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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
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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 II  
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Réunion Virtuelle, 14-18 juin 2021  
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION II  
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ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN II  
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# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Forty- second Session Quarante et deuxième session 42.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Virtual Meeting, 14-18 June 2021 Réunion Virtuelle, 14-18 juin 2021 Reunión Virtual, 14-18 de junio de 2021</b>
<b>FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION II PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION II PRIMERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN II</b>
<b>15 June 2021</b>

The First Meeting was opened at 09:13 hours  
Mr Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma,  
Chairperson of Commission II, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 09 h 13  
sous la présidence de M. Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma,  
Président de la Commission II

Se abre la primera reunión a las 09.13  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma,  
Presidente de la Comisión II

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## CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning to all and welcome to Commission II.

I am pleased to open the first meeting of Commission II. I am honoured to have been elected as Chairperson of Commission II, and I very much appreciate the trust that you have placed in me to chair our discussions. I am Benito Jiménez from Mexico. We do not have many Agenda Items but those are very important ones, so we have an important task ahead of us.

I also welcome the Vice-Chairperson of Commission II, elected by the Conference yesterday, to the First Report of the General Committee and who is Mr Akeel Hatoor of Qatar. I also welcome Representatives from the FAO Management Team that will be present to support us during our discussions. In our work, we will also be supported by the Secretariat of Commission II; Mr David McSherry and Mr Ahmed Jilani. Together with the team of the Secretariat we will do our utmost to ensure the smooth running of the work to the Commission.

Upon consultation with the various Regional Groups, I have received the following nominations today for the Drafting Committee: Chairperson, Mr Thanawat Tiensin from Thailand, and the Members nominated are: Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, Russian Federation, United States of America and Zambia. I invite those Regional Groups that have not yet submitted their nominations of Members to the Drafting Committee to contact Secretariat of the Conference with the nominations as soon as possible. I will announce the final list of nominations to the Drafting Committee later in our meeting.

The timing of the meeting of the Drafting Committee will be announced at a later stage when we finish our deliberations. In order to make the best use of the time at our disposal, may I appeal to you to keep your interventions as brief and focused as possible and please not to rush your interventions. The quality of interpretation will be improved if interventions are made at a reasonable pace. In contrast with our previous meetings of the Conference, we have very limited time in this occasion. We only have the morning sessions of today and tomorrow, so please keep it short and focused.

Furthermore, I would like to ensure accurate interpretation of statements, timely production of Verbatim records and web posting on the Conference website. The Delegations are kindly requested to submit the electronic version of the statements to the usual e-mail address: conference-statements@fao.org. Following the discussion of each of the Agenda Items, I will present conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the Report.

Finally, may I remind you that in the interest of good time management, it is important that we start each meeting on time. Please ensure that you are here in the virtual room for Commission II at the times indicated in the Order of the Day. Today we were supposed to start at 08:30 hours.

**Item 18. Strategic Framework 2022-31**

**Point 18. Cadre stratégique 2022-2031**

**Tema 18. Marco estratégico para 2022-2031**

## CHAIRPERSON

Let us move directly to our business items. Let us start with Agenda Item 18, *Strategic Framework 2022-31*. Please be sure that you have document C 2021/7 in front of you. An additional document is also presented: C 2021/LIM/4, which in Section 1 contains the extract of the Report of the 166th Session of the Council in this document, and in Section 2 reflects guidance in the reading of tables and annexes in the document based on the Council Report.

The introduction of this Item by Ms Beth Crawford, Director of the Offices of Strategy Planning and Resource Management, has been circulated to you and is being posted on the website of the Conference. So, you remember, in order to save time, we will consider that the presentation has been done.

Let us start immediately our discussion.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Acogemos con beneplácito el Marco Estratégico 2022-2031 presentado por el Director General que establece su visión de una FAO mejorada que apunta a un mundo mejor sin pobreza, sin hambre ni malnutrición y comprometido con la protección del medio ambiente, un crecimiento económico responsable y promoción de la equidad.

Reconocemos que, junto con las tendencias y los desafíos mundiales, las necesidades, las prioridades y los acuerdos identificados a nivel regional y en los órganos rectores, deben orientar el trabajo de la FAO para garantizar un enfoque de abajo hacia arriba en la revisión del Marco Estratégico, como se prevé en los textos básicos de la FAO. Al respecto, como ya lo expresamos en el Comité del Programa y durante el Consejo, observamos con preocupación que en el Marco Estratégico se utilizan varios conceptos, enfoques y lenguajes que no están acordados intergubernamentalmente y destacamos la necesidad de que la FAO utilice conceptos, enfoques y lenguajes acordados multilateralmente. Sobre esto, esperamos que la FAO ajuste en consecuencia el nuevo Marco Estratégico.

La información brindada en el documento que intenta reflejar la orientación del Consejo sobre la formulación de cuadros y anexos del Documento *C2021/C2027* es apreciada y constituye un buen inicio, pero que aún debe ser desarrollado, en especial, con mayor atención respecto a lo expresado por los Miembros a lo largo de todo el presente bienio de trabajo en materia de conceptos, como transformación azul que la Argentina objeta.

Observamos con satisfacción que la agenda 2030 y sus Objetivos de desarrollo Sostenibles (ODS) son los principios rectores del Marco Estratégico de la FAO propuesto y observamos que el desarrollo genuino sólo se logra cuando las tres dimensiones de la sostenibilidad económica, social y ambiental se abordan en materia equilibrada, reconociendo su interconexión y naturaleza indivisible. Apoyamos plenamente la centralidad de los ODS 1, 2 y 10 en el trabajo de la FAO establecido en el Marco Estratégico, ya que todos reconocemos que la agricultura, en particular, es la herramienta más inclusiva para acabar con la pobreza y las desigualdades y garantizar la seguridad alimentaria para todos.

Acogemos con beneplácito la necesidad de sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios más eficientes, inclusivos, resilientes y sostenibles y con ese fin valoramos a los cuatro mejores, mejor producción, mejor nutrición, un mejor medio ambiente y una vida mejor que reconoce los desafíos críticos para todos actores de la cadena de suministro para garantizar una mayor y mejor producción respetando y protegiendo el medio ambiente.

Como ya lo ha dicho, como lo dirá el grupo G77+China en el plenario, nuestro país reconoce la necesidad de sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios sostenibles y al mismo tiempo la existencia de contextos diversos, complejos y desiguales y por lo tanto, múltiples enfoques y herramientas posibles para dar respuestas a los desafíos que debemos enfrentar.

No existe lugar en el ámbito de la alimentación y la agricultura para recetas únicas o prescripciones de política, redactadas muy distantes de las realidades que les toca vivir a las poblaciones rurales de las distintas partes del mundo y que no tengan en cuenta las prioridades, las capacidades, y los contextos nacionales. A su vez, las denominadas transformaciones, cuando corresponden, exigen mecanismos de transición adecuados, incluidos recursos financieros, transferencia de tecnología y creación de capacidad.

En ese sentido, recordamos, que los principios de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas, solidaridad y cooperación deben orientar los esfuerzos de implementación. También reconocemos la existencia de una variedad de enfoques, sistemas y herramientas probados para lograr sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios sostenibles y pedimos la implementación del Marco Estratégico para garantizar que la FAO los aborde de manera neutral y equilibrada, de modo que en consecuencia pueden ponerse a disposición de los Miembros teniendo en cuenta sus diferentes contextos, prioridades y capacidades.

El propio Marco se presenta como una herramienta para conducir los esfuerzos de la FAO hacia la consecución de la Agenda 2030 y sus ODS. Como tal, el marco debería reflejar adecuadamente las tres dimensiones que forman parte de manera integral y equilibrada el desarrollo sostenible. Estas dimensiones deben atenderse de manera balanceada sin priorizar el logro objetivo en una de ellas por



sobre las otras. Además de este equilibrio general que debe lograrse del marco en su conjunto, es importante que dentro de cada esfera programática se preserve también tal balance. De esta manera se evitará que eventuales mayores progresos en una dimensión por sobre otras opere en detrimento de este necesario equilibrio.

Destacamos la necesidad de realizar más esfuerzos para que las tecnologías y las innovaciones estén disponibles para todos los países y partes interesadas, reduciendo así las brechas y desigualdades existentes entre los países y dentro de ellos y destacamos la importancia de las cadenas mundiales de suministro de alimentos y el comercio internacional. En cuanto a este último, acogemos con agrado el llamamiento de los Comités del Consejo a la FAO y del propio Consejo de la FAO en su periodo de sesiones número 166 para que se promueva aún más el mandato y trabajo de la Organización en los mercados y el comercio de productos básicos.

Apoyamos plenamente la labor normativa de la FAO basada en la ciencia, en particular en lo que respecta al Codex Alimentarius (CODEX) y a la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF). También nos gustaría reafirmar el carácter universal del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) y su importancia para el desarrollo agrícola sobre el terreno y acogemos con satisfacción la alineación de las actividades financiadas por el Programa de Cooperación Técnica con el nuevo Marco Estratégico.

Apreciamos y alentamos los esfuerzos de la FAO, sobre asociaciones transformadoras para contribuir al crecimiento inclusivo y sostenible y fortalecer las contribuciones a los ODS. El fortalecimiento de las asociaciones norte-sur y Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular contribuiría significativamente al cumplimiento satisfactorio de los mandatos de la FAO.

La Argentina está comprometida con una mejor FAO dirigida e impulsada por sus Miembros, para ello es primordial que todos tratemos de evitar narrativas, restrictivas y excluyentes que buscan moldear el futuro de los sistemas alimentarios a la imagen de los sistemas productivos de algunas regiones y/o países en particular. Cuando somos plurales y equilibrados, cuando sentimos que todos estamos incluidos, se reducen las tensiones en nuestros debates y fortalecemos a la Organización para que sea más eficaz y eficiente en la acción en el terreno.

El foco de las discusiones en FAO debe estar en la difusión de las buenas prácticas y técnicas, productivas que permitan conciliar la producción con la conservación. Esta es la única forma de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria para una población mundial se prevé llegará a los 9 000 millones en 2050.

Con estos comentarios, la Argentina, da la bienvenida y apoya el Marco Estratégico propuesto para el 2022-2031 recordando a la FAO y a otros Miembros, que los desafíos futuros exigen a todas las partes interesadas que sumen sus mejores y verdaderos y desinteresados esfuerzos para apoyar su implementación y, con suerte, conducir a un mundo sin hambre ni malnutrición y con mayor equidad.

**Sr. Julio Eduardo MARTINETTI MACEDO (Peru)**

Agradecemos a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento, Marco Estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031, fundamentado en la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y en las tres metas mundiales de los miembros a través de la transformación hacia sistemas agroalimentarios más eficientes inclusivos, resilientes y sostenibles, para lograr una mejor producción, una mejor nutrición, un mejor ambiente y una vida mejor sin dejar a nadie atrás.

A este respecto, concordamos plenamente en que la mejora de los sistemas agroalimentarios jugará un papel fundamental en la consecución de la Agenda 2030 y por ello es necesario impulsar soluciones sostenibles y de máxima repercusión, a mediano y largo plazo, en la agricultura y la alimentación y en el desarrollo rural bajo un enfoque integrado. Mi país respalda las 20 esferas programáticas prioritarias en el marco de las cuatro mejoras, resaltando la importancia de lograr un mayor equilibrio en su aplicación, no solo a nivel operativo y presupuestal sino también enfocadas en las tres dimensiones del desarrollo sostenible.

A este respecto, apreciamos las aclaraciones contempladas en el documento C2021/LIM/4 que incluye los ajustes que fueran solicitados por el Consejo y los Comités Técnicos. Deseamos destacar la

incorporación del comercio y los mercados en el Marco Estratégico resaltando la importancia de un sistema de comercio internacional abierto, justo, transparente y predecible para estimular un crecimiento económico inclusivo y un desarrollo sostenible.

La propuesta transformadora de la FAO de los sistemas agroalimentarios es necesaria, pero debe tener en cuenta la diversidad y los contextos locales, evaluando los impactos económicos y sociales, así como las capacidades nacionales para lograr una transición adecuada cuando corresponda. Saludamos también la propuesta transformadora en la Organización para hacerla más ágil, eficaz, dinámica, innovadora, transparente, inclusiva, aplicando los cuatro aceleradores en todas sus intervenciones programáticas y contemplando los temas transversales de género, juventud e inclusión, así como aquellos de carácter técnico, como el cambio climático, nutrición y biodiversidad.

Deseamos destacar la importancia estratégica y el efecto catalizador del Programa de Cooperación Técnica y de otros trabajos técnicos de la FAO. Su rol en la labor normativa y de apoyo al establecimiento de normas del Codex Alimentarius y al Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF), así como la importancia de las asociaciones para la implementación del Marco Estratégico, principalmente con otros organismos de Naciones Unidas, las instituciones financieras y el sector privado y a través de mecanismos como la Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular.

Debemos tener presente que el Marco Estratégico establece la dirección de la organización para el próximo decenio, así como la visión estratégica de cómo orientar los recursos y las modalidades operativas, a fin de respaldar mejor los esfuerzos colectivos y nacionales de sus miembros para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles (ODS). Con estas palabras, el Perú respalda el Marco Estratégico de la FAO para 2022, -2031.

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

The United Kingdom would like to thank the Director-General, FAO colleagues and FAO's other Members for their contributions to developing FAO's Strategic Framework for 2022 to 2031. We look forward to the finalization of the Framework and the Strategic Results Framework by the end of the year.

The Strategic Framework comes at an important time. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger was already rising; it now threatens almost a billion people. The situation in Ethiopia is of grave concern to the United Kingdom, and we call on FAO Members to urge all parties to the conflict to cease hostilities immediately to allow humanitarian agencies to deliver life-saving aid safely, to allow communities across Tigray to urgently carry out agricultural activities, and to allow those who cannot farm to travel safely to seek assistance. All parties to the conflict should uphold their obligations towards international humanitarian law.

Our common future requires a radical shift in the way we produce and consume food. Sustainable agriculture is an indispensable tool for tackling so many of the challenges we face, not just the challenges of reducing hunger and poverty, but also the risk of deadly zoonosis like COVID-19 and our changing climate. With the Food Systems Summit on the horizon, none of us can say we are doing enough. The United Kingdom is working closely with our hosts Italy on the G20 and the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). In addition, as Presidents of the G7 and COP26, the United Kingdom is committed to working with all FAO's Members to achieve more sustainable agriculture and food systems.

The United Kingdom welcomes FAO's focus on One Health in the Strategic Framework, but we would like to see greater emphasis on FAO's work to address climate change, achieve a better environment, and support its Members to transform agriculture and food systems to achieve the Paris Agreement Goals.

I will conclude by calling on the Conference to endorse three specific recommendations of the Council for the final Strategic Framework and Strategic Results Framework. Firstly, on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we call on Conference to underline Council's recommendation for a stronger link between the *four betters* and the related SDGs in the Strategic Framework.

Next, we call on Conference to underline the Council requests that the Strategic Framework sets out the principles for what should be funded through the Regular Budget and what should be funded through extra-budgetary resources. Finally, we call on Conference to underline the Council request to include FAO's Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) in the Strategic Results Framework, and we encourage FAO to report on progress at country level, as a key part of the Director-General's commitment to improving transparency and accountability.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

Let me start by congratulating you on your election, and I would also like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the relevant documents.

Over the past years, the international community has progressively reached the understanding that the way we produce food and consume food needs changing in order to ensure a food-secure future for our children and grandchildren. The Sustainable Development Report 2019 highlights this evidence and identifies sustainable food systems as an entry point for transformation. Therefore, Switzerland particularly welcomes that the Strategic Framework puts the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems at the heart of all strategic actions.

Switzerland welcomes the greater focus on enhancing internal cooperation and on fostering partnerships for accelerating the transformation of food systems to more sustainability. Additionally, having youth as the cross-cutting theme opens up the opportunity to sincerely consider the vision of young people on the future development of food systems and agriculture and permits young people to contribute and shape this future. However, Switzerland also sees some critical aspects in the focus of the new Strategic Framework. Let me name two.

First, the strong emphasis on productivity and technology. While a strong emphasis on productivity, efficiency and technology-based approaches is understandable, FAO must consider financial, institutional and social innovations on the same level as technology to foster a transformation towards sustainable food systems in a holistic manner.

Second, prioritization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2 and 10. According to the Agenda 2030 all SDGs are given an equal weight. FAO should, therefore, take a systemic perspective and carefully choose the entry points for its contribution to all relevant agriculture and food-related SDGs. Considering urbanization, changing consumption patterns and the scarcity of key production resources, SDG 12 is and will remain key to address SDGs related to food systems. This being said, in implementing FAO's new Strategic Framework, Switzerland will continue to collaborate with FAO and Members to ensure that the following three points are taken into consideration.

First, climate change, biodiversity and soil degradation are central. Climate change, biodiversity and soil degradation are among the greatest challenges agriculture and humanity are facing. We highlight the importance of these issues within FAO's mandate and call on FAO to put them at the centre of the Organization's work and act as a reliable partner in implementing the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted during the 15th UN Climate Change Conference (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China.

Second, operating within the mandate. It is important that FAO avoids the duplication of efforts with the work of other UN agencies and international organizations. Be it, for example, its normative work on biotechnology, its work in the field, or its activities in matchmaking between donor and recipients at country level. We call on FAO to work in a complementary fashion with other UN agencies and in the spirit of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) Reform.

Third, strengthening normative work. Although Switzerland welcomes the description in the Framework of FAO's normative work, the link with FAO's operational and field work is sometimes overemphasized. We call on FAO to focus on its core competence which is normative work and technical advice to Members and to strengthen this comparative advantage.

Let me conclude by stating that Switzerland supports the adoption of the Strategic Framework 2022-2031.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

First, I would like to strongly echo the comments made by the United Kingdom Ambassador about the situation in Tigray, where the United States fears that famine is already occurring. We have announced an additional USD 181 million in assistance as we engage with our partners to seek a durable political solution to the crisis and secure humanitarian access. This avoidable humanitarian nightmare illustrates the need for our redoubled effort.

The United States would like to once again thank FAO for all the work that has gone into developing the Strategic Framework that will guide this Organization's work over the next decade. As Secretary Tom Vilsack said yesterday in his remarks during the Plenary, the world is in an urgent and critical moment, and the FAO's Strategy must rise to that occasion. This Strategic Framework provides a very strong vision for a better world. We are happy to see that so many of the suggestions that The United States and other Members made have been incorporated into that Strategic Framework.

First, we support FAO's elevating the importance of climate change in the Strategic Framework, where we see it highlighted as a driver, top challenge and an area to increase innovation and financing. This is a top priority for the United States.

In April, our President convened a Leaders Summit on Climate to rally the world in tackling the climate crisis. The United States pledged to achieve a 50-52 percent reduction from 2005 levels in greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 and to reach a net zero emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050. The United States also intends, by the year 2024, to double our annual public climate finance to developing countries, as well as to mobilize additional private financing for climate.

Next, FAO plays a pivotal role in supporting the Codex Alimentarius through its Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), two of the organizations which are setting standards for international trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, food safety and plant health protection. Looking ahead, these organizations will play an increasingly important role underpinning food security, trade and market access. Therefore, we must prioritize funding these organizations in a sustainable manner and support their independent scientific expert advice functions. The Strategic Framework reaffirms FAO's support of international standard setting and food safety work.

Lastly, we want to reiterate the importance in the strategy of an inclusive innovation agenda that includes specific mention of the new technologies that will improve agricultural productivity and feed more people around the world.

**Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on being elected as the Chairperson of Commission II.

Malaysia expresses appreciation to the Secretariat in presenting the Strategic Framework 2022-2031. Malaysia also recognizes FAO's role and efforts in preparing and developing the Strategic Framework 2022-2031 through an inclusive and transparent consultation process with all relevant Committees and Members.

The Strategic Framework has been developed in the context of major global and regional challenges. It simultaneously allows FAO to provide maximum support in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at country level and will have far reaching benefits for Members.

Malaysia appreciates the work of FAO in the Framework, particularly on the key aspects relating to 'leaving no one behind', to 'sustainable, inclusive and resilient systems', recognizing the cross-cutting themes of gender, youth, inclusion, as well as indigenous people, to emphasize the significant role in achieving the 2030 Agenda,

Strengthening partnership and achieving a special impact of the *four betters*, which are *better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life*, and which reflect the interconnected economic and social sustainability environmental dimensions of agriculture and food systems.

Malaysia acknowledges the outline framework relating to the establishment of the four cross-cutting drivers and accelerators, namely, technology, innovation, data and complements, which are governance, human capital and institutions in all the programmatic interventions with the objective of

accommodating and transformation tailored to countries' needs and national context in the efforts to achieve SGD's and the Agenda 2030.

In conclusion, Malaysia highlights the importance of science, technology and innovation as a catalyst and driving force to improve agriculture and food systems, planning, monitoring, including its implementation towards achieving productive and sustainable agriculture and food systems.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

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

We appreciate the efficient work of the Management in providing a foresight, comprehensive and pragmatic Strategic Framework 2022-31, through an inclusive and transparent consultation process.

We support FAO's effort to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the three Global Goals of Members by promoting agri-food systems. We note with appreciation that the new Strategic Framework supports the 2030 Agenda with the centrality of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1, 2 and 10, and through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*, leaving no one behind. The betters highly reflect the interconnected economic, social and environmental dimensions of agri-food systems. We recognize that the narrative of the Framework, with capitalized MORE, properly addresses the directions of agri-food systems transformation with due respect to the various current systems.

We note with appreciation that the 20 Programme Priority Areas, which include digital agriculture, reducing food loss and waste, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, etc., reflect FAO's comparative advantages and guide interventions, representing the Organization's strategic contribution towards the SDGs. The Programme Priority Areas embody the interconnectedness and indivisible nature of the SDGs and contribute to the realization of the SDGs through a tangible, issue-based programmatic way, and will guide FAO on filling critical gaps and putting in place the condition needed to drive the changes that will ultimately contribute to the achievement of the selected SDG targets.

We welcome the application of FAO's four cross-sectoral "accelerators" in all its programmatic interventions, including technology, innovation, data and complements (governance, human capital, and institutions), to maximize effort in meeting the SDGs.

We highly appreciate that the new Strategic Framework incorporates the inclusions of the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, especially the guidance provided by the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, such as , mainstreaming an agri-food system approach into national planning processes, including social protection to reinforce agriculture's role in ending hunger and eradicating poverty. We underscore the importance of smallholders and family farmers as critical stakeholders for the futures of the agri-food system.

Asia Group believes the above aspirations can only be achieved through a widely engaged partnership, first and foremost, the collaboration with Members. The partnership should also be expanded and deepened with other UN agencies, financial institutions, and the private sector. The instruments such as South-South and Triangular Cooperation should be invigorated and further enhanced.

We reiterate the strategic and catalytic importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and other technical work of FAO, within the context of FAO's institutional architecture, tailored to country-specific needs, in the efforts for the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. We would also like to reaffirm TCP's importance for agricultural development on the field, and we welcome the alignment of the TCP-funded activities with the new Strategic Framework.

We welcome that the Strategic Framework 2022-31 builds on the momentum and harmonized transformations of the Organization, including increased efficiency, streamlining and innovative approaches, a modular and flexible organizational structure and other initiatives

We support the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, which aims at accelerating agriculture transformation and sustainable rural development through targeting the poorest and the hungry, differentiating territories and strategies, and bringing together all relevant dimensions of the agri-food systems through analysis

and partnerships. The Members of the Asia Group would also like to share their development experiences with other countries in need through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

The challenges ahead require cooperation and unity of FAO and all Members. We fully support FAO to work steadily with Members to implement the new Strategic Framework in a world with rising risks and uncertainties.

With these comments, the Asia Group endorses the Strategic Framework 2022-31.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

Distinguished Chairperson, allow me to congratulate you on your election.

Since Items 18 and 19 are closely interrelated, I will make one statement on both. We note the large volume of work that was done to prepare the Strategic Framework 2022-31, as a result of which, today we have an ambitious document which brings together the expectations of Members, on the one hand, and the in-depth knowledge and expertise of FAO in order to achieve sustainable development, on the other hand. Considering the unique mandate of FAO, the Russian Federation supports the continued focus of the Strategic Framework on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2 which aim at eradicating hunger and all forms of malnutrition and combating poverty respectively. We feel that the activity of the Organization can also foster the achievement of SDG 10 on reducing inequalities, as well as other related SDGs.

We consider beneficial the system proposed by FAO Management of building the Organization's work on the *four betters* and, taking into account the complex nature of food systems, we believe that this approach will foster more precise traceability of FAO's contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the goals of the Food Systems Summit in September of this year, in New York.

Dear colleagues, many challenges, for example those linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, require prompt solutions. In addition, often the speed of implementation of innovation and technology exceeds the speed of evaluation of consequences.

We are convinced that the use of biotechnology, genome-editing technology and methods of synthetic biology in agriculture must be accompanied by integrated risk analysis. We call on FAO to take this into account and to consider it in the framework of the One Health Approach. It is also important, so that differences in levels of technical development of Members that due to these differences the accelerators proposed by the Framework do not lead to a widening of existing gaps in levels of agricultural development. We urge the Chief Scientist to devote due attention to this.

Dear colleagues, we agree that fostering sustainable food security will, among other things, foster the maintenance of stability and the creation of peace-loving communities. These very considerations, in particular, guided the Government of Russia in its decisions on allocating USD 3 million to the project on fostering recovery and sustainable development in Syria, and USD 10 million to combat the locust outbreak in Africa.

**Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)**

It was brought to my attention that unfortunately the interpreter could not follow the text of my speech which I transmitted to the Secretariat beforehand. So, with your permission, I will try to summarize and maybe to follow up in English. Distinguished Mr President, we took note also with regard to the information presented by the Secretariat concerning the new terminologies and the concepts that have been used in the Strategic Framework.

My colleagues already brought to the attention that we are using, in the Strategic Framework, the new concepts and new technologies like 'blue transformation', 'sustainable products', 'sustainable peace' and marking the traces. We also urge that other organizations like the World Health Organization, and including in the Framework, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) must also be involved in this work.

I also want to finish my statement with the support on the financial part, and Russia will also support the zero-nominal growth of the budget of FAO. We also support the recommendations that have been adopted at the 185th Session of the Finance Committee, in March of this year.

I also, once again, thank all of you for your attention and once again, I urge the Secretariat to provide interpretation in good quality.

**Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

As you know, Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, and all of you, it is an honour to work under your wisdom and leadership Mr Chairperson. We would like to express our gratitude to you for accepting this challenging post. We wish you all the best for this important week.

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We take note of the new Strategic Framework 2022-31. We wish to underline the essential role of FAO's Governing Bodies in building this Strategic Framework in terms of vision, priorities and actions to be developed by the Organization in the next ten years, to fulfil its mandate in the United Nations system, in particular in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We acknowledge the clearance of the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium with the Strategic Framework in line with Resolution 10/2009 of the 36th Session of the Conference, regarding the reform of the programming, budgeting and results-based monitoring system.

As regards the content, we would like to reiterate the need for a food systems approach with the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainability on equal footing and addressed in a balanced way across the *four betters*, including in the number of Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and the allocation of budget between the *four betters*, as requested at the last Council Session. We also wish to underline the need to better reflect and mainstream climate change.

The conservation of sustainable use of natural resources within FAO's mandate and the importance of the One Health Approach and of the cooperation with Tripartite partnership with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). While recognizing the importance of prioritizing interventions, we wish to underline that the Strategic Framework should reflect all FAO's work on the Sustainable Development Goals under its mandate. We request stronger interlinkages between the SDGs and the *four betters*, including in the results-based monitoring system.

We wish to highlight the need to ensure full integration in the United Nations system, especially at the country level, and the importance of ensuring accountability and transparency which are fundamental for maintaining the substance and authority of the Organization within the multilateral system. We welcome the strategic approach to delivering efficiently as One FAO. An agile and flexible Organization is needed more than ever, given the increasing risks and uncertainties in the global context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, stability of the Organizational structure and transparent and merit-based human resources policies and practices are crucial. We take note of the positive developments in this area so far and look forward to further progress. We concur with Council's appreciation of the elements for a reinvigorated fit-for-purpose FAO business model and align with the importance of innovative financing mechanisms and expanding its funding base. In this regard, we underline the Council's request to provide to Members the principles of funding through the Regular Budget and through extra-budgetary contributions.

We also welcome the clear synergies with the wider UN system in the framework of the United Nations development system reform and would encourage the Organization to enhance cooperation aim of generating efficiency gains in line with the Funding Compact. Finally, we regret that the additional paper with clarifications for future adjustments to the Strategic Framework, as requested by FAO Council, has not been submitted in due time to the Conference. The information contained in document C 2021/LIM/4 is incomplete and does not meet the demands made by FAO Council.

In particular, we are looking forward to the FAO's Secretariat proposals and at better reflecting climate change and three dimensions of sustainability so as to ensure that the adjustments proposed by FAO's Governing Bodies are duly taken into consideration in this Strategic Framework. Considering

the above, we request that the proposed adjustments being prepared in the revision of the Strategic Framework. We would appreciate hearing from the Secretariat on how this will be addressed.

**Ms Margaret TWOMEY (Australia)**

2030: eight years, six months and two weeks. Nine harvest seasons. One Strategic Framework.

The enormity of what needs to be achieved in the lead up to 2030 is well known, and Australia commends FAO on addressing this immense task in the Strategic Framework 2022-31 – a document that will be critical in guiding our collective success, in particular for achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger.

Against this backdrop, it is a pleasure for me today to welcome the FAO's new Strategic Framework on behalf of Australia. Throughout the comprehensive and inclusive development process, Australia has considered the Framework to be balanced and pragmatic. We have welcomed the efforts to align the document with the 2030 Agenda, and we have appreciated FAO's acknowledgement that meeting these global goals requires flexibility in solutions and must involve actors at all levels from many sectors.

In endorsing the new Strategic Framework, we take the opportunity to highlight the following three points. Firstly, as has been outlined under the Core Functions, we welcome that FAO will strive to leverage its comparative advantages, especially its normative and standard setting work.

Secondly, we appreciate the overlay of the four cross-cutting accelerators: innovation, technology, data and complements, by which virtue will serve to accommodate a range of transformative solutions and drive change in line with national needs and circumstances.

Thirdly, we recognize the important role which will be played by the introduction of inter-linked Programme Priority Areas to achieve the three pillars of sustainable development.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a major set-back to our process undeniably, but Australia recognizes that it has revealed a suite of opportunities for us to harness, which we are pleased to see reflected in the new Strategic Framework.

COVID-19 has demonstrated the fundamental role of transparent and rules-based trade in food and agricultural products in achieving food security, and of the resilience of many international trade structures already in place. We welcome that the Framework does not shy away from this recognition and indeed seeks to increase the resilience of trading arrangements at a global, regional and local level.

The pandemic also highlighted the importance of partnerships and the value of working together, especially the need for governments to work alongside the private sector and civil society. This will not only enable us to benefit from shared expertise and lived-experience but will allow us to access more innovation and financing solutions. Partnerships are also important to address the critical need revealed by the pandemic to adopt the One Health Approach more broadly, and Australia looks forward to seeing FAO really harness the Tripartite Plus arrangement along with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The task ahead of us is not easy, but Australia is ready for the challenge, and we are ready to work with FAO and our fellow Members to achieve the important objectives which have been clearly set out in the 2022-2031 Strategic Framework.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Monsieur le Président, je souhaiterais tout d'abord vous transmettre les félicitations de ma délégation pour votre nomination et vous dire tout le plaisir que nous avons à vous voir présider nos discussions. La France s'aligne sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 Etats membres. Nous prenons note de la version du cadre stratégique soumise aux Etats Membres. Nous regrettons que la plupart des remarques constructives émises par le Conseil et les Comités techniques n'aient pas été prises en compte par la FAO.



La France considère que le document C 2021/LIM/4 ne répond pas à la demande du Conseil de clarifier les futurs ajustements qui devraient être apportés au cadre stratégique, au plan à moyen terme, et au programme de travail et budget. En particulier, la France rappelle qu'un rééquilibrage des activités entre les 3 piliers du développement durable, est attendu, conformément à la demande du Conseil, afin que les questions de durabilité environnementale soient mieux prises en compte.

A cet égard, la France souligne l'intérêt des approches agro-écologiques et souhaite que la FAO poursuive son travail en faveur de l'agroécologie notamment à travers la mise en œuvre des recommandations politiques sur les approches agro-écologiques et autres approches novatrices pour une agriculture et des systèmes alimentaires durables améliorant la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition adoptées le 4 juin dernier lors de la session spéciale du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Par ailleurs, la France souhaite que la FAO continue de soutenir activement les pays pour apporter des solutions aussi bien d'adaptation que d'atténuation au changement climatique, en particulier en Afrique et dans les petits États insulaires en développement spécialement affectés par ces phénomènes.

La France estime également que les questions commerciales doivent être traitées par la FAO dans le strict cadre de son mandat uniquement. Par ailleurs et enfin, la France attend que ces éléments soient intégrés à l'occasion des révisions du cadre stratégique et se reflètent dès décembre 2021 dans la version ajustée du budget qui sera présenté au prochain Conseil. Et enfin, Monsieur le Président, et tenant compte des désagréments intervenus à la délégation russe, je souhaiterais souligner de nouveau l'importance que nous attachons au respect et à la qualité du multilinguisme dans cette organisation dans tous les débats de nos comités pléniers et de tous les organes de gouvernance de la FAO.

**Ms Nathalie CASSIERS (Belgium)**

Belgium aligns itself with the joint statement delivered by Portugal on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States.

I would also like to make the following remarks.

First, Belgium welcomes the new Strategic Framework and acknowledges its coherence with the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. We welcome the orientation of the Framework with the 2030 Agenda. It comes at a very important time to take us to our deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Second, Belgium underlines the need for full alignment with the repositioning of the UN development system. The challenges the world is facing, reinforced by the ongoing pandemic, underscores how important multilateral cooperation is as a means to find solutions. We need a strong FAO, implementing the United Nations development system reform, especially at the country level, in order to succeed in the fight against hunger and in transforming food systems to be far more sustainable. We encourage FAO to report on progress at country level as part of FAO's commitment to improving transparency and accountability.

In addition, we encourage FAO to further promote the One Health Approach that recognizes the interface between human, animal and plant health as well as environment. This approach is key to better meet the challenges we face with the current pandemic, and to prevent and be better prepared to possible future pandemics.

Third, Belgium welcomes the commitment to a transition towards more sustainable food systems. Due attention should be paid to the challenges involved, in particular with regard to sustainable issues such as soil degradation, biodiversity loss and water scarcity. Therefore, the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability should be implemented at an equal footing across the *four betters*. In addressing all these dimensions FAO has to respect its own mandate, but also the mandate of other organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Fourth, we strongly encourage FAO to pay due attention to sustainable innovations, such as agroecology. In addition, FAO should also not shy away from new technologies; but inclusivity and accessibility should be ensured.

Fifth, we underscore the importance of women, youth, indigenous people, smallholders and family farmers as key stakeholders in a transition to more sustainable food systems and to address inequalities in this respect.

Finally, we welcome the improvements made in FAO's Human Resource Management. For a knowledge Organization such as FAO, its staff is its most valuable asset. FAO needs a Human Resources policy that is transparent, merit-based and creates a solution-oriented environment for better continued learning.

Belgium looks forward to continuing working with FAO under the Strategic Framework towards the realization of the Agenda 2030.

**Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original Language Chinese)**

We thank the Secretariat for this document. China is aligned with Thailand's statement, and we have already presented the challenges for its completion and FAO's crucial role in order to take into account our agro-farm systems, in order to improve and bring about the *four betters*. We have a new model of activity that is giving orientations to develop FAO in the 10 years to come.

China congratulates FAO for an inclusive and transparent debate in elaborating this Strategic Framework, and we are happy to see that the priority areas include digital agriculture, fight against food waste, and the transparency of international markets, the Hand-in-Hand Initiatives, and also the importance to revitalise South-South and Triangular cooperation as well. We have worked on human resources, purchasing, technology and training, and administrative services. Efficiency has increased as well, in order to further improve the representative specialities involved in bringing about our programme. We are working to strengthen both regional and national work in the new modes of activities and this has brought us in terms of development.

China supports adopting this Strategic Framework 2022-31.

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

Japan fully aligns itself with the joint statement given by Thailand on behalf of the Asia Group. In addition, Japan would like to deliver some comments.

Firstly, Japan appreciates the comprehensive and transparent consultation process that was taken in elaborating the Strategic Framework. We would like FAO to continue maintaining transparency in its organization and management. In order to strengthen food security, it is important to ensure an even and level redistribution of food and agriculture products based on open and transparent trade rules. We must avoid repeating the experience of the increase in food products after the injunction of export restrictions during the pandemic.

We call for further strengthening the efforts at increasing the resiliency of food supply chains in FAO's work. Among the *four betters* in the Strategic Framework, Japan places significant importance on *better production* in addressing the challenges of climate change. Promoting digitalization and innovation is an important factor to increase productivity while protecting the environment.

In order to promote innovation, it is important to protect intellectual property rights and foster responsible investment with proper protection of human rights and the environment. We would also like to highlight the necessity of proper information management for promoting digitalization by protecting proper privacy of information and ensuring equal access to data.

Japan also places importance over the better for nutrition. As the host country of the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit this December, we are looking forward to leading the discussion on the state and challenges of improving the world's nutrition and finding ways of uniting our collective efforts in this sector. We would like to also make sure there is a synergy between the UN Food Systems Summit and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit.

With that Japan welcomes the Strategic Framework 2022-2031 and we are ready to continue strongly supporting FAO's work under the new Framework and thank the Secretariat for all their efforts.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

Brazil takes note of the Strategic Framework 2022-31 proposed by FAO Management and of the document *C 2021/LIM/4*, that provides clarifications for its future adjustments.

Brazil appreciates the inclusion of clarifications on terminology in document *C 2021/LIM/4* and notes that such clarifications would not be necessary if FAO used only multilaterally-agreed concepts and language in its documents, as previously requested by several FAO Bodies. We would like to emphasize, once again, this recommendation that can not only contribute to the clarity and use of FAO documents, but also spare precious time in future meetings.

We see ourselves in the position of repeating, here, comments previously raised in technical committees, in the Finance Committee and in the Council that have not been integrated in the preparation of the Strategic Framework.

Firstly, Brazil believes that the importance of governance, human capital and institutions should be adequately acknowledged in the Strategic Framework, where they are currently called mere “complements”. Technology, innovation and data do not exist by themselves; they need capable people to develop them, institutions to implement them and governance to guide their use.

Secondly, the Framework lists food prices among its drivers and affirms that they fail to capture the full social and environmental costs of food. At the same time, no reference is made to inefficiencies in markets caused by trade-distorting subsidies and the negative impacts that they can have over food price and sustainable production. Indeed, open, rules-based and predictable international trade is only partially addressed in priority area BN5 but should instead be treated as a cross-cutting subject.

Thirdly, Brazil strongly disagrees with the view that the production and consumption of animal products is a cause of epidemics or ecosystems degradation, as expressed in driver D16 and in paragraph 17. Once again, we call FAO to rely on consolidated scientific knowledge and to avoid generalizations that may result in bias against specific products, such as meat, instead of targeting unsustainable or inadequate practices. Brazil notes that, even if many emerging infectious diseases are of zoonotic origin, not all of them become epidemics, and the conditions for so go well beyond food systems and the mandate of FAO. We request that the reference to “increasing production and consumption of animal products” be substituted by “unsustainable production and consumption”.

Finally, Brazil notes that, in the section of the Strategic Framework on “Scarcity and degradation of natural resources” it is unfair and unbalanced to single out developing regions such as Latin America and Africa in a negative manner, while not mentioning the historic responsibilities of developed countries for degradation of natural resources and Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions. We believe that the unsustainable patterns of consumption, especially in high-income countries, should be added to the list of factors that pose pressure on natural resources, along with those already cited.

Brazil would appreciate that these comments be taken into account in the preparation of the Report of the Conference and in future reviews of the Strategic Framework.

#### **Sra. María De Los Ángeles GÓMEZ AGUILAR (México)**

México apoya la propuesta del Marco Estratégico de la FAO 2022-2031. Lo consideramos equilibrado, pragmático e integrado, y que apoya la consecución de la Agenda 2030 alineándose con sus objetivos y metas. Damos la bienvenida a que el Marco Estratégico apoye las transformaciones de los sistemas alimentarios para contar con sistemas agroalimentarios más eficientes, más incluyentes, resistentes y sostenibles sin olvidar su valor económico y empoderando a la población vulnerable y marginada.

Apoyamos la idea de que la FAO siga reforzando sus asociaciones y cooperación ya que todos tenemos que actuar de manera oportuna. Creemos que las cuatro mejoras representan un principio organizador de cómo la FAO pretende contribuir directamente a los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible 1, 2 y 10, así como, los vínculos con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles relacionados con el agua, la producción y consumo responsables, la vida submarina y los ecosistemas.

Las 20 esferas programáticas prioritarias son muy completas y su alineación con metas específicas de la Agenda 2030 permitirá darle un seguimiento puntual. Temas como el cambio climático, género, transiciones a dietas saludables, pérdida y desecho de alimentos, medio ambiente, biodiversidad, así

como sistemas alimentarios urbanos, están cubiertos adecuadamente en el marco estratégico. Estamos convencidos que las soluciones tecnológicas e innovadoras son la guía para mejorar la productividad del sector agroalimentario, reduciendo los costos de los alimentos y los productos agrícolas. Así como, para mitigar la escasez del agua, la degradación de la tierra, la pérdida de alimentos y el uso excesivo de insumos y la pérdida de biodiversidad.

Apoyamos la inclusión del tema de juventud como tema transversal; que se refuercen las cuestiones del medio ambiente y diversidad biológica en las esferas programáticas prioritarias y las referencias a la desigualdad como un factor que incide directamente en el acceso a los alimentos y a los medios de vida; y que se incluya el concepto de inclusión como tema transversal.

Queremos que la FAO responda a los retos que tenemos enfrente. Algunos son nuevos, otros son de larga data. La FAO debe mantenerse en constante cambio y eso incluye nuevas prioridades, nuevas maneras de cooperar y recolectar recursos, nuevos programas, nuevos conceptos y una nueva manera de pensar. Una Organización que se queda en el pasado y no responde a nuevos retos corre el riesgo de perder relevancia. Queremos una FAO sólida, de vanguardia y con capacidad de responder a retos emergentes. Creemos que el Marco Estratégico va en la dirección correcta y da cabida a opiniones divergentes sobre los sistemas agroalimentarios encontrando un equilibrio en la diversidad, por lo que, reiteramos nuestro apoyo.

**Ms Julie ÉMOND (Canada)**

Canada welcomes the Strategic Framework as it sets the high-level ambitions and priorities of the Organization for the next 10 years. But we are also very mindful that it is through additional strategic documents and action plans that include targets, indicators and measurement descriptions that we will be able to better assess FAO's ability to make a significant contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

Canada fully supports the FAO's Strategic Framework to support Agenda 2030 through the *four betters* of sustainable, inclusive and resilient agri-food systems. We agree with the recommendation from the 166th Session of the Council requesting stronger linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the *four betters*.

Canada commends the Framework's focus on innovation in all of its forms and the recognition of the major comparative advantage of the FAO's normative work. We look forward to discussing the new FAO Climate Change Strategy and the presentation of the Gender Action Plan at the Programme Committee in November 2021 to ensure that gender is effectively mainstreamed in all of FAO's work with targets, outputs and indicators.

We encourage the FAO Secretariat to allocate sufficient resources and to ensure that strong linkages are made between the Strategic Framework and the Gender Action Plan. We would like to reiterate that it is crucial for FAO to move beyond the mainstreaming of gender equality in its programmes, to establishing gender-transformative approaches and gender-equality results, recognizing the important role of tackling underlying social norms, attitudes, behaviours and social systems, perpetuating gender inequalities.

Given the prominence of gender as a level of change and effective mainstreaming in all game-changing solutions, we also look forward on how the Gender Action Plan will take into account the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit in this regard.

Canada strongly agrees with 130th Programme Committee's recommendations of undergoing importance of women, youth and indigenous peoples, in particular rural and indigenous women in FAO's activities and Strategic Framework.

As we develop our Blue Economy Strategy, Canada would also like to echo the calls heard from other Members for greater incorporation of fisheries and aquaculture issues into FAO's work.

**Ms Novi Dwi RATNASARI (Indonesia)**

At the outset, Indonesia would like to extend congratulations for your election.

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Asia Group. We commend the work done by FAO's Management as well as the inclusive consultation process in developing the Strategic Framework 2022-31.

In our view, the Framework has been concretely designed in defining issues and roles that have to be taken by the government and FAO in tackling issues on food security and hunger. Our hope is that the Framework will enable us to recover the momentum and deliver more impact on the ground for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, particularly on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger. We note with appreciation that the strategic narrative of the *four betters* has reflected the interconnected linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions.

We hope FAO could ensure the interconnectedness will be well reflected in the implementation of the Strategic Framework. We are also of the view that the Framework could also support the agri-food system transformation, which will be discussed in the forthcoming UN Food Systems Summit. Indeed, the five Action Tracks must be transformed into a concrete strategic action to help Members achieve the SDG 2.

Indonesia appreciates FAO's Management in building a reinvigorated fit-for-purpose business model, ensuring an inclusive and agile Organization. We highlight the importance of strengthening FAO's partnership with all its stakeholders, in particular at the country level.

Lastly, considering the fact that technologies and innovation will help farmers, small-scale fishers, and governments to take full advantage of new technology, we would like to encourage FAO Secretariat to create an enabling environment, including through capacity building and technical assistance programmes particularly to recover better during the current context of the pandemic.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

En relación con este punto, quisiéramos empezar manifestando nuestro apoyo en su integridad a 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 más concretos. En primer lugar, dar la enhorabuena a FAO por el Marco Estratégico y por la metodología participativa empleada para su redacción. Si bien, en líneas generales, es un buen documento echamos, no obstante, en falta un mayor equilibrio temático y presupuestario entre las tres vertientes, económica, social y ambiental de la sostenibilidad; así como una interrelación más clara entre las cuatro mejoras y las esferas programáticas prioritarias que guían la acción de FAO y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), tanto en su implementación como en su seguimiento.

Respaldamos la importancia de los cuatro aceleradores transversales. En especial, quisiéramos destacar el papel catalizador de la innovación y la digitalización para lograr la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios. Felicitamos a FAO por las mejoras realizadas en una gestión de recursos humanos y animamos a la Organización a continuar con las políticas transparentes y basadas en el principio de la meritocracia.

Por último, echamos en falta dos respuestas a peticiones del pasado Consejo. La primera es facilitar a los países los principios de financiación a través del presupuesto ordinario y de las contribuciones extrapresupuestarias. La segunda son las aclaraciones para futuros ajustes del Marco, para presentarlas tan pronto como estén disponibles.

**Mr Anthony SIMPSON (New Zealand)**

I join other speakers in congratulating you on your appointment and expressing my complete confidence in your [XX] discussions. As other speakers have noted, this week's meeting takes place against the background of more than a decade of worrying trends with regard to key indicators concerning food security, rural poverty, nutrition, and environmental health. Negative trends that have only been further intensified by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With less than a decade remaining, it is clear that we are not on track to meet the ambitious goals we have set ourselves in these areas under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in this regard it is clear that FAO's work is more important than ever. Moreover, it is clear that we need to lift our game and to make the FAO's work more focused and more impactful.

Against this context, I thank the Director-General and his team for their work in developing this updated Framework, which clearly sets out the FAO's role in helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals over the coming decade.

New Zealand welcomes the inclusive approach taken in developing the revised Framework and, moreover, the systematic process followed, responding to evaluation findings, linking the Framework to the SDGs, taking a more focused programmatic approach, introducing greater flexibility and mobility, and placing a greater emphasis on partnerships has produced a stronger and more credible strategy.

We note the strong emphasise on the *four betters* for transforming food systems and achieving progress on the relevant SDGs. In particular, we are pleased at the emphasis placed on programmes and activities in the core areas of data, policy, and normative work. These will be very important if FAO is to have an impact on the ground in promoting sustainable food production systems, improving nutritional status and outcomes, and reducing food loss and waste. Strong collaboration and partnership with other multilateral institutions will also be crucial to make tangible progress.

Regarding the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), identified under the FAO's updated programmatic approach, we can support all of the proposed areas of focus. We are particularly pleased to see key priority areas for our Region, notably climate change, blue transformation, commodity markets and trade, and resilient food systems more prominently reflected in the Framework. Overall, there are no PPAs that we do not support.

Finally, we welcome the openness of Management to the concerns of some Members on the terminology used in the Report, and we are very comfortable with the proposed changes to address these concerns in Appendix C2.

**Ms Safia Taleb AL SOUHAIL (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)**

I am very pleased to be able to make this statement on behalf of my Ambassador who was unable to participate today. First of all, allow me to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Iraq, to welcome the efforts of the Director-General and all of the managers and staff of your Organization, and their work to improve communication with Members in these exceptional circumstances, namely the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also welcome the efforts of the Organization to seek sustainable ecosystems, particularly through the Strategic Framework for 2022-2031. For us the priority must be given to countries that face challenges, conflicts and economic, social, environmental and political crises. These challenges seriously harm agricultural systems and food security, and that is why we must all act urgently, working in the humanitarian aspect, the building of peace and sustainable development through open dialogue, strengthened partnerships, aiming to include all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels.

We must also work on other priorities, empowerment of young people, strengthening the role of women, integrating them better into all programmes of FAO, building their capacity in accordance with the needs and priorities of each country.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight the importance of coordination and collaboration, bringing together partnerships, adopting sustainable policies to achieve the necessary reforms to ensure food security for all.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Cameroon, Eswatini, Tanzania and Zambia are speaking on this Agenda Item on behalf of the Group. At the outset, we subscribe to whatever position is taken by the G77 and China.

We want to equally refer you, Chairperson, to the statement that the Africa Group delivered at the 166th Session of the Council in April 2021. In this regard, our present statement is designed to refocus our guidance contained therein and underscore the commitment of the Africa Group in support the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 as presented in Document C2021/7.

The Africa Group is concerned with the pace at which the world is moving towards the implementation of Agenda 2030 as the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 is in its second year. Globally, progress has been uneven and more focused attention was needed in most areas. It is a critical period to advance a shared vision and accelerate responses to the world's biggest current and emerging challenges, including eliminating poverty and hunger, transforming food systems and reversing climate change.

The common shared vision of fighting hunger and poverty and achieving most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 1 and 2 is embedded in the 2022-31 FAO Strategic Framework, and we recognize it.

The African Group, therefore, welcomes documents *C2021/7* Strategic Framework and *C 2021/LIM/4* Strategic Framework 2022-31, Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 (Draft Resolution), whose development was informed by the global context outlined above.

The guidance of the 166th Session of the Council on this Agenda Item is highly appreciated, notably with regard to what we had addressed and endorsed in previous Governing Bodies meetings concerning the imperative of building on the momentum and harmonize transformations already taking place in the Organization, including increased efficiency, streamlining and innovative approaches; a modular and flexible organizational structure; and initiatives such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme.

The Africa Group supports in particular: reference to achieving MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life; seeking the right balance between the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental); addressing the four cross-cutting/cross-sectional “accelerators” namely technology, innovation, data, and complements (governance, human capital, and institutions); emphasizing FAO’s cross-cutting themes of gender, youth, and inclusion as well as considering smallholder and family farmers, in particular rural women, indigenous peoples and local communities, as critical stakeholders for the future of food and agriculture and sustainable food systems; integrating the Programme Priority Areas, as inter-disciplinary, issue-based technical themes, to guide the catalytic importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and other technical work of FAO within the context of FAO’s institutional architecture; systemizing all forms of innovation, including digitalization in the work of FAO; underscoring the alignment with the repositioning of the UN development system; and all other relevant aspects to be included in the Strategic Framework.

Finally, with these comments, the Africa Groups endorses the FAO 2022-31 Strategic Framework and looks forward to its initial implementation through the Medium-Term Plan 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

On a personal note, Chairperson let me really congratulate you on taking this position. We know that it is key as you are preparing to leave us in this summer. We wanted to take this opportunity as this is the last time that we see you chairing such a meeting to show all our appreciation to your work and your commitment to the Rome-based Agencies. We really wish you all the best as you continue in your next endeavour.

**Mr Morten Von Hanno AASLAND (Norway)**

This year's FAO General Conference takes place at a crucial time for global food systems, and at the onset of UN Secretary-General's Decade of Action.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute the basis for FAO's work and thus for the new Strategic Framework.

FAO has an essential role in assisting countries to reach these goals and ensuring the principle of right to food. A sustainable food systems approach which puts social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainability on an equal footing is needed for food and agriculture. The Strategic Framework should address these three dimensions in a balanced way.

We encourage FAO to take note of the recommendations of the Technical Committees regarding the need to support food production, food security and nutrition, while at the same time restoring the

ecosystem services and biodiversity that are essential for sustainable agriculture. New technologies, digitalization and innovation have been given a prominent place in the Strategic Framework as transformative drivers. There is, indeed, major potential here.

However, we wish to underline that technology must also be adapted to local needs and contexts. The challenges and needs of small-scale farmers, fishermen and women should also be met. Realizing the potential of our oceans is essential for increasing food production and helping achieve the goal of Zero Hunger. FAO needs to reinforce its efforts in this area.

Norway, as others have this morning, urges FAO to have a clear vision on the integration of foods from the ocean in its strategic work with food systems. As a UN Specialized Agency for food and agriculture, the role of FAO is key to meet these challenges. It is therefore of utmost importance that FAO's normative and standard-setting role is upheld. We need a strong FAO, building on science, technical expertise, knowledge and its comparative advantages.

As highlighted in the opening statements of this meeting, FAO needs to streamline its work on climate change and resilience. I agree with other speakers who have underscored this, this morning. The importance of sustainable forestry and the role of forests in the relation of climate could have been more clearly reflected in the Strategic Framework.

Anti-microbial resistance (AMR) is recognized as one of the greatest global health threats. The One Health approach provides a pathway towards solutions. The goal must be prudent and responsible use of antibiotics. Good agricultural and animal husbandry practices, hygiene measures and biosecurity are fundamental. We must end all use of antibiotics as growth promoters and as a routine prophylaxis in animal food production.

Properly addressing the interplay between animals, humans and the environment is a win-win - better human, better animal, and better planetary health. We call on FAO to fulfil its role in global cooperation on AMR.

Lastly, FAO is expected to play an essential role in the follow-up of the Food Systems Summit. There should be flexibility for this in the strategic work of the Organization and in its collaboration with other UN agencies, and other stakeholders.

**Sr. Tomas DUNCAN JURADO (Panamá)**

La República de Panamá extiende un saludo a la Mesa Ejecutiva de la Comisión II, a los Países Miembros y a todo el equipo de la FAO.

Panamá reconoce y respalda la labor realizada por la FAO y los Países Miembros para lograr el consenso y apoyar el Marco Estratégico 2022-2031, el Plan a plazo medio para 2022-2025 y el Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para el 2022-2023. Compartimos la importancia de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y sus 17 Objetivos, así como su visión de una vida saludable, próspera y digna apoyada en una agricultura sostenible que nos lleve al logro de la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición, la equidad de género, la reducción de los gases de efecto invernadero y la sostenibilidad de los recursos naturales. Es relevante mantener siempre vigente las responsabilidades compartidas pero diferenciadas y el reconocimiento a los países a través de la disponibilidad de la asistencia técnica y cooperación.

Hacemos un llamado a la FAO para que su Programa de Cooperación Técnica tome en cuenta los aportes de los países en la preservación de la biodiversidad, la reducción en la huella de carbono y la aplicación de políticas sobre equidad de género, entre otros. Desplazar el uso de un único criterio como el producto interno per cápita alentará a los países a continuar con sus buenas prácticas. Panamá espera su participación en la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre los sistemas alimentarios donde trabajaremos en alianza con los Países Miembros buscando intereses comunes que nos acerquen a los objetivos para la transformación de nuestros sistemas alimentarios a través de las cinco líneas de acción. Apoyamos las 20 esferas programáticas establecidas en el Marco Estratégico y, en especial, la reducción de la pérdida y el desperdicio de alimentos y la igualdad de género y empoderamiento de las mujeres del medio rural.



Consideramos que nos encontramos ante una oportunidad que nos invita a colaborar entre todos para pasar del conocimiento a la acción de la mano del Plan Estratégico. Panamá está lista para aprovecharla.

**Sr. Federico ZAMORA CORDERO (Costa Rica)**

En primer término, deseo externar mi congratulación a usted por haber sido elegido para presidir esta Comisión, deseándole muchos éxito desde ahora y agradecerle por su compromiso y esmero en el desarrollo de esta y de su trabajo encomiable en todos los foros de la Organización.

Seguidamente paso a agradecer a la FAO por el desarrollo y presentación del Plan Estratégico para el período 2022-2031 que, sin duda alguna, representa el empeño de la Organización en lograr la erradicación del hambre y apoyar la seguridad alimentaria mundial. En este orden de cosas, la delegación de Costa Rica así como ha insistido en el Consejo y otros foros pertinentes, desea insistir en el principio de inclusividad que debe imperar en la FAO con la inclusión de los accesos financieros, técnicos y científicos para todos sus Miembros, incluyendo los países de ingresos medios y medios altos en desarrollo. Esos países también tienen necesidades y ahora con más razón por eso de la pandemia, presentan altos índices de pobreza y hambre.

La Cooperación Sur-Sur y la iniciativa mano de la mano serán herramientas útiles para lograr esos objetivos. No es coincidencia que justamente estos países son y serán los que garanticen la seguridad alimentaria mundial, por ser economías basadas principalmente en la agricultura. Por otro lado, mi llamado vehemente para que se insista en que los sistemas agrícolas y de desarrollo sean íntimamente alineados con la protección del medio ambiente, de manera que los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles (ODS) contemplen el cuidado de la casa común y nuestra naturaleza por medio de programas de descarbonización aplicados a la agricultura, incentivando la reforestación y la captura de carbono en los suelos, la ganadería y el uso más controlado de productos químicos en esta actividad.

Costa Rica respalda el Marco Estratégico en el período 2022-2031.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Chile acoge con beneplácito el Marco Estratégico 2022-2031 presentado por el Director General y da la bienvenida a que la visión de la FAO y sus objetivos se alinean estrechamente con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de la Agenda 2030 y, en especial, con los ODS 2, 1 y 10. Y solicita que se utilicen siempre que sea posible sus indicadores evitando, así, sobrecargar a los países.

Como nuestra región ha resaltado en repetidas ocasiones, las desigualdades se dan dentro entre los países y también dentro de los países. Debemos hacernos cargo de esa realidad y trabajar en la FAO tomando en cuenta la existencia de territorios rezagados y poblaciones vulnerables, incluso en países en desarrollo de ingresos medios y altos. Todos queremos un mundo mejor con un desarrollo sostenible en sus tres dimensiones, un mundo inclusivo, libre de pobreza, hambre y malnutrición, comprometido con la protección del medio ambiente y un crecimiento económico responsable.

En este sentido, acogemos positivamente la identificación del género e inclusión como transversales para reducir la desigualdad y no dejar a nadie atrás y solicitamos que se incorporen también los mercados y el comercio transparente y abierto como temas transversales. Asimismo, apoyamos la incorporación de una perspectiva de sistemas alimentarios en el Marco Estratégico.

Coincidimos en la necesidad de transformar los sistemas agroalimentarios no sostenibles y solicitamos que se considere en el Marco Estratégico todos los enfoques, sistemas y herramientas de producción sostenible de manera neutral. Esta transformación de los sistemas agroalimentarios exige mecanismos y financiamiento adecuados, transferencias de tecnología y creación de capacidad. En este sentido, consideramos positiva la importancia que da el Marco Estratégico a la innovación y la tecnología y esperamos que la Organización y los Estados Miembros realicen esfuerzos para que las tecnologías y las innovaciones estén disponibles para todos los países, reduciendo así las brechas y desigualdades existentes entre y dentro de ellos.

Acogemos con agrado la importancia que la propuesta da al trabajo normativo de la FAO. Reiteramos que el trabajo normativo debe estar basado en evidencias científicas y ser el resultado de un proceso de negociación multilateral entre los Estados Miembros de la Organización. Destacamos la importancia

del enfoque Una Salud, la Asociación Tripartita y la Cooperación con el Programa de las Naciones para el Medio Ambiente y otras organizaciones internacionales pertinentes, de conformidad con sus respectivos mandatos a este respecto.

Asimismo, agradecemos una mejor integración de la pesca y acuicultura en las esferas prioritarias, la protección y uso sostenible de los recursos de nuestros océanos son de la mayor importancia y destacamos especialmente el trabajo de la FAO en apoyo de la lucha contra la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada.

Finalmente, como otros Estados Miembros ya han señalado, observamos con preocupación que el Marco Estratégico utiliza varios conceptos, enfoque y lenguajes que no están acordados multilateralmente. Consideramos que el uso del lenguaje acordado multilateralmente en los documentos y trabajo de la FAO es fundamental.

Esperamos que la FAO ajuste, en consecuencia, el nuevo Marco Estratégico. Si bien tomamos nota de la información brindada en el documento C2021/LIM/4 nos parece que aún es necesario realizar ajustes en línea con los requerimientos de los Estados Miembros, expresado a través de los órganos rectores y los lineamientos establecidos por los Comités Técnicos.

**Sr. Luis Gerónimo REYES VERDE (Venezuela, República Bolivariana de)**

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación del Marco Estratégico 2022-2031 y felicita sus vínculos directos con la Agenda 2030. El progreso observado a la fecha en materia de hambre y malnutrición muestra que hay que profundizar y acelerar los esfuerzos para revertir la situación actual agravada, además, por la pandemia del COVID-19. La situación aún es más grave cuando según estimaciones de institutos especializados, la mitad inferior de la población mundial posee menos del 1% de la riqueza total. Como marcador de contraste, el 10% más rico posee el 88% de la riqueza mundial, mientras que el 1% superior, por sí solo representa el 50% de los activos globales. De no corregirse estas grandes desigualdades, los esfuerzos por superar el hambre y la pobreza seguirán siendo cuesta arriba.

Tomamos debida nota de los factores que inciden en los sistemas alimentarios y agrícolas, así como los factores para su transformación. Es necesario para dar ese gran paso asumir un verdadero compromiso con la Agenda 2030 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). Lograr el desarrollo sostenible en sus tres dimensiones, económica, social y ambiental de forma equilibrada e integrada, así como de no aplicar unilateralmente medidas económicas financieras o comerciales que no sean compatibles con el Derecho Internacional y la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y que impida la plena consecución del desarrollo económico y social, particularmente en los países en desarrollo.

Alentamos a la FAO a promover y hacer uso de los conocimientos locales y ancestrales de las comunidades indígenas y comunidades locales en todo lo que tiene que ver con los sistemas alimentarios, ya que estos responden a los desafíos generales relacionados con las metas mundiales de la FAO. Apoyamos las 20 esferas programáticas prioritarias, las cuatro mejoras para su aceleración para cumplir los ODS, así como la integración del género.

Por último, deseamos recordar el ODS 17.2 de la Agenda 2030, donde se indica la necesidad de velar porque los países desarrollados cumplan plenamente su compromiso en relación con la asistencia oficial para el desarrollo, incluido el compromiso de numerosos países desarrollados y alcanzar el objetivo de destinar el 0.7% del ingreso nacional bruto a la asistencia oficial para el desarrollo. Con estas palabras, queremos respaldar y apoyar el marco estratégico 2022-2031.

**CHAIRPERSON**

There have been many, many questions raised this morning, and I am sure the Management will respond properly.

I will start first with Ms Beth Crawford.

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)**

Thank you very much, Distinguished Delegates for this very interesting discussion this morning on the Strategic Framework. As you know, we are now really at a key step in the two-year process that is

described in the Basic Texts, specifically in Conference Resolution 10/2009, which describes the process that we undertake to develop these extremely important documents for you: the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

First, I would just like to thank you all so much for your very positive comments about the process. As you know, in addition to the formal process, which of course means the formal process, includes going through the Regional Conferences, the Technical Committees, the Council Committees and the Council with the documents for discussion and elaboration.

We also had a very extensive informal process that many of you commented on and welcomed, so we are pleased that this helped us to develop such a strong document. From what I have heard from the comments today, the Strategic Framework as an overarching framework and its important role has been well understood and well accepted.

With its strategic narrative of supporting the Agenda 2030 in the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no-one behind. We take notes of your many comments on the *four betters*, which I believe are welcome as an organising principle, and we too acknowledge the key importance of the three-dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental.

These three dimensions are embedded in the *four betters*, and they are also embedded in the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and the way that we try to develop those 20 Programme Priority Areas. We have heard your very strong comments on this, so as we continue to further elaborate the 20 Programme Priority Areas, we will keep this key theme, of course, very much in mind. We have been doing that so far, including in the ways that we have been putting together our interdisciplinary technical teams to be discussing and elaborating these Programme Priority Areas and the way that we will be working under those Programme Priority Areas.

I heard many of you, all of you, welcome the 20 Programme Priority Areas which are, indeed, these interdisciplinary, issue-based technical themes that represent FAO's specific contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and how we will be measuring those is also described through this approach.

Now, there were many comments, inputs, feedback, discussion on areas of importance for all of the Members. We have taken very careful note, and this is exactly the type of information that is very important for us as we move into the next phase of the further development of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB).

I wanted to say a few words then about the process going forward, because there were a few specific comments maybe about the process going forward. So, as I mentioned at the beginning, the process that we are following is the Conference Resolution 10/2009, which is in volume 2 section F of the Basic Texts.

In the first year of the biennium, we developed and received input on priorities for the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan, and the PWB, which indeed are a suite of documents, and I believe a few of you also said in your introductory comments that you would be addressing them together, because they are indeed very closely linked.

So, , as I already mentioned, they are reviewed by the Regional Conferences, the Programme Committee, Finance Committee, Council, Technical Committees, and we are now at the stage where the Strategic Framework is being presented to you. As you have also mentioned, in addition to the Strategic Framework document before you we have issued an additional document, as requested by Council, which is *C 2021/LIM/4*, and section 2 in particular is the section I am referring to there.

At this point in time what we are seeking is Conference's endorsement of the Strategic Framework, 2022-31. Management will then, immediately after the Conference, issue the final version of the Strategic Framework 2022-31, which will include the specific guidance on terminology that we have reflected in section 2 of the *LIM/4* document.

Now, the next Item is where we will be discussing the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget, which are really the operationalization of the Strategic Framework. The Strategic

Framework is the overarching framework that has the key elements of the strategic narrative, the *four betters*, the accelerators, the cross-cutting themes, and the 2020 Programme Priority Areas, as we have been discussing.

Now, the details on the Programme Priority Areas, including the linkages between the PPAs, the linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals, the linkages between the *four betters* and the Sustainable Development Goals, the budgets, the key thematic components, the normative aspects, the core function strategies, all of this is presented in the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

So, that is why then, as part of the process described in the Basic Texts, there is a period of adjustments to the PWB that will be undertaken after Conference, based on the guidance of Conference and the further work planning that will be leading into the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

So, that is really two separate items. We have the Strategic Framework that we are discussing now, where we are requesting Conference's endorsement of the Strategic Framework, which we will then issue with the specific guidance on terminology from the LIM document and then next we will be discussing MTP/ (PWB), where we will, after Conference, be entering into a period of adjustments, based on the operationalization of the Strategic Framework, as reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-23.

I just wanted to describe that I believe that was one of the main questions, and thank the Members again for all of their valuable inputs and contributions, and also support in welcoming of the Strategic Framework, which also builds on that momentum that I think you have been seeing in the past two years for a more agile, flexible, responsive Organization, and that together we can work to achieve the Agenda 2030..

#### **M. Laurent THOMAS (Directeur général adjoint)**

Merci beaucoup Monsieur le Président de la Commission II, merci aux membres de la Commission pour ces interventions. Je voudrais me référer à un certain nombre d'interventions qui ont été faites sur les questions préoccupantes des crises humanitaires et leur impact sur la faim et à cet effet, l'importance pour la FAO de donner priorité et renforcer ses capacités en termes de réponses d'urgence et de renforcement de la résilience des systèmes agroalimentaires tels que reflétés dans le cadre stratégique.

Quelle est la situation aujourd'hui ? comme nous l'a rappelé le Directeur général hier, plus de 100 millions de personnes sont en situation d'extrême insécurité alimentaire du fait de combinaisons de chocs liés entre autres au changement climatique, aux conflits, et aggravée par l'impact de la pandémie du covid-19. Avec les membres du groupe de travail mis en place par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies pour prévenir la famine, nous estimons que plus de 34 millions de personnes sont à risque de mourir de faim, dont 11,5 millions de personnes vivant au Burkina Faso, Ethiopie, Sud Madagascar, Nigéria, Sud Soudan, Yémen, qui sont en situation encore plus critique. Plus préoccupant encore, nous estimons que 522 000 personnes, un demi-million de personnes, en Ethiopie, Madagascar, Sud Soudan et Yémen sont déjà en situation catastrophique d'insécurité alimentaire aiguë.

Quel que soit la terminologie utilisée, nous faisons face à une situation où plus d'un demi-million de personnes sont aujourd'hui en train de mourir de faim. Les besoins de réponses d'urgence explosent et en conséquence, les besoins en financement deviennent insoutenables. La véritable solution repose dans le renforcement de la résilience. Ces crises ne peuvent pas être résolues par la réponse humanitaire seulement.

L'introduction de deux priorités programmatiques sur la réponse d'urgence et le renforcement de la résilience dans le cadre stratégique devrait permettre à la FAO de jouer son rôle pour répondre au défi. Notre objectif est d'appuyer 60 millions de personnes annuellement avec des interventions de réponse d'urgence et de résilience. C'est un minimum, mais pour atteindre cet objectif, nous aurons besoin de plus de ressources dans le cadre du budget intégré. Sans progrès sur cette question, nous n'atteindrons

pas les objectifs de développement durable et en particulier, l'objectif 2 qui vise à l'éradication de la faim.

En ce qui concerne la situation spécifique d'insécurité alimentaire en Ethiopie, soulevée par les délégués du Royaume-Uni et des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, je voudrais informer les membres de la Commission II que la FAO, en partenariat avec le gouvernement, et les partenaires des Nations-Unies et non gouvernementaux sur le terrain, renforce la réponse en cours avec l'objectif d'atteindre dans les prochaines semaines 250 000 personnes avec des semences et intrants pour appuyer la saison de semis qui démarre.

Nous avons lancé un plan sur 6 mois, chiffré à 30 millions d'USD, pour atteindre 1,5 million de personnes. La FAO a déjà contribué avec une relocation de ses propres ressources pour un montant de 3 millions d'USD, mais 27 millions d'USD supplémentaires sont nécessaires. C'est urgent. On ne peut pas se permettre d'attendre sinon les implications de l'inaction seront catastrophiques. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

### CHAIRPERSON

I give back the floor to the Members, if they have further comments, further questions, or if you think that your questions are not fully answered. I do not see any request for the floor. Let us move to the conclusion for this Session.

I will ask Mr David McSherry from the Secretariat to share my conclusion for Item 18 on the screen, and I will read them for you. What I am trying to do is to have a general approach on this. At this moment, I am not very inclined to pull a "Christmas Tree", because there have been many comments. I will try to keep the draft conclusions simple. Also, we will adjust while we are preparing what you are commenting. I will read them on the screen. Also, for the sake of the interpretation to other colleagues.

- 1) The Conference welcomes the Strategic Framework 2022-31, and its strategic narrative of supporting the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems, for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no-one behind to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and FAO's three Global Goals of Members.
- 2) The Conference recalled that the Strategic Framework represented the outcome of an extensive, inclusive and transparent consultation process, including reflection of the guidance and priorities from the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees.
- 3) The Conference:
  - a. welcomed that the Strategic Framework 2022-31 builds on the momentum and harmonized transformations already taking place in the Organization, including increasing efficiency, streamlining and innovative approaches, a modular and flexible organizational structure, an initiatives such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme.
  - b. appreciated that the Strategic Framework aligns itself with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2030 Agenda, and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  - c. highlighted the importance of a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental) throughout the Strategic Framework.
  - d. supported the four cross-cutting/cross-sectional accelerators of technology, innovation, data and complements(governance, human capital and institutions).
  - e. welcomed FAO's cross-cutting themes of gender, youth and inclusion and recognized that the role in achieving the 2030 Agenda and leaving no-one behind.

- f. welcome the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) formulated as inter-disciplinary issue-based technical themes to guide the programmes that FAO would implement under the *four betters*.
- g. welcomed that the Framework anchored in the SDGs allows FAO to articulate its mandated target and respective results in alignment with the goals of the United Nations (UN) development system at country level and with partners.
- h. underlined the importance of all forms of innovation including digitalization as a driving force in agriculture, environment, commodities and food-trade, and food security and nutrition.
- i. reaffirmed the strategic and catalytic importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), and other technical work of FAO in the efforts for the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.
- j. acknowledged the important role of scientific and evidence-based normative work of FAO and welcome the increased visibility of the Organization's normative work, and support to the standard setting work of the Codex Alimentarius and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in the Strategic Framework.
- k. stressed the importance of partnerships in the implementation of the Strategic Framework, including with other UN agencies, financial institutions, the private sector, as well as by means of instruments such as South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
- l. stressed the need for FAO to use multilaterally-agreed concepts, approaches and languages and give preferences to those adopted by FAO Governing Bodies.
- m. endorsed the Strategic Framework 2022-31, noting an updated version of the document will be issued to reflect guidance on the use of a specific terminology as shown in document *C-2021/LIM/4 Section 2*.

Those are my conclusion for this Agenda Item. I open the floor for your comments.

I will give you a minute to think about it, a few seconds to think about; however, I prefer to go sorting order, not coming down and up again. Therefore, if you agree, let us go paragraph by paragraph. We can review it later.

I open the floor for comments for paragraph 1.

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

My comment is not specifically on paragraph 1, but I would like to make it and perhaps you Chairperson could decide where it would be best to place it.

My suggestion is that in our Report, we endorse the findings of the 166th Session of the Council, which made a number of specific suggestions, which, in my statement, I endorsed some of them, in particular. I know that other Members had endorsed the Council's conclusion, as well. At some point in the Report, I think it would be useful to have an endorsement of the Council's conclusions and recommendations on this issue.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I was going to ask you that because you mentioned "findings", but I think it is "conclusions", as you mentioned. I think we can put it; however, I do not know where, maybe for the Drafting Committee. Maybe at the end of this text because we are in the Conference, which is a superior Body. However, I am open to that.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I am comfortable with what the United Kingdom said. I have two comments that I want to make.

The first comment is that what the United Kingdom said, we can add it in paragraph 2, that is when we say, "The transparent consultation process including reflection of the guidance and priorities from the 166th Session of the Council, the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees." We can reverse the order, because the Regional Conferences took place before the 166th Session of the Council. It is up to the Secretariat to see where to put it best. We can reverse the order with regard to the timing.

The other reflection that I want to suggest to you Mr Chairperson. I know we have lengthy discussed this topic. Can we, at this point, not work too much on the wording and everything? But, if we have an idea, which is not reflected, then we can bring it up. I would really support the idea of putting the discussion at a strategic level, whatever things, a comma missing here, or a word not well placed, we leave that to the Drafting Committee. But if there is an important element which is not considered in the entire summary, then we can bring that idea up, and we see how to frame it and where to put it. I strongly suggest that.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I echo your comments to keep the discussion at the strategic level. I think that the inclusion here of the outcome of the 166th Session of the Council is a very useful one, because we had a lot of detailed discussions there, and when you insert it here, you are basically including those discussions here. Let us hope not to repeat it here. But I fully agree with what you are suggesting.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Quiero empezar párrafo por párrafo. Párrafo 1, en lo posible y para evitar discusiones nuevas quiero poder incluir el texto acordado en el Consejo que clarifica la posición que varios Miembros hicieron hoy en sus intervenciones y que, de alguna manera, resuelve un tema que ya hemos conversado y discutido mucho tiempo.

Párrafo 1, segunda línea, donde dice "*transformation*". Voy a pasar al inglés.

#### ***Continues in English***

I need to include or to add some working. After "transformations", "that should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate in accordance with, and dependent on national context and capacities to achieve more". This is the wording that we used in the Council, and captures the main concerns of many Members who asked for the floor during this conversation.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Indeed, this is the agreed language, paragraph 10 (c) from the Report of the 166th Council.

#### **Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

We will try as much as possible, following your guidance on the strategic approach and avoiding going forward for micro-changes in this text.

I want to start by saying that we fully align ourselves with what the Ambassador from the United Kingdom started saying in this Session.

Regarding paragraph 1, I would like to note that, from our side, the European Union and 27 Member States, we also ask for further adjustments in the Strategic Framework. We also heard something in this context, coming from, for example, the Members of the South America Group and the Asia Group. In this context, we would like to add in this line at the end of the paragraph 1. Replacing the final full stop by a comma and adding the following, "While recognizing that the *four betters* identified in the Strategic Framework should be seen and addressed through a food-systems lens, with a balanced approach of the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainability".

#### **Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

My intervention also refers to the statement made by the United Kingdom followed by Cameroon, with regard to the conclusions of the 166th Session of the Council. I think we also heard that many delegations expressed that the LIM/4 document does not really reflect what the Council asked for. We

would need to add in the paragraph, I think it is one of the final paragraphs of your conclusions, that the revision of the Strategic Framework would also need to be taken into account.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I start saying that we try to go in order. I am focused now in paragraph 1. If you want to include that, can you wait a little bit? My apologies.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

I certainly can.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If you have a comment in paragraph 1, it is most welcome.

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

I am content with the amendments to paragraph 1 from Argentina and the European Union.

Paragraph 2, I do not think it is the right place to include the reference to the 166th Session of Council. That is because the Strategic Framework document was presented before the 166th Session of Council, so there is no way that the outcome of Council was reflected in the Strategic Framework.

Indeed, as Switzerland was going to suggest, I do think, and indeed yourself Chairperson, you proposed that perhaps the Conference endorsement of the 166th Session of Council conclusions should be coming at the end. I do think that would be the right place to have it.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

All the proposals made so far by our Distinguished Colleagues are acceptable for us. Although we would be pleased to propose a slight modification of the proposals made in paragraph 2. We think that the Session of the Council should go first, before the Regional Conference and Technical Committees, taking into account that this is a superior Body.

Our preference would be to move it from the end and to put it before Regional Conferences.

Secondly, on paragraph 1, at the end of this paragraph, we propose to say, "dimensions of sustainable development" rather than, "sustainability." It does not change the meaning of the proposal made by our colleagues from the European Union, but we think that it would be more correct to say, "sustainable development".

**CHAIRPERSON**

On paragraph 1, I asked the Secretariat to do what you are saying.

On the question of how to include the reference to the 166th Session of the Council, I think we can discuss that. I tend to agree with you that maybe it should be reflected in an independent way, in order to avoid the discussion if it should be before or after that. Because it is the Body which is making recommendations to the Conference. Maybe we can keep it in a separate way, either before or after paragraph 2, or maybe as a subparagraph within paragraph 3, saying, for example, "the Conference endorses the recommendations of the 166th Session of the Council". It is just an idea as a Chairperson.

**Mr Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Para respaldar los comentarios sugeridos por la Delegación de la Federación Rusa y agregar para darle el mejor cierre al párrafo 1 después, "*sustainable development*", "*and within the framework of FAO mandate*".

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

First, to agree with the proposal coming from Russia as modified by Argentina. Then, we have been insisting on multilaterally-agreed language and being as precise as possible, very frankly, I do not understand exactly what the "food-system lens" would be. I am not necessarily against it, but this is not specific, this is not something that we have been using in FAO. Therefore, I would ask to consider a better expression for this.



**CHAIRPERSON**

I wonder, let us try to focus on trying to agree on paragraph 1. I think that at the very end, we can go along with the text, which is right now in brackets. Maybe we can delete "sustainability" and keep the text that is brackets now.

I think the question pending was with the "food-system lens". I wonder the proponent could explain a little bit, or if any other colleague could propose an alternative.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

We have been using the food-systems approach, which is better understood, and I guess it would be acceptable to everyone.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Sí, Presidente, creo que "*food-system approach*" es más apropiado. Espero que al colega de la Unión Europea que hizo la propuesta le parezca también razonable. Me parece que estamos hablando del lenguaje que siempre hemos utilizado.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I see no more comments, let us focus on closing paragraph 1 keeping the other issues pending for now. I do not have more request for the floor.

Let us move to paragraph 2.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

Just food for thoughts, for colleagues, and maybe for the Secretariat. Here, in paragraph 1, we have two words approach, food-system approach with a balanced approach. Maybe, at the second time, we can change it. Perhaps native speakers could help us with this.

**CHAIRPERSON**

You are making it easier for the work of the drafting Committee. Maybe we can leave that to the Drafting Committee. I am sure that there are a few native English speakers there. Do you agree? Secretariat can you put that in brackets to remind us that the Drafting Committee needs to fix that? So, let us go to paragraph 2. I think that the discussion here is on how to include the... Australia you have the floor. You are an English native speaker, and you are always very helpful.

**Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

The question I have here actually pertains to the reference to the 166th Session of the Council. I wonder if it would be more appropriate to reference the 165th Session of the Council, where from my recollection, we looked at an outline of the Strategic Framework during that session, which was then considered and taken forward, such that we then got to the 166th Session of the Council which we will now be addressing under the proposed paragraph 3.

On this suggestion, I think that will make sure that paragraph 2 essentially says that the recommendations from all of these Committees have been considered but then, the second point, the more important point in Australia's opinion, is that we then go on to say that the Conference endorsed the recommendations of the 166th Session of the Council, which will help FAO move forward in finalising the Strategic Framework process from here.

**CHAIRPERSON**

As you mentioned, I think we have to separate two issues because the way we have the discussion in the 165th Session, but I think for our work, to avoid putting a "Christmas Tree", we have to include also the reference to recommendations of the 166th Session. I think that your mention of the 165th is right there, but the question remains open on how to make reference to the next one, the 166th. Either we can put a new paragraph as it is now on the screen or we can include it in another part. I open the floor for comments, both for paragraph 2 and the proposed paragraph 3.

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

I thank Australia for this suggestion, which I fully support. I am content with paragraphs 2 and 3 as well.

**Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

We support what has been said by Australia and your approach for paragraph 1.

On this new paragraph 3, we can go along with it, of course. However, we do think that something is missing here, because, if we are endorsing the recommendations from the 166th Session of Council, we should also say that we are waiting for further adjustment on the Strategic Framework, the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and the Medium Term Plan (MTP), what was required by the Council Session and the Council Members and also, we heard in this discussion today. Maybe, we can add here, or having a new paragraph, it depends on your guidance, but we would like to propose to add a text that I will say at dictating speed, and I leave it to your guidance to leave it here or to put it in an independent subparagraph. **CHAIRPERSON**

I know that there are some issues pending on that. I personally prefer to keep this paragraph 3 very simple, to send the message that we endorse the recommendations coming from the Council. But then, inside what is now paragraph 4, in some part, maybe at the end, we can include the reference of what is missing. I think that Switzerland is coming for that. But, just to keep the text cleaner to read.

In the sense that the Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Council for this issue, but the Conference also is still waiting for this, this, and this. That is my suggestion. But also, I think that when we said the recommendations on the 166th Session of the Council, I think maybe we have to make a reference to which recommendations are for the Strategic Framework, not the whole recommendations of the Council. Because the Council agreed on many issues that are not directly related to the Strategic Framework. That is my suggestion as Chairperson, but of course, I am under your guidance.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

Indeed, you did read my mind. We are very happy with the second paragraph and the third paragraph as well. The reflection in the future vision of the Strategic Framework of these recommendations, we could address that further down in the text.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will come back to your proposal down under the text if you wish. I do not see more comments for paragraph 2 and 3. Maybe we can go on to what is now paragraph 4. Let us go in order as well. I think that the proposal of what is missing will be inserted at the end of paragraph 4, almost near to the end. I prefer to focus on what is now on the screen.

I open the floor for comments on subparagraph (a). I see no request for the floor.

Let us move to subparagraph (b).

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

We have a small addition to this subparagraph. After the brackets “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, we could use the same language for the Council, saying that, “with the guiding lens of SDGs 1, 2 and 10 and requested stronger linkages between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the *four betters*”. For us it is absolutely important to underline the mandate of FAO as SDG 1 and 2, and we do not have any opposition with the SDG 10. We think it would be more appropriate to continue the paragraph with this text.

Very shortly, we do not consider it necessary to repeat Agenda 2030 in the second line, in the brackets. It could be deleted.

**CHAIRPERSON**

You are right with the repetition, what you propose is a agreed language from the Council, paragraph 10 (b).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Gracias, Presidente. Era para agradecer la sabia sugerencia de mi querido amigo, Mr Ilya Andreev de la Federación Rusa, y desearle feliz cumpleaños ya que hoy cumple años.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

With regard to the suggestion made by the Russian Federation, you will recall that we made the point that we should not try to create the hierarchy between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while the Agenda 2030 tries to address them, as they have equal weight. What I would suggest building on the Russian Federation's proposal is to say, "and requested stronger linkages between all agriculture and food-relevant SDGs and the *four betters*". We say that because, of course, SDG 1 and 2 are fine, SDG 10 is kind of a new SDG for FAO, and we also need to reflect that FAO is the custodian, (h) and (c), for the 2021 SDG targets. I think we need to rebalance that proposal a little bit.

**Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

I think that the proposal just made by Switzerland is a very good one, and we support it. Moreover, we want to add a reference to the importance of reflecting these alignments with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the result-based monitoring system. If you allow me, I will propose a new sentence at the end of the paragraph that I will read at a dictating speed, "Including in the results-based monitoring system". After "*four betters*" comma, "including in the".

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

La idea era tratar de que mantengamos los acuerdos generales para evitar entrar a discutir cuestiones relativas a palabras que podríamos evitar. No me siento cómodo con la propuesta sugerida por mi estimado colega de Suiza. Creo que deberíamos mantener la sugerencia de la Federación Rusa que refleja lo que hemos acordado en el Consejo. Me parece que sería más adecuado y nos evitaría abrir el debate.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I go back to colleagues, Members, about this proposal, because indeed, what Russian Federation proposed was the agreed language that we had in the Council, where we had long discussions on that. I think that in the Strategic Framework, it is clear that FAO has some work to do in some Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and less work to do in others. I think that the question of the work of FAO in the SDGs, will be done in the relevant ones for the work of FAO.

Regarding the results-based monitoring system, it depends on what SDGs are being covered, within FAO. I ask colleagues if you are okay to go back to the agreed language emanating from the Council, because otherwise, we go to the risk of having a long discussion, and we are starting with this long paragraph, and we still have some work to do on this. I ask the question, are you okay to retain the agreed language from the Council?

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros preferiríamos mantener el lenguaje acordado en el Consejo.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

In that case, we would have a preference to go back to the original language you proposed and delete, "with the guiding lens of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, and 10", and go on and request a stronger linkages just between the SDGs and the *four betters*.

**Sr. Eduardo MEJÍA CALITO (Guatemala)**

Secundamos la postura de Chile en el sentido de que debemos irnos a la versión original.

**Sra. María De Los Ángeles GÓMEZ AGUILAR (México)**

Nosotros nos decantamos por la redacción original.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I hear some comments that go back to the original proposal. That means the one that I presented at the beginning of this meeting, which is more neutral, which is even shorter than the one from the Council.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Nosotros preferimos mantener la redacción que está en el Párrafo (d) del Informe del 166.º período de sesiones del Consejo

**CHAIRPERSON**

As I remember in the Council we had a long debate on this very same issue. I remember that the reference to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2 and 10, was because they were explicitly included in the Strategic Framework, that agreement in the Council reflects that, the clear reference to those SDGs in the Strategic Framework.

At this moment, my appeal to you is to keep the text coming from the Council, which is a little bit longer than the one I proposed at the beginning.. However, I think that it reflects part of our discussion we had this morning, part of it, and also the long discussions that we had in the Council. I open the floor for this paragraph.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

I think in the new paragraph, we referred to the recommendations and conclusion of the 166th Council Session. In our view, in this particular subparagraph (b), we do not really need to use the same language, because we already endorsed that and indeed have made a reference to the Agenda 2030; therefore, your original language. We think it is important to look at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda in its entirety and not picking and choosing what was done by the Council.

Therefore, either we go back to your original proposal and then add, “and requested its strong linkages between the SDGs and the *four betters*”, because this was clearly stated this morning.. If that should not be agreeable to colleagues, then we would say, “and requested stronger linkages between all the relevant SDGs and the *four betters*”. Because to us, it is important that we also refer to SDG 12. The language here is not specific, but we are also where we do not want to add a “Christmas Tree” and start mentioning all the different SDGs that Members feel be important.

My proposal would be either we go back to your original language, or add in the second part of this subparagraph, “requested stronger linkages between all the relevant SDGs and the *four betters*.”

**CHAIRPERSON**

I remember that in your remarks you suggested not to focus on particular Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) but other Members asked for it as well.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Sin ánimo de abrir un debate nuevo sobre un tema viejo, quiero agradecer al Delegado de Suiza por sus sugerencias, pero me siento más cómodo con la primera sugerencia. En la cual aceptaba el lenguaje acordado en el Consejo. Yo creo que entraríamos en un escenario de “Christmas Tree”, como mencionó el Delegado de Suiza, si incluimos lenguaje no acordado. Creo que en este caso puntual, lo que estamos haciendo es clarificar el párrafo acordado por el Consejo. No estamos utilizando nuevos conceptos, estamos confirmando lo que ya hemos acordado que además, fue planteado por gran cantidad de Miembros.

Me parece que si eso no afecta ninguna línea roja de ningún colega, pues ya fue acordado en el Consejo, no tiene sentido abrir un nuevo debate.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Para unir nuestra voz a la de Argentina, y no sé si estamos repitiendo lenguaje que ya está en el Informe del 166.º período de sesiones del Consejo que estamos aprobando, tal vez podríamos eliminar el párrafo. Creemos que debería usarse el lenguaje acordado en el Consejo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have another proposal now to delete this subparagraph, because it will be already included in the reference to the 166th Session.

What I am seeing is that some colleagues are asking to simplify this text, and others are requesting to keep as it was in the Council, and there was a recent proposal by Chile to simply delete this subparagraph if we do not agree among ourselves, because in a way, it is included in the reference to the results of the 166th Session.

My preference as Chairperson will be either to keep it as coming from the Council or to delete it.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

We would like to propose the third option for your kind consideration and for the consideration of the colleagues. Can we say, "with the guiding lens of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, and 10"?

As I told you before, for us it would be important to underline SDG 1 and 2, and at the same time, there is a whole scope of SDGs are in the line two of this subparagraph. I think that if we include a full stop after 10, it will cover everything. All SDGs and, in particular, 1, 2 and 10.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have this proposal from the Russian Federation. I open the floor for comments.

**Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

We fully see your point, and we are listening carefully to what has been said by our dearest colleague from the Russian Federation. However, we would prefer to either delete everything or maintain it as it is. As we said in our statement, in the name of the European Union and its 27 Member States, interlinkages between all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are very important for us. So, that reference is important while we are referring to SDGs 1, 2 and 10. Our option for your consideration and your guidance is either to maintain it as it is now on the text, or we can consider deleting everything.

**Sr. Gustavo Eduardo MOSTAJO OCOLA (Peru)**

En realidad, tenía interés en que pudieran estar especificados los ODS 1, 2 y 10. Pero atendiendo a la sugerencia de varios países y del propio Presidente, creo que lo más pertinente, a fin de evitar alargar el debate, es que copiemos exactamente el acuerdo del Consejo.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Merci Monsieur le Président, je voudrais remercier les collègues et apporter mon soutien à ce qui a été dit par la délégation du Portugal. Je note que la deuxième partie de la phrase est la partie véritablement opérationnelle, et donc d'une certaine manière, c'est la partie la plus importante à garder, pour cette partie de nos conclusions. Donc je souhaite que nous gardions la deuxième partie de la phrase même si nous sommes flexibles sur le langage. Nous pouvons reprendre le langage du Conseil.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

Indeed, we fully underline also what now the delegation of France said, that we need to keep the second part because that is the operational one. In the spirit of compromise, we would go along with the language used by the Council.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thanks colleagues, for this. We retain the text as coming exactly from the Council.

Let us go to subparagraph (c). We still have many subparagraphs to go; therefore, let us try to focus. Any comments on subparagraph (c), which I think is pretty standard. I do not see any comments.

Let us go to the next one, (d). I do not see any comments.

Subparagraph (e).

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

In the first line, we propose to call this theme of gender, as "gender equality". It is standard language and in order to avoid any misinterpretation, our proposal would be to say, "theme of gender equality use and inclusion." This is for the consideration of the whole.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Any other comments from this subparagraph? If not, let us go to subparagraph (f). I do not see any comments.

Let us go to subparagraph (g).

#### **Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

There is a missing word before "Framework". So, I think "Strategic Framework", "welcomed that the Strategic Framework" because we have to be explicit on that.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, you are right. I was confused because we are talking about the Framework all over the document. However, it is ok, you are right. Thank you for that.

Subparagraph (h).

#### **Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

I have two things that I would like to add.

First, after the "digitalization". I will read at dictation speed, "while ensuring protection of data privacy and intellectual property rights."

The second comment, we go to "environment, commodities and...", after the "and", "open, rule-based, non-discriminatory and predictable". However, the intent here is just to try capture the spirit of our lengthy discussions in the Council and this wording is from the Council recommendations.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Subparagraph (q) of the Council. However, I think it is not the exact and precise wording from that.

#### **Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

Frankly speaking, our comments were with the initial paragraph, but now it is a little bit broader and maybe we can make a separate sentence right after "nutrition". We could say that "all innovations should be accompanied with the proper risk analysis." We were ready to propose this as part of the initial proposal, but now it is a lot about trade issues and probably it would be more appropriate to see it as a separate sentence.

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Lo que quería, si me permite, agradecer a Japón por su sugerencia. Solamente, en lugar de "*food trade*", yo creo que directamente "*trade*", no "*food trade*". Yo creo que captura el concepto que se ha utilizado en el Consejo y que hemos venido trabajando, así que directamente es "*unpredictable trade*".

#### **Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

Thank you for the suggestions from my colleagues. Regarding the deletion of "the food" before "the trade", that was also in my mind, but I was just shy to say that, so I fully align myself with your comments. Well, I would understand the point made by the Russian colleague. He said that it would be better to make the two sentences, not bringing the two things in one paragraph. If it is so, we can leave, for example, "all innovations and digitalization should be accompanied with a proper risk analysis, including the protection of data privacy." Maybe we do not need "the". Yes, that I what I wanted to put there, and maybe we do not need "the" after "including". If this is acceptable for my colleagues, then I withdraw my comments.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I have a question. Do you want to put the question of right to privacy and intellectual property rights in both occasions in this subparagraph or only in the last one?

**Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

It is the one, either in the upper lines or further down. I mean, in my view both capture the idea, but as the Russian colleague suggested, if the grammatical order of his proposal is clearer, then I would be happy to accept that with this reference to the components.

**Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I have three comments. The first comment is that I prefer Japan's initial proposal, putting it in the second line, the first and second line, that "while ensuring protection of data privacy and intellectual property rights", that is our preference.

The second one is we are in the a food and agricultural organization and opening up to ideas in the Conference on trade in general and side lining the issue of food trade, I would rather prefer the wording, "predictable food trade", because we are here working in a food and agricultural organization.

The third thing that I want to mention is about the addition of the Russian Federation, which is absolutely good. But I want to caution on being too prescriptive and going too far into what we want to express here in (h), which is, "underlining the importance of all forms of innovation", because we are underlining, we are not asking FAO to get into what we want, but we underline the importance. So, this is a good, general statement, then we want to be prescriptive by saying that "all innovation and digitalization should be accompanied by proper risk analysis." I would rather do away with that portion of the sentence. Our preference is to stop the sentence at, "food security and nutrition" full stop, and keep the rest in red on top, and the rest on that we remove it.

Now, as a general comment, this is what I was afraid of from the very beginning, the first statement I made that we would produce "Christmas Trees" here as our colleague from Switzerland said. If we need to be pragmatic in the suggestions that we are making, we should not try to go further than what we can really, which is in the conceptual framework itself. Then, the essential thing is, we may add this in but in the end we have to endorse this Strategic Framework, because this is something that we have to give to FAO to start working now. Anything that has been corrected, that needs correction or whatever, will be done in the reviewed Medium Term Plan. From the time I have been here, that is how we proceed in the planning, all the time. This is what I wanted to say at this point.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Me gustaría tratar de diferenciar, en ese subpárrafo (h), la primera parte cuando se habla de data "*privacy and intellectual property rights*", está refiriéndose básicamente a la discusión sobre digitalización. Por lo tanto, yo ese párrafo, lo separaría del párrafo sobre la propuesta. Eso está okey, para mí. Después, separaría la parte de la sugerencia de la Federación Rusa sobre "*all innovations*". La cual está okey. Pero agregaría, para que sea más cómoda para nosotros, "*with a proper science-based risk analysis*". Y ahí terminaría, para nosotros, el párrafo.

Sacaría "*including protection of data privacy and intellectual property rights*". La discusión es sobre digitalización. It is "*all innovations should be accompanied by a proper science-based risk analysis*". O sea, digitalización en ese texto, yo lo sacaría, porque está capturada en la primera parte del párrafo. No sé si fui claro, Presidente. Repito: estoy de acuerdo con la primera parte. Y con respecto a la segunda parte de la sugerencia de Ilya, sacaría digitalización en ese párrafo, y agregaría "*science-based risk analysis*". Y ahí terminaría el párrafo.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

I think (h) is again one of the subparagraphs we take from the Council recommendations, so indeed the first proposal made by Japan, "while ensuring protection of data and privacy", that is a Council language I think that is appropriate there. Then the Council also referred to "food trade" in its formulation, we are not a Council Member, but I am sure we had a lengthy discussion on this trade as well, so I would recommend to also keep the Council language here.

With regard to the part proposed on innovation and risk analysis by the Russian Federation, I would like to seek clarification by the Russian Federation on what is meant here. Because in the first sentence we address “all forms of innovation”, it’s not just technology it can be social innovation, it actually can be innovation done by farmers, by smallholders as well and asking them to conduct a proper science-based risk analysis before innovating, or accompanying what they are doing on their farm, might be overreaching.

I would really like to understand what is meant by this addition. I can fully see that if you talk about technological, high-tech innovation and things like that, then you need to have a risk analysis and risk management in place, but for these other forms of innovation, the farmers’ innovations I do not think that with that language, that would be appropriate.

**Sr. Gustavo Eduardo MOSTAJO OCOLA (Perú)**

Nosotros respaldamos lo propuesto por Japón y lo comentado hace poco por el Embajador de Argentina, de mantener la segunda línea respecto a los derechos de propiedad en esa parte del párrafo y estamos en desacuerdo en la parte del comercio. Creo que ahí, si me pueden ayudar, creo que no debería ir la palabra ya "commodities and", porque solamente debería referirse únicamente al comercio abierto, basado en reglas, no es discriminatorio e impredecible, como fue redactando en el Consejo, así que mi sugerencia sería retirar la parte que dice "commodities and" si lo puede poner entre corchetes, la sugerencia de eliminarlo. Y tenemos nuestras reservas aún respecto a si todas las innovaciones requieren un análisis de riesgo. La verdad que no nos queda claro, realmente llevar a cabo análisis de riesgo. Habría que dimensionar bien en qué tipo de innovaciones se pretende hacer ese tipo de evaluación.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

Harking back to what the Chairperson mentioned at the beginning, let us focus on the strategy here, and I understand that countries have specific interests in getting certain things into reports, but I really would caution countries including new requirements into the Strategic Framework. With that said, we really do think that the addition on the all innovations should be accompanied with the proper science-based risk analysis, is putting a requirement into the Strategic Framework that we do not agree with. Really echoing Cameroon’s point and further the Swiss delegation, that requiring all innovations to have a proper risk analysis is not compatible with the way innovation works in the real world.

Again, as much as the Swiss colleagues said, this would potentially be putting an unnecessary burden on the exact farmers and producers that we are seeking to of course help in terms of the importance of all forms of innovation. We would ask to remove that sentence on risk analysis.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

First, I would like to underline that we are trying to keep focus on the Strategic Framework. This is our aim for this debate, and all my proposals made are based on our statement, which was delivered on this Agenda Item and of course it is about the Strategic Framework.

We all know that innovations are one of the accelerators in the Strategic Framework and we commented on this part. In order to provide some additional information for our colleagues that requested it in particular from Switzerland, let me inform you and all in Russian what we are meaning on this.

***Continues in Russian***

New challenges such as coronavirus and climate change require swift responses and effective responses. At the same time, the speed of implementation of innovation technology exceeds the speed of assessment of its effects and the use of innovation and technology in agriculture should go hand in hand with a comprehensive analysis of risk and taking into account all known approaches to One Health. It is also important that, due to the different levels of technological development among states, the proposed Strategic Framework accelerator should not re-lead to an increase in the existing gap in the development levels of agriculture. That is, in short, what we are trying to cover in our proposal. We stand ready to work in order to find a compromise outcome and possibly if you give us the opportunity, we will propose an alternative text, but we need 5 or 10 minutes for that as a minimum.



**Mr Antonio MALTA REIS (European Union)**

I would like to just make a proposal under (h), precisely where it says “predictable”, using language from the 74th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) we could add, “multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO)”. Just to make a clear link here when we refer to open rules-based, non-discriminatory and predictable”. In our view this would be important, in view of the previous discussions we had.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we have a Christmas tree here, so either we go back to my original proposal, which was very simple but maybe incomplete, or we can go back, we can take the text coming out of the Council, which includes some of the lines of the ideas that were mentioned today, like data privacy and intellectual property rights and was agreed by some Members of the Council. Or we can continue discussing this item which might take a long time. The questions of trade and intellectual property rights are not easy to discuss. They were mentioned this morning, but I have to admit they were not the centre core of the discussions. Therefore, I am not willing to have a long discussion on this item.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

Just a general comment, I guess we are not using our time in the best way in this discussion, frankly. I understand we should focus on innovation and digitalization and bringing the discussion of trade to this issue will not help much. Of course, we all understand the importance of trade and the discussions that we had in Council and in different Commissions and Committees. So, I would support your proposal that being more specific, and using agreed language, and maybe the way out would be a new paragraph concerning trade and concentrating on innovation and digitalization without the discussion on property rights.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think my suggestion goes along with what you have suggested. Let us go back to the initial block text. I think that, after reading everything which has been added there, we see no point in continuing that discussion because we are underlining here the importance of all forms of innovation, including digitalization. Underlining. Then we underline and then we add “ensuring this, securing that, accompanying this or that”, no, we are losing the sense of what we intend to discuss.

So, can we at this point, redraft the block text as it was at the beginning and we put aside everything in red somewhere, we park that, and we see if we can accommodate all the ideas there, intellectual property, food trade and so on in a different way and then the science-based innovation and so on. That is my preference now. Let us agree on your initial text first. I believe that was simple and straightforward and understandable.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I agree with you for two reasons. One is to keep this at a strategic level and second because we already made reference to the Report of the 166<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council, where this issue is a little bit more detailed. What I am seeing is that this issue is going to take us a lot of time, maybe more time than we have for discussing the whole Strategic Framework. I ask the Secretary, Mr David McSherry, maybe you can put two alternatives. One, the original text that was proposed this morning, and then as an alternative, this text that we have on our screen.

I appeal to you colleagues, we have to be strategic. We do not have a lot of time for this process as we have in the real meetings. Keep it simple. That is it. Try to be focused and keep it simple. We have many details, many things we want to ask here and there, but at the end we have to be concise on the message that we want to agree to.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

Indeed we need to be concise, but we also need to be coherent and treat complex issues in a similar manner. We do have a Council recommendation in paragraph 10 (q) which exactly addresses this point.

I propose to you the option of going back to that language, which would mean what is now paragraph (i), “underlining the importance of all forms of innovation including digitalization”, that would include the red language, “while ensuring protection of data privacy and intellectual property rights”, so that is included, so that will need to stay, “as a driving force in agricultural environment”. Then lift the brackets around “commodities and”, delete the red text “open rules-based non-discriminatory” and so forth, delete that text. Lift the brackets around “food”, because Council referred to commodities and food trade and then go on, “and food security and nutrition”.

That is language of the Council, as Council agreed and I would strongly suggest that we use this language in order to shorten this discussion. We do not understand why in what is now (h), why parts of that Council language has been taken out, and that is why we would strongly recommend to use the exact language of the Council recommendation. Again for colleagues who want to look it up, it is paragraph 10 (q) of the last Council Report.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Indeed I mentioned that earlier that we are basing our discussions on this, but colleagues were adding text anyway. We can either go on with my initial proposal or the agreed text in the Council or we can continue working on this issue, adding more and more things.

### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Escuché atentamente a mi estimado colega de Suiza y me parece bien, me parece razonable. Creo que hay que agregar un párrafo luego al final, que refleje lo que sugirió Japón y que está incluido en el punto (g) de la resolución del Consejo y que yo voy a leer en inglés, como párrafo aparte dentro del propio párrafo (i) nuevo. Es, “*highlighted the importance of global food supply chains and open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and predictable international trade, taking into account the mandate of FAO in this respect.*” Estamos esperando la sugerencia de la Federación Rusa sobre el tema de innovación. Quizás podríamos sugerir, pero en la medida que pueda funcionar. Vamos a esperar a ver cuál es la propuesta rusa y en función de eso reaccionamos. Esa sería la manera de completar la propuesta del delegado de Suiza, que me parece bien.

### **Mr Nobuyuki KIKUCHI (Japan)**

Of course we should not spend too much time on this. In that spirit, Japan has been taking the consideration not to intervene a lot, but when it comes to this particular paragraph from the serious and lengthy discussion in Council, there are some components that should be there, so that is why I am making a comment on that.

Having said that, thanks to the endeavours made by our Swiss colleague and Argentine colleague, we would be delighted to accept the Swiss proposal on that part because again that comes from the Council language and also as the Argentine colleague pointed out, the correct language that we already agreed, having had a consensus in the serious discussion in the Council. When we separate the two paragraphs, I think that will be very sensible.

### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je vois que la discussion commence à être compliquée. S’agissant du paragraphe initial, sur l’importance de toutes les formes d’innovation, nous souhaitons garder, en tout état de cause, le langage du Conseil. Je m’étonne que la protection de la vie privée et des droits de propriété intellectuelle soit la seule partie du langage du Conseil qui ait été supprimée alors que c’est l’un des éléments fondamentaux.

Donc si nous en restons au langage du Conseil, nous en restons au langage du Conseil exactement, et pas en enlevant des parties qui, de notre point de vue, sont importantes. Donc notre préférence serait d’aller avec le langage du Conseil. Nous attendrons avec intérêt la proposition de notre collègue russe, dont je comprends la philosophie. Nous la regarderons attentivement.

Nous regarderons aussi la proposition du collègue argentin, parce que je note que là nous sommes en train de continuer le Christmas Tree. Et donc nous avons aussi des paragraphes à rajouter sur l’importance de la biodiversité et du climate change qui sont dans le langage du Conseil. Je me réfère

notamment au paragraphe 10 L du Conseil. Mais pour résumer, sur le paragraphe sur les innovations, il est pour nous indispensable de garder la question de la protection des données

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us go and use the text coming from the Council, so the Secretary, if you can pull that quote of that paragraph which is (q), and also leave the proposal by Argentina and let us work only on that. Put the exact wording from the Council which includes the word “food”.

#### **Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Now we have come back to the basics. We are fine with (h), as it is. My suggestion this time is, let us park the proposal of Argentina. We move to other sections, which will give us time to reflect on it, and we will come back to it later on. But I want to draw attention to the part of the idea which is “commodity and food trade” which is already embedded in (h). So let us see if we agree on (h), park (i) as it is now, and we move on to the other that gives us time to reflect on that.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

That is a good idea, but first I want to give the floor to the Russian Federation because it might come back with a new text, that maybe we want to reflect on that as well.

#### **Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

First of all I have to say that we are big fans and defenders of the internationally-agreed language, elaborated in the UN System in an inclusive way with the participation of all interested Members. Although we always respect the recommendations and the decisions of the FAO Council, we have to underline that the FAO Council is not a body of universal coverage in terms of its limited participation of FAO Members.

Please believe us that we participated as an Observer in the FAO Council, and we carefully listened to all the debates about this, but we did not have the opportunity to speak at the stage of the elaboration of the decisions and recommendations. So, in this case, we support the language made in the paragraph 10 (q) of the Council Report, with a minor modification from our side, if possible.

After “innovation” in the first line, we propose “taking into account a proper risk analysis or science-based risk analysis” as proposed by the distinguished Ambassador of Argentina, we fully support this. With that, we fully support the recommendation of the FAO Council.

#### **Mr Antonio MALTA REIS (European Union)**

I want to intervene under (i), the new one, the proposal from Argentina. Indeed, we agree with the proposal, we want just to keep what was already agreed language that he proposed under (h), which is to refer to the multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO). This reference makes a lot of sense because we refer then to FAO, which we are okay with. So, it would read like that.

My proposal would be simple, to move “rules-based” to the end of the adjectives. We would say, “non-discriminatory, predictable and rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO and taking into account the mandate of FAO in this respect.” This reference is based on previous discussion on this item, so I would like to ask you to keep this reference.

#### **Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I appreciate that you give us some time to reflect on this better, and I just want to make a small comment on how the Council functions. I think Members are elected on the basis of their Regional Groups, and it is the Regional Group that appoint Members of the Council, so all the Members of the Council are supposed to be represented in the Council. Sometimes we tend to bring issues which were already agreed by the Regional Group, and insist on countries’ position, which does not help us to advance. I believe that the Council, with the representation of all Members agreed on a text, so it could be dangerous for every country, because every country can do that in the Conference, to bring its own position and put it and insist that it should be taken on board. I am afraid this is not very helpful for us because we too, we have the views as Cameroon to bring there, but we do not want to bring all those

ideas and insist on them. It puts us in a very difficult situation and we have a text which is approved, and we are all moving towards approving that same text for the Conference, but there is one country which is insisting on bringing its position absolutely there.

Then, we will build a Christmas tree, if every country wants to bring its position there. It is a reflection we are trying to bring before you. I am appreciative of the fact you are giving us time to reflect over it and we come back to that at a later time to see if we can accommodate that or not.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I would just like to echo the comments from Cameroon but also thank the Russian Federation for seeking compromise in this language. We continue to feel that we should not be putting in these new requirements, and again I am agreeing with Cameroon. However, we also would look to, if in a spirit of compromise, add to the end of that Russian proposal where it says, “risk analysis”, we would like to add, “as appropriate”. With that I think we can move along.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

If you will allow me very quickly. The first is a huge appreciation for our United States colleague. We can go along with this more compromised text, we are fine.

Very briefly just for the record, I have to say that my delegation at this Conference represents only my delegation, the delegation of my country. It is our firm belief that each of the Members here represent only their countries, national countries.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Colleagues, first take a screen capture of these couple of paragraphs, take a photograph. Let us think about it for the rest of the day. We are almost close to closing this morning. The interpreters can be with us a few minutes more so maybe we can work on a few subparagraphs as long as we do not prolong the discussions too long. Let us park these couple of paragraphs for tomorrow, and let us think about it.

Thank you for the compromise proposals that were presented today. I think we are very close. We invested a lot of time, but it was okay, this issue is always complicated. Let us come tomorrow with a very constructive mind to try to move forward on this issue.

If you are agree, let us take seven minutes more to move to the next couple of subparagraphs.

I want comments for paragraph, what is now, (j), the Technical Cooperation Programme.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

Actually I would like to propose to add an additional paragraph after (i).

As the Hand-in-Hand Initiative is one of the instruments that the Organization is using at the moment in accelerating the agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development, I would just like to emphasise that. Perhaps we can include this paragraph as I am going to propose to you.

“Suggested FAO support the Members in sharing their development experiences with other countries in need through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.”

**CHAIRPERSON**

I open the floor for comments on this subparagraph, which I think is a very simple one. I do not see any comments.

Let us move to what is now paragraph (l). It is about the innovative work of FAO and the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

Sorry for coming back but I think we did not tackle the previous subparagraph. Can I ask the Secretary to scroll a little bit to subparagraph (g), “reaffirmed the strategic and catalytic...”, can we just change the order, “achievement of 2030 Agenda and its SDGs” in line with the paragraph before.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any more comments for paragraph (j)?

Switzerland you can comment on paragraph (l).

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

I think what we did this morning is a little bit more than just acknowledge the important role. I think it was equivalent to what is stated in paragraph (j) so “reiterated” or “stressed the important role”, so that we have the equilibrium between those different strategic components of the mandate of FAO.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any other comments for paragraph (l)? I do not see any.

Let us move to paragraph what is now (m) on partnerships. I do not see any.

Let us move to paragraph what is now (n).

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

C’est entre les deux, je propose après le (m), l’ajout d’un paragraphe qui est repris exactement du document du Conseil, mais qui est important parce que c’est le repositioning sur le système des Nations Unies. Et donc je propose de reprendre le paragraphe 10 (v) des conclusions du Conseil.

*“Underline the need for alignment with the repositioning of the UN Development System and recommended the inclusion of cross-country programming frameworks in the strategy results framework.”*

Nous proposons donc la reprise à l’identique du paragraphe (v), qui de notre point de vue, est très important, la FAO étant une institution spécialisée des Nations Unies.

**CHAIRPERSON**

At this moment, I will try to close the meeting for today because it has been a long day, but before, at the beginning Switzerland and another country as well mentioned that something is missing from the things that were requested from the Council and I said let us put it at the end of this paragraph.

I wonder if Switzerland has some language at this moment. Let us find the place later, but I want to close this meeting today with that proposal so we can think about it between today and tomorrow.

I invite Switzerland if they have any concrete text on this.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

I think it would be appropriate to address that in what is now (q) “endorsed the Strategic Framework noting an updated version of the document”, would be easier to reflect the recommendations of the 166th Session of the Council and guidance on the use of specific, as shown in document C.... I think then we include what many Members mentioned today that that document in itself does not address all the recommendations and conclusions of the Council with regard to the Strategic Framework.

**Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

I fully noted your information just to point out that we have an additional paragraph or subparagraph to add here but we can do it after lunch.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That will be no after lunch because remember the Commission II and I will meet sequentially not in parallel, so our next Session will be tomorrow at 8:30 hours.

**Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

That is fine, I am in your hands. We just have a small proposal for a new subparagraph. Our proposal is having a new subparagraph here.

I will read it out at dictation speed, “requested that the views on the draft Strategic Framework expressed by FAO Members be duly noted and invited FAO Management to ensure that the adjustments proposed by FAO’s governance be incorporated in a future revised version of the Strategic Framework.”

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Para indicar que, de acuerdo a la intervención que hicimos en representación de mi país, hemos expresado nuestras preocupaciones con algunos conceptos que fueron utilizados de manera no internacionalmente acordada, y eso puede crear problemas para construir consensos entre los Miembros, donde cada uno puede interpretar de manera distinta ciertos conceptos, así que no tenemos objeciones respecto de la propuesta que acaba de hacer Portugal.

Con respecto al subpárrafo (q), me gustaría pedirle, hacer una sugerencia, que es cuando dice, *"Session of Council and Members' guidance on the use of specific terminology"* que es *"Council Members guidance"*.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The last paragraph, what I intended was to put the ideas on the table so that we can think about them for tomorrow.

**Mr Sean COX (United States of America)**

I just wanted to comment that for us we do see that (q) is reflective of what was discussed at the 166th Session of the Council. The addition by Portugal here, which calls for a “revised version”, is not something that we think is in line with what the Conference is being asked to do. The Conference is being asked to endorse this document rather than call for a revised version. Therefore, we would object to that addition from Portugal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

What I am trying to do is put the ideas, so we can think about it for tomorrow. We have not finished this issue. We have to go back to the question of trade, and to the last series of paragraphs because we have not discussed it today, we have just put the ideas. We did this because we do not have more time. We took the entire morning on this one agenda item, and it is not finished.

We will finish tomorrow and what I wanted to do was to put ideas on a table, so for tomorrow we already know what we are going to discuss. United States, I take your views, but we will continue this discussion tomorrow. If you agree we can conclude this Agenda Item now.

**Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)**

Only a practical question. Would it be possible that we get that version with all the tracked changes somehow or would you give us half a minute or a minute that we scroll through and take screenshots or that we take photos? Easier probably that we get the text, so that we can go back also to experts to prepare for tomorrow.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am hesitant because if the experts, the lawyers, or whoever will get involved it will take two months to solve it. Remember that in the past we do not even share the text in the first place.

So, what we have now, basically the things that are pending are the trade issues, and the last series of paragraphs at the very end, what to do for the future, the recommendations, the agri-concept all that. I am afraid that if I give more time, we will have more new ideas and that is not the idea for the conclusions.

I will close the meeting now and see you tomorrow with this same Agenda Item at 8:30 hours. Tomorrow we still have the Programme of Work and Budget, and two more Agenda Items that were discussed by Written Correspondence, but we are going to deal with their conclusions.

I think this is the most complex one and I hope that we finish tomorrow quickly and then move to the budget which I hope we can move quickly on. Then, I hope that tomorrow we can finish on time so we

can move on. For those working on the Commission I as well, have a great afternoon and for the rest of us, see you tomorrow.

I close this meeting for today.

*The meeting rose at 13.21 hours*

*La séance est levée à 13 h 21*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 13.21*

# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Forty- second Session Quarante et deuxième session 42.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Virtual Meeting, 14-18 June 2021 Réunion Virtuelle, 14-18 juin 2021 Reunión Virtual, 14-18 de junio de 2021</b>
<b>SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION II DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION II SEGUNDA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN II</b>
<b>16 June 2021</b>

The Second Meeting was opened at 08:46 hours  
Mr Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma,  
Chairperson of Commission II, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 08 h 46  
sous la présidence de M. Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma,  
Président de la Commission II

Se abre la segunda reunión a las 08.46  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma,  
Presidente de la Comisión II

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**Item 18. Strategic Framework 2022-31 (continued)****Point 18. Cadre stratégique 2022-2031 (suite)****Tema 18. Marco estratégico para 2022-2031 (continuación)****CHAIRPERSON**

Welcome back. For those that have stayed through Commission I, welcome. It was a short night, but we have a long day ahead of us for today. We will now continue our discussion on the draft conclusions for Item 18, *Strategic Framework 2022-31*. I will invite now the Secretariat to share my conclusions for Item 18 on the screen.

During our Meeting yesterday, we concluded the following paragraphs, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4(a), 4(b), 4(c), 4(d), 4(e), 4(f), 4(g), 4(j), 4(k), 4(l) and 4(m). We still have a few issues pending, we will return today to subparagraphs 4(h), 4(i), 4(n), 4(o) and 4(q), which are still pending.

I will start with the question of trade and innovation, subparagraphs (h) and (i).

You remember yesterday Russian Federation proposed something which was amended by the United States and we left the discussion at that moment. What you see on the screen is where we stopped yesterday, so please look at subparagraphs (h) and (i).

Are you okay with these proposals, with that text? I see no request from the floor, so I assume that you are okay with it.

Let us go to the next pending issue, which is 4(n), (o) and (p). The subparagraph (n) was proposed yesterday and we did not discuss it. Let us take a look at it, I think it was proposed by France. I see no requests from the floor, so I think we are okay with it.

Let us move to the next one, 4(o). We skipped it yesterday, but I think we can consider it together with (p) and (q) because they are in some way related. Subparagraph (o) I think was part of my conclusions yesterday, we did not discuss it.

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

Quisimos intervenir porque viendo los subpárrafos (o) y (p) propuesto en el día de ayer por Portugal, creo que tal vez están entrelazados en este punto de vista porque justamente, como bien saben la problemática que plantea Argentina a lo largo de elaboración del Marco Estratégico, fue justamente la inclusión del lenguaje no acordado multilateralmente. Entonces, si uno ve desde afuera este subpárrafo, dice que remarca la necesidad de usar lenguaje multilateral acordado. Pero, en realidad, no se entiende por qué si uno no participo en las reuniones de la FAO, de los órganos de gobierno y las discusiones en torno al Marco Estratégico, por ahí tal vez no entiende por qué.

Y en el entendido de que, tal vez, deberíamos dar con un poco más de claridad respecto a qué estamos hablando en el subpárrafo (p), yo propongo, tal vez, para empezar a trabajar sobre el subpárrafo (p) y ver alternativas. Esto dado que hemos sentido algunos Miembros que tal vez sea muy abierto, el párrafo (p), como está abierto porque da un cierto cheque en blanco a la FAO para que incorpore a su gusto y parecer aquellos comentarios que si le parecen relevantes y dejando afuera tal vez otros que no le sean tan relevantes, pero que han sido planteados por Miembros. Tal vez, como nuestra preocupación, en el Marco Estratégico, se refiere al lenguaje no acordado multilateralmente incluido en el mismo, por ahí podríamos el (o) modificarlo para que comience con la siguiente redacción. Voy a pasar al inglés a velocidad dictado al comienzo del subpárrafo (o): *“Highlighted that the Strategic Framework includes concepts and terms that are not multilaterally agreed such as blue transformation, blue economy among others, and recalled the need for FAO to use multilateral agreements”*.

De esta manera, estamos marcando específicamente cuál es el problema que muchos miembros han planteado al marco estratégico, es decir devuelta repito, que se incluyó terminología no acordada multilateralmente. Le estamos diciendo que tiene que incorporar ese tipo de acuerdo, digamos, conceptos acordados multilateralmente y esas son las revisiones que se tienen que hacer al Marco

Estratégico, en todo caso. O sea, estamos dando un marco, un límite de trabajo a la FAO y que no se extienda más allá de eso, que no se extienda en contenido y en narrativa.

Creo que es clara la postura y lo que estamos proponiendo, pero nos gustaría conocer la opinión del resto de los colegas.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Please remember that the main goal on this Agenda Item is that the Conference endorses the Strategic Framework. Second, when there were disagreements on the terminology, I think it is very important for us to say exactly what we do not agree.

If the document includes some elements, so-called definitions that we do not agree with in the Section 2 of document *C 2021/LIM/4* and one of them is in fact the blue economy, blue transformation, innovation and bioeconomy, I think those are the concepts that we, as Members, do not agree and we should not leave this list of elements open because could be subject to interpretation. We will go back to this over and over again. I think that the Conference should be very specific on what we do not agree in terms that Management is using.

These comments apply for the three remaining subparagraphs, because in some way are linked to the other. That is what I think as Chairperson. First, the focus is to endorse the Strategic Framework and second, if we do not like something, we have to say it very explicitly because otherwise it will be subject to interpretation and we will have these discussions over and over again.

### **Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I wanted to take a step back this morning with regards to subparagraphs (o) and (p). In fact, thinking through this, we as FAO Members have had a chance to review and shape this Strategic Framework through all of the FAO Governing Bodies. There is an inclusive process that led to its development, and it is culminating in this week when we at Conference, which is our highest Governing Body, are being asked to endorse it. As our Chairperson just said, we are being asked to endorse this Strategic Framework, not to line edit it.

I have been paying close attention this week and all throughout the Plenary and in this Commission, we have heard speaker after speaker, including Ministers, Vice-Ministers and other Officials, express support for the strategic direction of this Organization, as outlined in this Strategic Framework. We have heard how Members have seen the views of the Regional Conferences incorporated in the Strategic Framework as well, and I recall that this Report is supposed to be a high level consensus endorsement of this Framework.

I fear that if we put language in, such as in subparagraph (p), it makes our Report far less meaningful and far less powerful. We have an established process, through the Basic Texts of the Organization, to shape the FAO's work and to call for adjustments in its approach, and I think it is really critical that all of us remember that and follow that process outlined in the Basic Texts.

From what we have seen, the FAO has been responsive to Members' requests received during Council. We have seen that in document *C 2017/LIM/4*, which spelled out and defined those concepts that our Chairperson just mentioned that Members had questions about. I have faith that the Organization will follow suit as is required under the Basic Texts during the adjustment phase.

Our delegation did speak up yesterday regarding subparagraph (p). Again, we do not feel that this subparagraph has a place in this Report, we would request it be removed.

For subparagraph (o), we would prefer a positive framing of this, as it was - the original, "stressed the need for FAO to use multilaterally agreed concepts...", but if we pick out specific words, I fear we are going to be heading down a path that every Member is going to want to get into details. Again, we are asked to endorse and not line edit.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

I think we need to stress the use of multilaterally agreed concepts and terms, as Brazil and many other Delegations have stressed during their interventions. I would agree with what Argentina proposed, but instead of “recalled,” I would prefer “stressed the need for.”

Concerning the comments just made by the United States, the fact that many delegations and Ministers endorsed the Strategic Framework does not mean that they entirely and integrally endorsed everything, maybe other Delegations stressed the need to use the concepts and terms of ‘multilaterally agreed’. So, I would interpret this subparagraph as needed and maybe for our discussions it would be easier to discuss first the subparagraph (o) and then the subparagraph (p), if we start going backwards and discussing the two subparagraphs maybe it would not be the best way to solve this matter.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Let me first of all thank very much our colleague from the United States. She put what I had in mind in a perfect English, because she is English-speaking, I am not, or I am half English-speaking.

I believe that in principle for us subparagraph (p) may not add any value in this Report, but since some of our Members have presented that subparagraph, we can work on it, but let us work on subparagraph (o) and I believe that it needs to be put in a very positive way.

If I may, let me propose some drafting. It starts by “noted the Strategic Framework included concepts and terms that are not multilaterally agreed and stressed the need for FAO to use multilaterally agreed concepts, approaches and language and give preference to those adopted by FAO Governing Bodies.” So, meaning that we introduce it by what we are noting in the document and give some direction on how that should be worked out.

Since I have the floor, for subparagraph (p), we have to be mindful of the planning process, the way it is undertaken, this is the culmination of a process for the Strategic Framework. After today, or after this Conference, there is no other opportunity for us to work on the Strategic Framework because we need to endorse it here.

I would rather propose that for subparagraph (p) we follow the procedure leading to the entire planning process within FAO, which goes from the Strategic Framework to the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). So, “requested that the comments made by FAO Members at the 42nd Session of the Conference on the Strategic Framework, be addressed in subsequent iterations of the Medium Term Plan, [or of subsequent reviews of the Medium Term Plan].”

In that sense, we are in line with the planning process and we can now, as (q) says, endorse the Strategic Framework knowing perfectly that anything that we do will be done later on, and the way we look at it will be addressed in another document, not in the Strategic Framework. So, these are my two comments.

**Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

Regarding these two subparagraphs I understood, and correct me if I am wrong, that we are discussing subparagraphs (o) and (p) as a block.

Let me start by saying that we are with your proposal to keep it simple and to stick with what is really important. We are listening carefully our colleagues from Argentina, from Brazil, our dear friends and dear colleagues. We are also listening very carefully to what the United States said in wonderfully good English about the questions we have in subparagraph (o) and we do much support it.

I think that if you go to the Report of the last Council, we have some presence on language that is already addressed in the document presented by FAO. For example, the ones that are addressed in the document that was presented by the Secretariat for the adoption of the level of the budget. Therefore, we think that, with full respect for the proposals and also taking into consideration the experience and the wisdom of our colleague from Cameroon, which we are always also listening very carefully, I think that the original text captures what we want to say. I think that what we need to say here is already captured in the original text.

If you allow me, I will pass to subparagraph (p) and note these requests for a revised Strategic Framework is something that came from our side and also again, we are listening very carefully to the Members. I should say, from our side, that we are talking about a document that is for the next ten years. It is a fundamental document, for example, for the social and in the context of the FAO's mandate of the Agenda 2030 and our common goal to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

It is a document that will be revised in the future, but at this point in time, just from our side, from the European Union and its 27 Member States, just explain what we are trying to say. We are not to go against anything, we recognize the process and the discussions that we had, but we would like to go for the Basic Texts.

If you go for the Basic Texts, they are wonderful and we are very happy and this is our guidance, our Basic Texts. If you go for the definition of the Governing Bodies, there we can see that the establishment of the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget is up to the Governing Bodies. In the Basic Texts we can find that it is the duty of the Council to consider and make recommendations to the Conference on the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

That is what we did in the last Council, and if we go to the Report of the last Council, we see that the Council requested that, consistent with the process established in the Basic Texts, an additional paper be submitted to the Conference to accompany the Strategic Framework. This is in paragraph 12 of the last Council Report.

What we are saying from our side, from the European Union and its 27 Member States, is to simply fulfil what we have in the Basic Texts and what we requested in the last Council. We have a list of recommendations from the Council that is in paragraph 10 of the Report of the Council, and we are waiting from the Secretariat to provide an additional paper. It is up to the Secretariat to listen to the Members' recommendations and to make proposals, to explain why our recommendations, for example, are already in the Strategic Framework, in the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget, and why from the recommendations need to be better addressed. For example, for our side, we are requesting a balanced approach for the three dimensions of sustainability and so on, others, we have full respect of course for the consensus that we adopt the Report of the Council, made other proposals.

What we are requesting is simply the fulfilment from one side of what we have in the Basic Texts, and on the other side what we had in common and backed consensus decided at Council. But, of course, we are listening carefully and we need to go forward. Regarding this I think that we can move on and offer, as always, a way out, always offering a common language, one all of us can accept.

Our proposal is at the end saying or explaining our position is going by the end of the subparagraph (p) and replacing when at the very last of the subparagraph (p), when we have "adjustments proposed by the FAO's governance being incorporated in the future revised versions of the Strategic Framework," we are proposing to replace the "be incorporated in the future revised version of the Strategic Framework," so after the "adjustments proposed by FAO Governance, can be presented in an additional paper."

I continue, "requested by the Council at its 166th Session with clarifications for future adjustments on the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan 2022-25, and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23." With this, I think that the question put by some Members on the endorsement of the Strategic Framework can be solved this way and we continue to fulfil our duties as the Governing Bodies. This is our proposal.

Just a final mention, regarding the comment made by our colleague from Cameroon, we are always listening, as I have just said, very carefully our dear colleague Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI, but at the very beginning of the subparagraph (p), having comments by FAO Members and referring to Members individually is not, I think, our way of working.

We have some difficulties to go along with this new proposal at the beginning of the subparagraph from Cameroon because I think it is better to replace "FAO Members" by "Governance". In that case

we are open to consider this. I am sorry for taking so long, this is our view on these, we feel that we need to better explain our position.

**Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)**

I have listened very much to the discussions and I would like to focus our comments on subparagraph (o).

We do believe that the initial language is a good compromise that can capture the idea that I think most of us expressed and that was also the language used in the FAO Council Report. It is important to use multilaterally agreed language and concepts, at the same time, I think the Strategic Framework is something that is supposed to also be strategic, high-level, and often people said it has to be appealing, and it also has to build on some of the recommendations and views expressed by all the Governing Bodies of FAO.

For example, some of the concepts that have been highlighted by our Distinguished colleague from Argentina are some that the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) have welcomed in their Report: they did welcome the proposed blue transformation programme for FAO and they have had repeated calls to improve the visibility of the fisheries and agriculture issues into the work of the FAO. They have had a 'blue growth' initiative for a number of years now and some Members, like us, we are developing a 'blue economy' strategy based on the definition of the World Bank Group.

We would really think that we should be careful in starting to flag certain languages and concepts that have been supported by Technical Committees. I think that we can still propose comments on the national basis that have been expressed by Members in different Governing Bodies and can be expressed in writing, but we would not be able to agree to start a list of concepts that would be included in that.

**Sra. María De Los Ángeles GÓMEZ AGUILAR (México)**

Creo que la redacción de ambos subpárrafos se está complicando demasiado, si tenemos en cuenta que el siguiente subpárrafo hace el endoso del Marco Estratégico. Entonces, al menos para mi Delegación el lenguaje propuesto originalmente, "*Stress the need for FAO to use multilaterally agreed concepts, approaches our language and give preference to those adopted by FAO Governing Bodies*", es lo suficientemente claro para propios y extraños, para el que no conozca los textos o no conozca como trabaja la FAO, lo que se está pidiendo en este endoso.

Entonces, solamente continuaría con decir que en las futuras revisiones se cuidará que no se incorporen estos conceptos no acordados multilateralmente. Pero todo lo demás, la lista de qué se tiene que cambiar y qué no, complica mucho la lectura, la redacción del entendimiento de lo que se quiere hacer. Yo creo que la propuesta original es suficiente.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Me voy a referir al subpárrafo (o), quisiera recordar que justamente estamos discutiendo este subpárrafo y se planteó este subpárrafo porque solamente en la última versión del Marco Estratégico fue que nos encontramos repentinamente con este lenguaje no acordado y, sí, se le dijo a la FAO varias veces que no queríamos este lenguaje que no era multilateralmente acordado en el texto y se ha insistido en mantenerlo.

Por eso es que estamos discutiendo esto hoy. En ese sentido nos parece que es importante plantearlo porque creo que ha habido un *feedback* claro de los Miembros y que es cierto que no ha sido escuchado. Ahora por su puesto, nosotros aprobamos el Marco Estratégico en términos generales, pero este punto en particular nos parece que es un tema importante y que ha sido mencionado múltiples veces.

Ahora, quisiéramos en el subpárrafo (o), mantener el texto, trabajar el texto que está entre el primer corchete.

*Continues in English*

We would like to keep “highlighted the Strategic Framework include concepts that are not multilaterally agreed”. I have some propose text after “agreed.” In the third line, “as those mentioned in the FAO document *C 2021/LIM/4*,” and then we can delete “such as blue transformation there, the concepts we have there, and “recalled the need for FAO to use multilaterally agreed concepts” and this go until the end.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Please remember that the reference to *LIM/4* is in the very last subparagraph and that is the reason I ask you to see three subparagraphs at the same time, because the guidance and terminology is already included there.

#### **Ms Jackline YONGA (Kenya)**

I will be addressing subparagraph (o) and I want to begin by aligning myself following Canada’s comment. The Strategic Framework should be appealing to the 193 Countries that work with FAO. The definitions, as in Kenya’s context, we use the ‘blue economy’ and it is one of the legal frameworks that have been defined in the Kenyan Constitution, and we are following what emerged during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, which is the Rio+20.

I think countries should be allowed to access their programmes within FAO, but if you now remove the blue economies, that are actually departments within some of the Countries, like Kenya, then you are locking us out from accessing. I think this should not be, for now, removed, but we align ourselves to, and will request that we retain the Secretariat’s initial text, so that we can demonstrate that in 2018 Kenya did host an international Blue Economy Conference that was co-hosted by Canada, Japan and Kenya, and we used the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference as the title. Therefore for us, we really believe that each and every individual Country’s terms and who are Members of FAO should be allowed all of these by accessing the programmes.

#### **Mr Haitham Abdelhady ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)**

As this is the first time I take the floor, I would like also to join others to congratulate you for your appointment as Chairperson of the Commission II and we would like also to begin our intervention with supporting your recommendation at the beginning of our deliberation.

This is a Conference. The main objective of the Conference is to endorse the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and, to be frank with you, we make the work of the Conference very complicated with these two subparagraphs. It is very complicated right now, and I would support to have a clear and also concise conclusions. In this regard I fully support your conclusion, the original one in black. This is very clear.

We are asking FAO to use multilaterally agreed concepts and also we put this working in a positive way and also in an action way, and I fully understand what have been said by other distinguished Delegates regarding there is some terms and concepts that were included in the draft of the Strategic Framework, but I think also at the beginning of the conclusion of this Item, we have already “the Conference endorsed it or supported the conclusions of the last Council on the Strategic Framework.”

We already support all the reviews or the comments or the adjustments made by the Council. In this regard, I fully support your proposal, and hopefully also other Members will join and also show more flexibility in order to move on, because we still have a lot of Agenda in front of us.

For subparagraph (p), as we are also taking these two subparagraphs together, we fully equal what have been said by many Members, including the United States of America in this regard.

#### **Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

In general, we welcome the current subparagraph (o). It is true that through the whole process of the deliberation of this Strategic Framework, many Members expressed their concern about the non-multilaterally agreed concepts that are used in the draft Strategic Framework and, by the way, in the Outline of the Strategic Framework. We heard many concerns about blue economy, blue transformation, about unsustainable food, about fishing rights, about many other non-multilaterally agreed concepts. But we also understand the concerns of other Countries and in the attempt to find a

compromise solution, may I propose another subparagraph that would probably solve the issue, if you permit me, I can read it.

“Recognizing and welcoming the Strategic Framework as a whole, noted that it includes concepts and terms that are not multilaterally agreed and recalled the need to examine them through Governing Bodies, if requested by Member States, in view of possible discussion, deliberation of policy recommendations and/or guidance, in order to avoid misinterpretation of such concepts and terms.”

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Just a clarification, FAO use the term “Member Nations”, that is how we are spelling in the Basic Texts, not “Member States”.

#### **Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I understood that you did not get me properly for my first intervention towards the end, but I hope that this time is going well.

I have already made my point for subparagraph (o). We want to keep it simple and we can go along with the first part that I added, or without it, and keep your suggestion. That is our position on subparagraph (o), that is either we say “noted Strategic Framework including concepts and terms that are not multilaterally agreed and expressed the need for FAO to use multilaterally agreed concepts, approaches and languages, to give preference to those adopted by FAO Governing Bodies,” that is what we are suggesting. Any other addition we are not in support of it.

Now, back to the suggestion of Portugal on what is now seen as subparagraph (q), well, we are trying to be very consistent and probably draw the attention of our colleagues on what we use. I have been here long enough to say that there are things that I have never seen. I have never seen an adjustment of the Strategic Framework, never. I have never seen an adjustment of the Medium Term Plan, but I have seen Adjustments of the Programme of Work and Budget. We revise the Strategic Framework after a certain period, so it is a revision of the Strategic Framework.

We review the Medium Term Plan at a given period, we can decide to review it probably after it was endorsed, so we cannot put all of that together in a future adjustment of the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan. No, that cannot work, and it is not the terminology that we are using. What we can do is we endorse the Strategic Framework and wait for the time where it will be needed for the revision.

What we can do from the Strategic Framework that we have endorsed, we can work on the Medium Term Plan during the reviews process. That is how it works. I am not trying to give a lecture, but I’m trying to be consistent and share my experience on the planning and, by the way, I am a planner myself, so I know what we discuss when it comes to planning processes.

My submission really is that if there is any comment that will be made today, it be made in the subsequent reviews of the Medium Term Plan... [XX]

#### **Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Yo quisiera a ver si podemos escucharnos y, por lo menos, lo que nosotros como delegación intentamos expresar.

Yo creo que, a esta altura, nadie tiene dudas de que estos temas fueron discutidos o están siendo discutidos porque hubo un problema en el proceso. El proceso como dice Estados Unidos fue muy inclusivo, muy transparente, pero algo hubo, un cortocircuito hubo, porque los países, los Miembros que plantearon algunos reparos, algunas cuestiones, no fueron tomadas en consideración por parte del Managment en el Strategic Framework. Llegamos a un acuerdo y el acuerdo fue que se iba a incorporar un documento con aquellos conceptos que no fueron acordados internacionalmente. Y está claro que la propia FAO, de manera constructiva, reconoce que hay conceptos que no están acordados por los Miembros, porque si no, no tendríamos el documento *C 2021/LIM/4*.

Dicho esto, la otra cuestión que me gustaría marcar es que nosotros no estamos en desacuerdo que cada país use los conceptos que consideren o que lleve adelante las políticas que consideren, porque

ningún país puede cuestionar eso. Cada uno hace lo que quiere dentro de su soberanía. Lo que nosotros queremos plantear es que, hay conceptos que tienen para nosotros una sensibilidad política. Me estoy refiriendo específicamente a "blue economy" y a "blue transformation".

Pero quiero decir que eso no significa que no nos parezca maravilloso que otros países puedan llevar adelante planes de "blue economy" o "blue transformation". Cada país es soberano de decidir lo que considere. Lo único que estamos diciendo es que en los documentos de la Organización no pueden haber conceptos que no estén acordados porque si no cada Miembro interpreta de manera distinta el concepto y es un problema y es muy difícil llevar adelante planes para la Organización cuando no acordamos los conceptos.

Dicho esto, el cual significa mi respeto para la intervención de Kenia, para la intervención de un montón de colegas, que les parece muy bien estos conceptos, quiero reiterar que para mí Delegación estos conceptos tienen una alta sensibilidad política. Por lo tanto, quiero agradecer los aportes de Chile, de Camerún, de la Federación de Rusia, intentando acomodar estas sensibilidades, más hechos concretos y objetivos que es que la propia FAO reconoce que existen conceptos que no están acordados.

Por lo tanto, somos flexibles en buscar una solución. Yo creo que la posición, la sugerencia de Rusia está muy bien, nosotros podríamos compartir eso o podríamos también compartir la propuesta de Chile, lo único que a la propuesta rusa o a la propuesta de Chile o a la propuesta que querramos incluir cuando hablamos de conceptos que no están acordados, simplemente queremos agregar "As mentioned in FAO document C 2021/LIM/4". Porque no podemos dejar abierta la idea de que son cualquier tipo de conceptos, estamos hablando de conceptos que la propia FAO reconoce.

Ese documento es oficial, es documento de la FAO, por lo tanto, lo que estamos diciendo es, no quiero y no es mi intención discutir si está bien o no "blue economy" o "blue transformation", porque cada estado tiene absolutamente el derecho de llevar adelante su propia política. Pero nosotros lo único que planteamos es que hay hechos objetivos, que son conceptos no acordados, que la FAO reconoce en un documento oficial y que queremos que sea mencionado ese documento oficial en un párrafo.

Por lo cual, el párrafo de la Federación de Rusia, podríamos perfectamente acompañarlo agregando simplemente "as mentioned" al final. Después de "...and terms as mentioned in FAO document C 2021/LIM/4".

Entonces, quiero reiterar para que no haya confusión. No nos oponemos de ninguna manera a "blue economy", "blue transformation" o en que cada uno haga lo que le parezca bien. Pero si hay conceptos que no están acordados y la propia Organización lo reconoce en un documento oficial, lo único que estamos pidiendo es que esté en el párrafo.

Y si no queremos poner los conceptos, no hay problema, solamente mencionemos el documento de la FAO y con eso resolvemos el problema, acomodamos a los diferentes intereses que aquí se han discutido, porque para nosotros hay conceptos que son de alta sensibilidad política y que pueden afectar nuestra soberanía.

Entonces, solamente solicito que se ponga en consideración, también, las sensibilidades de cada uno de nosotros. Por lo cual, respetando los intereses de todos, si mencionamos lo que la FAO ya ha dicho y reconoció me parece que estamos resolviendo, por lo menos, la cuestión de la relación entre el (o) y el (p), porque si no dejaríamos el documento muy abierto y no sería claro y sería complicado.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I want to remind that the reference to *C 2021/LIM/4*, Section II, is already in my original conclusions in the very last paragraph and it specifically says that an updated document of the Strategic Framework will reflect the guidance on the use of specific terminology as shown in *LIM/4*, Section II. That reference is already there and I mentioned that before. That is the reason I wanted to see this set of subparagraphs at the same time, because the reference to *LIM/4* is very clear since my original conclusions.



**Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)**

Thank you for the very efficient manner in which you are chairing our meeting today. South Africa believes we have spent a disproportionate amount of time on these two subparagraphs and we need to urgently move on.

South Africa wishes to report that in terms of Africa's 2050 integrated maritime strategy, which was agreed to by the 55 African States, it is clearly stated in that strategy, and I quote, "there is also the urgent imperative to develop a sustainable blue economy initiative which would be a maritime version of the green economy, one that improves African citizens' wellbeing while significantly reducing maritime environmental risks, as well as ecological and biodiversity deficiencies."

This is the position of the African continent. I also wish to refer to the issue of blue transformation, which we should not confuse with the issue of blue economy. The issue of blue economy, as I have stated, has also been clarified by FAO in *C 2021/LIM/4*, which is quite acceptable for them to clarify, but the issue of blue transformation was discussed at the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Meeting which was held in February and there were no real objections to the use of that term and in fact in terms of paragraph 19 (d) of the Report of COFI, there is a clear reference to the issue of blue transformation.

**Ms Elsa Barbosa DE OLIVEIRA MARCELINO SIMÕES (Cabo Verde)**

Chairperson congratulations for your elections and I wish you a successful Chairpersonship. Just to try to go as fast as possible, because we really are losing a lot of time on this Item, Cabo Verde would like to align itself with Canada, Kenya and South Africa, for all the reasons that they have stated and with which we align with. We also understand that FAO needs to have a broader menu to serve all its Members, but we understand the dilemma and we would like to support the proposal made by Russian Federation to overcome this issue.

**Mr Abdul Malik MELVIN CASTELINO (Malaysia)**

First of all, allow me to thank you for your very wise counsel this morning. I have been listening very attentively to the discussions that have taken place and I would say that I think most of us are onboard in terms of putting the Strategic Framework in a positive light. The only issue I think that we have been discussing over and over again, not in this forum, but also in a previous Committee and also the other Committees, are the fact that there are multilaterally agreed language and non-multilaterally agreed language in the document itself and I think that's a key issue that we all face, and I share the view of my colleagues from Argentina and of course from Chile and from Canada.

I think the way forward would be to acknowledge that there is non-multilateral agreed language in the document, which is a clear fact, we all know this and we have been discussing for a long time, but what is missing I think is the question of examining this non-multilaterally agreed language and that's a key issue now.

Therefore, how do we incorporate that into the whole paragraph? I would support the very wise paragraph that you, Chairperson, presented to us where we accept the Strategic Framework while acknowledging the fact there are non-multilaterally agreed concepts, we do not mention specific language because we all know that there is language that are not agreed by a lot of Countries, so we should not, I think, put language such as blue transformation, blue economy in the paragraph, because it would open up for even further discussions.

In the spirit of compromise, I think we should focus on the fact that we welcome the Strategic Framework. Number two, understand there are, or agree there are non-multilaterally agreed languages in the document.

Number three, request FAO to re-examine this at one point, and then move on from there. I think what you have suggested, Chairperson, and of course what my colleague from Egypt has suggested, I think it is a very wise point, so that would be my thought here, because I do not think we can put languages such as what has been papered in red, and local consensus because there will be of course disagreement by countries in terms of what they see a blue economy and what they see blue transformation and so on and so forth, so let us not go into that, but let us make it as general as

possible. The key issue is to ensure that FAO re-examines this non-multilaterally agreed language at some point, which you have highlighted really in the last paragraph.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

That is very constructive, maybe next speakers can reflect on that concrete ideas from Malaysia.

#### **Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)**

I wanted to briefly come in on subparagraph (p) that was the subparagraph proposed by Russia. Whatever is the outcome on our discussions on this, I think Russia did not mean to exclude a Member Organization of FAO, which is the European Union, and in that sense the text, if it is maintained, should read “Members”.

For the further consideration, I just want to remind everybody that there may be new concepts emerging in other international organizations of which all of you are Members and that are then agreed elsewhere and what is it if we then get stuck with a reference to only looking at the FAO, what the FAO Governing Bodies are agreeing to, would that mean we avoid progress, we do not agree to progress and to innovation that is steered in other organizations and that FAO could follow, even if it is about terms and concepts that do not emanate from FAO in the first place? Just this for your consideration and thank you for adapting subparagraph (p).

#### **Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

Australia would like to put forward the following proposal. Our suggestion is that we maintain subparagraph (o), only with the language in black, which was presented initially by the Chairperson. We then move straight to the final subparagraph, which, as you have highlighted twice, mentions Conference document *C 2021/LIM/4*. I suggest we then focus on the final subparagraph only, so we remove the proposals that have been put forward, and to try and capture some of the language, my suggestion to amend this subparagraph is as follows, “endorse the Strategic Framework, noting an updated version of the document would be issued to reflect the recommendations of the 166th Session of the Council and Members’ guidance on the use of specific terminology as shown in document *C 2021/LIM/4 Section II*, which has been developed to address concerns about the inclusion in the Strategic Framework of non-multilaterally agreed terminology”.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Australia, you are always very helpful. I invite colleagues to look into the proposal of Australia, to focus on the endorsement of the Strategic Framework, to focus on the fact that there are different views on should we use multilaterally agreed terms or not, and if not, which ones, because we have different views on that and some countries expressed that some terminology is already in the Constitution, while others do not want to use it at all.

We have different views on that, we know it very well, we know it for months or years, so it is time to get a conclusion and that means compromise which for the minimum common denominator. Of course it raises a lot of facts that we like or we do not like, and also we do not have time, because we can continue discussing this Item for the rest of the week and maybe not even reach a consensus that we will all be happy with. I invite you to focus, to keep the discussions short and try to close this discussion soon.

#### **Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

We really try to focus and we listened very carefully also to the proposal that was just made by Australia. We very much would like to thank Australia for this last proposal, it is very much in line with our thinking. We indeed would be in favour of the original subparagraph (o), only retaining the black text, indeed, and what is now subparagraph (r), as it was amended yesterday, and today I think with the excellent suggestion of Australia, we would also be in favour of that. With regards to subparagraph (p), I think this very much concerns Agenda setting of Governing Bodies.

We had a discussion in the other Commission yesterday and we came to the conclusion we should leave that to the Basic Texts of FAO. Whenever a Member wants a Governing Body to discuss

something, there are procedures in place on how to do that and I do not think a subparagraph (p) is necessary. And with regard to the terminology, this is now taken care of in subparagraph (r).

With regard to subparagraph (q), indeed we do not think that there is an adjustment of the Strategic Framework, this does not exist. If we think the Strategic Framework needs to be changed, we should address it in a review process. Conference could decide to review the Strategic Framework in XY years, that we could do, so in this sense I do not think that this subparagraph (q) adds any clarity.

Therefore, if we see that we are going to need a review, that the Conference sees that we will need a review of the Strategic Framework, we could address that in a separate subparagraph on a review process, I'm not suggesting that, but I do not think that we would support subparagraph (q) as it is.

To make it short, it is really the original (o) and the now amended (r), which we believe captures this very long discussion very well.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Remember that the Strategic Framework stays, but it is in the Medium-Term Plan on action when we revise in practical terms the Strategic Framework. This is done every four years. Remember, for example, in the previous Strategic Framework when it was adopted, there was no Agenda 2030 and it was included in four iterations of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and also the Medium-Term Plan. So, the revisions have been in practice, so do not worry for that.

#### **Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I totally support what Australia said with regard to subparagraphs (o) and (r). Now, we have those two subparagraphs, (p) and (q). The way they are now, and I follow what Switzerland just said, we are comfortable with doing away with these two subparagraphs, as long as our concerns are taken onboard in subparagraph (o) and (r).

I do not know whether it is going to be the last time I am taking the floor on this topic, because we are spending too much time on it, we said yesterday that we should remain at the strategic level of discussion here, that we are now going to the [XX] so I support you, because you supported that and you mentioned it yesterday that we should remain strategic in our views. The suggestion of Australia is good with us, we keep the text in black in (o), and the new (r), the way it is.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

From one hand, it is nice to hear you all the time because your wisdom is always appreciated, but it is time to close this Agenda Item, so I hope the next time we hear from you it is on the next Agenda Item.

#### **Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

I want to express my appreciation as well to our Australian colleague for her very wise suggestion. We also support going with the original language in (o), as is currently highlighted on the screen, and then with regard to subparagraph (r), I just have a couple of slight adjustments I hope might work for people.

The first one would be “we have endorsed the Strategic Framework 2022-2031,” what I would like to propose is that that phrase maybe be moved to a subparagraph (s), so it would stand alone, again getting to what I said in my initial intervention about this being a powerful statement of support for the Framework.

Then I have a suggestion for subparagraph (r), instead of an updated version of the document, “noting adjustments would reflect the recommendations of the 166th Session of the Council and Members’ guidance,” I would like to propose adding “through the Governing Bodies,” because FAO does take its instructions through the Governing Bodies.

On the use of specific terminology as shown in that document, “which has been developed,” so the rest as just putting “adjustments” to make clear what we are talking about here is not a revision, a line editing, we are talking about following the Basic Texts and in the Basic Texts it lines out what we do

in an adjustment phase, as you, Chairperson, were just describing, and then the importance is having that through the Governing Bodies and then standalone endorse the Strategic Framework.

**Mr Haitham Abdelhady ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)**

I would like to thank the speakers and also all the distinguished delegations for hopefully the flexibility shown to agree on midway and also to move on. We fully support the original wording of subparagraph (o), the wording in yellow right now in front of us, and we could also support the amendments made by Australia and amended by United States of America.

We are not in a position to support the other two subparagraphs, so hopefully that other Members will support this and we can move on. But also we have a very minor amendments just the order the words in subparagraph (r), the first line, “address concerns about the inclusion,” we just need to move “non-multilaterally agreed terminology” before “in the Strategic Framework.” So, “it has been developed to address concerns about the inclusion of non-multilaterally agreed terminology in the Strategic Framework.”

With this minor amendment, we can support subparagraph (o) and subparagraph (r) and we do not have any problem with making just a separate subparagraph that the Conference will endorse to the Strategic Framework.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think there are emerging concerns on this and I hope we can accept that as a compromise, I know it is difficult, we are having these constant decisions for years.

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

I have been listening and I very much took heed of your guidance yesterday, Chairperson, that we are not looking for a Christmas tree here. Indeed, however, I feel that we have in paragraph 3 reached a bit of a Christmas tree and as we add some more baubles to it, in particular I would like to add two particular areas [XX] that are not currently reflected on our Christmas tree, that are important to the United Kingdom [XX] indeed they mentioned those in their statements. Therefore, if I may, I would like to suggest that we include subparagraphs (l) and (m) from the Council Report on the Strategic Framework.

I will remind colleagues that subparagraph (l) highlighted the importance of climate change and biodiversity within FAO’s mandate in the Strategic Framework, and subparagraph (m) highlighted the importance of the One Health approach, the Tripartite Partnership and cooperation with UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and other relevant international organizations. I would like to include both of those subparagraphs under paragraph three please.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I thought we were getting close to the end of this Agenda Item, but I see that you want to introduce two new topics today. Of course, I respect that, but I urge seriously to close this Agenda Item as soon as possible.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

I have a point about subparagraph (r). Chairperson, we are not very comfortable with the last amendment made by the distinguished colleagues from the United States. We think that it should remain in the previous version, saying that “endorse the Strategic Framework noting that dated version of the document would be issued to reflect”. So we kindly ask you to reflect it on the screen and if necessary the United States’ proposal could be as alternative.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think that the United States proposal was simply to put in a line saying that we endorse it, but of course legally when you read it everything is together. If I appeal to the flexibility, I think we can leave with that, even if it is not as elegant as before. If we can agree on that I appeal to you to close this section of the text and then consider the latest new proposals from the UK and all the different matters.

**Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

Very briefly, just to support your proposal to move forward. We can close this subparagraph and that we would like to support very much what has been proposed by the United Kingdom. It seems fine for us, it reflects what has been said by many Members. Therefore, I think that it should be proposed in another part of the text. Summing up, fully agree with you and support your position.

**Mme. Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voudrais soutenir ce qui a été dit par le Portugal au nom de l'Union Européenne et de ses états membres, et apporter mon fort soutien à la proposition britannique. C'est indispensable, de notre point de vue, si nous entrons dans un Christmas Tree, d'avoir la mention de ces deux paragraphes du Conseil (l) et (m) sur Climat in One Health. Cela reflète nos débats.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think, first, let us continue the discussion in order. I think we can move on with this part, the latest part of the text, because I see Cameroon, Mexico and United States.

First, I will try to close this part of the text. For subparagraph (o), keep the text in what is now yellow, erase everything, erase (p) and (q). For paragraph(r), keep the text in brackets and delete the latest one, the (q) one, delete the very last one, and clean this text, no brackets, delete the text straight through.

**Mr Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I think probably I am not so sure but we are trying to work on a text that it is possible. With that text we cannot send a strong message, the strong message that we want to send on this is to endorse the Strategic Framework 2022-2031. That is the key message that we have to send and I think it should come as a final statement from us.

We believe that the suggestion of the United States was a good one in that regard. That is, we say everything that we want to say and then we finish it by saying “we endorsed the Strategic Framework 2022-2031.” I understand that you removed the bracket but, can you again put the final sentence “endorsed the Strategic Framework 2022-2031,”?

I am not very comfortable with the wording “adjustment”, because I prefer either “update” or “review”. “Adjustment” is usually tied to finances. What we say is “noting that reviews and/or updates will be reflected in subsequent iterations as recommended by the 166th Session of the Council and Members, through the Governing Bodies, to reflect specific terminology as shown in document C 2021/LIM/4,” and then we can finish with the rest as it is. So, the main idea here is to endorse the Strategic Framework.

Now, for the proposal of the United Kingdom, I think we had the same discussion yesterday in Commission I, and I agree perfectly that these are very good topics, but can we keep that in mind and address them as we are discussing the Medium-Term Plan, because here you have mentioned that you want to close this and I just want to help you on the way forward to close that very quickly. If the United Kingdom can wait that we address that as we are discussing the Medium-Term Plan, that may be probably helpful.

**CHAIRPERSON**

On your suggestions, I think for the Strategic Framework, as far as I remember, the terminology is “update” and for the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) is “adjustment”, that is the terminology that they use for each document.

**Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)**

We do support what our colleague from Cameroon said regarding moving the endorsement to a standalone paragraph. We think that this would strengthen the Report and just also wanted to go on record and support our colleague, the Ambassador from the United Kingdom, with her suggestion of bringing in the Council language on climate, given the high level attention we heard on this topic throughout our Conference thus far.

**Mr Miguel Jorge GARCIA WINDER (Mexico)**

I will say in English, with the proposal that Australia makes, and so we can support that. The second thing that I want to address is I am a little bit surprised that we are having this discussion today, many of us spent countless hours in the Council discussing this and I think it will be our responsibility to apply the same conclusions and same conversations that we had in the Council. I believe that the Strategic Framework should be approved.

We should subject the Strategic Framework to really good reviews as it is normally done, but we should be open to the challenges and demands of the future, which we do not know what they are. If we continue to try to put every single word and every single desire in a text of this nature, we are failing the same work that we did in the Council. My suggestion would be to keep this simple, approve the suggestion of Australia and also suggest that the Framework should be reviewed as per needed and according to the normal procedures and submissions of this organization.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Solamente estoy tratando de pensar una manera de ayudar para poder cerrar este Tema, Presidente. Queremos simplemente sugerir que a la propuesta de Australia y enriquecida con lo sugerido por Estados Unidos, reemplazar la palabra “*shown*” por “*included*”, estoy hablando del punto (p).

*Specific terminology as included*”. Y con esa modificación nosotros podríamos aceptarlo, pero dejando en claro en el Verbatim, que para nosotros lo incluido en el documento C2021/LIM/4 es un primer paso positivo, pero no es suficiente. Por lo tanto, para nosotros es un documento vivo que tendremos que seguir discutiendo y tiene que evolucionar.

Simplemente lo quiero dejar sentado en el Verbatim. Yo lo reitero y lo dije en mi statement, “Blue Transformation” y todos los conceptos que no estén acordados, requieren ser discutidos por los Miembros para todos tener la misma interpretación. Con estos comentarios, Presidente, espero haber sido nuevamente constructivo y flexible.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much, Argentina, for your flexibility, I know very well that this is a sensitive topic. Secretariat, there are Verbatim Records of this meeting, right? It is confirmed, your comments will be reflected in the Verbatim. I really want to close this issue, it is almost midday and we still have three Agenda Items to conclude and the budget. I will try to clean the text now.

I have three countries in my list, Canada, Switzerland and Russian Federation, I want to ask if you want to provide new text or you have different opinions on what you see on the screen, the United Kingdom proposal, we see it in a different moment, but I want to focus on cleaning this very last paragraph.

**Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

Just to say if we split, have a paragraph key and then the endorsement in a separate paragraph, I think we should change the “noting” into “noted”, because otherwise we are using preambular language which would not be appropriate.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

I think we are almost there, although finally there is a general mood to split these paragraphs into two. As a sign of compromise, we can agree with this. At the same time, we should start the subparagraph (p) with another wording, saying that “stressed the need that updates would reflect,”

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think the subparagraph (o) also started with this phrase, so I think it is “also stress the need.” I think this could be done if left to the Drafting Committee as well, but (o) and (p) start with the same phrase, so the second one should be “also stress the need.”

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Creo que la propuesta de la Federación Rusa es superadora y estoy de acuerdo y acompaño, con tal de que salgamos por consenso de este escenario.

**CHAIRPERSON**

In subparagraph (p), start with “also stress the need,” because this is start of subparagraph (o), and with this I think we can conclude this part of this Agenda Item which I think was the most difficult and I want to go back quickly to the proposals by the United Kingdom to try to insert from the Council Report paragraphs 10 (l) and (m), if I recall correctly.

Some countries support it, other countries said that this Item should be left for the next Agenda Item, so I do not want to spend a lot of time, because this is something that we didn’t come out with yesterday, but only at the last minute. So, my proposal is this, we have included text from the Council here, are you okay to include this and we can move to find a place where to insert it? I wonder if the UK has a specific placing for this couple of paragraphs. But we have inserted text from the Council decision, that could be the same, and I ask you, colleagues, if you are okay with it, or we need to discuss it.

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

If colleagues are ready to insert these two subparagraphs, then I would be happy to leave it to the Drafting Committee to decide where they go.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Mr David McSherry, just for the sake of that, can you insert it somewhere and then let us check if there is consensus for it, it is subparagraph (l) on the climate change and biodiversity, and subparagraph (m) on the One Health approach

That is the text that the United Kingdom proposed. As mentioned, some Countries are in favour, others are not so in favour, others want to see it in the next Agenda Item. Therefore, I open the floor on this. Remember, this is agreed language coming from the Council in the same fashion that we insert some language from the Council in these conclusions.

**Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

No tengo nada contra la inclusión del subpárrafo si es el texto exacto que tenemos en el Consejo. Estoy segura que lo tenemos en alguna parte del informe.

Ya no sé bajo qué Agenda Item, pero sí, porque recuerdo que está este subpárrafo y estaba también uno acerca del trabajo normativo.

Si es exactamente el texto del Consejo, no tengo problemas.

**PRESIDENTE**

Del Consejo. Sí, es exactamente, lo estoy verificando.

***Continues in English***

Colleagues, I have Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Portugal. Do you have any objections to it or not? If you are okay, please put down your hand. If you have any problems, suggestions, I give you the floor.

If there is no objections, we can leave with it, thank you very much.

We conclude this Agenda Item. It took longer than expected. Let us close this Agenda Item, this goes to the Drafting Committee.

I think we can make a short break of just five minutes.

*The meeting was suspended between 10:29 and 10:37*

*La séance est suspendue de 10 h 29 à 10 h 37*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 10.29 a las 10.37*

**Item 19. Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 (Draft Resolution on budget level)**

**Point 19. Plan à moyen terme 2022-2025 et Programme de travail et budget 2022-2023 (projet de résolution sur le montant du budget)**

**Tema 19. Plan a plazo medio para 2022-25 y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2022-23 (proyecto de resolución sobre la cuantía del presupuesto)**

## CHAIRPERSON

Let us move to Agenda Item 19, *Medium-Term Plan 2022/2025 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022/23*. This includes the *Draft Resolution of the Budget Level*. Please ensure that you have in front of you document *C 2021/3*, *C 2021/3/INF1*, and *Web Annex 1*, an additional document is also presented, the document *C2021/LIM/4*, which in Section I contains the extract of the *Report on the 166th Session of the Council* on this document, including the recommended *Draft Conference Resolution on Budget Preparation for 2022-23*.

The Section II of *C2021/LIM/4* reflects guidance on the reading of tables and annexes on the document base on the Council Report. The introduction of this Item by Ms Beth Crawford, Director of the Office of Strategy Planning and Resource Management, has been circulated to you some days ago and is also on the website of the Conference.

I would like to recall that the Council endorsed the proposed budget level at its 166th Session in April and agreed to recommend that the Conference approved the draft Conference resolution on budgetary appropriations for the delivery of FAO Programme of Work and Budget with a level of USD 1 billion, 5.6 million.

I also recall that the adjustments in resource allocations and framework arising from decisions and guidance of the Conference, we have reported on the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23 for consideration by the Council at its 168th Session in line with the established budgeting process, this will be next December.

As Commission II, we wish to express our gratitude to the Council members for their hard work, which resulted in the commitment to support the achievement of the strategic objectives and implementing the greater programme of work on the resource framework. I am sure that many of the delegates will have comments to make on the Programme of Work and Budget.

## Mr Donald Geoffrey SYME (New Zealand)

Firstly, we would thank the Director-General and the FAO teams for presenting this Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. As with the Strategic Framework, we welcome the inclusive approach that has been taken in the development of these documents. A major focus of the Medium Term Plan is the introduction and delivery of a number of Programme Priority Areas (PPAs).

As noted under the previous Agenda Item, we are generally happy with the focus of the PPAs. There are none that we do not support and our original priorities are well reflected. In line with statements at the recent Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) meeting, New Zealand considers the trade PPA to be particularly useful and better highlighted in the FAO's role on trade issues. We strongly support the decision to identify climate change and nutrition as PPAs, rather than simply as cross-cutting issues. We hope this will provide them with a more dedicated focus and adequate resourcing.

In terms of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), we commend the FAO team for its ongoing efforts to balance a challenging workload with the restrictions imposed by a flat nominal growth budget. We welcome the recognition in paragraph 158 that the quality and integrity of the technical and normative work of the Organization is essential for effective implementation of the Strategic Framework. In this light, we are particularly pleased that the increase of one million US dollars



provided for both the joint FAO/WHO food safety scientific advice programme and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in the Adjustments to the PWB in December 2019 has been maintained. Given the critical importance of this work, we hope the budget increase will be maintained on an ongoing basis.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Tomamos nota y valoramos el Plan de Plazo Medio 2022-2025 y el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2022-2023 presentado por el Director General.

El Plan a Plazo Medio establece los objetivos estratégicos y los logros que deberán alcanzar los Miembros con el apoyo de la FAO en un plazo de 4 años de conformidad con el Marco Estratégico 2022-2031. El Plan a Plazo Medio es, entonces, la base programática y el marco de resultados para preparar el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto bienal y la correspondiente rendición de cuentas. En este sentido, quisiéramos alertar que conforme lo hemos expresado en pasadas reuniones de los órganos rectores de la FAO, es esencial que exista un balance entre las esferas programáticas del plan que son las que orientarán los programas que la FAO aplicará a futuro.

Nuestro País notó, que más allá del hecho que las 20 esferas en su conjunto operen en favor de la atención balanceada de las tres dimensiones del desarrollo sostenible, tal equilibrio debe lograrse también al interior de cada una de ellas, atento a que no existe certeza respecto del resultado final de la implementación del plazo medio. Si alguna o algunas de estas esferas llegara o llegaran a quedar desatendida o desatendidas, o no lograrse su implementación, el Plan de Plazo Medio resultaría en efecto desbalanceado, mermando así su real aporte al logro del desarrollo sostenible y su contribución a la Agenda 2030 en sus tres dimensiones, objetivos perseguidos según el propio documento.

En esa línea, la ejecución del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2022-2023 tiene una enorme relevancia estratégica, y en ese sentido la Argentina conforme lo hiciera el G77+China en el 166.º Período de Sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, alienta a la administración a poner énfasis en mecanismos de financiamiento innovadores. Para lograr resultados se necesita cooperación y también financiamiento. Menos financiamiento etiquetado y más financiamiento a las prioridades de los Miembros de manera balanceada.

Reiteramos que existen diversos enfoques, sistemas y herramientas de producción sostenibles y la FAO como plataforma neutral debería actuar como una usina de todas las ideas comprobadas por la ciencia para que cada Miembro pueda adoptar la mejor decisión posible de cómo pretende alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS).

En ese sentido se valora positivamente que la FAO en el documento C 2021/LIM/4 se haya hecho eco del pedido reiterado sobre la necesidad de que se utilice conceptos y términos acordados multilateralmente. Creemos que ello es un buen inicio, como lo dijimos en el punto anterior, para los ajustes necesarios que deberán realizar al Plan de Plazo Medio y Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto en consecuencia.

En ese marco, en cuanto a las esferas prioritarias, nos gustaría reiterar la importancia que cada una de ellas esté alineada con la Agenda 2030, procurando que el logro de los objetivos que bajo cada una se fomenta, no desatienda las tres dimensiones de manera indivisible y equilibrada que conforman el desarrollo sostenible.

Es por ello, junto a otras razones que reiteramos, que nuestro país no acuerda el concepto de Transformación Azul de la esfera prioritaria número dos, tanto por la palabra “transformación”, ya que no respeta la situación contextual en el que se insertan los ambientes marinos y/o acuáticos, como por la palabra “azul” que se vincula con el término “economía azul” y la “cuestión azul”. Todos conceptos que algunos Estados utilizan con todo derecho y de acuerdo a su soberanía, pero que no existen como conceptos internacionalmente acordados y ello da lugar a diferentes interpretaciones que complican los consensos, como ya lo vimos en el punto anterior.

Esperamos con ansias involucrarnos en los debates venideros en los órganos rectores de la FAO para realizar éstos y otros ajustes que se correspondan con los consensos entre todos los Miembros. Así todo, quisiéramos destacar del Plan de Plazo Medio, la inclusión de la bioeconomía como un

paradigma que incluye un conjunto de sectores que utilizan recursos, procesos y tecnologías biológicas para la producción de todo tipo de bienes y sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios sostenibles.

La bioeconomía es una inmensa oportunidad para nuestro país. La Argentina no solo es un gran productor de biomasa, toda la materia orgánica de origen vegetal o animal susceptible de ser aprovechada, lo que en lo concreto se expresa en el papel que desempeña en el mercado mundial de alimentos, así como en el rápido crecimiento de las bioenergías en los últimos tiempos sino que también cuenta con altas capacidades en ciencias, tecnología, donde ya es líder en lo que hace al uso de la biotecnología para el mejoramiento de la producción, tanto en la agricultura como en la salud, en lo que se ha dado en llamar la intensificación agrícola sustentable.

Cuenta también con una extendida base empresarial que ya ha probado a poder hacer frente a los procesos de innovación que implicaría moverse hacia un nuevo paradigma. En cuanto al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2022-2023, nuestro país reitera su conformidad con la asignación de recursos en el marco de un presupuesto nominal sin variaciones, en el marco de un contexto crítico para el mundo debido al COVID-19.

Por lo tanto, agradecemos que no haya cambios en las cuotas asignadas a los Miembros y lamentamos no estar en condiciones de financiar parte del pasivo del Plan de Seguros Médicos después del cese en el servicio a partir de cuotas adicionales separadas para el bienio 2022-23.

La FAO, a diferencia de otras organizaciones, es democrática porque se basa en el principio: un Estado, un voto, y promueve sus decisiones por consenso. Si algunos Estados no pueden convencer a los demás que ciertos temas sean más prioritarios que otros, pero luego a través de donaciones etiquetadas desnaturalizan las prioridades definidas por el consenso mayoritario, sería una manera sofisticada de no respetar el principio democrático de la FAO. No es un tema menor, creo que es un tema clave que nos obliga a reflexionar. Alentamos a la FAO a promover e incentivar contribuciones extrapresupuestarias de donantes sin etiquetados y en su defecto más programáticas y de manera plurianual a fin de permitir a la FAO despegar su potencial equitativamente en todo el mundo.

Al mismo tiempo, hacemos un llamado a los países donantes a honrar los compromisos asumidos en diferentes oportunidades para aumentar sus contribuciones no etiquetadas para el desarrollo como fue en el caso del pacto de financiación para la aplicación de la resolución 71/243 relativa a las actividades operacionales del Sistema de Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo.

Con estos comentarios, la Argentina da la bienvenida al Plan de Plazos Medios 2022-2025 y al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2022-2023, el que deberán ejecutarse con el mayor de los respetos a los objetivos, principios y valores comunes establecidos por los Miembros de la FAO.

**Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union 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.

We welcome the presentation of the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the next biennium in conjunction with the Strategic Framework.

As stated in the comments of the EU and its 27 Member States on FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031, a sustainable food systems approach is needed on food and agriculture, which puts the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainability on an equal footing. This implies that the PWB should address these three dimensions in a balanced way, particularly when it comes to the results framework and the four betters.

Echoing the report of the 166th Session of the Council, we highlight the need to better reflect and mainstream climate change and the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources within FAO's mandate.

We welcome the focus on the One Health approach in the PWB, including the Tripartite Partnerships in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Moreover, we wish to reaffirm the importance of enhanced and balanced technical support from FAO to Members' access to climate finance.

Attention should be paid to the vacancy rate and its impacts on the Organization's work. Regarding the management structure, we look forward to the assessment and the impacts of the new modular organizational structure on FAO's work and delivery.

We welcome the full coverage by the regular budget of commitments to conventions, treaty bodies and UN cost-sharing. This funding is of the utmost importance for the delivery of the Organization's public goods function.

We support maintaining the budget at the same level as for the previous period, considering the economic and financial crisis situation triggered by the current pandemic.

We note that the additional paper requested by the Council at its 166th Session, with clarifications for future adjustments on MTP 2022-25 and PWB 2022-23, has not been submitted to this Conference. We therefore request that a revised version be presented at the 168th Council Session, based on the specific guidance provided by the Governing Bodies.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

Brazil takes note of the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23. We appreciate the inclusion of clarifications on terminology in document *C 2021/LIM/4*, but as expressed on Item 18 of the Agenda, Brazil stresses the need of use of multilaterally agreed concepts, approaches and terms.

Brazil supports the proposal to maintain the value of the Regular Budget and its quota within the zero nominal growth for the next biennium. Nevertheless, we note with concern that FAO relies significantly on extra-budgetary contributions, 90 percent of which are earmarked, according to the *C 2021/3 Information Note 1 on Sources and purpose of voluntary funding in the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23*. Unearmarked contributions are essential to ensure that funds are allocated where they generate the greatest benefit while also allowing for rapid adaptation to changing circumstances.

Therefore, the Conference should encourage Members and other resource partners to consider presenting unearmarked or lightly earmarked contributions and ask FAO management to explore new approaches to mobilize and incentivise the provision of these kinds of contributions.

**Ms Esti ANDAYANI (Indonesia)**

Indonesia has the honor to deliver this Joint Statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

First and foremost, the Asia Group is grateful to the secretariat for their efforts so far including supplementary documents and informal communications. We believe that we are reviewing this document today at the critical moment under the pressing context such as ongoing pandemic, climate change, and zoonotic as well as transboundary diseases.

In general, this document is closely attached to the Strategic Framework particularly in reflecting FAO's new organizing principles namely, *four betters* and 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) as a strategic contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thus, we render our support to this document's approval with the following observations.

Firstly, the Asia Group welcomes maintaining a flat nominal budget, no change in the level of assessed contributions and net budgetary appropriation compared to 2020-21, as presented. Even though this is a continued practice, we regard it as a tough decision considering FAO's heavy tasks under the challenging circumstances.

With regard to USD 2.25 billion extra-budgetary contribution, we consider the amount as an ambitious target. At the same time, we understand this amount explicitly representing world's huge expectation and trust upon FAO's work and responsibility in coming years. In this regard, we do hope FAO to secure the estimated extra-budgetary resources herein through strengthening as well as widening its partnership with not only member states but also with other United Nations Agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and private entities.

When it comes to an unearmarked funding, we request FAO to communicate with partners more closely in order to find better ways for improvements. We certainly believe “One FAO” embracing efficient and innovative approaches can facilitate this process.

Secondly, the Asia Group supports FAO for maintaining its budget for the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) at 14 percent of the net appropriation. We stress that the Asia and the Pacific is the second largest region for the TCP budget. Thus, we request FAO to be mindful of the three following elements. Firstly, country’s ownership to be prioritized with close consultations with governments and various stakeholders under each country’s unique context; secondly, the four Regional Initiatives which were derived from the Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference held in last year; and lastly, TCP as one of the areas that also requires additional extra-budgetary funding. Needless to say, we look forward to hearing improvements on further streamlining of FAO’s operations; transparency, communication, and reporting on TCP implementation and results as recommended in the TCP Evaluation and Audit report.

Last but not least, the Asia Group stresses output indicators to be directly linked to the SDG indicators, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the outcome 6.3 (Cross-cutting areas) and 6.4 (Accelerators) to be supplemented in coming months. Based upon the Secretariat’s explanation during the last Council, we look forward to receiving updates at the 168th session of the Council along with adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23.

To conclude, with these comments, the Asia Group endorses the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

#### **Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

Switzerland welcomes the focus of the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 on supporting the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems. Switzerland knows the priorities within the flat nominal budget level proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 and would like to emphasise the following three points.

First, funding of the *four betters*. The allocation of the budget between the *four betters* is currently unbalanced. Switzerland strongly recommends allocating financial resources in a balanced way, especially the priorities around the protection and sustainable use of natural resources should be given the necessary financial resources, as they are among the greatest challenges facing humanity.

Second, increased share of voluntary contributions for categories *Efficient and effective administration* and *FAO governance*. In cooperation with the Programme of Work and Budget of 2020-2021 shows a non-negligible increase of voluntary contributions for the categories *Efficient and effective administration* and *FAO governance, oversight and direction*. Switzerland would like to point out that in our view both functions should be paid out of the Regular Budget of the Organization in order to guarantee their independence. The share of voluntary contributions should not become any larger.

Third, transparency and budgetary accountability. FAO’s budgetary transparency and accountability is of importance also when it comes to the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23. We emphasise that the adjustments and resource allocations arising from decisions and guidance of the Conference are to be reported in the Adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 for consideration by the Council at its 168th Session. Having said that, Switzerland approves the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

#### **Ms Lynda HAYDEN (Australia)**

As we have all agreed, FAO’s 2022 to 2031 Strategic Framework is instrumental in guiding our collective success as we approach, meet and surpass 2030. The Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget are also of critical importance as they are the tools which will help operationalise the Strategic Framework.

As we did with the Strategic Framework, Australia welcomes that the Medium Term Plan is grounded in Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. We also appreciate that the Plan allows priorities to be addressed in accordance with national needs and circumstances under a common

framework. We look forward to being involved in the elaboration of outputs for the Plan and to being a part of ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities. This will ensure FAO remains on track to achieve the *four betters* of better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

On the Programme of Work and Budget, we commend FAO for the undeniably challenging task of achieving a nominally flat budget while upholding the technical work of the Organization. In this regard, we note with appreciation the maintenance of the increased funding for the Codex Scientific Advice Programme and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

In the lead up to the 42nd Conference Australia recognised that, for the FAO to deliver against its objectives, Official Development Assistance, while important, will not be enough. We also highlighted the importance of FAO working closely with Members and other potential funding sources to determine what mechanisms and oversight processes can be put in place to encourage flexible funding contributions, while also considering how greater flexibility can be in-built into the work-plan to accommodate earmarked funds.

In this regard we are pleased to have recently worked with FAO to deliver a modest voluntary contribution package which, in addition to providing funding for specific activities, includes non-earmarked funds to be pooled in FAO's Flexible Multi-partner Mechanism. This funding approach will serve to directly support many of Australia's priorities such as the work of Codex and the IPPC, the Agricultural Market Information System, and the Global Soils Partnership. Through the provision of lightly earmarked funds, it will also support the Programme Priority Area on One Health. Importantly, it will also enable FAO to direct non-earmarked funds to areas they deem as a high priority, which will benefit all countries, especially those in the South West Pacific Region.

And with these comments Australia endorses the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

**Ms Ratchanok SANGPENCHAN (Thailand)**

Thailand aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Group to commend the efforts of the secretariat in finalizing the document based on transparent and inclusive consultation with Members.

We appreciate the proposed Strategic Framework centered around attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the renewed focus on transformation towards MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, agri-food systems along the vision of the *four betters* and leaving no one behind.

We welcome the Zero Nominal Growth budget proposed for the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 which is appropriate for the current situations,

And we take note of the alignment of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) funded activities with the priorities defined in the Country Programming Frameworks and with Regional Conferences guidance, and we commend maintaining TCP resources at 14 percent of the net budgetary appropriation.

Thailand supports the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) building on the vision of the *four betters* which well reflects the mandate and the comparative advantages of FAO as a UN specialized agency.

With regard to budgetary chapters, we would like to underline the importance of a proper balance between the three pillars of Sustainable Development in the allocation of 'net appropriation' budget among the *four betters*.

We observe that the budget allocated to Paragraph 3, "*Better Environment*", is comparatively lower than the other Chapters, while it is of paramount importance that we put more effort to undertake the environmental challenges posed by climate change, scarcity and degradation of natural resources such as water, land, soil, forest, and marine resources, in order to sustainably produce healthy food for all.

In this regard, we encourage FAO to continue its efforts to explore the possibility to better balance the allocation of the budget, as well as to enhance the partnership and cooperation with relevant agencies that ensures the mobilization of the financial resources and achievement of FAO's mandate on this matter.

With this statement, Thailand endorses the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

**M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)**

C'est seulement pour vous dire que l'Angola, la Zambie, le Mali, la Guinée, le Bénin et le Togo font cette déclaration au nom du Groupe Régional Afrique. Le plan à moyen terme présenté s'inscrit bien dans le cadre stratégique de la FAO pour 2022-31, et considère l'agenda 2030 pour le développement durable comme [XX].

Le Groupe Afrique partage cet objectif de *quatre améliorations*, mentionné dans le plan à moyen terme, concernant la production, la nutrition, environnement, une vie meilleure, et l'introduction des quatre accélérateurs qui peuvent introduire vers une dynamique d'un travail d'organisation. Le plan reflète la préoccupation du Sommet des Systèmes Alimentaires, souhaite que celle-ci soit durable, donne assez d'une alimentation saine et nutritive pour tous, et qui contribue à la préservation de l'environnement [XX] et de la biodiversité, et doit être inclusive et contribuer à réduire les asymétries entre les pays et les personnes.

La FAO doit tirer parti des capacités du secteur privé au profit de l'agriculture familiale, afin qu'elle devienne moderne, efficace, diversifiée et contribuer à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des communautés rurales. Elle devrait également améliorer son travail normatif, à solutionner les sujets qui contribuent de manière significative à la réalisation des ODD et continuer à aider les pays à mettre en œuvre les principaux accords, codes, directives et traités qu'elle a approuvés.

Nous comprenons qu'il n'est pas facile d'approuver des réformes, d'un côté, avec des responsabilités accrues et de maintenir le niveau budgétaire des années précédentes. Mais de toute façon, la direction de la FAO devra donc faire preuve de rigueur, d'efficacité, dans la gestion de l'organisation, et profiter des économies réalisées.

Le processus de décentralisation doit se poursuivre, afin de rendre des bureaux régionaux et nationaux plus modernes, efficace, et de réduire la bureaucratie, dans le même temps, la formation de personnel doit être renforcée, et le contrôle amélioré. Les donateurs traditionnels sont encouragés à continuer à contribuer généreusement, avec des ressources extrabudgétaires, et les pays membres sont invités à payer des contributions à temps, pour éviter les recours aux prêts bancaires, l'augmentation des dépenses. Les ressources prévues pour les PCT ont été maintenues au même niveau de 14 percent. Nous reconnaissons que ces valeurs ne sont pas significatives par rapport aux mandats, au programme de la FAO et aux besoins des pays et que d'autres sources doivent être recherchées. L'Afrique a créé un fond finance un plan de de solidarité qui a déjà financé des aides à des projets, et en raison de la qualité de son travail, il serait important de recapitaliser à continuer à soutenir des programmes liés à la sécurité alimentaire. Nous comptons sur la dynamique de la Direction de la FAO pour mobiliser des ressources additionnelles.

Nous espérons qu'en pratique, le programme du budget pour 2020-2023, tiendra compte des recommandations prioritaires de la conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, telle que l'élimination de la faim, l'augmentation de la production et de la productivité, de la résilience, du développement des chaînes de valeurs, et le renforcement du commerce interrégional. Nous félicitons la FAO pour l'effort qu'elle fait en termes de multilinguisme, même si nous reconnaissons qu'il faut faire plus et nous sommes d'accord avec l'augmentation de 0.8 millions de dollars dans le budget à cette fin.

Monsieur le Président, avec ces observations, le Groupe Afrique approuve le plan à moyen terme pour 2022-2025 et le plan de travail du budget pour 2022-2023 et saisie cette occasion pour féliciter la délégation pour les mesures prises pendant cette période de COVID. Nous espérons qu'elle continuera à donner la priorité à la santé et à la sécurité du personnel au siège et dans les bureaux décentralisés. Je vous remercie.

**Ms Nathalie CASSIERS (Belgium)**

Belgium aligns itself with the Joint Statement delivered by Portugal on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Belgium welcomes the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), recognizing the important role these documents play in operationalizing the Strategic Framework. We stress the need for the PWB to fund the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainability in a balanced way.

Belgium commends FAO for maintaining a flat nominal budget, considering the economic and financial crisis situation triggered by the current pandemic. Every effort must be made to continuously evaluate the efficiency of programs and to re-prioritize resources to the most critical needs.

*Information Note 1* is much appreciated as FAO's budgetary transparency and accountability is of utmost importance for Belgium.

In addition, we support the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) remaining at the established 14 percent of the regular budget and we appreciate the focus on FAO's normative function through the maintenance of the increased funding for the Codex Scientific Advice Programme and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

As we note an ambitious 20 percent increase in voluntary contributions, we recognize the importance of diversifying the Organization's resources through multiple channels, together with the role of innovative funding. Hereby we reaffirm the importance to achieve a balance in the technical support that FAO provides to its members to access climate finance.

Belgium contributes since many years to the FAO flexible funds through voluntary unearmarked financing. Belgium contributes to FAO's Flexible Multi-partner Mechanism (FMM) and the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA). Hereby, we highlight the importance of FAO working closely with Members and other potential funding sources to determine better oversight processes to encourage flexible funding contributions. In addition, FAO also needs to consider how greater flexibility can be in-built into the work plan to accommodate earmarked funds.

Finally, we support the strengthening of FAO's Decentralized Offices through more autonomy over resources, staff, policies and regulatory decision-making. Hereby, FAO needs to reinforce the accountability and strengthen internal controls. We need proper reporting mechanisms in order to assess what has been achieved at national level. Monitoring and reporting on results are key. In this regards we look forward to the development of the Key Program Indicators.

With these comments, Belgium approves the budget level proposed in the PWB 2022-23.

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

The United Kingdom very much welcomes the zero nominal growth in FAO's Regular Budget, and we welcome the Technical Cooperation Programme remaining at the established 14 percent of the Regular Budget. As the Council and many speakers this week have underlined, getting the right balance of resources between the *four betters* and the three dimensions of sustainability is important both in the Strategic Framework and in the Programme of Work and Budget.

As the European Union and its Member States have said, FAO needs a better balance in technical support that FAO provides to its Members to access climate finance. We look forward to FAO stepping up its support, particularly to the poorest and most vulnerable countries, for climate programmes that focus on agriculture and improving food security. We note that less than 10 percent of the funds FAO has accessed from the Green Climate Fund have been for African countries.

As we have also agreed on the Strategic Framework, we call on Conference to endorse the Council request to strengthen the links in the Strategic Framework between the *four betters*, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators and FAO's Country Programming Frameworks in the Programme of Work and Budget. The United Kingdom fully supports the Asia Group request for direct links between the Output indicators and SDGs in the strategic results framework, and as Belgium has just said a strong accountability framework is essential for mobilizing unearmarked or lightly earmarked funding. A strong accountability framework will support FAO's work with others as well, including the Rome-based Agencies and also in the context of the UN development system reform. Clear links between FAO's activities and their impact on SDG indicators will also strengthen

data collection and analysis and enable the coordination that is needed between the many actors who are working to support countries to achieve SDG 2.

Finally, we would like to welcome FAO's enhanced focus on One Health and, as all of us have already done so in a Green World Health Assembly Resolution 74.7, we call for stronger cooperation between the World Health Organization (WHO), FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and we call on the Tripartite Plus UNEP to establish a common strategy for One Health.

**Ms Fumiyo TSUDA (Japan)**

Japan aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Asia Regional Group and commend the Secretariat's very hard work on preparing the Programme of Work and Budget.

We briefly would like to add some additional views as follows. First of all, Japan evaluates that the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) has maintained zero nominal growth this year after the threat of COVID-19 pandemic, Japan has increased two times more the amount of voluntary contributions to address the impact of the pandemic. In this context, we would like to stress the importance of continuing FAO's transparency and efficiency in its operations in order to continue obtaining strong support from taxpayers within the Member Countries.

Secondly, Japan also places importance on FAO's work for promoting fair knowledge as a specialized body. In this sense, we appreciate that the project allocation for normative sections such as Codex and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has been increased. We hope the FAO to further increase the budget in these sections, as necessary.

Finally regarding the fact that many fishery and forestry experts have been listed as areas of de-emphasis, we would like to request that activities, which are unnecessary in these sections to achieve SDG goals, be ensured to take place even given the reallocated budget.

With these comments Japan approves the proposed Medium Term Plan 2022-25, as well as the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

**Sra. María De Los Ángeles GÓMEZ AGUILAR (México)**

México apoya la propuesta del Plan a Mediano Plazo 2022-2025, ya que responde de manera adecuada a desafíos apremiantes y sin precedentes como la pandemia del COVID-19 y sus repercusiones en la economía. Los fenómenos meteorológicos extremos, las plagas y las enfermedades zoonóticas transfronterizas y los conflictos son otros desafíos que pueden representar un retroceso respecto de los avances logrados en la erradicación del hambre y la reducción de la pobreza. Al mismo tiempo, resulta evidente que la transformación de los sistemas agroalimentarios es uno de los elementos clave que permitirán avanzar hacia el cumplimiento de toda la Agenda 2030 y de sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). La FAO, siendo el principal organizador mundial en el ámbito de la alimentación y la agricultura, tiene, en estos difíciles momentos, una oportunidad histórica de conducir el cambio transformador necesario para beneficio de todos. Este Plan de Mediano Plazo permite a la FAO responder a los retos de la alimentación y la agricultura y, al mismo tiempo, impulsa cambios positivos.

Respecto al Programa de Trabajo Presupuesto 2022-2023, apoyamos la propuesta de incremento nominal cero, manteniendo la asignación consignada en USD 1 005,6 millones, lo que refleja la sensibilidad a las enormes restricciones presupuestarias que tienen prácticamente todos los países en gran parte derivado de la pandemia. Apoyamos los recursos adicionales para el Programa conjunto FAO/ Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) de asesoramiento científico sobre inocuidad de los alimentos y el incremento en la asignación de recursos para las 20 esferas programáticas. La Oficina del Inspector General, la Oficina Jurídica, de Ética y otras actividades en materia de supervisión y recursos humanos.

Al estudiar las asignaciones presupuestarias por capítulos, hay que ver esos capítulos desde la perspectiva de un presupuesto integrado y no solo a partir de los capítulos con las asignaciones basadas en cuotas. El monto de recursos para actividades financiadas a partir de recursos regulares contra los recursos extrapresupuestales, refuerza el llamado para meditar sobre la dirección que está



tomando la FAO, la cual no debe convertirse en una agencia de servicios. Es necesario generar confianza para alentar aportaciones de fondos extrapresupuestarias más flexibles. Esto requiere un diálogo entre la FAO y sus Miembros.

Con estas palabras, México reitera su apoyo al Plan de Mediano Plazo 2022-2025 y al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2022-2023.

**Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)**

China aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Asia Group. The Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23 guided by the new Strategic Framework fully reflect the Organization, vision, strategy and business model proposed in the Strategic Framework and provides guidance for the work of FAO in the next four years and the next biennium. China welcomes the two documents and supports FAO, guided by the two documents to continuously improve efficiency and effectiveness to respond to the challenges faced by the global food and agriculture sector, and further promote the transformation of agri-food systems.

China supports the continued priority given to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in the PWB for the next biennium. This should not be affected. We have noticed that the PWB maintains a flat nominal regular programme budget for 2022-23. This requires FAO to continuously expand its work programme and to promote organizational changes under the pressure of the Zero budget growth. This is a very difficult task that requires FAO to mobilize resources to multiple channels and the further improving work efficiency to ensure the implementation of the two documents. China appreciates FAO's efforts to advance multilingualism and the progress made in this regard. We encourage FAO to further improve the equal use of the six official languages.

Finally, China supports the approval of the MTP 2022-25 and the PWB 2022-23 by the Conference.

**Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

España apoya en su integridad las declaraciones efectuadas por la Unión Europea en nombre propio y de los 27 Estados Miembros, al tiempo que deseamos hacer hincapié en los siguientes aspectos concretos en relación con este punto.

Acogemos con satisfacción el Plan a Medio Plazo y el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto que junto con el Marco Estratégico se focalizan en las áreas en las que priorizar nuestros esfuerzos.

En lo que se refiere al Plan a medio plazo, es necesario realizar un enfoque equilibrado y triplemente sostenible, desde el punto de vista social, económico y medioambiental de los sistemas alimentarios.

Al igual que se manifestó en el 166º Consejo, el mandato de FAO debería hacer mayor hincapié en el cambio climático y la conservación y el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales.

Internamente, para el buen funcionamiento de nuestra Organización, consideramos que es necesario prestar atención a la tasa de vacantes y al impacto de la nueva estructura organizativa en el trabajo y la ejecución por parte de FAO. Instamos a FAO a que siga manteniendo un adecuado control interno dentro de la Organización y a elaborar el marco de resultados, teniendo en cuenta los vínculos entre los indicadores de realizaciones de la FAO en los indicadores de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS).

Respaldamos el esfuerzo de FAO para ampliar su base de financiación voluntaria, no obstante, aun siendo necesaria la diversificación de los recursos, no debemos dejar de estar atentos a su papel, en tanto que proveedor de servicios para iniciativas y proyectos con fines específicos. Por ello, solicitamos a FAO, una mayor y más detallada información sobre las fuentes financieras y el destino de tales recursos.

En cuanto al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto, España apoya el mantenimiento del presupuesto ordinario en el mismo nivel que para el periodo anterior.

Finalmente, dado que no se ha presentado el documento adicional con aclaraciones para introducir futuros ajustes, solicitado en el 166º Consejo, complementario al Programa a medio plazo y al

Programa de trabajo y presupuesto, así como al Marco Estratégico, instamos a que se elabore de cara al próximo periodo de sesiones del Consejo.

**Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)**

I would like to give our national statement. Indonesia aligns itself with the statement of the Asia Group and would like to add some comments as follows. Indonesia welcomes and endorses the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23 (PWB), and appreciates the work done so far by Management. We encourage FAO to increase coordination with its regional and subregional offices to assure implementation of the Plan in each region and conduct periodic evaluation. We emphasise the need for more coherent efforts and coordinated actions in developing FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF), to ensure alignment of strategy direction as well as the national and regional context.

In this regard, we would also like to have more coordination with FAO's Headquarters and representation in Rome regarding CPF.

Regarding the Programme of Work and Budget we would like to support the efforts made by the FAO Secretariat to further improve transparency, communication and reporting on the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23. We reiterate the need to ensure proper accountability to Members in reporting results achieved in the implementation of MTP and PWB.

**Mr Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)**

Having listened attentively to the comments of other countries, I would like to quickly react to some of them. Concerning the comment that FAO should give more technical support especially to least developed countries and the most vulnerable countries, Brazil notes that all developing countries need the support of FAO. Taking into account the specific challenges and the fact that there are different levels of development within countries. We would like as well to recall that Africa is the continent that received the most Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) resources and the Country Programming Framework (CPF) on allocation of resources is not the decision of FAO. It depends on the demand of countries and their will to prepare project submissions.

Concerning the proposal of allocations of more resources to natural resources we recall that the following fragmentation Report 2021, highlighted that the most projects evaluated addressed Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, *Life on Land*, and FAO has a growing Green Climate Fund portfolio. In this regard, we believe the recommendations of the Conference should be more general, noting the need of balance in the allocation and in fact most of FAO's work addresses more than the four betters and more than one pillar of the SDGs at the same time.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not see more request from the floor so at this moment I will ask the Management to respond. I will start with Ms Beth Crawford to address the questions raised by delegations.

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)**

Thank you very much distinguished Delegates for all of your very valuable comments, input and feedback on this document. I think as many of you have said the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23 is really the operationalisation of that broad framework that we have been discussing yesterday and this morning, the Strategic Framework.

The Strategic Framework does not include many of the details being discussed now into this Item for the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-23. This includes the budgets, the linkages between the Programme Priority Areas (PPA), the *four betters*, the allocation across the *four betters*. This is why I wanted to, maybe before addressing a few of the more specific comments also just talk about the process now going forward.

This is the process as described in Resolution 10/2009, which is in the Basic Texts in section 2F. The Conference is being asked to endorse the Strategic Framework and then to approve the Budgetary Appropriations Resolution, which you have also seen in the C 2021/LIM/4 document and to provide its

guidance on the elements that are in the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget. Then we enter into the period of adjustment.

This is specifically in the schedule the Governing Body input and oversight that is presented in the Basic Texts. Once we have the approval of the overall budget level within that appropriation of Regular Programme, and we have the guidance of Conference, the Management or the Organization, FAO, enters into this period of adjustments. This is when we bring together all of the guidance coming from you that is then presented in the document adjustments to the PWB 2022-23 which will go to the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee and the Council at their sessions in November and December.

I just wanted to stress that because, if I understood it correctly, there was some requests for additional paper, but that will be the adjustments to the PWB 2022-23. We will, in the adjustments document aim to address all of the points you have raised in your guidance and feedback and thank you very much for that.

We will be relooking at things like the balance and budgets between the four betters. In this regard though, I do want to stress or try to explain this also better in the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget document that we will be coming to, that if we are looking at climate change and environment issues, we do need to look broader than just the better environment more closely. I think this is important because the 20 Programme Priority Areas that have been welcomed by Members or address the three elements of Sustainable Development and the four betters address those three elements.

If we, much of this is shown in the Medium-Term Plan, for example in *Annex 3* where we show the linkages for each of the Programme Priority Areas and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). There you will see for each SDG which are the main Programme Priority Areas contributing to that SDG and where are the secondary contributions contributing to that SDG. And that is where you see the linkages from one PPA to the next and from the Betters to the SDGs.

These are elements that we will be further developing in the second half of the year based on your guidance and working with our teams, with the Headquarters technical divisions, with the regions, with the subregions and with the countries bringing the Country Programme Frameworks into the Results Framework and reporting to you in the last Session of this year.

For example, if we look at SDG 2.4 which focuses very much on climate related issues you will see that that SDG is very strongly represented across all of the Four Betters. That is one clarification that I wanted to provide for additional information also on the process moving forward.

The other elements that will be coming in the adjustments to the PWB, are the results of further work planning. This was why this process was changed in the way it was. You may remember that previously to Conference Resolution 10/2009, Conference used to meet at the end of the biennium, but that did not then allow us for this period of adjustment, which is why that process, the timing was changed.

Conference now meets in the summer, and we enter into the more detailed work planning after we have guidance from the Conference. It is also possible that some additional changes could come in, for example, in the allocation of resources by budgetary chapter, based on that more detailed work planning. Taking into consideration your guidance and our more detailed work planning, that would also be coming into the Adjustments of the Programme of Work and Budget. This is also explained in paragraphs 29, 79 and 80 of the MTP and PWB.

Conference has also asked, in addition to the budgetary appropriation, I just wanted to recall that Conference is also asked to give its feedback on the funding considering the longer-term financial health of the Organization. That is for the replenishment of the working capital fund as well as incremental funding of the after service medical coverage past service liability. You have Council guidance in that regard in Council's Report.

We also thank you for the many comments and suggestions around the voluntary funding and, Mr Chairperson, with your concurrence, I know the Deputy Director-General, Beth Bechdol would like to

also say something on that issue. I would just like to again stress that we have in our budget presented by budgetary chapter the overall Programme of Work that would include both the Regular Programme allocation and the extra-budgetary allocation.

The one good spot to see this is in Annex 2, for example, of the MTP and the PWB. There you will see again that picture of resources under better environment, for example, changes quite significantly, because you will see in Annex two that the extra-budgetary resources that are foreseen, that we expect to implement for 2022-23 a very strong in the area of better environment. This again, is looking at the various sources of researches that we have, and we did provide the information note which also gives more information on that aspect.

I believe those were the main elements I wanted to address just to make it clear that the process itself now foresees the Adjustments Document that would incorporate the guidance from Conference and incorporate the more detailed results frameworks so the outputs and the means and measurements of those outputs will be presented and any changes to the chapter allocations in the budget would also be presented in the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think the Deputy Director-General Laurent Thomas wants to take the floor and Ms Beth Bechdol would also, so ladies first please.

### **Ms Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)**

Thank you distinguished delegates for the opportunity to provide some comments. As you have noted FAO does indeed receive an increasingly larger share of its funding through voluntary contributions and indeed as hard earmarked funding.

FAO does now operate a number of flexible funding mechanisms that could make it easier for our Members to provide flexible or lightly earmarked funding. These have been referenced in some of the interventions here this morning including the African Solidarity Trust Fund, the special fund for emergency and rehabilitation activities and also the Flexible Multi-partner Mechanism (FMM) which is indeed the largest of these funding instruments.

Flexible mechanisms enable our research partners to support the UN funding compact. They also help to ensure better coordination and impact as opposed to tightly earmarked solutions. These flexible funds can also reduce fragmentation and transaction costs. At the 166th Session of Council and here in Conference you have highlighted the importance of more innovative financing mechanisms and resources to complement our traditional funding and, above all, the needs to increase unearmarked and flexible funding.

Today however, the FMM, as an example, only accounts for 1.5 percent of FAO's extra budgetary resources and has received contributions from just 11 Members. I share this detail only because I believe it serves to underscore the comments that you have made to us to better communicate, better advocate and perhaps even better incentivise participation in these instruments. I would like to also especially thank Members who are indeed providing these contributions to these flexible and less earmarked funding mechanisms and especially here to those Members who commented on their current and future support for these mechanisms including Belgium, Switzerland, Australia and others.

### **M. Laurent THOMAS (Directeur Général Adjoint)**

Je voudrais réagir sur deux commentaires qui ont été faits par des membres de la Commission. Le premier commentaire est en ce qui concerne le multilinguisme qui a été soulevé aujourd'hui par le Délégué de la Chine et hier par la Déléguée de la France. Donc, je voudrais rassurer les membres de la Commission que nous allons poursuivre tous les efforts pour renforcer le multilinguisme à la FAO.

C'est un des aspects essentiels de l'identité de l'organisation. L'élément moteur qui permet aux membres d'exercer la gouvernance de l'organisation, de façon inclusive, efficace et efficiente. L'importance du multilinguisme a été renforcée depuis l'élection du Directeur Général, elle est aussi notable dans les allocations, dans le cadre du nouveau programme travail et budget, et nous pensons que nous pourrions répondre à la demande des pays membres, comme en témoigne la forte

augmentation des services de traduction et d'interprétations fournis aux organes directeurs. Nous visons à renforcer le multilinguisme afin de combler les lacunes recensées, de progresser sur des fronts nouveaux en adoptant de nouvelles approches, orientés vers l'avenir, ou avec les nouveaux outils qui seront mis à notre disposition, et nous nous assurons qu'en particulier la demande des pays membres, que les documents pour les organes directeurs soient publiés dans toutes les langues en temps voulu, soit satisfaite.

C'est extrêmement important pour vous permettre de débattre correctement. Le dernier point que je voudrais faire sur le multilinguisme, et que je confirme aux délégués que la FAO s'est engagée à appliquer toutes les recommandations qui figurent dans le rapport du corps commun d'inspection du système des Nations Unies consacré au multilinguisme. Nous nous assurons d'être une agence modèle en termes de multilinguisme, au sein des Nations Unies.

Le deuxième point que je voudrais souligner brièvement, et en réaction aux encouragements du Délégué du Portugal, et d'un certain nombre de pays membres dans les pays de l'Union Européenne, en ce qui concerne les taux de vacances de poste, nous travaillons activement dans le cadre de la nouvelle stratégie et du plan d'action sur les ressources humaines, qui a été revu et approuvé par le Comité des Finances en novembre, à réduire le taux de vacances à des niveaux qui soient appropriés. Nous avons décidé de nous consacrer en priorité à la question des postes de Direction, les postes de Directeur, les postes de Chef de Bureau comme les représentants de la FAO au cours des derniers mois. Mais nous avons bien avancé d'ailleurs et nous allons poursuivre ces efforts.

Dans le cadre de cet effort de réduire les taux de vacances, nous attachons la plus grande importance à rétablir quand nécessaire et à maintenir les équilibres en termes de diversité. Que ce soit diversité géographique, diversité du genre, puisque nous avons beaucoup d'efforts à faire encore dans ce domaine en particulier sur les postes de direction, et vous pouvez être rassurés que nous allons bien travailler là-dessus.

Un point important aussi, c'est la question des promotions internes. C'est un dossier sur lequel il faut que nous continuions à porter l'attention nécessaire pour nous assurer que nous ayons une force de travail motivée, et l'appui nécessaire à la performance qui soit reconnue. Voilà, ce que je voulais vous dire sur ce point. Mais tous ces éléments font partie de la nouvelle stratégie et plan d'action pour les ressources humaines, pour lequel nous sommes engagés à faire rapport régulièrement aux organes directeurs.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I wonder if any other Members of Management that want to take the floor. I do not see any raised hands. I will give back the floor to Member States to see if they have further comments, questions, or general remarks at this point.

#### **Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)**

Je voulais simplement remercier la Direction et en particulier Laurent Thomas pour ces éléments sur le multilinguisme notamment, et rappeler toute l'importance en effet que nous attachons au respect du multilinguisme et des langues de l'organisation qui doivent être financées par le budget régulier de l'organisation. Un grand merci à vous pour ces remarques et ces confirmations.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We will ask the Secretariat to share my conclusions for Item 19 on the screen, and I will read it out. As for some of the previous items, I try to keep it simple. I will read it out loud for the benefit, for the translation, for the interpretation.

Item 19, Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25, and Programme of Working Budget (PWB) 2022-23.

1. the Conference considers the Medium-Term Plan MTP 2022-25, and the Programme of Working Budget PWB 2022-23 information note one, and annex 10. In the observations and recommendations of the Council reflected in the document *C2021/LIM/4*.
2. the Conference welcomed the reflection of the strategic direction in the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Working Budget with its focus on supporting the achievement of the 2030

Agenda for sustainable development to the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, and better environment and a better life, leaving no-one behind.

3. the Conference appreciated the proposed flat nominal budget level with no changes in the level of assessed contributions and net budget target preparation, compared with 2020-21, and commended the efforts of the Director-General in this regard, in the context of the prevailing global economic crisis.
4. regarding the substance of the proposals in the MTP/PWB, the Conference
  - a) welcomes the on calling of Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) in the 2030 Agenda, and appreciated the articulation of both primary and secondary PPAs contributions to the sustainable development goals STGs, recognising the interconnected nature of the STGs and the Four Betters.
  - b) highlighted the importance of balance between the three pillars of sustainable development, economic, social, and environmental, to the PWB including to the number of PPAs, and the location of budget and the Four Betters.
  - c) supported the resource allocation set out in paragraph 59 of document C2021/3, to strengthen priorities within a flat nominal budget level.
  - d) appreciated to important role of scientific and evidence-based normative and standard setting work of the FAO, and welcome the maintenance of the increase level of funding from 2021 for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Joint Centre FAO/WHO, food safety scientific advice programme, and the Joint Centre FAO/IAEA.
  - e) reaffirm the strategic and catalysing importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and appreciated the maintenance of Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) resources of 14 percent of the net budget target preparation.
  - f) supported the change of the name of the Fisher Division, to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division.
  - g) stress the need for FAO to use multilateral great concepts, approaches and languages, and give preference to those adopted by FAO governing bodies.
  - h) noted that adjustment, resources allocations and resources framework are rising from the efficiency and guidance of the Conference, and a more detailed work planning process will be reported in the adjustments to the PWB 2022-23 for consideration by the Council in December 2021.
  - i) stress the importance of flexible, likely earmark and [unclear] voluntary funding to support the priorities as outlined in the Integrated Programme of Work, and recommend that FAO further elaborate possible mechanisms and approaches to attract more flexible voluntary funding.
5. Concerning the longer-term financial health of the Organisation, the Conference defer to future biennial the replenishment of the working capital funds as well as incremental funding for the after-service medical coverage passed service liability.
6. the Conference adopted the following solutions as commanded by the Council, resolution 20/2021 Voluntary Preparations 2022-23.

I think this is the last one. The solutions that is mentioned, I think it is included in the *LIM/4*, but this is the usual resolution for the budget.

This is the end of my conclusion.

I open the floor for comments.

Paragraph 1, I do not see any.

Paragraph 2. I do not see any request from the floor.

Paragraph 3.

Let us move to paragraph 4. Subparagraph (a). I do not see any request for subparagraph (a).

Let us move to subparagraph (b). I do not see request from the floor.

Let us move to the next one, subparagraph (c). I do not see any request from the floor.

Subparagraph (d). I do not see any request from the floor.

Let us go to subparagraph (e). I do not see any request from the floor.

Let us move to subparagraph (f). I do not see any request from the floor.

Let us go to subparagraph (g). This is the text that we agreed in the previous agenda item. I do not see any request.

Let us move to subparagraph (h). I do not see any requests from the floor.

Let us move to subparagraph (i).

Let us move to paragraph 5.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

The Russian Federation would like to make a small comment in regard to paragraph 5, and in particular to bring that in alignment with the Finance Committee recommendation. I propose to make a small amendment, after “past services liability, and requested” and here is the quote from the Finance Committee recommendation. “Requested the FAO Management to continue to explore alternative strategies to address these requirements.”

**CHAIRPERSON**

Being part of the Finance Committee, I remember that. I think something that we always ask to Management in the Finance Committee.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Creo que el aporte del Delegato de Rusia es apropiado para poder por manter coherencia con lo que proviene del Comité de Finanzas.

**CHAIRPERSON**

This is a recurrent problem. I think the Conference will be doing well in sending that message that we have to do something about it. Let us move to paragraph (6). I do not see any request from the floor. That was shorter than expected. Let us close this Agenda Item.

**Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)**

Just a question, we refer now to the Conference’s budget resolutions, could we see this year at this point? There were some glitches in there, with numbers, even for the working capital fund, and the after-service maybe will cover it. Something has to be corrected, of course. I mean, there is the adoption of the budgetary appropriation. It is item for the Plenary, as we recommend now the adoption of a certain resolution, could we see that now?

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think that this issue is for the Plenary, but before that, I have Ms Beth Crawford, that might provide some clarifications.

**Ms Beth CRAWFORD (OSP Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)**

I just wanted to say that if it is shown on the screen, I could also specifically point out the differences that are in this Draft Resolution, versus what is presented in the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) document. If that would be helpful.

The Draft Budgetary Appropriation Resolution, a version is also included in the PWB. It is after paragraph 157 of the Programme of Working Budget. These first paragraphs have remained exactly the same. The figures are exactly the figures as presented in the document. I wanted to point on small change that I know we also discussed in a few of the Finance Committee meetings and the Programme Committee, we have in this final version, moved to a sequential numbering of the chapters.

That is a difference from what we will see in the draft one in the document. You will recall that in the document, we did not use a chapter five, because we wanted to be able to show comparison to 2020-21, and all of the tables and the document. But now that we are moving to the new structure, we have adjusted it to a sequential numbering of the chapters. Then, if you move further, the amounts are exactly the same. If we move further down, the subparagraph (b) has remained the same.

There was previously in the document, subparagraph (c) that referred to findings for the after-service medical coverage. That paragraph has been removed completely. Then, we have the total contributions is the same as subparagraph (d) and the document but now we filled in all of the figures. Many of the figures were left empty in the version, in the document, because we were not sure what the decision would be on the after service and medical coverage. But now that after-service medical coverage and working capital fund is completely out. We have now completed the figures in the rest of the document.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I am sure the latest document is that included in the *LIM/4*. I remember the question with the numbers of chapters, and our discussion in the joint meetings with the Council. But I think this is the right one. I wonder if Germany is happy with this explanation.

#### **Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)**

Yes I am. Thank you so much.

#### **M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)**

Merci de m'accorder la parole. Je vous félicite pour la façon dont vous avez conduit cette partie des conclusions. C'est très bien, rapidement. Je ne veux pas bloquer la situation, mais il y a un petit point que s'il est viable. Je voudrais ajouter à la décision un nouveau paragraphe, parce que l'Angola, au nom du Groupe Africain a soulevé l'action. C'est une chose qui n'a pas de charges supplémentaires pour la FAO. Mais c'est très important pour l'Afrique. Je voudrais à présent ajouter un point, en disant : "continuer à soutenir la mobilisation des ressources pour le fonds de solidarité africaine." Parce que c'est un fonds géré par la FAO. Ça, c'est une demande seulement pour aider à la mobilisation des fonds.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let us put it right there, where the Secretariat is writing it. Angola, please check the text that you wanted is right. I will open the floor for comments. This Agenda Item was closed already, but...

#### **M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)**

C'est ça. C'est la conclusion que j'ai faite. C'est précis.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think we have to, maybe the Drafting Committee should fix it because it reads now that: "The Conference encourage to continue to mobilise resources."

I open the floor for comments on this. I do not see any. Let us close this Agenda Item.

#### **Written Correspondence Items (conclusions only)**

#### **Points examinés par correspondance écrite (conclusions uniquement)**

#### **Temas examinados por correspondencia (conclusiones únicamente)**



**Item 16. Programme Implementation Report 2018-2019**  
**Point 16. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2018-2019**  
**Tema 16. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2018-19**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Move to the next one. Thank you Secretariat. The next two Items were discussed by Written Correspondence.

Let us go to Agenda Item 16, *Programme Implementation Report 2018-2019*. This Item was addressed by Writing Correspondence Procedures and Members' submissions and responses from the Secretariat have been made available to the Conference website.

All discussions on this Item will therefore be limited to the review on the draft conclusions. I now ask the Secretariat to share my conclusions on Item 16 on the screen, and I will read them out.

Item 16, Programme Implementation Report 2018-2019.

The Conference

- a) endorse the findings of the Report of the 164th Session of the Council. On the Programme Implementation Report (PRI) 2018-19.
- b) welcome the progress made in implementation of the Programme of Work in 2018-19, with FAO achieving 95 percent of the output indicator targets.
- c) express its appreciation for the efficiency savings of USD 11.7 billion achieved in 2018-19.
- d) welcomed FAO's important contribution to the implementation of the 2022 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourage the Organisation to continue to leverage this comparative advantages to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in collaboration with the other United Nations Agencies.
- e) noted with satisfaction the priority given by the Organisation to the use of partnerships to enable it, to leverage its comparative advantages, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
- f) welcome continue progress in achieving Equitable Agenda and geographical representation of staff.
- g) endorses the Programme Implementation Report 2018-19.

Those are my conclusions from the input received.

I think we can go and look for the comments because this summary is short. I open the floor for comments. I see no request from the floor. I think we are okay with this conclusion from Item 16.

**Item 17. Programme Evaluation Report 2021**  
**Point 17. Rapport d'évaluation du Programme 2021**  
**Tema 17. Informe sobre la evaluación del programa en 2021**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us move to the next, the final agenda Item. Item 17, *Programme Evolution Report 2021*. This is Item was addressed to the Writing Correspondence Procedures as well as I remember submissions and the responses from the Secretariat have been made available to the Conference's website. For discussion on this Item, as I did before, will be limited to the review or the draft conclusions.

I will now ask the Secretariat to share my conclusions on Agenda Item 17 on the screen, I will read them out.

Programme Evolution Report 2021.

The Conference

- a) welcomed the Programme Evolution Report 2021 including the main findings emerging from evaluations completed during the period 2019-20.

- b) expressed its support for the work of the FAO Office of Evaluation, commends the Office's efforts to overcome challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and underscore the importance of its role in independently upraising the Organization's work at all levels, and producing findings and lessons that will enable FAO to deliver better results.
- c) appreciated in particular the role played by the evaluation of the FAO's Strategic Resources Framework, in the development of the FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031.
- d) appreciated the Report Assessment on FAO's work for gender equality and in support of the most vulnerable groups, including the Indigenous People, and encourage FAO to boost this effort, to mainstream the principle of leaving no one behind in all Programmes.
- e) highlighted the importance of statistical work as a core function of FAO and endorse the recommendations made by the evaluation of FAO's statistical work to improve its Governance, ensure adequate resources allocations and the statistical work at the country level.
- f) commended FAO for mobilising significant funds for climate action during the last Biennium, proceeded the Management commitment to improve governance of work, having climate implications and mainstreaming of climate change's aspects across different divisions recommended by the evaluation of FAO's support to climate action (SDG 13), and the implementation of FAO's strategy on climate change 2017, and requested full implementation of the recommendation of 166th Session of the Council, relating to the FAO's strategy on climate change.
- g) appreciated the role played by the evaluation of the FAO's Strategy for Partnership, with the private sector sponsoring the development and adoption of the new Private Sector Strategy, which will enable a more agile FAO to engage in diverse and creative partnerships and leverage the private sector in making progress towards Sustainable Development Goals.
- h) encouraged FAO to keep promoting the importance of global food supply chains, and open rule-based, non-discriminatory, unpredictable international trade, taking into account the mandate of FAO and pertinent international agreements, including those under the World Trade Organisation.
- i) endorsed the proposal made by the Office of Evaluation to decentralise evaluation function, and enhance evaluation capacities at regional and Country Offices, with a view to strengthening FAO's sole space management, its evaluation culture and the ownership of evaluations at the national-level and underscored the importance of coherence and alignment of FAO's sole monitoring, and evaluation systems at the country-level with a system wide mechanisms and as contained in the United Nations Secretary General proposal to reposition the United Nations relevant systems, including on the United Nations Cooperation Framework Evaluation.
- j) welcomed the initiatives taking by the Office of Evaluation to boost national evaluation capacities with a view to promote an evidence-based policy making for advancement towards Sustainable Development Goals, and encourage continued efforts to this end.

This is the end of my conclusion for this Agenda Item.

Let us go from the beginning to the end because it is a little bit long. I open the floor for comments on the first subparagraph (a) to (e).

I have no request from the floor. Let us go I take that you are okay with it.

Let us go to subparagraph (f) and (g).

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

Can we come back to the previous paragraphs? In subparagraph (g), without changing the meaning of the subparagraph, just a linguistic modification, in the first line "its support of people in vulnerable situations." It is our proposal, instead of the "most vulnerable groups," because if we have the "most

vulnerable groups," it would be necessary for us to understand what kind of population we are talking about. Let us try to elaborate on the language used in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). I will repeat: "In support of people in vulnerable situations."

**CHAIRPERSON**

Secretariat, please go down to subparagraph (f) and (g). I do not see any request from the floor.

Let us go down to the next ones, paragraph (h), (i) and (j).

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

En el subpárrafo (j), *"promoting science and evidence-based policies"*, por favor. Creo que no es necesario explicarlo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I do not see more request for the floor. I think we can conclude this Agenda Item and basically, we finish our labour here in the substantive work of the Commission II.

Before you leave, first I want to give some information for housekeeping.

Yesterday I mentioned that there were possibly some additional members to the Drafting Committee. In the last 24 hours, we received new nominations. In consultation with the Regional Group, I now can confirm the following nominations for the Drafting Committee and I will read them out. Mr Thanawat Tiensin from Thailand will be the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee. The members are: Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Portugal, Russian Federation, United States of America and Zambia.

Colleagues, may I take that the Commission agrees for the proposed membership and Chairperson of the Drafting Committee?

I see no comments, no protests, it is so decided. Thank you very much.

The timing of the Drafting Committee will be confirmed in the journal, and I think that the members of the Drafting Committee will be contacted directly by the Secretariat.

**Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)**

Congratulations for this really speedy conclusion of the work. No one expected that. Really, great job.

I just wanted to take the opportunity, it has nothing to do with Commission II and I apologise for my ignorance, but as you have mentioned the Drafting Committee, I was wondering who will look at the Draft Report of the Plenary.

We have two Drafting Committees, one for Commission I and one for Commission II. Having the Secretariat with us at this moment, maybe we can get some explanations of that. Because I am a bit lost on that. Even though I am long-time in the business, and I apologise but I was wondering, and other colleagues did so as well.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That is a great question. I do not know if someone from the Secretariat will reply to that. We have Mr David McSherry here, but I do not know if Mr Rakesh Muthoo is around, or someone who knows. Let us park that, the reply here at this moment, when we have the right people to answer that. In the meantime, I give the floor to the Russian Federation.

**Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)**

Could you kindly inform us how exactly we will be informed by the Secretariat about the Drafting Committee Zoom links and the time through our emails or of our missions. Because, you know, we sent a million of emails to the Secretariat in the past two weeks and we have to understand to what exact email we can receive the information about the Drafting Committee.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Mr David McSherry, I do not know, you can answer the question from Russia, because I think other colleagues from the Drafting Committee have the same question.

## **SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION II**

We will immediately take steps to make contact with the individual members of the Drafting Committee to make sure we have got contact email addresses and phone numbers. Then, we will follow up with them on the timing of the Drafting Committee and how to address it. They will be able to enter the Drafting Committee through the established Conference platforms. They will see that there is a meeting room for the Drafting Committee of Commission II. So, they will have credentials and contacts. They will be all contacted beforehand just to make sure that everyone is comfortable about those timings and how to access.

### **Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)**

As you mentioned earlier that the Secretariat will contact the Drafting Committee and as I will serve as the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, I would like to inform the Secretariat as well that since I am now in Bangkok, our time difference is five hours.

Please feel free to contact me anytime by email, by telephone, or WhatsApp, to ensure that I can provide my services at any times. But anyway, at least you are not after midnight in Bangkok. During the time in Rome, I am very happy to provide my services and thank you again to the Chairs of the Commissions and also the members of the Drafting Committee that we will work together to make sure that we can deliver a good report to the Members.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

I think that means 19:00 hours Rome time is the deadline. Maybe, members of the Drafting Committee could work this afternoon because I think that under your leadership we will be very fast. But let us see, I now have the Secretariat of the Commission I, Ms Tian, maybe she will answer the question.

### **Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)**

Primero que todo quería felicitarlo por el excelente trabajo y agradecerle por habernos guiado a una rápida conclusión de los trabajos de la Comisión II. Nos gustaría sugerir que empezáramos a trabajar lo antes posible en el Comité de Redacción. La Comisión I empieza a sesionar a las 2:30 de la tarde. Tiene trabajos bastante atrasados y, algunas delegaciones como la mía necesitamos poder asistir también a la Comisión I.

Entonces, sería genial si pudiéramos tener una breve pausa, quizás una media hora y poder comenzar con los trabajos del Comité de Redacción inmediatamente.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

I do not know if that is feasible because I do not know if every conclusion needs to be translated in the other languages. But maybe for the sake of flexibility and speed, we can work on that because I think that many colleagues want to finish the work as soon as possible. Now, with this, I give the floor to the Secretary of the Commission I.

## **SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION I**

I take this opportunity to seek more information from distinguished Members, because for Commission I now, we have a full membership of the Drafting Committee members, but we are missing the Chairperson. I would really appreciate that members who would like to nominate a Chairperson for the Drafting Committee for the Commission to do so ahead of time, so that we can better organize our work in advance.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

You have a call from the Secretary to look for a voluntary Chairperson for the Drafting Committee of Commission I.

I still have pending the reply to the question of Germany, on who is the Drafting Committee of the Plenary. I do not know if it is the General Committee. I think it is someone from the Secretariat that can reply to that.

**Mme Céline JURGENSEN**

Juste pour ajouter une autre question, en plus de celle de mon collègue de l'Allemagne, y a-t-il un Comité Drafting pour la plénière. La deuxième question, c'est quand recevrons-nous les informations pour les rendez-vous individuels, pour aller voter demain? Je pense que c'est une information maintenant qu'il est urgent d'avoir pour tous les délégués. Nous devons nous préparer, nous devons organiser notre agenda, nous avons besoin de savoir quand et à quelle heure seront les rendez-vous individuels pour aller voter en personne demain. Je remercie le Secrétariat de sa réponse à cet égard.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think colleagues rightfully are asking questions on Commission II, but it is okay. We are here, we have the space. I think we really need Mr Rakesh Muthoo, or someone else that can answer that. I am in FAO, I wonder if he is around, if I can drag him to this very same room. Or Mr David McSherry if you know the answers. We are looking for the Secretariat of the Conference.

**Mr José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)**

First of all, just to compliment you very warmly for your excellent job. You sued to do an excellent job always, but this time, you exceeded yourself, thank you very much for your guidance, we also need your help to help you. You did your best, and it was a very good job. It is the most important part.

I think that since we are waiting for replies which are not specific to this Commission, maybe they can be prepared and given at the beginning or during the Commission I session. Regarding the questions from Chile, because for the small delegations, like ours, it is important to prepare ourselves, I think that maybe these operational things can be dealt with later on, and we can close the session.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have Argentina, but before, I think that the questions that were made are important and they go beyond Commission II. But you are right, maybe they can be answered at the beginning of Commission I. I think we could wait for the answer for a couple of hours, if Germany agrees. But I also heard that members of the Drafting Committee of Commission II want to start as soon as possible. That would be great for the benefit of all of us hearing Commission II.

**Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)**

Permítame felicitarlo también por la tarea realizada y permítame también felicitar a los Miembros porque sin la flexibilidad de los Miembros su tarea hubiera sido mucho más difícil. Así que, creo que, de alguna manera nos tenemos que felicitar cuando priorizamos el consenso por encima de las diferencias.

Permítame, también, felicitar a Thanawat, mi querido hermano Embajador de Tailandia como Presidente del Comité de Redacción y agradecer su generosidad para presidirlo. También, aprovecho para saludar al Subdirector Regional de América Latina y el Caribe que se ha levantado muy temprano para acompañarnos en esta reunión.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We can close this Meeting. The two questions, the one asked by Germany and the other by France, I will try to find the Secretariat of the Conference, and try to reply to them at the beginning of Commission I. Because they are very important questions that need to be answered during this afternoon. Then, I will close this Meeting and also with the spirit that the Drafting Committee starts as soon as possible. For that, the Secretariat of Commission II is here, and as we keep this meeting open, they cannot move to prepare for the Drafting Committee. For the benefit of all of us, it is better to close this Meeting right now.

However, before closing this Meeting, I just want to join Argentina in thanking all of you for your flexibility. Some of the issues are very dear to some of you, the question of terminology is very clear, I know it very well. But thanks for your flexibility in aiming for a consensus and for favouring the united all, instead of [XX] or things that we have different opinions. That is the main message that we should give as a Conference.

Without further babbling, I will close this Meeting for today. I think that the Drafting Committee has first to conclude this labour, and then the Report has to be translated. I think it will be announced in the journal or through other means when the Commission will adopt its Report. Once it is adopted, then it will be presented to the Plenary. I think in the draft timetable the Adoption of Report is scheduled for Friday morning. Then, in some moment later, the presentation of the Report to the Plenary. That will be the remaining work for Commission II.

I thank you all. I close this Meeting, I do not have a gavel, but you can imagine its sound. Thank you very much and I will see you maybe in the Commission I for the answers of the discussion.

*The meeting rose at 12.49 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12h 49*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.49*

# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Forty- second Session Quarante et deuxième session 42.º período de sesiones</b>
<b>Virtual Meeting, 14-18 June 2021 Réunion Virtuelle, 14-18 juin 2021 Reunión Virtual, 14-18 de junio de 2021</b>
<b>THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION II TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION II TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN II</b>
<b>18 June 2021</b>

The Third Meeting was opened at 14:43 hours  
Mr Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma,  
Chairperson of Commission II, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 14 h 43  
sous la présidence de M. Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma,  
Président de la Commission II

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 14.43  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma,  
Presidente de la Comisión II

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**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION II  
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II  
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II**

**Mr Benito Santiago JIMÉNEZ SAUMA (Chairperson of Commission II)**

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon to all of you, and I am pleased to open the meeting of Commission II. I will give the floor to Mr Thanawat Tiensin, the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to report on his proceedings and on the preparation of the Report of Commission II that is before us today.

**Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission II)**

Good evening from Bangkok. Thank you, again, for allowing me to present the outcome of the Drafting Committee of Commission II at this Commission for your consideration. First of all, I would like to thank you Chairperson, Mr Benito Santiago Jiménez Sauma, for your leadership and also you brought us to a great discussion, a successful and productive discussion during the meeting.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Drafting Committee which comprised Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Portugal, Russian Federation, United States of America, Zambia and also Thailand, as the Chairperson.

The Drafting Committee was convened on Wednesday, 16 June, starting at 17:30 hours and we managed to finalize the draft Report at 21:30 hours, which actually I think is not too late, more or less.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all the Members of the Commission. Without your fruitful and productive discussions, we would not be able to present the draft Report to the Commission today. May I take this opportunity to propose to the Commission to adopt the Report *en bloc*.

**Mr Benito Santiago JIMÉNEZ SAUMA (Chairperson of Commission II)**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, for your Report. I recommend to adopt the Report of Commission II *en bloc*.

I see no requests from the floor. Thank you very much, the Report is adopted.

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

Thank you very much, to all of you for your substantive participation in Commission II. We reached an agreement thanks to the flexibility of all of you. There were important discussions, but our unity prevailed. I thank you again and with this I close the meeting of Commission II and thank you for your participation.

*The meeting rose at 14.45 hours*

*La séance est levée à 14 h 45*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 14.45*