in supporting Member countries to tackle emerging challenges, as well as increasing reliance.

In this regard, we hope that FAO will continue to play its important role in providing capacity development and resources, this on request of Member States, as well as facilitating knowledge sharing, and addressing risks and uncertainties related to food and agricultural commodity productions and trade, with particular attention to the needs of smallholder farmers and fishers.

Second, it is important to prevent trade restrictions that could potentially hamper the realization of food security and disrupt market and price regulating. Indeed, in line with World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments, we would like to re-affirm the importance of avoiding unnecessary and unjustified barriers to trade in agriculture's commodities markets.

Last but not least, taking into account the importance of ensuring sustainability of vegetable oil sector in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Indonesia looks forward to the preparation for the resumed Sessions of the 31st Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Oil seeds, Oils and Fats.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

Brazil welcomes the Reports of the 73rd and 74th Sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP).

During the 74th Session of the CCP we had an extensive debate on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food and agriculture, value chains, food prices, and food security across the globe.

We commend the active and leading role FAO has played in the process of informing policy decisions by implementing an array of tools to support policy analyses and assess the challenges we are facing since last year.

Brazil is concerned with the serious socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have been increasing world hunger.

This crisis has been an opportunity to assess the functioning of global supply chains during times of stress and pressure. We need to learn from that and we shall go farther. Comprehensive responses that seriously aim at "building back better" have to address the question of high tariff and non-tariff barriers that still abound in the international agricultural trade. This is aggravated by massive agricultural subsidies, which jeopardize the environment and block the development of robust agricultural sectors in the developing world.

In this sense, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the 2020 Report on the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets and commend its notable efforts to express a more balanced approach on many important issues of FAO's agenda, such as the role of well-functioning food and agricultural markets and international trade.

International trade and global value chains do not necessarily pose a threat to the environment or to sustainable growth.

Brazil considers that the best approach to grasp the complexities of our different realities is the concept of sustainable development. It continues to play a paramount role as a conceptual and political tool in recognizing the complex linkages between trade, climate change, food security, health and nutrition, or food systems. In this regard, the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – must be taken into account in a balanced and integrated way.

With these comments, Brazil supports the endorsement of the Reports of both Sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

Ms Cecilia JONES (Uruguay)

I would like to thank the Chairperson and congratulate her for the work done. Uruguay would like to endorse the Report and would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the importance of

addressing food security and nutrition with a system-wide view, and as such we agree that system change towards widespread sustainable and resilient agriculture is required. Change, where it is needed, has to follow a systemic and holistic approach based on science, drawing on local science-based innovation and traditional knowledge. Agricultural systems are heterogeneous, therefore virtuous cycles need to be acknowledged in trade and markets.

We would like an acknowledgement of the contribution of agricultural systems to environmental, social and economic issues. For example, Uruguay's livestock production on natural grasslands provides high quality nutritious food, and at the same time we provide water filtration, ecosystem services, prevention of nutrient run-off, carbon sequestration, shelter for wildlife, and improvement of biodiversity and support of rural and pastoral livelihoods without leading to deforestation.

We support climate-smart agriculture and science-based sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices that are appropriate at the local conditions, with farmers recognized as providers of these critical ecosystem services. Agri-food systems need to be held accountable where appropriate. However, we should highlight the major contribution agriculture has to the solution of climate change. Forests, plantations and grasslands, together with the oceans, are recycling and capturing carbon dioxide today.

Regarding markets and trade, we welcome the Report and would like to endorse a statement given by [XX], as President of the Agricultural Council of the South, CAST: unjustified barriers and restrictions to trade of agricultural products are not accepted, and the recognition of sustainable, resilient food production systems needs to be acknowledged.

Mr Asmerom KIDANE TECLEGHIORGHIS (Eritrea)

Eritrea, Nigeria, Ghana and Eswatini prepared a statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group (ARG) and the State of Eritrea is honoured to present the statement on the 73rd Extraordinary Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems under the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition and on the 74th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, which were conducted virtually in January and March 2021, respectively.

FAO's achievements are great in the areas of commodity markets and trade through providing regular and timely updates of crop conditions, global supply and demand situations, price movements and policy developments. On top of that, FAO has facilitated the exchange of knowledge and policy dialogues between producing and consuming countries of basic food commodities, which is very important to all, but particularly to developing countries.

However, most developing countries and particularly African countries are located in a very harsh climate, where most of the countries are experiencing crop losses due to inconvenient natural disasters such as climate change, high temperatures, floods and other negative aspects. As a consequence, hunger has been rising in Africa.

Although FAO's achievements in the areas of commodity markets and trade, through providing regular and timely updates of crop conditions, global supply and policy developments is appreciated, at the same time, intensive and fast work is required to address policies and mechanisms that promote sustainable outcomes, economic, social and environmental, in agricultural and food markets. And as a whole, it is required to bring together many aspects of the evolution of markets and trade, in which smallholder farmers in developing countries and particularly in Africa participate in value chains and markets; to contribute towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals.

The trade policies and trade agreements need to be transparent and open, especially in times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic and needs to improve the capacity of food and agriculture to integrate better in modern global value chains in harnessing food and agricultural markets and trade to support the realization of the 2030 Agenda. Particularly at this point of time, vaccines against COVID-19 are progressing fast in almost all developed countries; but due to unfair allocation and unfair trade it is so far behind in developing countries, and definitely this could impact food security and nutrition. Therefore, at this point in time Rome-based Agencies and other United Nations Organizations and Agencies should coordinate and draw attention to fair distribution of vaccines, particularly to developing countries. This needs fast action as it is part and parcel of trade and food security.

We also welcome the Committee's appreciation and recommendation that Members correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions as well as eliminate and not create unnecessary and unjustified barriers to trade in agricultural markets. These is a major recommendation in light of the fact that food trade and distribution is often impeded by disguised restrictions, also known as no-tariff barriers (NTBs), that have nothing to do with food quality and safety. These must be eliminated to facilitate food trade and distribution especially in export markets.

Markets should reflect all pertinent linkages, such as agriculture with food security, economic growth, poverty eradication, employment, environment, natural resources management, and nutrition and health, which could be implemented in parallel in all the Sustainable Development Goals. It is appreciated that both Sessions and Reports discussed policies and mechanisms that harness agricultural and food markets to contribute towards the Sustainable Development Goals; to the extent in which smallholder farmers in developing countries participate in value chains.

Therefore, the ARG endorses the Reports of the 73rd and 74th Sessions of CCP and recommends FAO to provide technical assistance in an upgraded manner and sustainable way so that all developing countries can be involved actively in upgrading work in market, trade and nutrition to combat all forms of malnutrition and invite the Conference to endorse the decisions and recommendations of the CCP.

Mr Sean COX (United States of America)

The United States thanks the Secretariat and the Committee for all their hard work in the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP).

We agree with the Committee's conclusions recognizing the key role that well-functioning markets and trade can play in bolstering the resilience of agriculture and food systems, not only in challenging times such as the global pandemic, but also to continue to support development and economic growth.

We join other Members in highlighting the importance of international trade as a powerful instrument for expanding markets and promoting value chains, not only for the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, but also for sustainable development of agriculture and food systems in its three dimensions; social, economic and environmental.

The United States fully aligns itself with the Committee's consensus about the importance of adhering to international standards, including those set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Animal Health Organization (OIE), to facilitate and expedite trade in food and agriculture.

Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)

España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la Unión Europea en nombre propio y de sus 27 Estados Miembros, al tiempo que deseamos hacer hincapié en los siguientes aspectos concretos en relación con este punto del orden del día.

En primer lugar, instamos a la FAO a que continúe colaborando con la Organización Mundial del Comercio, respetando el mandato de cada institución y evitando inmiscuirse en los temas que son competencia de la OMC y no de FAO. Siempre con el objetivo de garantizar que el comercio multilateral sea abierto, transparente, no discriminatorio, inclusivo y basado en las propias reglas emanadas de la OMC y de conformidad con los compromisos reflejados en sus acuerdos.

Segundo, destacamos a su vez la importancia de mantener la transparencia del comercio agrario y de que FAO siga aportando datos fidedignos sobre productos básicos que reduzcan la volatilidad de los precios y que contribuyan a orientar las políticas para afrontar los importantes desafíos planteados por la pandemia del COVID-19, especialmente a través del respaldo al sistema de información sobre el mercado agrícola y el sistema mundial de información y alertas sobre la alimentación y la agricultura.

Tercero, alentamos a FAO a que siga reforzando su colaboración con la OCDE, especialmente en el contexto de la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios de 2021 y a que se profundice en su capacidad de análisis del riesgo y prospectiva, incluso de cara a la próxima década.

Con estos comentarios, Señor Presidente y queridos colegas, respaldamos los informes del Septuagésimo Tercero y Septuagésimo Cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos.

Sr. Willian Ramiro VILLARPANDO CAMARGO (Bolivia, Estado plurinacional de)

A nombre de mi país, el Estado plurinacional de Bolivia, voy a expresar el agradecimiento por esta oportunidad de dirigirnos a los diferentes oradores de los diferentes países. El apoyo que hemos recibido de la FAO en este período de pandemia ha sido fundamental porque hemos podido aunar esfuerzos para generar abastecimiento a nuestra población.

Bolivia venía después de 14 años de hacer esfuerzos de inversiones públicas para fortalecer el sector agropecuario, pero con el efecto del COVID se han visto diezmadas nuestras capacidades de producción en la primera etapa del COVID y, además del abastecimiento y el acceso a la alimentación, hemos tenido que hacer esfuerzos junto a la cooperación y allí es importante el trabajo que nos han prestado la cooperación internacional y, en especial, FAO para organizar y junto a nuestros productores generar el abastecimiento interno para la población boliviana.

En ese marco, en Bolivia no hemos tenido escasez de alimentos porque la producción no está abastecida. Sin embargo, ahora que estamos empezando a reactivar nuestra producción y nuestra economía por las diferencias de producción, por las diferencias competitivas con otros países, estamos empezando a sentir el efecto del contrabando de los países de alrededor hacia Bolivia. Y eso nos está poniendo en un estado de inestabilidad frente a nuestros productores hacia el mercado.

Entonces, estamos haciendo en este momento esfuerzos necesarios para que podamos controlar de alguna manera el flujo de productos básicos de los otros países y que no afecte a nuestros productores que son, en realidad, los pequeños productores los que se sienten afectados en su capacidad de producción, puesto que en el mercado una vez que llegan con su producto se tiene abarrotado de productos. Allí tenemos que hacer algunas formas de control interno para tratar de controlar y fortalecer nuestro sistema de control del contrabando.

Bolivia en este momento está elaborando su segundo ciclo de planificación de mediano plazo, donde estamos priorizando, sobre todo, la producción de la agricultura familiar campesina. Creemos que este nivel de producción de nuestros pequeños productores debería y está ligada a nuestro abastecimiento. Sin embargo, en este período de la pandemia se ha visibilizado, además, una agricultura urbana-periurbana que estaba tibiamente, antes de la pandemia generando alguna alimentación.

Puesto que en las principales ciudades los círculos de migración rural hacia el área urbana ha traído gente que en ese momento de la pandemia ha tenido que encontrar formas de producir su propio alimento y allí hemos empezado a ver que hay una fuerte capacidad de producción de alimentos de la agricultura familiar. En ese marco estamos haciendo, en este momento con la FAO, algunos análisis para ver los efectos del COVID y cómo fortalecemos a la agricultura familiar y también a esta agricultura urbana-periurbana que ha alimentado en este tiempo a nuestra población.

Nos adherimos a todos los documentos. Estamos de acuerdo con los documentos generados, sobretodo el tema de productos básicos, pero estamos empezando a mirar los esfuerzos en cooperación, de transferencias de tecnología, ver el apoyo de los otros países. Eso es en cuanto tenemos que mencionar desde Bolivia. Muchas gracias, Señora Presidenta.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Le pido disculpas por haberme excedido en el tiempo, pero es el único lugar donde tenemos la posibilidad de poder decir nuestras posiciones y a veces es difícil hacerlo en el tiempo justo. Entonces, tenemos siempre la opción que nos permite el procedimiento de volver a pedir el uso de la palabra.

Así que, en ese sentido, es que le pido su indulgencia y considerando que mi querido colega de Paraguay se refirió en su intervención a una declaración muy relevante emitida por el Consejo Agropecuario del Sur, me gustaría simplemente mencionar que el Consejo Agropecuario del Sur, CAS, es el foro ministerial de consulta y coordinación de acciones regionales integrado por los Ministros de Agricultura de Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Paraguay y Uruguay. Tiene como

objetivo fundamental definir las prioridades de la agenda agropecuaria y tomar posiciones sobre temas de interés regional con el fin de articular el desarrollo de acciones acordadas.

Simplemente quería hacer esa referencia porque la declaración que leyó el delegado de Paraguay se refería específicamente a la posición de los países firmantes de esa declaración del Consejo Agropecuario del Sur.

Mr Naoki HAYASAKA (Japan)

In addition to the previous Japanese comments we have two very short comments.

Firstly, we appreciate the importance of digitalization and we emphasize it from the viewpoint of enhancing market transparency and promoting timely and appropriate sharing of information regarding promotion of the digitalization in the food supply chain. In this context, in order to promote the digitalization of the food supply chain, it is important to manage information appropriately and properly in private aspect.

Secondly, after COVID-19, we recognize the importance of resilience of food supply chains. In this context, as well as global food trade, it is important that local production for local consumption ensures supply chains, with each country's circumstances.

Mr Gustaf Daud SIRAIT (Indonesia) (Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems)

I want to thank all delegations stating their interventions, which I have listened to very attentively. Thank you for your endorsement on the Reports of the two Sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), and I wish to also convey great appreciation for the different important aspects that you have highlighted from the CCP Report, your rehighlighting of our work will provide us with great impetus in our future work as a Bureau or as a Committee. All of that is very important.

You have highlighted the importance of well-functioning markets and trade to the availability and accessibility of food, and thank you for highlighting the importance for accessibility for the poor and vulnerable and also strengthening support to smallholder farmers. Of course, this is very interesting, how the potential production capacity of family farmers should be also strengthened.

Thank you for the value of synergy and partnership that has also been raised, and of course the COVID-19 impact needs to be reviewed by all of us and we need to analyse all the impacts, the adverse impacts of this pandemic.

Thank you for the importance of data and analysis in guiding our policies; digital technologies, we agree, will be instrumental, along with capacity building on that. Thank you very much once again for the encouraging, positive feedback on the work of FAO.

Later on with your permission Chairperson, I wish to also invite our Chief Economist, Mr Máximo Torero, to highlight specific points that have been raised by the interventions from the Members.

To conclude, thank you very much once again, very heartened for your encouraging support on the work of CCP. We could not do it without your excellent contribution, your generosity and cooperation.

Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)

FAO is going to be and wants to be at the frontier of knowledge in this topic. We are going to do as much as we can, because it is crucial. Transparency of information, data on trade mobility, data on logistics of trade, data on global value chains, local value chains, showing and bringing evidence to show that both complement each other and they do not substitute each other, and bringing all the information we can, to reduce asymmetries of information in markets through the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) is central for us.

You have all seen what we did during the COVID-19 pandemic, to avoid countries imposing export restrictions, and this is a day-to-day work that the trade team, led by Mr Boubaker does, and tracks the information. Two days ago, we had the AMIS meeting and we are up to date and in terms of information sharing, so that all countries are aware and therefore minimize the risks of things that could exacerbate any potential crisis. We do not need a crisis today, we need to find all that we can do

to avoid that to happen and that is where information, high frequency data and calming markets will be crucial.

The SOCO, the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets is an excellent publication and I think, this year, it was an extremely successful publication which touched topics which are extremely sensitive, and we took all your advice for the following SOCO, so that we can do a comprehensive analysis of the effects of COVID-19, but also bring new innovations into the topic.

The importance of the work of trade will be continued and we will keep improving our modelling capacities and our partnership with Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD) and FAO, as it was mentioned by you, we will soon be launching the new Outlook between OECD and FAO, and that is a central publication because it looks at the future and looks at how markets are evolving and what will be the potential effects on the future. We will keep updating and innovating on the modelling tools that we have.

Of course, in terms of risk, as I mentioned before, and it was mentioned also in the presentation of the Director-General, FAO is working intensively in creating a situation room. We have the GIEWS, the Early Warning System, but we are combining all the Early Warning Systems we have at FAO so that we can promote and increase our capacity to help countries with Early Warning Systems that could minimize the risks and could alert them early of potential problems that they have to face.

I think all your comments will be extremely taken into consideration, and I also thank you enormously for approving the Nutrition Strategy which is already in the process of implementation. We are already doing advocacy and transparently transmitting the information across the technical groups, the regions, so that we can move forward.

Ms Nancy Aburto is working very hard with her team in the Nutrition Division to start transferring all the information so that everybody understands what we are trying to do with a new Strategy for Nutrition.

With that, let me thank you again for your feedback, and we will keep pushing as I mentioned initially for FAO to be at the frontier in all these topics.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank all of you who made interventions, which have been well received. My conclusions for Sub-Item 11.2 therefore will be as follows:

Reports of the 73rd and 74th Sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

The Conference endorsed the Reports of the 73rd Extraordinary and 74th Sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) and, in particular, underlined the importance of international agricultural trade and FAO's work on agricultural market information and analysis, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Are there any comments to the Chairperson's conclusions?

This therefore concludes our discussions on Agenda Sub-Item 11.2.

Item 11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:

Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:

Tema 11. Asuntos mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:

Item 11.3 Report of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (1-5 February 2021)

Point 11.3 Rapport de la trente-quatrième session du Comité des pêches (1-5 février 2021)

Tema 11.3 Informe del 34.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (1-5 de febrero de 2021)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move to Agenda Sub-Item 11.3, *Report of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries*, which was held between the 1st and the 5th February 2021.

I invite the Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries, Mr Shingo Ota from Japan.

Mr Shingo OTA (Japan) (Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries)

The 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held from 1 to 5 February 2021 in a virtual manner for the first time in its history. I participated in the Session as the First Vice-Chairperson and was elected as Chairperson of the 35th Session of COFI at the end of the Session. I am very pleased to report the outcomes of the 34th Session of COFI on behalf of the Committee.

I would like to start by sharing the sad news of the passing of Mr Fabio Hazin, Chair of COFI from 2014-2016, from COVID-19 complications. Mr Hazin also chaired the technical consultations for the FAO Small-scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines, and the technical consultation leading to the adoption of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). He also served as Chairperson of the meetings of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement among many other duties. The thoughts of the FAO community are with his family, and the families of all that suffered the consequences of the pandemic.

The main outcomes of COFI 34 are:

The Committee endorsed the 2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture to renew its commitment to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Committee recognized the transformations in the sector since the endorsement of the Code and urged FAO to refocus priorities to secure the long-term sustainability and resilience of the sector.

The Committee called FAO and COFI Members, consistent with the Declaration, to bring fisheries and aquaculture fully into the preparations for the United Nations Food Systems Summit.

The Committee welcomed the further development of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture in 2021 and requested FAO to consider guidance for concrete actions for the sector.

The Committee emphasized the importance of reinforcing support to communities whose livelihoods depend on small-scale and artisanal fisheries. In this regard, the Committee requested FAO to intensify its support to Members. This includes promotion of the importance of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in relevant events in relation to the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022.

The Committee requested FAO to enhance technical guidance on mainstreaming climate adaptation and mitigation in fisheries management and aquaculture development.

The Committee encouraged FAO to continue supporting Members in the implementation of the instruments, including the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, to combat IUU fishing. The Committee also stressed that further efforts should be made to address the challenges faced in combatting IUU fishing, including the development of technical guidelines, such as the draft voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment.

The Committee requested FAO to continue strengthening its work on achieving sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through collaborative approaches with relevant global and regional organizations, bodies and initiatives.

The Committee requested FAO to continue to work with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and related fora, to help ensure that their decisions and implementation are based on the best scientific information available and relevant technical information.

The Committee agreed to continue the transparent and inclusive consultation process on the proposal for the establishment of a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, under the leadership of the

Chairperson of COFI, or myself, and looked forward to a proposal to be submitted to the 35th Session of COFI.

Finally, the Committee elected me as Chairperson of COFI 35 as well as six Vice-Chairpersons from Canada, Chile, Kuwait, New Zealand, Senegal and Spain. On an exceptional basis, the Committee mandated the Bureau Members to identify, from among themselves, the member to serve as first Vice-Chairperson. During the first Meeting of COFI 35 Bureau on 18 February 2021, Mr Sultan Al-Otaibi from Kuwait was identified as the first Vice-Chairperson.

The Report of COFI 34 was already considered during the 166th Session of the Council in late April. I would also like to report that, in addition to what I have just reported, the Council reiterated the importance for the COFI Secretariat to use multilaterally agreed concepts and language and give preference to those adopted by FAO Governing Bodies in their work. The Council also requested that an Annotated Provisional Agenda for the 35th Session of COFI be made available in all FAO languages at least eight weeks before the start of the Session so that Members will have sufficient time for preparation.

This concludes my presentation. The Conference is invited to review the conclusions and recommendations of the 34th Session of COFI and endorse its Report.

CHAIRPERSON

At this stage I would just like to say that one of the skills of a good Chairperson is time management, and I would really encourage you to help me discharge my duties as efficiently as possible in all interests, and in the interests of a good Session of this Commission.

What I think I would suggest for you to consider, is though we have given you five minutes, at four minutes thirty seconds, if you are still on the floor, I will interject by saying, 'thirty seconds more', so that you will have the ability to wind up without my having to interject and actually stop you – which is something that I would really not want to do.

If you could assist me with my time management I would be very grateful, and I think it would be in the interest of all of us, because we are looking at this particular Item, we have about 15 hands up, so we really need to make sure that we manage our time as efficiently as possible.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

Brazil endorses of the Report of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

We particularly would like to commend FAO's work on small-scale fisheries. In Brazil, artisanal fisheries have a special social relevance. It accounts for the predominant share of our production, making this community a priority concern, which we have been addressing through supporting projects and actions.

Therefore, it was with great satisfaction that Brazil welcomed *target 14.B* of the Sustainable Development Goals, which echoes the provisions of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, by requiring United Nations members to provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

We hope the upcoming International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture will be able to shed even more light on this community. We commend FAO for the efforts conducted to this end, as well as the Government of Peru for its leadership in the International Steering Committee.

Among COFI's conclusions, we also applaud the decision on the further development of the *Global Integrated Sustainable Aquaculture Programme*, considering middle-income countries, and the further development of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture*.

At the same time, we would like to reiterate our commitment to fighting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Brazil has been sparing no efforts in updating and improving its legal framework and surveillance systems and is pleased to inform progress in areas such as registration of fishermen and vessels, satellite monitoring and catch records.

Furthermore, we welcome the creation of the working group on the establishment of a new sub-committee on fisheries management, under the leadership of the Chairperson of COFI. You can count on our engagement in this discussion on how to achieve better and more in-depth debate on fisheries management with adequate representation and participation of developing countries.

Additionally, we welcome *the High Level Declaration*, hoping it will help guide us through any outstanding concerns in the management of fisheries and aquaculture.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Ota for his kind words about Dr. Fábio Hazin, his passing away last week, after a lifetime of relentless dedication and commitment to promoting fisheries and the Law of the Sea, was a great loss, not only to Brazil, but to the fisheries community as a whole.

Whilst his passing is being greatly felt, we hope his legacy will live on through the various ideas and projects he has helped shape and develop, always with a lot of passion. We hope his family, friends and colleagues can find solace in this difficult moment.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Primero que todo, quisiéramos expresar nuestras condolencias al gobierno y al pueblo de Brasil y a la familia del Doctor Hazin.

Durante el 34 COFI celebramos los 25 años del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable que fue adoptado por unanimidad el 31 de octubre de 1995 y sus principios generales cobran más vigencia que nunca. Nuestra región posee un vínculo histórico con el océano de acuerdo con la publicación SOFIA 2020, es las Américas la producción en 2018 ascendió a 14% respecto de la producción mundial de pesca y acuicultura, con excepción de China.

Entre los 25 productores mundiales de pesca y acuicultura se encuentran cuatro países de América Latina y el Caribe: Perú, Chile, México y Argentina. La pesca y la acuicultura forman parte de nuestra identidad regional y es una base fundamental para el desarrollo social, económico y cultural de nuestros países. La pesca y acuicultura son un pilar importante en nuestro matiz productivo y exportador, como a su vez relevamos el valor de la pesca artesanal y el papel que juegan las mujeres en esta área que, sin duda, contribuye al valor agregado de la actividad y que fue invisibilizado por mucho tiempo.

En este contexto, celebramos la adopción de la Declaración de 2021 del Comité de Pesca en favor de la pesca y la acuicultura sostenible que renueva nuestro compromiso con economías marinas sostenibles e inclusivas. Asimismo, recalcamos la importancia de fortalecer las herramientas de fiscalización y sanción de la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada, reconociendo que esto afecta la sustentabilidad de los recursos marinos, amenaza la seguridad alimentaria, perjudica a quienes cumplen con la normativa del sector y generan cuantiosas pérdidas económicas.

Al inicio de este mes se llevó a cabo la tercera reunión de las partes del Acuerdo de medidas del Estado rector del puerto, único acuerdo vinculante que aborda directamente el combate de la pesca INDNR. Queremos destacar el sostenido incremento de Miembros que adhirieron a este acuerdo y que trabajan con FAO por el adecuado control de las capturas pesqueras en los puertos y del intercambio de información vital para evitar que la pesca INDNR ingrese a las cadenas de comercialización y mercados internacionales.

Apoyamos el proceso de desarrollo de las directrices para la estimación del nivel de pesca INDNR que está llevando a cabo la FAO y esperamos que sean usadas por todos los Estados Miembros cuando estén finalizadas. Destacamos asimismo la publicación de FAO sobre trasbordos y apoyamos el desarrollo de directrices voluntarias sobre la regulación, el seguimiento y el control de las operaciones de trasbordo e invitamos a otros Estados Miembros de la FAO a participar en su desarrollo. Uno de los grandes desafíos es el cambio climático, el cual está causando una importante alteración de la abundancia y distribución de las especies.

Debemos avanzar en medidas concretas en adaptación al cambio climático, especialmente formando alianzas de cooperación en esta materia. Creemos que se debe continuar entendiendo este fenómeno a través de un desarrollo científico y la creación de capacidades institucionales y locales para su adaptación, tomando acciones como la diversificación productiva de la pesca y acuicultura. Esperamos

que, en su próxima edición, el Comité de Pesca y la FAO considere iniciar un trabajo con el objetivo de elaborar directrices técnicas para facilitar la rápida adopción de las mejores prácticas que ayudarán a pescadores y acuicultores y comunidades costeras a adaptarse al calentamiento del océano.

Sobre los alimentos que derivan de la pesca y la acuicultura, es importante resaltar su relevante aporte a la nutrición, aportando proteínas, vitaminas, minerales y ácidos grasos saludables, especialmente relevantes para una dieta saludable de mujeres embarazadas y niños pequeños. El crecimiento poblacional proyectado, además de las nuevas tendencias de consumo de las personas, significará que requeriremos más productos del mar. La pesca alcanzó hace casi tres décadas su máximo de producción global, por lo que será la continua expansión de la acuicultura la que permitirán continuarán proveyendo productos del mar para atender la creciente demanda mundial de estos alimentos.

Este sostenido crecimiento de la acuicultura requiere que ocurra de una forma ambientalmente sustentable, por lo que saludamos la elaboración de directrices voluntarias para la acuicultura sostenible en 2021 como instrumento para apoyar la elaboración de políticas nacionales del sector de la acuicultura.

La pesca y la acuicultura continuarán adquiriendo cada día más importancia para la seguridad alimentaria y, en este sentido, debemos tener claro los grandes desafíos que debemos enfrentar.

Finalmente, debemos recordar que el año 2022 es el Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura de Pequeña Escala, IYAFA 2022, siendo esta una invaluable oportunidad para destacar la importancia de la pesca artesanal y la acuicultura a pequeña escala para nuestros sistemas alimentarios, medios de vida, cultura y medio ambiente.

Con estos comentarios, Chile endosa el Informe del 34 COFI.

Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)

Indonesia delivers this Joint statement on behalf of the Asia Group.

The State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020 (SOFIA 2020) reconfirmed that Asia has continued to be the largest contributor to fisheries and aquaculture production. The region relies on fishery products for daily food and hence achieving sustainable use of fishery resources is of our great interest. In this regard, the Members of the Asia group stress the importance of achieving sustainable use of aquatic living resources in accordance with relevant management instruments and tools at the global, regional and national scales.

25 years have passed since the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which forms an important basis of the Fisheries Sector and guides each Member to develop and improve its fisheries sector in a sustainable manner. The 25th Anniversary of the Code provided us with an opportunity to review various progress made in accordance with the Code, and thereby we could elaborate and endorse the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture at the 34th Session of the COFI, which highlighted what has yet to be achieved and updated important agenda for the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector. We request FAO to bring the Declaration to global attention in various fora, including the United Nations Food Systems Summit, as a unified voice from the fisheries sector.

With a view to accomplishing what are provided in the Declaration, the Asia Group also encourages FAO to further collaborate with Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other relevant international organizations, including the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Whaling Commission (IWC) and so forth, while ensuring efficiency in its work through avoiding duplication of work.

The Asia Group places great importance on eliminating Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, which now constitutes the central element of the Code. In particular, we commend the COFI's decision to elaborate a set of voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of

transshipment and would like to thank FAO for providing the results of its in-depth study which will become a solid basis of the guidelines. We believe that the guidelines will complement the existing global instruments and tools for combatting IUU fishing, such as the Port State Measures Agreement, Catch Documentation Schemes, etc, while recognizing that the development of the technical guidelines must not impede regional efforts to address transshipment.

As for the proposal of establishing a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, the Asia Group welcomes the initiative by the newly elected Chairperson from Japan, to start the discussion in the Open-Ended Working Group through a transparent and inclusive process leading up to the 35th Session of COFI in 2022. We believe that transparency and inclusiveness are the key to lead us to a consensus on this complex issue.

Finally, the Asia Group strongly supports the call to review the working arrangements of 35th Session of COFI in consultation with the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the Chairpersons of the other FAO Technical Committees, as agreed in the 166th Session of the Council.

Mr Donald Geoffrey SYME (New Zealand)

We endorse the Report's recommendations. We are happy to see the recognition on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) Report that, despite our shared concern that global trends and aggregate figures for fishing continue to head in the wrong direction to achieve SDG 14, there is some positive progress being made in many parts of the world and this should be recognized.

Over the last year and a half, COVID-19 has resulted in unique and significant challenges to all parts of the seafood sector and the analysis and policy advice of FAO has been very important in this regard. There are also longer-term climate change impacts that are presenting new challenges, a greater focus on the effects of climate change on the sectors is needed, including an investigation of ways to mitigate and adapt to these.

Despite many improvements to manage Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, fisheries management continues to be undermined. We are aware of many of the issues, but now we need commitment to close the gaps at all levels. In this light, we are very supportive of the study on transshipment and look forward to an inclusive process to develop transshipment guidelines.

Given the importance of achieving a World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies outcome this year, we highlight FAO's important role in addressing harmful fisheries subsidies. FAO has technical expertise to support countries, at their request, to move away from subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing through their support for national plans of action on IUU.

In order to provide the needed increased impetus and momentum, the development and approval of the COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture was very timely. The consultative process means we have a Member-agreed reference document to guide FAO's work on fisheries and aquaculture.

Fisheries and aquaculture need to have a prominent place in FAO's revised Strategic Framework, particularly considering their important role in achieving sustainable food systems. We support the change to the name of the Fisheries Division to Fisheries and Aquaculture and we are glad this is being considered at this Conference.

Finally, we welcome the call to bring fisheries and aquaculture fully into the discussions and the preparations leading up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit. In particular, the ocean is at the centre of the Pacific food system with the Western and Central Pacific Ocean supplying over half of the world's tuna catch and coastal fisheries being integral to regional food security.

Sr. Alejandro José VELÁSQUEZ BARRIONUEVO (Perú)

En el Perú nos encontramos muy satisfechos con los acuerdos alcanzados en el Trigésimo Cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca de la FAO. En primer lugar, el Perú concuerda con la importancia del trabajo realizado por la FAO en la edición del SOFIA 2020, el cual constituye una herramienta fundamental de información para nosotros, los Miembros, a fin de afrontar de una mejor manera el reto de reactivar nuestras economías de la mano de la sostenibilidad de los recursos

pesqueros y acuícolas. Coincidimos también en que, en sus futuras ediciones, el SOFIA cuente con un proceso de elaboración cada vez más participativo y con una más amplia difusión.

Acogemos que el Comité haya hecho suya la declaración de 2021 en favor de la pesca y la acuicultura sostenibles con el fin de renovar su compromiso con el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable. En el marco de dicho código y acuerdos vinculantes en biodiversidad, el Perú ha declarado a varias especies como protegidas, entre otras acciones. Coincidimos en la importancia otorgada por el Comité a la ejecución de la iniciativa sobre el crecimiento azul de la FAO en apoyo de la Agenda 2030. El Perú está implementando acciones concordantes con el crecimiento azul, incorporando en las medidas regulatorias el conocimiento científico, así como mecanismos más eficaces para el control y vigilancia de las actividades pesqueras y marítimas.

En relación con la constante lucha en contra de la pesca INDNR, reconocemos también el importante papel del registro mundial de buques de pesca, transporte refrigerado y suministro en la aplicación del Acuerdo sobre MERP. El Perú fue el segundo país de América Latina en implementar el mencionado registro. Asimismo, nos sumamos al pedido del Comité a la FAO de continuar apoyando a los Miembros en la elaboración y aplicación de planes de acción nacionales para combatir la pesca INDNR.

Saludamos también la decisión de proseguir el proceso de consultas sobre la propuesta para el establecimiento de un nuevo subcomité de ordenación pesquera. Al respecto, nos hemos incorporado al grupo de trabajo que se constituyó para delimitar las propuestas del grupo de acción conjunto, el cual creemos firmemente que logrará efectuar una propuesta definitiva al Comité para su próximo período de sesiones.

Finalmente, queremos expresar nuestro agradecimiento al Comité por haber expresado su compromiso con la celebración del Año internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanales, IYAFA en 2022, cuyo Comité directivo internacional preside el Perú. Desde dicho comité, nos encontramos trabajando con los Miembros y la secretaría para poder implementar el plan de acción global del IYAFA, así como su hoja de ruta. Asimismo, saludamos las actividades de los Comités regionales preparatorios para la celebración del IYAFA, lo cual ayudará a dar los enfoques regionales necesarios.

Deseamos concluir esta intervención invitando a todos los Miembros y asociados de la FAO a encontrar información en su página web y a formar parte de las actividades del IYAFA 2022, ya que resulta necesario que nuestras acciones se encuentren orientadas y coordinadas para contribuir a una reactivación económica que asegure la sostenibilidad y continuidad de las actividades pesquera y acuícola artesanales y en pequeña escala.

Mr Sultan J. SH ALOTAIBI (Kuwait) (Original Language Arabic)

We wish to thank the FAO for all the issues that are of pertinence to fisheries and aquaculture. We wish to indicate that it is essential to continue upgrading our indicators in these two vital sectors that are essential to a regional food security and that can help in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We wish to commend the results that we have achieved. It is also extremely essential to build on the technological needs that we have in order to include youth in the programmes and it is also very important to insist on the importance of the monitoring activities in these sectors.

The Near East Group also welcomes the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, with its innovative solutions and which cooperates with all regions and countries and also coordinates with the Rome-based Agencies, while working on the Strategic Framework of FAO. It expends all the energy and initiatives possible in order to guarantee the success of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Finally, the Near East Group declares its support to all the recommendations that have been endorsed in this Report.

Sr. José Luis DELGADO CRESPO (México)

Para iniciar esta intervención expresamos también nuestras sinceras condolencias a Brasil por la lamentable pérdida de Fabio Hazin.

México desea destacar los siguientes puntos en relación con el contenido del Informe del COFI 34:

En primer lugar, el renovado compromiso con el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable que reconoce las transformaciones del sector desde su aprobación y la necesidad de reorientar las prioridades para garantizar la sostenibilidad y la resiliencia en el sector a largo plazo;

La necesidad de que el trabajo relacionado con el apoyo a la pesca en pequeña escala y artesanal continúe profundizándose y de que la FAO intensifique el apoyo a los Miembros en este campo;

La importancia de que se siga prestando apoyo técnico en el marco de las negociaciones sobre las subvenciones a la pesca mantenidas en la Organización Mundial del Comercio;

La relevancia que tienen en su esfera de competencia las organizaciones regionales de ordenación pesquera y los órganos asesores regionales de pesca en la aplicación de los instrumentos internacionales, como los dirigidos a combatir la pesca INDNR. En estas organizaciones, México siempre ha pugnado porque las decisiones que se tomen sean en base a la mejor evidencia científica disponible; y

La importancia de apoyar la toma de decisiones con datos precisos, particularmente a través de las funciones de la FAO de recopilación, análisis y difusión de estadísticas.

En este sentido, se refrenda el compromiso del gobierno de México por continuar con las labores para el desarrollo de una pesca responsable a través de la permanente aplicación de las disposiciones del Código de Conducta, al ser uno de los países que impulsaron su formulación. Y de aprovechar la oportunidad de que reuniones de esta naturaleza contribuyan a una mejor comprensión de los desafíos globales y al compromiso continuo con la pesca responsable.

También coincidimos en que la pesca y la acuicultura son sectores que ofrecen un enorme potencial para pasar de la estrategia a la acción y son prioritarios para México. Reconocemos la importancia que tiene este sector en la seguridad alimentaria, además de ser un pilar fundamental de desarrollo económico y un importante generador de empleos.

En consonancia con lo anterior, México ha fijado tres objetivos prioritarios en su Programa nacional de pesca y acuicultura 2020-2024: que la pesca y la acuicultura contribuyan a la seguridad alimentaria del país, particularmente de la población ubicada en zonas rurales; mejorar el ingreso y reducir la pobreza de comunidades pesqueras y acuícolas; y, tres, garantizar el aprovechamiento sustentable de los recursos pesqueros y acuícolas de interés comercial.

Con estos comentarios, México respalda el Informe del 34 período de sesiones del COFI.

Mr Jörg ROOS (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries, Turkey and Montenegro, as well as the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the Report of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in which the European Union and its Member States actively participated, promoting a post-COVID-19 recovery for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors based on enhanced resilience and sustainability.

Given the circumstances, in particular the fact that this was the first virtual COFI meeting, involving so many countries across the world, the European Union and its Member States appreciate positively the outcome of the COFI Session, as reflected in its meeting Report, and are resolutely engaged in the follow-up work for the implementation of its decisions.

We welcome in particular the COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture. We wish to express, however, our disappointment with the fact that the time devoted to discussing a number of substantive issues was insufficient in view of their importance and did not allow the appropriate involvement of Observers. Further efforts are needed to ensure full inclusiveness of discussions at the next 35th Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries, regardless of its format.

Moreover, the European Union and its Member States wish to reiterate their disappointment with the late availability of the COFI Session documents and linguistic versions, especially since the meeting

took place in virtual format. We urge FAO to ensure the timely availability of documents, which is crucial for an adequate preparation and supporting high quality discussions.

We note that it is intended to hold the next Session of the COFI from 5-9 September 2022. That is right after the month of August, which for many delegations coincides with reduced availability. Considering this, we believe that even if respected by FAO, a four week deadline for circulating the COFI documents would not be enough for allowing many COFI Members to adequately prepare for the meeting be it in virtual or present mode. Therefore, we reiterate our wish for the FAO Secretariat to make available a detailed draft provisional agenda of the COFI meeting at least eight weeks before COFI 35.

To summarize, while we can fully subscribe to the content of the COFI 34 Report and commit to supporting the implementation of its decisions, we urge FAO to pay particular attention to improve the preparation of future COFI discussions.

Mr James BREITHAAPT (Canada)

Canada is pleased to endorse the Report of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We would like to highlight the 2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture and note the 25th anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Declaration sets a clear path forward for our future collaboration.

Fisheries and aquaculture are crucial components of sustainable development. They are key to food security, nutrition, livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. They also play an important role in developing climate resilient food systems and they are a tool for economic diversification in coastal communities and Small Island Developing States. This is particularly true in small-scale and artisanal fisheries, including for women, who play a crucial role along the whole value chain.

We join with others in calling to further incorporate fisheries and aquaculture issues into FAO's work on food security and nutrition, supporting the Programme Priority Area on blue transformation, under better production. The concept of blue economy aligns well with several Canadian priorities that consider the sustainable use of ocean resources for food, livelihoods and economic growth.

Canada is developing a Blue Economy Strategy that will aim to create jobs in coastal communities, while ensuring our oceans remain healthy. We, like others, are very supportive of the fisheries and aquaculture being fully incorporated into the United Nations Food Systems Summit process.

Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)

Australia remains strongly supportive of the work of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) as it provides a unique opportunity to advance truly global initiatives to improve the sustainability of the world's fisheries. We sincerely appreciate the Secretariat's efforts in organizing the 34th Session and we are pleased to support and endorse the Report. We also welcome the endorsement at the Session of the 2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture.

We would like to highlight a few of the key achievements of COFI, brought about through the cooperation of Members. These include the Agreement on Port State Measures, which recently held its Third Meeting of the Parties, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels. In addition, Australia continues to see Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing as a significant maritime challenge facing our region. We acknowledge FAO's continued efforts, and encourage collaboration among Members to enhance their domestic and regional efforts to combat IUU fishing.

Australia is working with regional partners to improve their fisheries management capacities and we encourage FAO's continued efforts in this region especially in relation to building their statistical capacity and delivery of data. We consider that FAO's efforts can also serve to complement the work Australia is doing with Pacific Island countries and regional organizations to combat IUU fishing. This includes collaboration with the Pacific Maritime Security Program and under the auspices of the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement, and with the Pacific community through the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency to support the sustainable management and development of fisheries. We also work bilaterally with partners in Southeast Asia, and through the Regional Plan of Action to Promote

Sustainable Fisheries including Combating IUU Fishing, to share information on IUU fishing and to build monitoring, control and surveillance capacity.

Australia continues to cooperate with members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to ensure the conservation and optimum utilisation of relevant fish stocks in the Indian Ocean. This includes progressing improvements to vessel monitoring systems to support efforts to combat IUU fishing. Australia conveys our appreciation to the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for continued efforts to find a mutually acceptable solution for the appointment process of Secretaries of Article XIV Bodies, including the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

Finally, Australia looks forward to the ongoing transparent and inclusive discussions on the proposal to establish a COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. In particular, we look forward to exploring what global fisheries issues would be best addressed at the international level, as opposed to regional or national issues, and how issues of participation by Members can be addressed, noting potential barriers of attendance, especially for Pacific Island countries.

Ms Supajit SRIARIYAWAT (Thailand)

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group.

We welcome the 2020 edition of the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, including the addendum on the impacts of COVID-19.

We are well aware of the importance of fish and aquatic food for nutritious and healthy diets and of the need to transform our food systems to become more nutrition-sensitive and economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. We, therefore, need to ensure that the central role of fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition are integrated into the preparation for the United Nations Food Systems Summit.

We welcome the endorsement of the 2021 Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture and renew its commitment to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the fight against Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing.

In order to secure the long-term sustainability and resilience of our fisheries sector and of our marine resources, in the past five years, we have implemented structural and regulatory reforms in accordance with the Code and in compliance with the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing.

We nevertheless note that increased commitment and cooperation to further promote and intensify PSMA implementation, particularly the collaboration of Flag States, is needed in order to ensure effective monitoring, verification of compliance, and traceability of measures implemented by Port States, especially through the Global Information Exchange System to combat IUU fishing.

We have also reformed the national legislation and action plans in line with the principles of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and are implementing science-based fisheries management, regulating fishery zoning, supporting social development and decent working conditions, and promoting local trade and marketing.

In this regard, we encourage FAO to further assist Members in data collection on small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.

Thailand welcomed the proposal of the establishment of a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management under the leadership of the Chairperson of COFI through a transparent and inclusive consultation process.

Finally, Thailand supports the Global Action Plan of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022.

Please be assured of our continued collaboration with FAO and its Members in building resilience of small-scale fisheries to ensure food and nutrition security as well as sustainability of aquatic and marine resources.

With this statement, Thailand endorses the Report of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original Language Chinese)

We thank the Secretariat for the Report. China ratifies the joint statement and we highly praise all the tasks we are going to embark on together. We have a few suggestions here.

The sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture impacts the effective governance of global marine fisheries and the realization of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development.

China is a large country with a population of 1.4 billion. The development of Chinese fisheries, especially its aquaculture, has not only improved the nutrition level of its people, but also improved the rural economy, employment and income of fishermen. Fisheries also contribute to the global supply of aquatic products and safeguarding of food security and poverty reduction.

China has always actively supported international cooperation in the field of fisheries and aquaculture. China will continue to work with FAO and all Member States in developing a sustainable fishery and aquaculture.

To promote the sustainable development of global aquaculture, on 22-27 September this year, FAO, the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China will jointly host the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millenium +20 Conference in Shanghai in China. This Conference, which is a very important event is held every ten years. This upcoming Conference will focus on food supply and sustainable development oriented aquaculture, which will conclude comprehensively the development and achievement of the global aquaculture in the past and we will address all the opportunities, issues, challenges, including the impact brought by the pandemic, faced by the development of the industry. We will also raise understanding about the direction of its future development and all the main measures to be taken for the next ten years.

At the Conference, the Shanghai Declaration on enhancing sustainable development of the global aquaculture will be announced. At the same time, we will hold a high-level Round Table meeting on South-South and Triangular collaborations on enhancing sustainable development of the global aquaculture and as a vision of the aquaculture achievement will also be held. We sincerely welcome the participation of all Member States.

I am waiting for you in Shanghai.

Sr. Jaime CORONEL (Uruguay)

Un placer realmente estar en esta reunión y apoyar la declaración trigésimo-cuarta del Comité. Decir que el apoyo a la pesca artesanal y a la acuicultura en el 2022, entendemos, es un paso fundamental. La acuicultura y la pesca a pequeña escala reparte riqueza y ganancias, tiene una distribución a lo largo de las personas con menores ingresos muy importante y reparte trabajo, también. Por lo cual es importante contar con esta declaración y con este tipo de evento que potencie nuestra posición frente a estas actividades.

Aplaudimos la celebración del 25 aniversario del Código de Conducta. Entendemos que una pesca responsable es necesaria en el mundo, de otra forma no dejaríamos para el futuro ninguna herencia a nuestros hijos y a nuestro mundo como tal. El océano es fuente de recursos, por lo cual entendemos necesario una administración de los recursos que de allí provienen.

La adaptación al cambio climático es un punto fundamental tanto en la pesca como en la agricultura. Si no somos capaces de adaptarnos a este mundo que cambia muy rápidamente, tendremos un gran impacto sobre todo en el sector, debido a que muchas especies prefieren determinado clima o tienen determinado clima en el cual cultivarse o vivir. Un cambio climático brusco generaría una mortandad importante y nos generaría un problema de alimentación a nivel mundial.

Como Estado firmante del Acuerdo del Estado rector del puerto, entendemos importante ahondar en este acuerdo; que sean más países los que participen en él, entendiendo que es necesario identificar de dónde proviene la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada. Esta pesca va en contra de la conservación de los recursos y va en contra de los mercados a los cuales llega esta pesca, involucrando tráfico de especies y un tráfico de animales a nivel mundial con recursos muy importantes de países

que muchas veces no están involucrados en este negocio. Por lo cual, genera una pérdida muy importante para aquellos países de los cuales provienen.

Entendemos necesario avanzar en una regulación de la zona FAO 41, sea cual sea el camino es necesario avanzar en una regulación que nos permita tener herramientas en los países costeros sobre ese caladero; y profundizar las directrices voluntarias que nos permitan llegar a un mejor sistema, un mejor control, el intercambio de informaciones necesario, todos los países debemos de ser capaces de intercambiar información y de esta forma detectar rápidamente la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada.

Respecto a la acuicultura, entendemos necesario diversificar la fuente biológica de la cual provienen. Refiriéndome aquí a las especies sobre todo, debido a que la producción acuícola hoy en día está concentrada en determinadas especies, lo que hace peligrar a veces la biodiversidad biológica. Por lo cual, entendemos necesario una diversificación de especies. Encontrando al 2030, a nuestro entender, un riesgo muy importante que es enfrentarse a enfermedades nuevas que provengan de la acuicultura.

La acuicultura es una fuente muy importante, pero a su vez, concentra muchos animales en muy poca área, lo que genera muchas veces el desarrollo de enfermedades aún no conocidas por nosotros. Estas enfermedades generan mortandades importantes, dando lugar a riesgos e impactos económicos importantes en algunos países. Por lo cual, entendemos necesario desarrollar este sistema de enfermedades.

Aplaudimos el Subcomité de Pesca que se genera respecto a la gestión. Creemos que el Informe SOFIA debe ser más participativo, lo manifestamos y aplaudimos que esté en la declaración. El que sea más participativo, esto es importante para muchos países.

Por último, perdón el tiempo, creemos que es necesario se regule el comercio por evidencia científica para impedir los bloqueos a determinados mercados o el no acceso a algunos de ellos debido a problemas que no están vinculados con evidencia científica.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Respecto a las recomendaciones, quisiéramos referirnos al próximo Informe SOFIA. En este sentido, deseamos manifestar nuestra satisfacción por el consenso alcanzado en la 34 Reunión del COFI sobre algunos aspectos que consideramos de fundamental importancia a fin que los próximos informes sobre el estado mundial de la pesca y la acuicultura reflejen de forma más acabada el estado poblacional de los recursos pesqueros, de las subáreas estadísticas 2.2, 2.3, 3.1 y 3.2 que, según se reflejan en el anuario de las estadísticas de desembarque de la FAO son las que sostienen, en forma efectiva y continuada, la actividad pesquera correspondiente al área estadística 41.

Creemos que, durante la última década, se han alcanzado en el manejo de los mencionados recursos avances considerables en relación con el escenario descrito para el Atlántico sudoccidental en la revisión del estado de los recursos pesqueros publicada por la FAO en 2011. Es por ello que recibimos con beneplácito las recomendaciones referidas a la necesidad de incorporar mejoras metodológicas que permitan describir más cabalmente la situación poblacional presente de los recursos y los avances en su ordenación, así como también la conveniencia de incrementar el número de spots pesqueros, incluidos en el índice de sostenibilidad correspondiente a la región.

Asimismo, otra recomendación relevante se refiere al proceso de revisión por pares al que debe someterse el Informe SOFIA, el que debería presentar un carácter participativo y darse a conocer con antelación adecuada.

La lucha contra la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada forma parte del compromiso de la Argentina con economías marinas sostenibles e inclusivas. Nuestro país realiza ingentes esfuerzos para el control de la milla 200 y de la zona adyacente; está concentrado en evitar que buques pesqueros extranjeros ingresen a nuestra zona económica exclusiva. No hay un solo camino ni un solo instrumento para lograr ese resultado para lograr ese objetivo.

Señora Presidenta, la Argentina es un exportador neto de productos pesqueros y gracias al esfuerzo mancomunado del gobierno, la industria y los trabajadores para establecer los protocolos sanitarios y la organización y coordinación necesaria, se logra garantizar la seguridad y sanidad de la población y,

particulièrement, de los trabajadores del sector. Podemos decir que hemos logrado sostener la actividad en niveles normales y en equilibrio con el estándar de seguridad sanitaria.

En lo comercial, el impacto del COVID en el sector ha sido la reducción de la demanda mundial a principios de 2020. Sin embargo, en la Argentina los desembarques anuales se mantuvieron estables respecto de los últimos 10 años. Argentina ha trabajado fuertemente en impulsar el establecimiento de disciplinas para eliminar los subsidios a la pesca en el marco de la OMC.

Me gustaría decir también que como global trader e impulsor a nivel mundial de la iniciativa para la concientización relativa a las pérdidas y desperdicios de alimentos, se recuerda que la longitud de la cadena no necesariamente es un factor, sino que ello depende de las buenas prácticas que se apliquen o no. Por lo tanto, se sugiere analizar el fortalecimiento de todas las cadenas independientemente de su longitud a fin de impulsar también la producción y provisión de alimentos sanos y nutritivos desde zonas más alejadas de los principales centros de consumo. Con respecto a IYAF 2022, la Argentina apoya la iniciativa y participa activamente en su consejo directivo.

Señora Presidenta, no quisiera dejar de referirme a la declaración del Comité de Pesca en favor de la pesca y la acuicultura sostenible con motivo del 25 aniversario de la aprobación del Código de Conducta. La Argentina se congratula de la declaración consensuada por los miembros y, por último, como hemos advertido en el COFI 34, a lo largo de innumerables reuniones de los órganos rectores con el voto NAP approach, la Argentina tiene claros, sensibles y firmes reparos a conceptos no acordados multilateralmente y, específicamente, a la cuestión azul. Términos como "economía azul", "crecimiento azul", "transformación azul" o "sistemas alimentarios azules". Al respecto, nuevamente cabe recordar que, no existe acuerdo a nivel internacional en relación con estos conceptos.

En efecto, la Agenda 2030 no incluye el término economía azul ni [unintelligible] y tampoco en el ODS 14. Por lo tanto, en el espíritu de este entendimiento común con los Miembros que se demuestra en la propia Declaración del COFI antes citada, y en la Agenda 2030, sugerimos que "transformación azul" se defina como esfera programática en el nuevo Marco Estratégico de la FAO. Promover el uso sustentable de los recursos acuáticos en pos del crecimiento económico, la mejora de la vida de las personas y la creación de empleos y conservación de los ecosistemas acorde a los contextos, prioridades y capacidades nacionales y en consonancia con las normas de la OMC.

Mme Maria De Fatima JARDIM (Angola)

En premier lieu, je voudrais vous féliciter pour être élue à cette importante Session de COFI. Madame la Présidente, l'Angola, le Cap Vert, le Mozambique, le Malawi prennent la parole au nom du Groupe Africain. Nous nous félicitons du rapport de la 34e Session du Comité des Pêches, que nous considérons comme bien préparé, complet et à jour.

Le Comité reconnaît l'impact négatif de la pandémie du COVID-19 sur la pêche et l'aquaculture, en particulier au niveau du commerce et des échanges, et reconnaît également le rôle positif et réfléchi de la FAO et de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC) qui ont affirmé à un moment préoccupant que le commerce des animaux, des produits d'origines animales ne contribuent pas à la propagation de la pandémie.

Nous apprécions et soutenons les propositions faites relative à la durabilité environnementale des modèles de pêche existants dans les différents systèmes alimentaires, à l'économie bleue et à l'importance des preuves scientifiques et des données statistiques. Nous saluons la publication de La situation mondiale des pêches et de l'aquaculture (SOFIA 2020) pour sa clarté et parce qu'elle reflète la manière adéquate de l'état des pêches et de l'aquaculture dans le monde et rend compte des principales tendances, notamment celles qui émergent à la lumière du changement climatique et de l'évolution des machines.

Nous saluons les 25 ans de mise en œuvre du Code de Conduite pour une pêche responsable, et la déclaration en faveur d'une pêche et d'une aquaculture durable, en tant que moyen essentiel pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et améliorer nutritionnellement les populations tout en respectant la biodiversité et conservant l'écosystème marin et océanique.

Nous nous félicitons de la demande du Comité d'intégrer la biodiversité marine dans le plan d'action 2021-2023 et dans le cadre stratégique de la FAO, ainsi que la mise en place d'un plan d'action sur les ressources génétiques aquatiques et de directives volontaires pour aider les états membres à mettre en œuvre des mesures de conservations de la biodiversité, gestion responsable des ressources halieutiques et de la pêche et améliorer l'impact des échanges du climat sur la vie dans les océans.

Nous encourageons la collaboration de la FAO avec les autres organisations, telles que l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS), l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme (OMT), l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC), l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI), AMSIA, qui reconnaissent la vaste portée du secteur de la pêche, qui couvre non seulement les questions alimentaires et naturelles mais aussi les questions juridiques, la santé humaine et la santé animale étroitement liée au plan à moyen terme 2021-2025 et la résistance antimicrobienne.

Tout aussi important est l'accent mis par le Comité sur la Pêche artisanale et à petite échelle qui est un modèle de travail prédominant dans le secteur de la pêche dans le monde entier, mais particulièrement dans les petits pays insulaires et en développement.

Nous nous félicitons de la référence faite pour le Comité aux politiques de protection du travail, en particulier de la sécurité en mer, la promotion des associations des bénévoles, égalités des genres, élimination des subventions qui peuvent contribuer à l'augmentation des flottes et de la surpêche, la pêche illégale non déclarée et non réglementée. L'importance aussi des données statistiques, l'économie bleue, l'amélioration de la législation, la réduction de pertes et des déchets, en application des nouvelles technologies numériques à la pêche sont aussi importantes. Nous avons besoin de faire référence au plan d'action sur la pêche imprimée COVID

basé sur des données scientifiques et l'analyse des risques. Ce sont des domaines importants dans lesquels la FAO, grâce à sa grande expérience, peut fournir une assistance technique aux pays.

Nous attendons avec impatience l'élaboration des directives pour la réglementation des transbordements et la publication de lignes directrices pour prévenir et réduire les captures accidentelles de mammifères marins dans les pêches de capture.

Enfin, le Groupe Africain se félicite du travail accompli par le Sous-comité du Commerce des Produits de la Pêche, par le Sous-comité de l'Aquaculture et soutient la création d'un Sous-comité de la gestion des pêches, en espérant que la prochaine Session du COFI pourra l'approuver.

Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)

España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la Unión Europea en nombre propio y en el de sus 27 Estados Miembros, además de querer hacer hincapié en los siguientes aspectos concretos en relación con este punto del orden del día.

En primer lugar, respaldamos las conclusiones del COFI 34 y, especialmente, la Declaración del 2021 del Comité de Pesca en favor de la pesca y la acuicultura sostenibles. Expresamos nuestro compromiso para el seguimiento a las conclusiones, el apoyo a su puesta en marcha.

Valoramos muy positivamente la propuesta de una red de puertos azules voluntaria para el desarrollo de las zonas costeras en colaboración con los Miembros y las organizaciones pertinentes. Esperamos información adicional al respecto.

Instamos a todas las partes del acuerdo sobre medidas del Estado rector del puerto a reforzar las actuaciones para abordar todos aquellos desafíos que permitan prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada.

España expresa asimismo su compromiso para desarrollar de la mejor manera posible el COFI 35 mediante su pertenencia a la mesa del mismo. Instamos a que la documentación llegue con la suficiente antelación y en todos los idiomas a todos los Miembros para poder, de este modo, mejorar la calidad y la inclusividad de los debates.

Ms Agnes Rosari DEWI (Indonesia)

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Group and would like to highlight some points as follows.

First, the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition is important and further support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including on its synergies and interlinkages with other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) beyond and within SDG 14.

Second, we are of the view that it is important for FAO to continue to assist Members in strengthening statistical capacity and delivery of data, especially in data-poor situations, as well as in integrating innovative technologies to accelerate the achievement of SDGs.

Third, we reiterate the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, known as SSF Guidelines, as a tool to acknowledge the fundamental role of marine and inland small-scale and artisanal fisheries for achieving the SDGs.

Fourth, we highlight the importance to increase our work to support for small-scale and artisanal fisheries in preparing a better and fair market access to fishing rights. We also appreciate South Korea's proposal on the joint pilot partnership for the World Fisheries University and stands ready for any opportunities of other collaboration with FAO.

Fifth, we would like to emphasize our commitment to the implementation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022 and welcome the proposed planning roadmap. It is important to focus on the role of small-scale and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in poverty eradication, ending hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition. In this regard, we look forward to the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium +20, which will be held in Shanghai, China, this September.

Lastly, in relation to the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, we reiterate the key role of information exchange in combating IUU fishing and welcome the continuation of the work on the development of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) global information exchange system by FAO and encourage FAO to proceed with developing draft voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment and to convene an expert consultation to review the draft, followed by a Member-led negotiation process through the convening of a technical consultation.

With these comments, Indonesia endorses the Report of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original Language Arabic)

Sudan supports the statement made on behalf of the Near East Group. We support line C of the text that talks about cooperation with regional bodies. And here we would like to underline the project of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Aquaculture and Fisheries Organization, which Members in this region requested in 2002, which noted the need to set up a cooperation body to ensure the sustainability of fishing and aquaculture in the region.

This consultation began in 2011 and up to 2016, through a number of meetings in which we were preparing the countries around the Red Sea area and we are looking at how to preserve fish stocks around the Red Sea and inland coast with the FAO and we support the Organization in this. The aim is to bring about sustainability of fishing stocks in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. To achieve this objective, we have had a number of meetings in which we agreed to setup essential documents to sort out the structure of the appropriate organizations.

Chair, in view of the setting up of such a body and such an entity, we underlined this in the 32nd meeting of COFI and throughout the 72nd General Assembly in 2018 and we wish to continue the work to setup this entity with the concerted efforts of the Organization, hand in hand with the other regional organizations.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Argentina lamenta muchísimo la pérdida del Doctor Fabio Hazin, brasileño, latinoamericano, eminencia a nivel mundial. Representó a nuestra región, América Latina y el Caribe como Presidente del COFI. Su pérdida, siendo tan joven, es una tragedia. Su calidad como persona y como técnico se merece este homenaje.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Argentina and previous speakers who paid respects to the memory of our late Chairman of the Committee and I stand to speak on behalf of the whole Conference and FAO to console with his country and his family on this very sad loss and we wish him a peaceful rest in eternity.

With that, I see I have come to the end of my list. No further hands on the floor and I am asking if Mr Shingo Ota or Management have any comment or response to make to the various interventions that have taken place.

Mr Shingo OTA (Japan)

I just want to thank all the speakers for endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of COFI 34, as well as providing the useful comments. I will continue to do my job as COFI Chair, taking into account those comments.

Mr Julio Antonio BERDEGUÉ (Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean)

Very briefly, I would like to thank the delegations of Japan, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina for the recognition of our dear colleague Mr Fabio Hazin, who at the time of his death was working with us in Brazil and in the Caribbean in pursuing the objectives that we all have for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Thank you all for remembering him today.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General)

I would like, on behalf of FAO, the Director-General, to join my voice to all the Members of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), to you Madam Chairperson, expressing all our sadness with the passing away of Dr Fabio Hazin. He was an internationally respected academic. He dedicated his career to the global issues related to sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture and, as has been said, he served as Chairperson of FAO's Committee on Fisheries. He has led several technical consultations.

He leaves a rich legacy in the international community and he will always be remembered as a friend to many of us here at FAO. FAO presents its deepest condolence to the Government of Brazil, Dr Hazin's family and colleagues around the world.

I would like to take advantage of having the floor to thank all the Members for their guidance and their support regarding the COFI Report and FAO work in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.

We received some comments that we need for the further COFI Session to improve its preparation. We will do our best so that for the next Session the documents will be presented on time and will be having the Agenda eight weeks before, as stated in FAO Basic Texts.

I would also like to thank the Chairperson of COFI for his leadership and just refer to one of the most important, the COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture. In my view, it represents the new vision for fisheries and aquaculture in the 21st century. It recognizes the contribution of the sector to the Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular the SDGs, its impact on food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, livelihoods and local communities.

I would like to express FAO's willingness and support to all FAO Members to implement the declaration because we consider it is a turning point to sustainable management and responsible conservation and development of aquatic resources.

Mr Manuel BARANGE (Director, Fisheries Division)

As Director of the Fisheries Division, I just would like to thank all Members for their comments and voices of advice that we have taken on board and will be using in the development of the next SOFIA

and the next COFI. I would like to, in particular, thank all the Members for the careful negotiations and positive attitudes in the development of the Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, negotiations that were conducted virtually throughout the pandemic. The Declaration was put together to recognize the transformations that the fisheries and aquaculture sector went through since the endorsement of the Code of Conduct and to help us refocus priorities to secure the long-term sustainability and resilience of the sector.

I would just like to finish by thanking the Government of Peru, who was the coordinator, Chairperson, of the International Steering Committee of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture for the contributions to making IYAFA a success in 2022.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to take you to my conclusions on this Item. My conclusions will be as follows:

Agenda Item 11.3: Report on the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

The Conference endorsed the Report of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and in particular welcomed the 2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Do I have any comments on the conclusions?

I do not see any hands up, so I take it that the discussions on this Agenda Item are over, so we have concluded the discussions on Agenda Item 11.3.

Item 11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:

Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:

Tema 11. Asuntos mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:

Item 11.4 Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry (5-9 October 2020)

Point 11.4 Rapport de la vingt-cinquième session du Comité des forêts (5-9 octobre 2020)

Tema 11.4 Informe del 25.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (5-9 de octubre de 2020)

Item 11.4.1 Preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress

Point 11.4.1 Préparatifs du quinzième Congrès forestier mondial

Tema 11.4.1 Preparativos para el XV Congreso Forestal Mundial

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move to Agenda Item 11.4. Before I go on, I would commend delegates for assisting me in time management, but we could still be doing better. Just by way of reminder, I would like to reiterate my statement I made on Monday that in terms of good time management the priority order would be given to regional joint statements.

Members who deliver the regional joint statements please raise your hand in advance once the Item is open for discussion. Please keep your statements less than five minutes. It is important that, as I have said, we try to do that. If we remember also that the Drafting Committee have their work to do after we have finished all our statements and if we are able to finish within a reasonable time they too can start their work and not have to stay up all night to give us our conclusions in time for our statements for tomorrow.

Again, it is a joint effort, it is a teamwork that I am asking us all. Since we know that we have five minutes, maybe we can just look at our statements and find a way of summarizing or bullet pointing or somehow making the statements as concise as possible, while retaining the sense and the importance of the issues that need to be raised, so that we can keep to good time management. It is essential that

we do so, so that we do not lose the momentum of what we are doing here because as we get tired sometimes we tend to lose track of what we are doing and things drag on.

With these few comments, I would now move to Agenda Item 11.4 and table it as the *Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry*, which was held from 5-9 October and is reference document C 2021/24, together with Item 11.4.1, *Preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress*.

Let us now move to Sub-Item 11.4, the *Report on the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry*. As the Agenda was adopted on Monday under this Item, we will also address Sub-Item 11.4.1, *Preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress*.

I now invite the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry, Mr Victor Sosa Cedillo from Mexico, to introduce this Sub-Item.

Sr. Victor Eduardo SOSA CEDILLO (México)

El 25 período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (COFO) se celebró del 5 al 9 de octubre de 2020 en conjunción con la séptima Semana Forestal Mundial con la participación de 112 países, 19 organizaciones intergubernamentales y no gubernamentales.

A la luz de la pandemia mundial del COVID-19, el período de sesiones se convocó virtualmente de manera excepcional. En un momento de crisis climática, sanitaria y económica sin precedentes, los bosques ofrecen la esperanza de curar a las personas, el medio ambiente y la economía. Sin embargo, no estamos yendo por buen camino para cumplir los objetivos de detener la deforestación y la degradación de los bosques. El mundo está perdiendo 10 millones de hectáreas de bosques cada año. Necesitamos acciones urgentes para revertir esta tendencia. Este es uno de los hallazgos clave del informe de la Evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales 2020 acogido con satisfacción por el Comité.

Señora Presidenta, el COFO ha proporcionado directrices importantes sobre varias áreas de políticas. Acogió con beneplácito el lanzamiento de "El estado de los bosques del mundo 2020" sobre los bosques, la biodiversidad y las personas, preparado conjuntamente por la FAO y el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y recomendó que se consideraran los hallazgos clave del Estado de los bosques del mundo 2020 en las negociaciones del marco de la biodiversidad posterior al 2020.

Tras señalar la importancia de la diversidad biológica forestal para los servicios de los ecosistemas y la seguridad alimentaria, solicitó a la FAO que fortaleciera las consideraciones forestales en el trabajo de integración de la diversidad biológica en los sectores agrícolas. El Comité reconoció el papel de los bosques y la actividad forestal en la contribución a dietas saludables y la prevención de todas las formas de malnutrición.

Destacó la importancia de los bosques para generar empleos e ingresos adicionales y garantizar medios de vida. Solicitó a la FAO que aumentara la participación del sector privado, los agricultores familiares, los pequeños agricultores, las comunidades y los empresario como agentes activos del cambio, así como las organizaciones de productores forestales y agrícolas para apoyar las actividades de los decenios de las Naciones Unidas para la agricultura familiar y de la restauración de los ecosistemas y ampliar su apoyo a las organizaciones de productores forestales y agrícolas a través del mecanismo para bosques y fincas.

Reconociendo el papel vital de la FAO en la restauración de ecosistemas, particularmente con respecto a los ecosistemas productivos, y en el marco del decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la restauración de los ecosistemas, el Comité solicitó a la FAO que intensificará los esfuerzos de restauración de bosques y paisajes a todos los niveles. El Comité reconoció el papel de los bosques y la gestión forestal sostenible en la creación de resiliencia al cambio climático y en la mitigación del cambio climático y la adaptación a sus efectos. Y alentó a los Miembros a poner énfasis en acelerar la implementación de las estrategias y planes de acción nacionales de REDD+.

El Comité pidió a la FAO junto con los miembros de la Asociación de Colaboración en materia de Bosques que se basara en los resultados de una iniciativa conjunta sobre trabajar en todos los sectores para detener la deforestación y aumentar el área de bosques de la aspiración a la acción.

El COFO invitó a los Miembros a promover la coordinación de políticas y alinear los incentivos públicos para detener la deforestación de acuerdo con la legislación nacional y fomentar sistemas alimentarios sostenibles con el fin de fortalecer las contribuciones del sector forestal, a la mejora de los sistemas alimentarios e intensificar las acciones para detener la deforestación. El COFO solicitó a la FAO que integrara la actividad forestal en sus labores sobre sistemas alimentarios y recomendó una cooperación más estrecha entre el COFO y el Comité de Agricultura.

El Comité también pidió a la FAO que continuara su prioridad relacionada con el trabajo normativo y técnico en el sector forestal; que hiciera más hincapié en el suministro de datos actualizados y de alta calidad sobre los bosques; asegurara que el nuevo Marco estratégico de la FAO refleje adecuadamente la importancia de las cuestiones forestales, la necesidad de trabajo intersectorial dentro de la Organización y el papel rector de la FAO en materia forestal en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

El COFO también alentó a los Miembros a integrar sus prioridades en el sector forestal en los planes de recuperación posteriores al COVID-19 y en el Marco de cooperación de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo sostenible y recomendó que se siguiera dando prioridad a la implementación del Plan estratégico de las Naciones Unidas para los bosques 2017-2030 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Para concluir, permítaseme reiterar que las inversiones en la restauración forestal también contribuyen a la recuperación económica posterior a la pandemia del COVID-19. Las actividades y acciones de restauración forestal crean empleos verdes, generan ingresos, mejoran la salud humana y aumentan la seguridad alimentaria. Se invita a la Conferencia a respaldar el informe del 25 período de sesiones del Comité Forestal así como las recomendaciones que contiene.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

La Argentina como país agroexportador brinda especial atención a la gestión de los bosques y su biodiversidad. Y, por ello, tuvo una activa participación en el 25° período de sesiones del Comité Forestal que tuvo lugar en octubre de 2020.

Nuestro país está convencido que si queremos reconstruir mejor tras la pandemia del COVID y alcanzar los ODS, los bosques son un sector importante al que todos deberíamos concentrar mayores esfuerzos para su manejo sostenible.

Los bosques tienen un rol transversal y crucial, ya que no solo desempeñan funciones ambientales y ecosistémicas sino, también, contribuyen a la seguridad alimentaria, a la nutrición y para el logro de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles en sus tres dimensiones: ambiental, social y económica. En ese sentido, si queremos reconstruir mejor, los bosques deberán encontrarse en el centro de la iniciativa fractal objetivo.

Señora Presidenta, dado el crecimiento de la población, aumentar la producción de alimentos y de la seguridad alimentaria sin reducir la superficie forestal sigue siendo un desafío. Sin embargo, la Argentina considera que existen muchas producciones equilibradas posibles para tal desafío desde diferentes enfoques de sistemas agroalimentarios, teniendo en cuenta las diferentes capacidades, prioridades y realidades de cada sector del país.

En ese sentido, nos gustaría dejar categóricamente en claro que la agricultura no necesariamente tiene que contraponerse a los bosques. La Argentina lamenta que esa dicotomía sea producto de la simplificación de una problemática mucho más compleja. Vinculaciones de ese estilo no tienen fundamento en la evidencia científica y podrían derivar en restricciones comerciales, las cuales no tendrían fundamento en la evidencia científica ni consideran los impactos en otros sectores diferentes a la agricultura en el ambiente.

La Argentina, como país agroexportador y comprometido con el manejo forestal sostenible, reconoce los desafíos globales, regionales y nacionales al momento de prevenir, morigerar y revertir la deforestación. En ese sentido, mi país desarrolla políticas proactivas para la conservación, restauración y uso sostenible de sus bosques nativos y bosques cultivados a partir de varias leyes nacionales.

Señora Presidenta, creemos que COFO 25 ha dado un mensaje claro: la deforestación es el resultado de un modelo de desarrollo que puede ser evitado a través de prácticas que complementan las

actividades agrícolas con el cuidado de los bosques. Existe sobrada evidencia sobre el aporte positivo que la innovación tecnológica puede ofrecer a la producción agrícola y ganadera y así favorecer la complementación entre este sector y los bosques. Ejemplo de ello es el manejo de bosques con ganadería integrada y los distintos sistemas agroforestales y silvopastoriles que se realizan en nuestro país.

Observamos con agrado que la FAO se encuentra dando prioridad a estas cuestiones colaborando con los gobiernos nacionales en la superación de los desafíos para avanzar en la gestión forestal sostenible y en procesos productivos sostenibles, incluso mediante la creación de capacidades acordes al contexto socioeconómico y la transferencia de tecnología y acceso a financiamiento multilateral.

Resaltamos la necesidad de mayor financiamiento para todos los países que así lo requieran. De igual modo, Argentina comparte la relevancia de mantener la visibilidad de las cuestiones forestales así como la capacidad de la FAO en relación a esto. Me gustaría remarcar que la comunidad internacional reconoce el esfuerzo de largo aliento de la Argentina para proteger sus bosques; resultado de ello en 2020, el Fondo verde para el clima aprobó un importante desembolso para un nuevo proyecto de lucha contra la deforestación y todo basado en el marco del Programa piloto de pagos basados en resultados REDD+.

Señora Presidenta, como lo hiciera el COFO en su informe, la Argentina quiere destacar una vez más la importancia de un par de elementos a fin de que las actividades en materia forestal puedan ser objeto de una colaboración amplia con los miembros de la FAO. Primero, que utilice conceptos aceptados multilateralmente y vínculos con principios científicos en sus publicaciones principales de actividad forestal. Segundo, y ya termino, es igualmente crucial que las actividades, publicaciones sobre bosques emprendidas por la FAO sean lo más inclusivas posibles. Tercero, y último, tal como lo acordó COFO, la FAO deberá promover prácticas de producción sostenible y consumo responsable de productos forestales asegurándose de que las políticas y los incentivos se ajusten a las normas del comercio multilateral y teniendo en cuenta la necesidad de evitar la creación de obstáculos innecesarios e inapropiados al comercio.

Con estos comentarios, la Argentina toma nota y apoya el informe del 25º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal.

Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group by Cameroon, Ghana and South Africa. The Group wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the able manner in which Mr Won Sop Shin from the Republic of Korea chaired the 25th Session of the Committee and for his dedicated efforts in forging a consensus on the Report. The Group pledges its support for Mr León Jorge Castaños of Mexico as Chairperson of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

The Group recalls that, in terms of the African Union's 2014 Malabo Declaration on accelerated agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods, the significance of enhancing conservation and the sustainable use of forestry through coherent policies, as well as governance and institutional arrangements at national and regional levels was highlighted that would also contribute to Africa's development.

We note that the Report on the World's Forests in 2020 highlighted that the conservation of the world's biodiversity is dependent on how forests are utilized, as we are all dependent thereon. Also, it is noted with concern that forest expansion is slowing and the expansion target of forests will not be met by 2030. Furthermore, the Report indicated that more than 70 percent of deforestation is driven by agriculture in Africa.

The Group recognizes the essential role of forests in mitigating the impact of climate change. It is estimated that a large percentage of wood in Africa is utilized for logging, fuel purposes, including its conversion to charcoal, roadbuilding and infrastructure. The Group therefore believes that FAO should undertake dedicated programmes in Africa that would address the underlying reasons for deforestation in Africa, thereby contributing to preventing global warming and reversing deforestation.

The Group therefore wishes to highlight the recommendation in the Committee's Report that actions need to be stepped up to halt deforestation, forest degradation and loss of forest biodiversity and that FAO should support its Member States' efforts in this regard. The Group also believes that the balance between conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity should be managed and that activities such as illegal logging and other illicit exploitation and trade of forest products, which is causing great damage to forests, should be addressed urgently.

The Group welcomes the recommendation of the Committee that FAO, upon the request of its Members, should address the forest-related impacts of emergency, natural disasters and after-outbreak situations and in establishing long-term prevention, risk mitigation and forest management strategies to address them as appropriate to national ecological circumstances, including fires, pests, diseases and draught and to strengthen the respective regional networks and availability of and access to information at national and global level.

The Group recalls the valuable role played by the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, which at its meeting in South Africa last year urged its Members to explore alternative sources of energy and ways to reduce the pressure on the native trees and forest resources and stressed the need for its Members to assess and consider the potential impacts of fast-growing introduced species on existing natural ecosystems and to implement international agreements relevant to biodiversity and forests, as well as the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.

The Group also wishes to recall that the Committee specifically requested FAO to assess existing knowledge and approaches on forestry and wildlife education and to establish a working group on forestry and wildlife education with a view to provide guidance to the education and professional systems in Africa.

Furthermore, the Group wishes to highlight the Committee's request that FAO further support its Members on resource mobilization efforts and strengthen their capacities to access climate finance, including the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environmental Facility, in support of climate change mitigation, adaptation and building resilience.

The Group emphasizes that FAO's capacity and visibility on forestry matters needs to be maintained and strengthened, including by integrating forestry in FAO's work on food systems.

In conclusion, the Africa Regional Group recommends the endorsement of the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forests and its recommendations.

Mr Rahman Nazar BELIM (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan is honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

The Near East Group appreciates the FAO Management, Committee on Forestry (COFO) Secretariat and all Members for successfully organizing the 25th Session of COFO on a virtual format from 5 to 9 October 2020.

The Report of the 25th Session of the COFO is brief and focused. In endorsing the Report, the Near East Group wishes to underline the following points:

The Near East Group welcomes the main themes of COFO 25 on Forests, Biodiversity and People. We also welcome the launch of the State of the World's Forests 2020 (SOFO) jointly prepared by FAO and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and congratulate FAO on the publication of the State of the World's Forests 2020 as the first fully digital FAO flagship Report.

The Near East Group supports the Committee's discussion on COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on farmers, forest ecosystem and communities.

We appreciate FAO's continued support to Members in developing innovative forest related approaches into more sustainable food system to accelerate progress towards the achievement of 2030 Agenda.

The Near East Group endorses the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2020-2030 and noted the need to adjust to new realities in a post COVID-19 world and to address its mid and long-term impacts.

The Near East Group encourages FAO to strengthen further international standard-setting activities and enhance the visibility of the work of the International Protection Convention (IPPC) and Codex Alimentarius.

We also recommend FAO to ensure that FAO's new Strategic Framework gives adequate recognition to FAO's role in ecosystem restoration and productive ecosystem and strengthen synergies with regional and global initiatives, reflects the importance of forests, the need for cross-sectoral work within the Organization and FAO's leading role on forest matters in the United Nations System.

The Near East Group encourages FAO to continue supporting the work of the major Programmes in Forestry and stronger linkages between these Programmes and main projects led by FAO.

We urge FAO to continue supporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017- 2030 (UNSPF), including promoting knowledge on the role of sustainable forest management in sustainable development.

The Near East Group recommends FAO to strengthen contributions from the forest sector to the improvement of food systems and stepping up action on halting deforestation, and emphasizes the need to integrate forestry in FAO's work on food ecosystems.

The Near East Group encourages FAO to strengthen collaboration with the private sector and facilitate dialogue to share knowledge and lessons learned and enhance the role of the private sector in efforts to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation while contributing to job creation, livelihood resilience and poverty reduction.

We recommend FAO to ensure the sufficient allocation of resources to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Programme by maintaining FAO's Regular Budget and seek to increase voluntary multiyear extrabudgetary resources from donor countries.

With these comments the Near East Group approves the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Finally, let me convey the Near East Group's sincere condolences to our Brazilian colleague.

Ms Ruth MALLETT (Australia)

Australia welcomes the Report of the 25th Committee on Forestry and commends FAO for convening the Session under the trying COVID-19 circumstances. We support the findings and recommendations of the Report, in particular those relating to biodiversity, sustainable forest management and plant health.

Australia considers it important to strengthen coordination between the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and other Technical Committees on cross-sectoral matters. However, we wish to recall the intent of the recommendations under item 7 of the COFO 25 Report were specific in nature to the matter of deforestation. Despite its name, deforestation is not limited to the realms of forestry and cuts across activities that seek to convert forests to another land use function permanently.

In Australia's domestic context, where our forestry sector operates in strict accordance with the principles of sustainable forest management, there are no strong links between deforestation and the forestry sector. Australia does however acknowledge that discussing issues relating to deforestation in a broad range of forums would expand the holistic understanding of the issue. We also understand that a collaborative approach may enable FAO and its Members to more effectively address the problem, including in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Forest Goals and the eventual post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

As such, and similar to the approach adopted for mainstreaming biodiversity, we recommend that deforestation be treated as a crosscutting issue, requiring a collaborative approach across the relevant Technical Committees, including COAG, for meaningful consideration and action.

Sr. José Luis DELGADO CRESPO (México)

México reconoce el papel de los bosques en la solución de las crisis globales relacionadas con el cambio climático, la pérdida de la biodiversidad y la desertificación. El apoyo de la FAO es de suma importancia, particularmente para responder a los siguientes puntos planteados en el informe del COFO: para intensificar las medidas para detener la deforestación, la degradación de los bosques y la pérdida de biodiversidad forestal; para fomentar diversas formas de cooperación internacional; y para fortalecer la colaboración con el sector privado, a fin de movilizar financiación relacionada con el cambio climático para los bosques e incrementar su participación en iniciativas que aborden las causas de estos problemas, contribuyendo al mismo tiempo a la creación de empleos, la resiliencia en los medios de vida y la reducción de la pobreza.

Consideramos al sector privado como un importante actor para detonar estrategias que abonen a los compromisos globales a través del consumo y producción sustentable y mediante el impulso a los productores primarios. Se requiere trabajar de la mano con la iniciativa privada para incentivar modelos de producción agropecuaria responsables y sistemas agrosilvopastoriles sustentables. Esto debe de ir acompañado de la correspondiente educación y sensibilización sobre la importancia de los beneficios que el consumo de estos productos tiene.

Ofertar un producto sin la suficiente demanda dificultará la réplica de estos modelos a gran escala. México considera que evitar la deforestación y la degradación de los bosques es la medida más eficaz a corto y mediano plazo para contribuir a la mitigación del cambio climático y a la consecución de las contribuciones determinadas a nivel nacional. De ahí que impulsar modelos de producción agrícola y pecuaria de subsistencia y agroindustrial responsable, promoviendo una cadena de suministro libre de deforestación, es sumamente relevante.

Además, es esencial tener a las comunidades locales y a los pueblos originarios como los principales actores en el diseño de las políticas de uso de la tierra a través del diálogo y el acompañamiento continuo.

También tenemos algunas observaciones puntuales sobre el informe. En relación con el inciso 4.1, es importante tener presente la necesidad de incluir la asesoría y la capacitación técnica para apoyar este punto. Sobre el tema de bosques y las soluciones basadas en la naturaleza, habría que considerar también de importancia el estudio de la interacción genética con el ambiente y su relación directa con los cambios provocados por el cambio climático, así como la posibilidad de contemplar herramientas como la migración asistida para salvaguardar poblaciones forestales en riesgo.

En cuanto al 7.1, relativo a la transformación de la agricultura y los sistemas alimentarios, y 9.2, sobre la visión y estrategia de la FAO en nutrición, aún cuando se plantean aspectos generales, es importante tener presente el sistema de milpa intercalada con árboles frutales como alternativa viable que impacta favorablemente en la convivencia de los bosques y la agricultura.

Para concluir, Señora Presidenta, consideramos clave revalorar al sector forestal por sus aportaciones a la mitigación del cambio climático, al bienestar social y al desarrollo económico así como darle consistencia y continuidad a las políticas públicas y a las instituciones vinculadas con este sector.

Con estos comentarios, México agradece la labor del COFO y de su secretariado y respalda el informe del 25 período de sesiones de este Comité.

Mr Nuno Miguel DE OLIVEIRA MANANA PIRES FRANCISCO (Portugal)

As this is the first time that I address you in this Session, let me just congratulate you for your commitment, your guidance at this Commission and also congratulate the Vice-Chairperson and the support of the Secretariat.

If you allow me, I would like to add my voice on the condolences for the Brazilian colleague.

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The Republics of Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and also the Republics of San Marino and Turkey align themselves with this short statement.

The 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry highlighted the important contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including to food security, preserving global biodiversity and tackling climate change.

As stated in the European Union's priorities to the United Nations Food Systems Summit, forests and agroforestry systems contribute in many ways, both directly and indirectly, to food security and nutrition. Enhanced joint efforts are needed to implement the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, to halt global deforestation and forest degradation, including illegal logging and manage forests sustainably, with due regard to the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.

In that context, we welcome FAO's long-term commitment to sustainable forest management, promoting its implementation globally and regularly monitoring, assessing, and reporting on the state of global forests. To that end, FAO's critical mass in forestry needs to remain strong and effective, maintaining its role on forest matters in the United Nations System, including the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests.

We would specifically like to underline the Committee on Forestry's call for enhanced cross-sectoral and cross-Committee work within the Organization on forest-related issues, including on some agricultural production systems and related consumption patterns, especially with the aim to avoid ongoing deforestation and forest degradation.

With these comments, we endorse the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry and the recommendations therein.

Mr François CLOUTIER (Canada)

Canada welcomes the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry, including the request that FAO step up actions to halt deforestation, forest degradation and loss of forest biodiversity, support Members in their efforts, integrate forestry in FAO's work on food systems and in the future any papers dealing with interrelated issues between agriculture and forests be presented to both Technical Committees.

Ms Hyo Joo KANG (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea has the honor to deliver this Joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group and we do thus express our deep condolence to Mr Marco Antonio de Oliveira Maciel of Brazil.

At the outset, the Asia Group appreciates FAO's ceaseless endeavors assisting countries by providing reliable information on forests and trees, and technical assistance for implementation as well as development of national forest activities and programs.

We would like to deliver some following observations under this Agenda Item.

Firstly, the Asia Group welcomes the launch of the State of the World's Forests 2020 (SOFO 2020). Considering its timeliness and significance, we request FAO to support strengthening Members' capacity for gathering relevant data and monitoring forest restoration outcomes. We also encourage FAO to offer guidance to Members in order to help them to make a best use of the key findings of SOFO 2020 with regard to their planning or implementation of forest restoration and conservation activities.

Secondly, since forests are considered as a key nature-based solution, we highlight its role and sustainable management in relation to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, we request FAO to support Members figuring out and addressing main drivers for forest degradation and deforestation so as to accelerate climate actions including implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Thirdly, in order to increase forests' contribution towards food systems and scale up actions for reversing deforestation, we request FAO to strengthen its cross-sectoral work between forestry and agriculture as well as partnership with the private sector, civil society, and initiatives which aim for combating deforestation and promoting sustainable value chains. We also encourage FAO to explore

practical ways of cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Fourthly, the Asia Group will closely work with FAO in terms of implementing the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) as one of contributions towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals. We encourage all Members and relevant organizations to take bolder strides to accomplish global commitments on forests.

Last but not least, we would like to remind you all that, next year, the XV World Forestry Congress, the largest and the most influential gathering in forestry, will be held in Asia for the first time in 43 years. Recognizing this great opportunity to bring a wide range of forest-related issues together, we request FAO to continue its close partnership with Republic of Korea, the hosting country, by taking pressing and emerging issues into account, and encouraging broader participation from all over the world.

With these comments the Asian Regional Group endorses the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Ms Ratchanok SANGPENCHAN (Thailand)

Thailand would like to join Members to express our deep condolences to Brazil and we align ourselves with the statement of the Asian Group delivered by the Republic of Korea in appreciating FAO's work on forests and take note of the progress made in implementing FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.

We would like to highlight some issues of particular interest to our delegation.

Thailand welcomes the key findings of the State of the World's Forests 2020 (SOFO) that underlines the critical role of forests and sustainable forest management, not only for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources, but also for their linkages to the food security and sustainable food systems, and their contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For this reason, Thailand particularly encourages the integration of the forest in the FAO's work on food systems, in order to highlight the nature-positive linkages deriving from agro-forestry systems and their relevance for food security.

We are also in favor of sharing experiences among Members that harmonize agricultural activities with sustainable use of forests, and are a source of sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent people and communities.

In Thailand, for example, Community Forest Management has been practiced for hundreds of years by local people, who have protected forest resources and conserved soil fertility based on their knowledge, and that forests are critical for livelihoods and survival, and we are ready to share our experience.

Furthermore, we strongly support that in the future any relevant documents dealing with inter-related issues between agriculture and forests be presented to both the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and that FAO aligns with the World Forestry Congress discussions and subsequent outcomes with the global COVID-19 rebuilding efforts as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finally, we thank the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting the XV World Forestry Congress next year. With this Statement, Thailand endorses the Report of the 25th Session of COFO and recommendations.

Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original Language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for this Report. China associates itself with the joint statement by the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Asian Group. China endorses the Report and commends the Committee on Forestry (COFO) for its work.

China would like to make the following remarks.

First, the Chinese Government has always attached great importance to forestry and has given strategic priority to the accelerated development of forestry and ecological preservation. It has endeavoured to improve carbon sequestration of forestry in its active fight against climate change.

President Xi Jinping announced at the Climate Ambition Summit 2020 last December that by 2030 China will increase the forest stock volume by 6 billion cubic metres from the 2005 level. Guided by the philosophy that mountains and rivers green are mountains of silver and gold, China will take an active part in the global ecological governance, so as to make a greater contribution to global climate response.

Second, China supports FAO to continue to play an important role in global forestry governance and encourages the Organization to strengthen collaboration with other international organizations on forestry and multilateral fora to further improve global forestry governance and provide more technical support for developing countries in terms of international cooperation in forestry.

Third, the COP 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be convened in Kunming, China, this coming October, during which the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework will be developed. As preparation for the Conference is gathering steam, we sincerely welcome all delegates to Kunming, which is known as the City of Spring, to jointly discuss strategies for the protection and preservation of biological diversity and I am waiting for you Kunming too.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

We would like to reiterate the paramount importance of forests for economic development, improved nutrition for our people, soil conservation, carbon sequestration and the work of the water cycle.

We are concerned about the ongoing deforestation around the world, which is promoting biodiversity loss. We call for comprehensive measures, so as to fully take biodiversity issues into account in forestry and also to put an end to improper logging practices.

We are of the view that FAO should pay special attention to boreal forests, which play a key role in maintaining global environmental balance. What is more, boreal forests are characterized by a diversity of flora and fauna, which is unique to them.

We would like to use this opportunity to draw attention to the importance of urban greening and afforestation. This issue is uppermost in the minds of the Russian Federation, especially in light of the implementation of an initiative put forward by the President of the Russian Federation called the Green Shield Initiative, aimed at creating a favourable urban environment.

Madam Chairperson, we welcome the joint FAO/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) initiative called Green Cities. It is being implemented on a five-year basis. We welcome the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment, which is conducted once every five years. We believe that this publication should use only national data that has been confirmed by countries in question, including mapping information and remote sensing data.

We support the work underway on tools for reporting on forest characteristics, including those of primary forests. These should continue drawing on expertise of national correspondents.

I just have a brief comment about the supplementary agenda item submitted by the Republic of Korea that is preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress. Traditionally, the World Forestry Congress has been one of the major events for FAO Member Nations, offering up ample opportunities for discussions between scientists.

In order to realize the Congress' full potential, it is of utmost importance that all specialists who gather there are able to find common ground, especially given that FAO Governing Bodies intend to consider the Congress outcomes. With this in mind, we wish to once again reiterate the importance for the Congress Sessions to be interpreted in all FAO languages. This issue was flagged at the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry and duly reflected in the Report of the Session. We invite the FAO Secretariat, as well as the Republic of Korea, the host country, to take this on board.

Sr. Marco Alonso ENCISO HOYOS (Perú)

Antes que nada, a nombre de la República del Perú quiero expresar las condolencias al gobierno de Brasil y a la familia del Señor Fabio Hazin, profesional con una larga trayectoria de contribución a la pesca y a la acuicultura.

Dicho esto, permítame referirme al 25o período de sesiones del Comité Forestal, el cual fue realizado de manera virtual debido a las medidas adoptadas por la pandemia de la enfermedad del coronavirus y que permitió reunir a altos funcionarios gubernamentales, así como los profesionales responsables de los servicios forestales, para el análisis de las contribuciones al sector forestal, al cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 y sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, al Acuerdo de París, el Marco mundial de la diversidad biológica posterior al 2020, así como la recuperación y adecuación frente a la pandemia de la COVID-19, incluyendo soluciones al cambio climático, la pérdida de la biodiversidad y el bienestar de las personas.

Valoramos el informe sobre El estado de los bosques del mundo, SOFO 2020, y de la Evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales (FRA), que permiten evaluar y comprender el alcance de los recursos forestales, su estado, su gestión y su uso, así como el cumplimiento de los objetivos y metas mundiales relacionadas con la biodiversidad forestal y examinar la efectividad de las políticas, acciones y enfoques, tanto en términos de resultados de conservación como de desarrollo sostenible.

A este respecto, reiteramos las recomendaciones del Comité Forestal, en su 25o período de sesiones, de emplear conceptos acordados multilateralmente y vinculados con principios científicos y hechos comprobados en las principales publicaciones; así como, garantizar un proceso inclusivo y bien fundamentado.

El Perú cuenta con 72 millones de hectáreas de bosque amazónico, de los cuales 17 millones de hectáreas están destinadas al aprovechamiento forestal sostenible y se cuenta con más de un millón de hectáreas certificadas entre empresas privadas y comunidades indígenas. Además, se tienen plantaciones forestales y proyectos REDD+. En ese sentido, consideramos importante el desarrollo de incentivos por los países, relacionados al acceso a financiamiento o a nichos de mercado que permitan las buenas prácticas; así como, trabajar en la eliminación de incentivos perversos que fomenten la deforestación, el cambio de uso de áreas de bosque o el monocultivo.

Bajo ese contexto, el Perú reconoce el papel de los bosques como proveedores de productos y servicios que contribuyen directamente al bienestar de la población en todo el mundo, mitigando los efectos del cambio climático, contribuyendo al ciclo del agua, destacando la importancia de la biodiversidad forestal para los servicios ecosistémicos y la seguridad alimentaria.

El Perú, al reconocer su labor, exhorta a la FAO intensificar los esfuerzos para detener la deforestación, la degradación de los bosques y la pérdida de biodiversidad forestal, apoyando a los Miembros principalmente en el fomento de diversas formas de cooperación internacional, modalidades de financiamiento para la conservación, restauración y utilización sostenible de los bosques. En particular, los pagos por servicios ecosistémicos, proporcionando instrumentos y metodologías para generar mejores datos sobre la contribución de los bosques a la conservación de la biodiversidad y reforzar la capacidad de los países para realizar un adecuado seguimiento.

Ms Madeleine KAUFMANN (Switzerland)

We welcome the Report of the 25th Session of The Committee on Forestry (COFO) and we would like to take this opportunity to comment on the supplementary Agenda Item 11.4.1 on the preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress.

Switzerland welcomes the XV World Forestry Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in May 2022 and would like to thank the host country and FAO for its excellent preparation.

We especially appreciate the thematic focus on resilience in the framework of mitigation and adaptation of forests to climate change as well as the crucial linkages between sustainable forest management and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the framework of Agenda 2030.

In this respect we are also preparing to present related experiences and lessons learnt from Switzerland and abroad.

We are looking forward to participate in this important event and request FAO to report the outcomes of the Congress, through COFO, and the next Session of the Conference.

Ms Ida Ayu RATIH (Indonesia)

Indonesia associates itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Korea delegation on behalf of the Asia Group. As the largest archipelagic country with vastly rich tropical forests, as well as large mangrove forests and tropical swamp forests, Indonesia is well aware of the importance of balancing conservation of forest areas and sustainable use of forest resources.

In this regard, Indonesia has implemented rules and regulations to address the challenges of ensuring sustainable forest management. As such, Indonesia has successfully reduced the rate of deforestation, as well as land fire incidents. Currently, the rate of deforestation in Indonesia is the lowest in two decades, as low as 0.1 million hectares, while slashing 82 percent of our forest fires. [XX] also has successfully [XX] 66 million hectares. Further, Indonesia is rehabilitating 620,000 hectares of mangroves, to be completed by 2024, the largest in the world, with four times carbon absorption compared to tropical forests.

On this note, Indonesia believes that international cooperation is key in accelerating more concrete progress towards realizing a green and sustainable world. Indeed, collective action and global partnership should aim at aligning solid support and solidarity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account the three pillars of economic, social and environmental sustainability in a unified and balanced manner.

Thus, Indonesia supports FAO to align its programme with relevant international institutions and organizations in the forest sector. We further hope that FAO could step up assistance for Member countries, based on requests to address the challenges of preventing deforestation, forest degradation and loss of forest biodiversity, including through capacity building, technological cooperation and mobilizing additional resources.

With these comments, Indonesia welcomes the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

According to FAO Forest Resource Assessment 2020, deforestation rates are decreasing worldwide and have been cut by half in South America when compared to previous decades, mostly thanks to the efforts of Brazil. However, more can be done to promote synergies between sustainable food systems and forest management, while also providing opportunities to forest communities.

FAO is playing an important role in this regard, as acknowledged in their Programme Evaluation Report 2021, with a growing Green Climate Fund portfolio and more than six percent of the projects evaluated primarily targeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 on life on land. We warmly welcome those results and congratulate all FAO staff for them.

To continue guiding the efforts of FAO in this realm, some recommendations of the Committee on Forestry seem especially important. Brazil would like to underscore three of them. First, there is no one-size-fits-all solution in supporting Members' action in the forest sector. FAO must carefully consider national capacities, priorities, contexts and climate instruments, including the nationally determined contributions and emphasis on the Paris Agreement.

Secondly, FAO should contribute to increased understanding of the impacts that deforestation, forest degradation and climate change, among other processes, may have in the risk of spread of zoonotic diseases. As proposed in paragraph 22 © of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) Report, FAO must do so based on scientific knowledge using reliable sources of information, clearer language and a balanced approach, not only in respect to this subject, but in all its work.

Generalizations and simplifications, such as those contained in documents two and eight of this Conference, must be avoided, since they convey imprecise and biased messages that are no help to policymakers or other stakeholders and do not reflect the technical nature of the specialised United Nations Agencies.

Finally, FAO should keep promoting dialogue with Rome-based delegations and foster their inclusion in COFO inter-sessional processes, as noted in paragraph 45 (c) of the COFO Report.

Brazil appreciates the measures FAO has put in place since the last COFO Session, such as holding a briefing on forest sector activities on 24 May. However, the call for action on forest education has not been circulated yet, as was requested by Members in the last Session of the Council.

With those comments, Brazil supports the endorsement of the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Sr. Victor Eduardo SOSA CEDILLO (México)

Agradecemos los comentarios, aportaciones y respaldo de los distinguidos delegados al informe del 25o período de sesiones del COFO.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General)

I would like to thank all the Members of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) for their comments during the 25th Session of the COFO. I also would like to thank all Members for their comments and their guidance during this Session.

I would like to say that, from what comes from the discussion and the recommendations, it is clear that we will continue to enhance the cross sectoral approach to address the impacts of certain agriculture production systems on forests. We continue to demonstrate solutions that balance conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, such as sustainable forest management, restoration and agro-forestry. We will continue to share best practices in line with national capacities, priority contexts and to work in a more crosscutting and synergetic manner.

We will continue to mobilize climate finance for forests, as it has been mentioned from the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environmental Facility and we will continue increasing engagement and information sharing with Members. As has been said by Brazil, as soon as we finish COFO, immediately we will organize a briefing meeting with Members and will continue improving the exchange of information with FAO Members.

Another important information is how we can increase the understanding that deforestation and forest degradation may contribute to increased risk of spread of zoonotic diseases. I think in the face of COVID-19 and building back better, forests will have an important role to play.

Thank you again, Chairperson of COFO, for all your leadership and your support.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not see any other hands up. I take it that there are no more interventions to be made under this topic. I will now turn to my conclusions for Sub-Item 11.4, which are as follows.

Item 11.4: Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

The Conference endorsed the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and in particular welcomed the accomplishments of FAO's work in forestry and its synergies with agriculture and reiterated the important contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In a related conclusion, the conclusion on Item 11.4.1, which was taken together with the previous Item, preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress, the Conference took note of the update on the preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress and commended the joint efforts of the Republic of Korea and FAO towards a successful event.

Are there any comments on my conclusions?

Ms Mette Løche Wilkie (Director, Forestry Division)

We have not actually presented the preparations for the World Forestry Congress. We have heard some comments from delegations and of course that has reduced our time, but with your indulgence

we would like to spend a couple of minutes to just tell delegates about the preparations that have been made by FAO and the Republic of Korea on the World Forestry Congress.

CHAIRPERSON

I beg your pardon, I was ahead of myself. Thank you for that correction and certainly you do have the floor to give us a full update on that, so that we can take my conclusions in a more realistic mood.

Ms Mette Løche Wilkie (Director, Forestry Division)

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, it is my great pleasure to inform you about the preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress. This World Forestry Congress constitutes the largest global forum on forests that have been celebrated since 1926, with FAO's support since 1954, in very close collaboration with the host countries.

This Congress was originally scheduled to take place in May this year in Seoul, Republic of Korea, but was postponed until 2-6 May 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to recognize Korea's great commitment to offering the best and safest environment for participants to physically attend the Congress next year. The venue has the highest standard sanitary measures in place and will be adapted to social distancing requirements as needed.

The preparations for this Congress started with consultations with FAO Members in the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions and Committee on Forestry (COFO), as well as with advisory bodies composed of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the representatives of all stakeholder groups. These consultations resulting in selecting a theme called 'Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests' as a key theme for the Congress. It seeks to reflect forests' integral role in health, wellbeing and stability of both the planet and its people and in implementing the 2030 Agenda, also in the context of the recovery from the pandemic.

Through high-level dialogues, plenary Sessions, thematic Sessions and a variety of different types of events, the Congress aims to serve as a platform for the global forest sector to review the status of forests and forestry worldwide. It also seeks to reflect on the outcomes of major global Conferences, including those of the Rio Conventions and the United Nations Food Systems Summit, as they relate to forests, and to recommend appropriate follow-up action.

In addition to the forestry community, the Congress is expected to attract the attention of leaders of governments, scientific and business communities and stakeholder associations. The organizers aim to ensure strong representation of youth, women and indigenous peoples. The key findings of deliberations will form the Congress outcomes that will be developed through an open and transparent consultative process, which aims to renew and increase commitment to deforestation, prevent forest degradation and increase forest area, to enhance the appreciation for the critical role of forests and trees and their products and services in a green, healthy and resilient future and to acknowledge the role of forests and forestry in sustainable development and in efforts to build back better after the current pandemic.

The Conference is invited to provide guidance on how the Congress can best serve as an inclusive and effective platform to enhance the important role of forests in the 2030 Agenda and the post-COVID-19 recovery efforts and to request FAO to report on the outcomes of the Congress to COFO and to the 43rd Session of the Conference.

This was the short update on the World Forestry Congress. Let me also take the opportunity to thank you for all the guidance that you have provided in the responses from Members to the Report of COFO 25, which we have taken due notice of.

CHAIRPERSON

I think with this update we have before us sufficient information about the preparations for the forthcoming XV World Food Congress, as tabled under Item 11.4.1 and in the various interventions that came up, Members have made appropriate comments on the preparations and expectations of this event, so there will be no need for any further discussions on this.

Mr Hak Jin KIM (Republic of Korea)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Korean delegation. I would like to firstly send our sincere appreciation to Director Ms Mette Wilkie for presenting Sub-Item 11.4.1: *Preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress*.

The World Forestry Congress has a unique importance in its most comprehensive role on the forest sector, where a full spectrum of stakeholders gathers together, shares diverse experiences, lessons and views on comprehensive challenges related to forests and communicate them to those outside of the forest sector. This unique role of the Congress is taking on fresh meaning, along with the growing importance of forests. The world is standing at the intersection of a deeper crisis, the still evolving global pandemic, climate change and hunger worsened by the pandemic. There is a growing recognition of the importance of forests to lessen this crisis.

The Committee on Forestry, at its 25th Session, gave due recognition to the importance of forests and sustainable forest management, including climate change resilience and support in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this vein, the Committee also recognized the need to strengthen the role of the World Forestry Congress in increasing forests' contribution to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Adding to that role, the XV World Forest Congress, scheduled in May 2022 in Seoul, has a particular context. It will have the unique opportunity to analyse a comprehensive set of outcomes of major international conferences scheduled in 2021 and consider concrete recommendations for follow-up actions.

The Republic of Korea, as the host country, will exhort every effort to ensure the XV World Forest Congress will fulfil the ever-growing role and potential. But the full implementation of the role and potential cannot be achieved only by holding a successful Congress in Seoul next year, it requires a more crucial step and this is what the Committee on Forestry mentioned in its Report of the 25th Session. The Republic of Korea therefore endorsed the Report from the 25th Session of COFO. FAO should report on the outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress to the Committee on Forestry and to the next Session of the FAO Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Republic of Korea, for that addition to the update on the Congress. With that input on the update, this concludes our discussions on Agenda Sub-Item 11.4 and Sub-Item 11.4.1.

With that we would come to the end of all the discussions that were put on the Agenda for yesterday, so that we can move on to today's Agenda. I thank you for your support and cooperation in getting us to manage time as best as we can, though we had a lot of interesting and needful comments and interventions to make under the various agenda items that have been tabled.

Having reached this stage, we are now at 19:25 hours. I would recommend that we take a comfort break of ten minutes, stretch our legs and refresh ourselves a bit, so that we can now move on to what is to be today's Agenda. If we move at the rate that we have been going on so far, I think we will be able to finish in time and allow the Drafting Committee their time to also work on our behalf.

A few housekeeping points from the Secretary.

Ms Jiani TIAN (Secretary of the Commission I)

Just to clarify that the Drafting Committee was supposed to be at 19:30 hours and will be postponed until after the closure of the Commission I Session.

For the kind reference of the Drafting Committee Members present here, we will start immediately after today's Session of the Commission I.

The meeting was suspended from 19:25 to 19:40 hours

La séance est suspendue de 19 h 25 à 19 h 40

Se suspende la sesión de las 19.25 a las 19.40

Written Correspondence Items (Draft conclusions only)

Points examinés par correspondance écrite (conclusions uniquement)
Temas examinados por correspondencia (conclusiones únicamente)

- Item 11.** Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:
Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:
Tema 11. Asuntos mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:
- Item 11.1.1 Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 (Draft Resolution)*
Point 11.1.1 Éradication de la peste des petits ruminants (PPR) d'ici à 2030 (projet de résolution)
Tema 11.1.1 Erradicación de la peste de los pequeños rumiantes para 2030 (proyecto de resolución)
- Item 11.1.2 Proposal for the Establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock*
Point 11.1.2 Proposition de création d'un sous-comité de l'élevage
Tema 11.1.2 Propuesta para el establecimiento de un Subcomité de Ganadería
- Item 11.1.3 Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (Draft Resolution)*
Point 11.1.3 Proposition relative à la proclamation d'une année internationale des parcours et des éleveurs pastoraux (projet de résolution)
Tema 11.1.3 Proposition relative à la proclamation d'une année internationale du palmier dattier (projet de résolution)
- Item 11.1.4 Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution)*
Point 11.1.4 Proposition relative à la proclamation d'une journée internationale de la santé des végétaux (projet de résolution)
Tema 11.1.4 Propuesta para un Día Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal (proyecto de resolución)
- Item 11.1.5 Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (Draft Resolution)*
Point 11.1.5 Proposition relative à la proclamation d'une année internationale du palmier dattier (projet de résolution)
Tema 11.1.5 Propuesta para un Año Internacional de la Palma Datilera (proyecto de resolución)

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished delegates, I hope you have been able to have a good comfort break and are all refreshed to go through the last set of Agenda items for Commission I. If I may just say good evening from Rome and I am pleased to open what would have been the third meeting of Commission I.

This Session will be devoted or dedicated to the Written Correspondence items. As I underlined on Monday, once we have tabled the item itself, I will immediately read the conclusions for each of these items. Introductions, Member statements and Management responses have been published and can be found on the Conference website.

I will move straight away to Item 11.1.1, which is the *Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants by 2030*, tabling of a Draft Resolution. The reference document is C 2021/LIM/8. I have been instructed

appropriately by the Secretariat on how to proceed. Having tabled Item 11.1.1, my conclusion for the Draft Resolution is:

The Conference adopted Resolution 10/2021 on the eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030, as set out in Appendix X to this Report.'

Are there any comments?

M. Seydou CISSÉ (Côte d'Ivoire)

Je ne sais pas si avec vos conclusions, nous allons devoir encore peut-être faire une intervention. Puisque vous parlez de l'intervention qui était déjà publiée au nom du Groupe Afrique je voudrais intervenir.

Je disais que je voudrais lire une intervention au nom du Groupe Afrique, mais je ne sais pas si avec vos conclusions, est-ce que je pourrais quand même faire cette intervention. Si vous le permettez, sinon nous allons peut-être suivre vos conclusions, et puis voilà. Tout ce que je voulais vous dire.

Ms Jiani TIAN (Secretary of the Commission I)

Regarding the items of the written correspondence procedure, we have the conclusions read out by the Chairperson. If the Members do have comments regarding the Chair's conclusions we welcome all comments.

M. Seydou CISSÉ (Côte d'Ivoire)

Oui, Madame la Présidente. Puisque vous le savez la Côte d'Ivoire coordonne le groupe des représentants permanents Amis pour l'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants,. Je voudrais, avec votre permission, lire ma voix d'intervention, si vous le permettez.

Je suis d'accord avec vos conclusions. Mais il est bon que je mette l'accent sur un certain nombre de choses qui sont très importantes pour l'adoption de cette résolution. Merci bien Madame la Présidente, avant toute chose je voudrais quand même présenter mes condoléances au Brésil, pour le décès de notre collègue.

La Côte d'Ivoire prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique, et avant mon intervention sur la résolution relative à l'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants, d'ici 2030, je voudrais féliciter la FAO pour la bonne organisation de la présente Conférence. Mes félicitations vont aussi à l'endroit de Madame la Présidente de la Commission I pour l'excellente conduite des travaux. Il me soit permis aussi de faire noter, voire d'insister sur le fait que les experts sont unanimes sur les conséquences néfastes de la peste des petits ruminants sur l'économie et le mode de vie des populations vulnérables dans diverses régions du monde.

En effet, il s'agit d'une maladie virale hautement contagieuse des petits ruminants domestiques et sauvages qui a été signalée dans 70 pays en Afrique, en Asie et au Moyen-Orient. Ils abritent plus de 80 % de la population mondiale des petits ruminants destinée à devenir cinq milliards de têtes. Faut-il le rappeler ? Les petits ruminants constituent les principales ressources animales pour environ 300 millions de familles pauvres vivant en milieu rural dans les pays en développement. Dans la plupart de ces pays, les femmes et les jeunes participent largement à la production d'ovins et de caprins, desquels ils obtiennent des sources de protéines animales, et d'où ils retirent également des revenus additionnels issus de la vente de produits de l'élevage.

Mesdames et Messieurs, tirant parti du succès de l'éradication de la peste bovine en 2011, la FAO et l'organisation mondiale de la santé animale, l'OUA et leurs partenaires ont lancé le Programme Mondial de l'Éradication de la Peste des Petits Ruminants en Côte d'Ivoire, pays où la maladie a été signalée pour la première fois en 1942, avec cet objectif un monde libéré de la PPR d'ici à 2030. Depuis 2018 la Côte d'Ivoire, coordonne le groupe des représentants permanents Amis pour le Programme Mondiale pour l'Éradication de la Peste pour les petits ruminants.

Le Programme Mondial pour l'Éradication de la Peste des petits ruminants a été soutenu pour la 39e Session de la Conférence de la FAO en juin 2015 et à la 84e Session générale de l'OUA en mai 2016. Ainsi, la dernière Session du Comité de l'agriculture COAG 27 a adopté une résolution sur la PPR, où est entériné par le Conseil de décembre 2020 et à la 42e Session de la Conférence de la FAO qui se tient actuellement. Cette résolution demande à la FAO de travailler avec les partenaires à l'établissement d'un fond fiduciaire spécial. Cette intervention mondiale est donc indispensable non seulement afin de stimuler un développement socio-économique soutenu dans le pays à faible revenu touchés par la maladie mais aussi afin de protéger l'industrie mondiale de bovins et de caprins.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite de l'effort constant de la FAO dans la lutte contre la faim dans le monde et sa contribution très importante dans la réalisation des ODD allant de l'élimination de la pauvreté et de la faim, aux réponses face aux changements climatiques, à l'exploitation de ressources naturelles, à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture. Malheureusement, les avancées et les bons résultats obtenus de ces dernières années ont été affectés par la pandémie COVID-19 qui a un impact non seulement sur le commerce des denrées alimentaires, les chaînes d'approvisionnement, les marchés mais aussi sur la vie, les moyens d'existence, et la nutrition des populations.

De surcroît, les données montrent que de nombreuses espèces sauvages des petits ruminants peuvent être infectées par le virus de la peste des petits ruminants, y compris les espèces menacées d'extinction sur la résilience des écosystèmes. Mesdames et Messieurs dans ce contexte, le Groupe Africain invite les états à adopter la résolution portant sur l'établissement du fond fiduciaire spécial; lutter contre la PPR à terme, et l'éradiquer signifie combattre la pauvreté rurale, assurer la sécurité alimentaire, nutritionnelle et renforcer la résilience des [XX] pasteurs pauvres et leurs communautés.

Ainsi, ils pourront mieux faire face aux chocs et aux menaces, prévenir les migrations forcées et atténuer toutes les manifestations externes. Il me plaît de noter l'adoption de cette résolution, vient s'ajouter aux hautes décisions pertinentes et importantes qui seront prises au cours de cette présente Conférence dans le domaine de l'élevage.

Il s'agit de la création du Sous-Comité de l'élevage au sein du CO-AG et de la proclamation d'une année internationale de parcours des éleveurs pastoraux qui sera célébrée en 2026. Enfin, je voudrais, au nom du Gouvernement de Côte d'Ivoire remercier les donateurs qui accompagnent les efforts importants consentis par les pays touchés ou exposés à la PPR sur leurs fonds propres pour éradiquer cette maladie d'ici 2030.

CHAIRPERSON

With no other hands up, this will conclude our discussions on Agenda item 11.1.1.

We can now move to Agenda item 11.1.2, which is the *Proposal for the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Livestock*, reference document C 2021/LIM/12.

We will now move onto that Item and my conclusions for that Item are as follows:

The Conference endorsed the proposal for the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Livestock.

Do I see any comments, any hands up? No hands are up, so that concludes our discussion on Agenda Sub-Item 11.1.2.

We move on to Agenda Item 11.1.3, which is *Proposal for International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists*, a draft Resolution, reference document C 2021/LIM/9.

My conclusions on that item will be as follows:

Item 11.1.3: *Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, draft Resolution.*

The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 165th Session for the declaration of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 and adopted Resolution X/2021 set out in Appendix X to this Report.

That is my conclusion on Item 11.1.3.

Mr Tserendorj JAMBALDORJ (Mongolia)

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to congratulate all of you participating in FAO Conference 42nd Session and express my deepest appreciation to FAO for hosting this important Conference virtually at this difficult time when every country is struggling with their pandemic.

All countries are working hard to overcome the pandemic with minimal damage on their economy, to cover their post-pandemic recovery in an environment friendly manner, and to fulfil its obligations to the international community.

Mongolia is a country with harsh climate conditions and a long history and rich culture in livestock husbandry. We are also taking step-by-step measures to overcome the pandemic with minimal impact and to achieve the economic recovery from the pandemic to a greener environment.

An example of this is the Government of Mongolia's long-term relevant policy of preserving traditional nomadic heritage, ecologically friendly, sustainable, and organic animal husbandry and promoting nomadic animal heritage to the world that reflects through its national programmes and Government policy papers. In addition, we are working to make this initiative a reality and it is important to declare the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists to promote our contribution to food security and ecosystem benefits, sustainable pastoral land management and rehabilitation to increase investment and support sustainable development.

On behalf of the Government, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the FAO Members, over 200 non-governmental organizations, associations and societies that have supported Mongolia's initiative, discussed at consecutive meetings of the FAO.

Pastureland, which accounts for more than half of the world's land, plays an important role in pastoralism. As healthy pastures play a vital role in ensuring economic growth, adapting to climate change and contributing to the sustainable development of pastoralism, the initiative will raise awareness of the importance of their pastureland and enhance the national and cultural value of pastoral and nomadic lifestyles.

It will also help pastoralists to increase their cultural system and traditional pride, especially among the young generations, and play a significant role in sustainability, poverty reduction and sustainable development in developed and developing countries.

The Government of Mongolia has begun to develop an action plan for the implementation of this initiative, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and as the initiating country, a certain amount of financial support and funding will be approved in the budget of Mongolia for the implementation.

Distinguished delegates, we are confident that the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists will have a real result and positive impact on increasing the world's food supply, reducing hunger and poverty and providing the world's population with high quality and eco-friendly food by the sustainable use of pastureland.

CHAIRPERSON

There are no other hands up for comment on this item, so that will conclude the discussions on Agenda Item 11.1.3.

We can move on to 11.1.4, which is the *Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health, draft Resolution*.

My conclusion on this item is as follows:

The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 165th Session to declare the annual observance of the International Day of Plant Health on 12 May and adopted Resolution 10/2021 set out in Appendix X to this Report.'

I do not see any hand up for comment or intervention on this conclusion, so we take it that this concludes our discussions on Agenda Item 11.1.4.

We now move to Agenda Item 11.1.5, which is the *Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm, draft Resolution, C 2021/LIM/11*.

My conclusions on that Item is as follows:

Item 11.1.5: *Proposal for an International Year of Date Palm, draft Resolution*.

The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 165th Session for the declaration of an International Year of Date Palm in 2017 and adopted Resolution 10/2021 set out in Appendix X to this Report.'

Mr Salah Abdul Razag M. ALKHODER (Saudi Arabia) (Original Language Arabic)

Saudi Arabia is making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. It is a question of the International Year of the Date Palm, which will be declared in 2027.

This draft is very important for our Regional Group. The date palm is one of the essential sources of food for our Region and it is also a source of employment and a basis for handicrafts, for lots of customs and traditions.

We have a historic relationship which links the date palm to our Region. The date palm is a real cultural heritage. There is a need, therefore, to preserve this cultural heritage today.

Fourteen Arab countries have included the date palm on their list of cultural heritage. This is Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, the Sultanate of Oman, Palestine, Sudan and other Arab countries, 14 of them.

Saudi Arabia in 2017 organized an event on the date palm in the margins of the General Conference. This was in order to promote the date palm and to make sure that this precious resource was better known. It was also a question of drawing attention to the pests related to it, namely these pests which affect the date palm.

We submitted this draft at the 165th Session of the Council and our Near East Group would now like to thank all Member States of FAO who supported this project. We would also like to thank the Director-General, who will submit this draft Resolution in his turn to the United Nations General Assembly and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations during the next Session of the Assembly to declare 2027 the International Year of the Date Palm.

CHAIRPERSON

There is no other hand up for comment, so we can conclude that we have completed our discussions on Agenda Item 11.1.5 on the *draft Resolution proposal for an International Year of Date Palm*.

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| Item 13. | Progress report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System |
| Point 13. | Rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen quadriennal complet des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies en faveur du développement |
| Tema 13. | Informe sobre los progresos respecto de la revisión cuatrienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo |

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move on to Item 13 on the Agenda, which is the *Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Activities for Development of the United Nations System*, document reference C 2021/26.

My conclusions on this item are as follows:

Item 13: *Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System.*

The Conference noted the Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for the Development of the United Nations System, including the implications of the five key themes contained in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 75/233 for FAO's work.

I see no hand up for comment and that will therefore conclude our discussions on Agenda Item 13.

Item 14. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme
Point 14. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO
Tema 14. Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

With that, we move to Agenda Item 14, which is *United Nations/FAO World Food Programme.*

My conclusions on Item 14 are as follows:

Item 14: *United Nations/FAO World Food Programme.*

The Conference:

- a) Endorsed the annual Reports of the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSCO) and FAO and its activities in 2018 and 2019.
- b) Expressed satisfaction and conveyed its warmest congratulations to WFP for the award of the Nobel Peace Prize of 2020; and
- c) Commended WFP personnel for their dedicated work in challenging circumstances.

I see no hand up for comment or intervention, so that would conclude our discussions on this Agenda Item.

Item 15. Biennial Theme 2022-23
Point 15. Thème biennal 2022 -2023
Tema 15. Tema bienal para 2022 -23

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move to Agenda Item 15, which is the *Biennial Theme for 2022-23.*

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

Brazil can go along with the consensus and support those conclusions on item 15.

However, we note with concern that the document C 2021/28 is not, in our view, up to the standard of a technical specialized United Nations Agency such as FAO. It even quotes incorrectly a United Nations publication, exaggerating the impact of agrifood systems on the planet. The source document says that, globally, food systems remain a driver of climate change and the planet's unfolding environment crisis, while the Conference document says that food systems remain the major driver. We believe this document should be completely revised and adjusted to become more balanced and science-based and reflect the different priorities and realities of Members when it comes to agri-food systems transformation.

Brazil has proposed several contributions in this regard for the written procedure, most of which have not been adequately answered by FAO Management or have not been answered at all. Moreover, the document has been made available only a few days before the deadline for submitted inputs, which we believe has hampered the capacity of reaction of many delegations. We call on FAO to keep abiding by the core principle of providing balanced, neutral and science-based documents for its Members, otherwise it will risk undermining its own representativeness and relevance.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

Voy a ser muy breve para no repetir los argumentos. Argentina acompaña la posición del delegado de Brasil en su totalidad. Tengo aquí el documento, no quiero hacerles perder tiempo citando cada uno de los puntos en los cuales tenemos algunas dificultades, pero claramente sintetiza lo planteado por mi colega de Brasil nuestras preocupaciones. Creo que este es un tema que merece ser discutido, ser conversado.

Necesitamos tiempo de intercambio, discusiones y debate para poder madurar y que esto evolucione de manera inclusiva con la visión de los Miembros. Esto es lo que debe ser el mecanismo, el proceso para lograr conceptos e ideas acordadas entre los Miembros.

CHAIRPERSON

With those comments, I see no further hand up for any further comment on this item. Just for the record, I will restate the Chairperson's conclusions for Item 15 on the Biennial Theme 2022-23, which says:

The Conference endorsed the Biennial Theme 2022-23, Agriculture Food Systems Transformation: from Strategy to Action.

Since there are no more comments, we conclude our discussions on Agenda Item 15 and with that, distinguished delegates, we have covered all the items to be examined by Commission I.

That brings us to the conclusion of the deliberations of Commission I.

I will now give my closing remarks.

Dear colleagues, I am about to close Commission I. I really appreciate your collaboration and cooperation. Thank you all for supporting some very concise conclusions and for the good spirit that was demonstrated all through the Sessions of this Commission. I personally thank you all for the support that you gave me in managing the Commission's deliberations, so that we have been able to arrive at a timely conclusion of our deliberations. Thank you all, distinguished delegates, so very much. I appreciate all your efforts.

I would like to remind the members of the Drafting Committee that it will convene this evening, after we have formally closed the deliberations of Commission I, and they will be meeting in the dedicated virtual room, which the Secretary would tell them about. We should reconvene as Commission I for the Adoption of the Report tomorrow, as early as the Secretary would let us know when I have finished my closing remarks. As I have said, if she is unable to do that immediately, the exact time will be communicated through the Journal of the Conference.

With these few closing remarks, I would like to thank my Vice-Chairperson for his support throughout the deliberations of the Commission to date, thank the Secretariat and all supporting personnel who have helped me discharge my functions and duties as leading us through the deliberations of Commission I and all I have to say is thank you all very much.

God bless you and we will meet again tomorrow to adopt the Report, as we will be given from the Drafting Committee. The Commission is closed, Good evening.

Mr Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

It is a procedural matter. I do not know if the Secretary can inform us about the time tomorrow, and if the Plenary has any subject to be dealt with tomorrow.

CHAIRPERSON

The Secretariat is busy updating its information and, as I said, they will be giving us some housekeeping information. I think all of that will be included, whatever they can give us tonight. In the absence of any update for tonight, certainly the usual means of informing distinguished delegates of subsequent information will be made clear by the Secretary when she takes the floor.

Mr Jiani TIAN (Secretary of the Commission I)

Tomorrow we will have the Adoption of the Reports for both Commission I and Commission II. This timing depends on today's proceedings, and on when the Drafting Committee will process all the documents in all FAO languages, present them, and circulate among all FAO Members.

So far, we did not receive the specific timing for tomorrow, neither for the separate Commissions, nor for the Plenary. I invite the distinguished delegates to check the FAO Conference app, as well as the Members Gateway to find out the timing for the convening of the Sessions for plenary, for Commission I and Commission II.

If I receive the updated information, I will inform the members through e-mail, WhatsApp and the notifications of the app.

CHAIRPERSON

Having closed the deliberations of Commission I, having said goodnight with our housekeeping now in order, I will once again wish you all a very pleasant evening and thank you, so much, for all your support and good will for the successful deliberations of Commission I.

The meeting rose at 20:20 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.20

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

**Forty- second Session
Quarante et deuxième session
42.º período de sesiones**

**Virtual Meeting, 14-18 June 2021
Réunion Virtuelle, 14-18 juin 2021
Reunión Virtual, 14-18 de junio de 2021**

**THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I
TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

18 June 2021

The Third Meeting was opened at 14:39 hours
Ms Eudora Hilda Quartey Koranteng,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 14 h 39
sous la présidence de Mme Eudora Hilda Quartey Koranteng,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 14.39
bajo la presidencia del Sra. Eudora Hilda Quartey Koranteng,
Presidente de la Comisión I

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**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION I
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I**

Ms Eudora Hilda QUARTEY KORANTENG (Chairperson of Commission I)

Dear colleagues, good morning, good afternoon and good evening to you all. It is a pleasure for me to convene this session as Commission I for the adoption of our Report.

I would like to thank you all again for entrusting me with the responsibility of chairing this Commission. I would also like to thank you all for your constructive interventions and productive discussions. At this stage, I would now like to invite the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I, Mr Don Syme from New Zealand, to present the Report.

Mr Donald Geoffrey SYME (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I)

Dear colleagues, good afternoon from Rome. I am pleased, as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I, to present our Report for your consideration.

First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate Her Excellency, Ambassador Eudora Hilda Quartey Koranteng. Her leadership and smooth conduction of the Sessions greatly facilitated the work of the Drafting Committee, along with the very positive and flexible approach of the Members during the Session.

I would also like to thank our Drafting Committee Members in Commission I. Their constructive and collaborative spirit helped make this the shortest Drafting Committee Session I have ever chaired and participated in, so thank you very much. Finally, my appreciation to the Secretary and her team, and to the interpreters for their assistance and availability during the meeting.

With this, Madame Chairperson, and dear colleagues, I would like to invite you to adopt the Report that you have in front of you *en bloc*.

Ms Eudora Hilda QUARTEY KORANTENG (Chairperson of Commission I)

Thank you, Mr Don Syme, for your kind words and presentation. I would like to invite the Commission, that is Commission I, to adopt the Report *en bloc*.

I see no hands up asking for the floor for any interventions or comments. I would, therefore, thank you all. The Report is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

I would like to thank you all very much for your interventions, for the spirit of cooperation and, of course, my big thanks go to the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee of this Commission. With that, I would like to close the deliberations of Commission I. Once again, thank you all very much.

The meeting rose at 14:42 hours

La séance est levée à 14 h 42

Se levanta la sesión a las 14.42