

Rome, Roma 2004



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session • Cent vingt-septième session • 127º período de sesiones

Rome, 22 – 27 November 2004

VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 22 – 27 novembre 2004

PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Rome, 22 – 27 de noviembre de 2004

ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIS DEL CONSEJO

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session Cent vingt-septième session 127° período de sesiones
Rome, 22-27 November 2004 Rome, 22-27 novembre 2004 Roma, 22-27 de noviembre de 2004
FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
22 November 2004

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.25 hours

Mr Aziz Mekouar,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 25
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.25 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Aziz Mekouar,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la première séance de la Cent vingt-septième session du Conseil de notre Organisation.

Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, d'accueillir chaleureusement le Directeur général et tous les délégués et observateurs. Je suis tout particulièrement heureux de noter la présence de plusieurs Ministres parmi nous.

Avant l'ouverture de cette séance je voudrais faire une courte annonce.

La Communauté européenne participe à cette session conformément aux paragraphes 8 et 9 de l'Article II de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO. J'ai été prié de vous informer que la déclaration de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres figure dans le document d'information CL 127/INF/6 qui a été distribué à tous les Membres du Conseil. J'attire l'attention des Membres sur cette déclaration.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de me donner la parole. Je voudrais tout d'abord souhaiter la bienvenue à toutes les délégations et notamment aux Ministres et aux autres Chefs et Membres des délégations qui ont bien voulu se déplacer pour participer à cette importante réunion du Conseil.

Cette réunion revêt un caractère particulier, puisque comme vous avez pu le constater dans le rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, les progrès que nous faisons sont insuffisants. Il faudrait pratiquement arriver à une baisse de 26 millions par an du nombre de personnes mal nourries pour atteindre l'objectif qui a été fixé à l'occasion du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996 et confirmé lors du Sommet de 2002. En effet, au rythme actuel, nous n'atteindrons notre objectif qu'en 2150 au lieu de 2015. Je pense, qu'il est important de revenir sur ce problème fondamental : tant que nous n'aurons pas changé cette tendance, tant que tout continuera comme par le passé, nous ne pourrions atteindre notre objectif qui a été fixé non seulement par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996, mais qui a aussi été entériné par le Sommet du Millénaire qui l'a retenu parmi les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Les problèmes ont été clairement identifiés à l'occasion du Sommet de 2002. Il faut la volonté politique de donner la priorité dans les programmes gouvernementaux à la lutte contre la faim et contre la pauvreté, puisque 70 pour cent des pauvres vivent en milieu rural et la plupart des pauvres en zones urbaines proviennent du secteur rural. Cette volonté politique implique que des ressources appropriées soient investies dans le secteur agricole. On ne peut pas développer un secteur sans y consacrer des ressources et encore moins en diminuant les ressources. Cette responsabilité est d'abord une responsabilité nationale dans chacun des pays concernés où il y a des personnes pauvres et des personnes qui ont faim. Mais c'est aussi une responsabilité de la communauté internationale, aussi bien des pays développés que des institutions financières internationales.

Vous aurez à examiner aussi le Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2002-2003. Vous aurez vu que certaines innovations y ont été apportées. Ce document donne davantage d'informations pour vous permettre de donner les orientations appropriées.

En ce qui concerne le Plan à moyen terme 2006 – 2011, vous aurez constaté que nous avons envisagé différents types de scénario de croissance, en vous laissant naturellement le soin d'en tirer les conséquences.

Pour ce qui est du rapport de la 30^{ème} session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, je pense que vous aurez tous été satisfaits de l'adoption des Directives volontaires à l'appui de la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale. C'est un travail extrêmement important qui a été fait dans un laps de temps assez court, grâce à la bonne volonté et la coopération de toutes les délégations. Il nous reste à

relever le défi de la mise en œuvre de ces directives et nous comptons sur ce Conseil pour nous aider dans ce sens.

Une proposition a été faite pour une évaluation externe indépendante. Cette question est à votre ordre du jour. Je voudrais encore une fois confirmer la volonté du Secrétariat d'apporter son appui à toutes les décisions que vous prendrez dans ce cadre.

Je dois aussi souligner que, de plus en plus, il nous faut prendre en compte le processus de réforme du système des Nations Unies et la nécessité d'une meilleure coordination et d'une meilleure intégration des actions, aussi bien des agences spécialisées que des différents organismes relevant du Secrétariat général des Nations Unies. Au-delà des changements qui sont en train d'être mis en œuvre à l'initiative du Secrétaire général, nous avons décidé de procéder à une étude exhaustive des conditions de fonctionnement de l'Organisation, en vue d'une part d'assurer une meilleure coordination et une meilleure intégration avec nos partenaires du système des Nations Unies, mais aussi de mieux assurer notre participation, dans le cadre du système des Coordonnateurs résidents, à l'action d'intégration au niveau national, sous régional et régional. Cela va impliquer des actions visant à mieux intégrer nos programmes au sein du système des Nations Unies, à préparer des documents communs et naturellement, quand les conditions s'y prêtent, à réaliser des projets communs.

Nous devons faire face aux mêmes défis au regard des objectifs du Millénaire. Naturellement, nous apporterons notre contribution au rapport du Secrétaire général qui sera présenté l'année prochaine. Dans ce contexte, comme je viens de le mentionner, nous sommes en train de revoir, avec des soutiens extérieurs, l'ensemble de nos programmes, de nos structures, y compris les mécanismes de suivi et de revue interne et externe, pour mieux les intégrer dans le cadre des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Il faut nous assurer que les différentes actions éparpillées de la FAO soient bien intégrées et que les Etats Membres soient à même de voir quel est le rôle de la FAO et quelle est sa contribution à la mise en œuvre de chacun des 8 objectifs du Millénaire. Nous pensons que cet exercice sera suffisamment avancé pour qu'à la prochaine session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale en mai 2005 nous puissions présenter les conclusions aux Membres de l'Organisation et aux organes directeurs en commençant par le CSA. Naturellement nous sommes à votre disposition et nous serions heureux de recevoir toutes les suggestions et propositions qui seraient de nature à nous permettre de mieux réaliser cet exercice.

Encore une fois, je voudrais vous souhaiter la bienvenue au siège de votre Organisation et j'ose espérer que votre séjour se déroulera dans les meilleures conditions et que votre travail sera extrêmement fructueux et contribuera aux progrès de l'Organisation et à la réalisation de ses objectifs.

Monsieur le Président, honorables Représentants, je vous remercie de votre attention.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Directeur général.

Nous allons passer maintenant au premier point de notre ordre du jour, qui concerne l'adoption de l'ordre du jour provisoire et du calendrier de la session, tels que présentés dans les documents CL 127/1-Rev.1, CL 127/1-Rev.2 (en français), et CL 127/INF/1.

I. INTRODUCTION – PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION – QUESTIONS DE PROCÉDURE

I. INTRODUCCIÓN – CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (CL 127/1-Rev.1; CL 127/INF/1; CL 127/INF/6)

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (CL 127/1-Rev.2; CL 127/INF/1; CL 127/INF/6)

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario (CL 127/1-REV.1; CL 127/INF/1; CL 127/INF/6)

L'ordre du jour provisoire est constitué du document CL 127/1-Rev.1, CL 127/1-Rev.2 (en français), qui a été communiqué aux Membres du Conseil en même temps que l'invitation à la présente session par lettre circulaire du 22 septembre 2004.

Le document que vous avez en main porte donc la référence CL 127/1-Rev. 2 (en français) et contient un point, le point 14: "Evaluation externe approfondie", proposé par le Canada et les Etats-Unis et communiqué par lettre circulaire à tous les Membres du Conseil ainsi qu'aux autres Membres de l'Organisation le 2 novembre 2004. Vous trouverez toutes les informations supplémentaires sur ce point dans le document portant la référence CL 127/LIM/4, ainsi que les remarques du Directeur général dans le document CL 1276/LIM/6.

D'après mes informations, je pense savoir que les groupes régionaux se sont mis d'accord pour que le point 14 soit ajouté à l'ordre du jour. Est-ce que cette proposition rencontre l'adhésion du Conseil?

Monsieur le Représentant du Panama.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IV. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

14. Comprehensive External Evaluation (CL 127/LIM/4)

14. Évaluation externe approfondie (CL 127/LIM/4)

14. Evaluación externa amplia (CL 127/LIM/4)

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Hablando en nombre del Grupo de los 77, la Delegación de Panamá desea expresar la posición de los países en desarrollo sobre el programa provisional del 127º período de sesiones del Consejo como anotado en el Documento CL 127/1 Rev. 1.

En relación a la propuesta sugerida por el Grupo de América del Norte que trata de la evaluación de la FAO, el G-77 acepta y acoge positivamente la inclusión de este ítem en la agenda de trabajos del Consejo. Su aceptación, todavía, está condicionada por unos elementos fundamentales: i) el título del ítem debe tener la siguiente redacción "*una evaluación externa e independiente de la FAO*". La supresión de la palabra amplia conforme a la propuesta regional se hace a fin de no prejuzgar la elaboración de sus posibles términos de referencia y, ii) el ítem debe ser elevado a la consideración de los Estados Miembros bajo la sección VI del Programa Provisional, es decir, Otros asuntos, y no en la sección IV, titulada Asuntos de programa y asuntos presupuestarios financieros y administrativos.

El G-77 considera que una futura evaluación no debe limitarse sólo al tratamiento de programas y presupuestos de la Organización.

João Miguel F.B. LOMELINO DE FREITAS (Portugal)

I would like only to talk about the Bureau of the Council. I am not sure if it is the right moment to do that.

Jorge Maria CUSTÓDIO SANTOS (Cape Verde)

I would like to support the statement just made by the Distinguished Representative of Panama on behalf of G-77 and express, on behalf of the African Group, the acceptance and welcome the inclusion of Item 14.4 with the conditions just expressed. In fact, African country members believe that this exercise should not be confined to budget and programme, but aimed at building a better FAO as all and each of the Member States wish. The African Group feels that if there will be an independent evaluation, this must be broader with a view to allowing FAO to effectively respond to the main objectives enshrined in its Constitution and give an adequate answer to the challenges of the Millennium, in particular those pertaining to the main Millennium development goals, that is to say, the fight against hunger at its global level.

Shobar WIGADA (Indonesia)

The Indonesian delegation has no objection to accept the proposed agenda and timetable for the Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Council meeting that has been proposed by the Director-General under Document CL 127/INF/6.

Fabio VALENCIA COSSIO (Colombia)

En representación del GRULAC acoger la propuesta presentada por el G-77 y, obviamente, aceptar que se incluya el punto de evaluación pero con las modificaciones propuestas por el G-77.

Mohamed LASSOUED (Tunisie)

En ce qui concerne l'inscription de ce point à l'ordre du jour, je voudrais vous indiquer que nous avons reçu une lettre circulaire de la Direction générale de l'Organisation, datée du 2 novembre 2004, nous portant à connaissance de la proposition relative à ce point, soit il y a seulement 20 jours. J'espère qu'il en a été de même pour l'ensemble des Etats Membres de manière à ce que des consultations aient pu avoir lieu. Ceci étant dit, nous ne voyons aucune objection à l'inscription d'un tel point dans la mesure où ceci n'est pas contraire aux dispositions réglementaires registrant le travail de l'Organisation. Ceci dit, je voudrais apporter quelques remarques, à savoir, que les Etats Membres de l'Organisation, notamment les pays en développement, doivent prendre part, une part effective, à cette évaluation. Il faut aussi tenir compte des délais et des temps nécessaires afin que, dans la mesure où on ne saurait imaginer une évaluation exhaustive ou le cas échéant, il faudrait que l'on procède à une sélection de domaines prioritaires d'une telle évaluation. Par ailleurs, il est dit qu'une telle évaluation devrait être balancée de ressources extra-budgétaires, mais notre crainte est que de telles ressources ne soient pas disponibles en quantités suffisantes si l'on s'appuie uniquement sur des contributions volontaires.

Matthew S.S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

I would like to ask you please to give the floor to the delegate of the Netherlands, who will speak on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

Ewald WERMUTH (Netherlands)

I express this statement on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

We welcome the inclusion of this Item on our agenda and are very much looking forward to discussing the issue with all regional groups, with a view to making the evaluation a meaningful exercise for all of us.

Ms Gabriela DUMITRIU (Romania)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group.

I would like to say that we fully endorse what has been said earlier by the European Community.

Abdulrahman BAMATRAF (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

The delegation of Yemen, on behalf of the Near East Group, wishes to inform you that our Group, likewise, supports the inclusion of such an Item on our agenda. We are glad to second what was said by the distinguished delegate of Panama, speaking on behalf of the G-77.

The Near East Group is of the view that the reservations expressed by the distinguished delegate of Panama are very important and we trust we shall be able to have an objective debate on this matter in context of this Council.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

I would just like to say on behalf of the South West Pacific Group that we also welcome the inclusion of this Item on the Agenda and we look forward to working constructively with other regional groups to progress the evaluation.

Bandar AL SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

As far as we are concerned, we are very much in favour of the inclusion of this Item in our Agenda, bearing in mind the importance of such an issue for the Organization and for its Member States.

Flavio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brazil)

I am part of the Group of Latin American Countries and the Caribbean. I am also part of the Group 77.

I would like to add my words to what has just been said by the President of G 77 and the President of GRULAC.

I do not think we have the necessary consensus on the adoption of the Item; however we have to consider the proposal made by G-77, which intends only to enhance the possibility of having a fruitful negotiation during this Session.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Brésil. Y a-t-il d'autres commentaires? Très bien. Donc, nous avons l'introduction de ce point 14 de l'ordre du jour avec une proposition du Groupe des 77, à savoir que cela devrait être inséré dans le point 6: "Questions diverses" et deuxièmement, que le titre soit "Évaluations externes". Donc, le titre de ce point de l'ordre du jour serait "Évaluations externes" et serait inséré au point 6 de l'ordre du jour "Questions diverses". Est-ce que nous avons un consensus? Oui, très bien. Parfait. Merci.

Je vous remercie. J'ai été prié de vous informer que le point 14 que vous venez d'approuver sera de la compétence conjointe de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres. En cas de vote cependant, seuls seront compétents les dix Etats Membres. Il est également proposé d'ajouter deux sous-points au point 18 de l'ordre du jour: "Autres questions". Premièrement "Nominations de Représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions et du personnel", le document concernant ce sous-point porte la référence CL 127/LIM/5 et deuxièmement "Avances de fonds pour les activités d'urgence et de relèvement", le document concernant ce second sous-point porte la référence CL 127/22. Je vais reprendre ces trois propositions point par point: vous avez donc devant vous l'ordre du jour préparé par le Secrétariat qui comprend comme point 14 la proposition faite par les Etats-Unis et le Canada "Évaluations externes" que vous venez donc d'approuver avec les modifications proposées par le Président du Groupe des 77. Sous le point 18, vous trouvez la proposition de deux-sous points: le sous-point 18.1 "Nomination des Représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions et du personnel" et le sous-point 18.2 "Avances de fonds pour les activités d'urgence et de relèvement". Y a-t-il des observations à ce sujet? Non. Est-ce que nous pouvons considérer que l'ordre du jour tel qu'il est présenté dans le document CL 127/1-Rev.1 Rev.2 (en français) avec les modifications en ce qui concerne le point 14 et auquel serait ajouté sous le point 18 les deux sous-points préalablement mentionnés est adopté? Oui? Très bien, je vous remercie.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, l'ordre du jour est adopté. J'aimerais vous informer que le Directeur général a reçu une demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation de la République du Bélarus. Cette demande sera examinée au point 16.3 de l'ordre du jour provisoire "Demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation". J'aimerais également attirer votre attention sur le fait que la date limite de soumission des candidatures concernant l'élection de six Membres du Conseil d'administration du Programme Alimentaire Mondial est fixée à 12:00 heures aujourd'hui. En ce qui concerne le calendrier de la Session, un projet vous est proposé dans le document CL 127/1/1. Je propose que le point 14, "Évaluations externes", qui vient d'être approuvé soit examiné mercredi en fin d'après-midi. On essaiera de l'examiner mercredi en fin d'après midi après le point 13, lorsque le Groupe de travail aura achevé ses travaux. De toutes façons, il y aura des consultations entre les groupes régionaux en ce qui concerne ce point de l'ordre du jour. Les sous-points 18.1 "Nominations des Représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions et du personnel" et 18.2 "Avances de fonds pour les activités d'urgence et de relèvement" pourraient être examinés sous le point "Autres questions" jeudi matin. Est-ce que le calendrier proposé avec les modifications que je viens d'indiquer rencontre l'adhésion du Conseil? Je voudrais tout de même revenir sur ce que je viens de dire. En principe "Autres Questions" comme le point 14 est maintenant introduit dans les "Questions diverses", il est probable que nous aurons à en débattre jeudi; et non pas mercredi après-midi comme je l'ai dit précédemment. Je voudrais maintenant passer la parole à Monsieur l'Ambassadeur d'Egypte.

Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Concerning the deadline for candidatures for Seats in the WFP Executive Board, I would like to postpone this Item to this afternoon rather than noon as there are still discussions underway and a meeting is foreseen at 13:30 hours this afternoon. Only then would we be in a position to let you know who would be the candidates of the African Group.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Donc, si personne n'y voit d'inconvénient, on reportera cette question à cet après-midi. Bien, est-ce que le calendrier de la session est adopté? Oui? Très bien. Parfait. Je profite de cette occasion pour faire appel à votre coopération afin que soit respecté notre emploi du temps et, qu'ainsi, nos réunions puissent commencer strictement à l'heure. Nous avons un ordre du jour très chargé et peu de temps à notre disposition. Par ailleurs, pour des raisons financières, nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre de prolonger nos séances au-delà de l'heure prévue, à savoir 12h30 le matin et 17h30 l'après-midi. Nous saurons gré à ceux d'entre vous qui souhaitent faire une déclaration durant notre débat, de bien vouloir donner au Secrétariat à l'avance une copie du texte qu'ils entendent dire, ceci afin que les interprètes puissent traduire au mieux leur texte dans les quatre autres langues. Nous allons à présent passer au point 2 de l'ordre du jour: "Election des trois Vice-Présidents et Nomination du Président et des Membres du Comité de rédaction". Après consultation entre les groupes régionaux, nous disposons des propositions suivantes pour les trois postes de Vice-Présidents du Conseil: Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Ilia Krastelnikov, Représentant permanent de la Bulgarie, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini, Représentant de la République Islamique d'Iran; Monsieur Muhammad Ismail Qureshi, Secrétaire au Ministère de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture du Pakistan. Y a-t-il des objections? Non? Je tiens donc à féliciter les trois Vice-Présidents qui viennent d'être élus.

En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction des groupes régionaux, on proposait Monsieur Noël De Luna, Représentant permanent suppléant des Philippines comme Président et les délégations des pays suivants comme Membres du Comité: Allemagne, Australie, Canada, Chili, Cuba, Egypte, Finlande, Japon, Philippines, République du Congo, République de Corée, Roumanie, Syrie. Il nous manque un pays africain. Y a-t-il des objections? Monsieur le Délégué de Panama.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Solamente para informarle que en el transcurso del día de hoy, antes de la tarde, daremos el nombre del país que representará a Africa, el país que falta.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS

16. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters

16. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

16. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

16.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions (CL 127/LIM/2)

16.1 Invitation d'Etats non membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO (CL 127/LIM/2)

16.1 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO (CL 127/LIM/2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Représentant de Panama. Donc, nous avons décidé de la proposition du Bureau et du Comité de rédaction. Je vous remercie. Passons à présent au point 16 de notre ordre du jour "Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques". Nous allons commencer par le sous-point 16.1 intitulé "Invitation d'Etats non membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO"; il s'agit du document CL127/LIM/2. Je donne la parole à Monsieur Rouighi, Secrétaire général adjoint de la Conférence et du Conseil pour présenter ce point.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Merci Monsieur le Président. Une demande de participation en tant qu'observateur a été présentée par la Fédération de Russie et une invitation a été envoyée à cet Etat non membre le 16 novembre. La demande est soumise à l'approbation du Conseil. L'approbation du Conseil est donc reprise pour que la Fédération de Russie puisse assister à la Cent-vingt-septième session du Conseil.

16.2 Date for Nominations to the Office of Director-General (CL 127/19)

16.2 Date limite de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général (CL 127/19)

16.2 Plazo para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Director General (CL 27/19)

16.3 Applications for Membership in the Organization (CL 127/17)

16.3 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (CL 127/17)

16.3 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (CL 127/17)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce que je peux considérer que le Conseil est d'accord pour que la Fédération de Russie assiste à cette Session en qualité d'observateur? Oui. Très bien. Il en est ainsi décidé. Le paragraphe 5 du document CL 127/LIM/2 fournit pour information une liste des réunions de la FAO auxquelles la Fédération de Russie a participé depuis la dernière Session du Conseil. A moins qu'un délégué ne souhaite s'exprimer à ce sujet, nous allons passer à l'examen du point suivant de notre ordre du jour. Nous passons donc au point suivant 16.2: "Date de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général". Le document pertinent porte la référence CL 127/19 Dans le paragraphe 4 du document, le Conseil est invité à fixer au vendredi 8 avril 2005 à 12h00 la date limite de réception des candidatures au poste de Directeur général, par le Secrétaire général, et au vendredi 29 avril 2005 la date avant laquelle le Secrétaire général devra avoir fait connaître ces candidatures à tous les Etats Membres. Ce calendrier correspondrait à celui établi par le Conseil en 1999. Le Conseil souhaite-t-il fixer la date limite de réception des candidatures au poste de Directeur général au vendredi 8 avril 2005 et la date limite de la communication des candidatures à tous les Etats Membres au vendredi 29 avril 2005? Oui. Très bien. Il en est ainsi décidé. Nous allons examiner maintenant le sous-point 16.3 de l'ordre du jour "Demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation". Le document pertinent porte la référence CL 127/17. Le Directeur général a reçu

le 25 mars 2004 une demande officielle d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation de la République du Bélarus. Nous prenons acte de cette demande et la transmettons à la Conférence qui examinera cette question lors de sa Trente-troisième session en novembre 2005. En attendant la décision de la Conférence concernant cette demande d'admission et, en application de l'Article 25.11 du Règlement général de l'Organisation et des paragraphes b.1, b.2 et b.5 des principes régissant l'octroi du statut d'observateur aux Nations, le Conseil est appelé à autoriser le Directeur général à inviter la République du Bélarus à participer en qualité d'observateur à cette Session et aux prochaines sessions du Conseil, ainsi qu'aux réunions régionales et techniques de l'Organisation pouvant l'intéresser. Le Conseil souhaite-t-il autoriser la République du Bélarus à participer à ces sessions, ainsi qu'aux réunions régionales et techniques? Oui. Très bien. Je vous remercie. Il en est ainsi décidé. Le Conseil autorise donc le Directeur général à inviter la République du Bélarus à participer à cette session en qualité d'observateur. Nous allons examiner maintenant le point 3 de notre ordre du jour intitulé "Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 2004". Le document CL 127/2 présente divers aspects de la situation actuelle de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde. J'aimerais demander à Monsieur de Haen, Sous-Directeur général chargé du Département des affaires économiques et sociales d'introduire ce point.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE

II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN

3. State of Food and Agriculture 2004 (CL 127/2)

3. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 2004 (CL 127/2)

3. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 2004 (CL 127/2)

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

[This intervention is the commentary in support of a slide presentation]

Ladies and Gentlemen, you have gone so effectively through your first part of the agenda that I hope you will bear with me if I introduce Item Number 3, the State of Food and Agriculture with a few slides. These provide additional data to that found in the document, updating the time series because when the document went to print we did not have all the information that we have today. However, I will not repeat the details available in document CL 127/2.

The State of Food and Agriculture in the World is one of paradox, -- as may be seen from this slide, which is familiar to you, from our Annual Publication, *The State of Food and Security in the World* -- shows that the World is not on track. Not on track to achieve the target of the World Food Summit Goal, which was to halve the number by 2015. On the contrary, on the global level, the number of undernourished people appears to have been increasing in the second half of the 1990s, which you can see when we go into detail. The three yellow triangles on the graphics show estimates of the number of undernourished people in 1990/92 and 1995/97 and 1999/2001.

In the first half of this period, the numbers declined by 37 million people. However, in the second half, they increased by 18 million. Therefore, if you deduct one from the other you arrive at the number of only 19 million total declines compared to 1990/92, which is, by the way, the benchmark year for the World Food Summit. These were the latest figures available when the World Food Summit was held in 1996.

The global figures for the change in the numbers mask, however significant differences between regions and between countries. This map shows that 47 developing countries successfully reduced the number of undernourished people during the last decade.

Now, referring again to the 1990s in total -- these countries displayed in green, you see that many countries in Asia, South America, and East and West Africa made progress. On the other hand, the countries now visible in red, 52 all together, -- I am speaking only of developing countries -- have, unfortunately, had to tolerate an increase in the number of undernourished. These countries include countries in Central America and the Caribbean, Central Africa and part of the Near East.

Although, I should say, in the Near East the level and prevalence of undernourishment is extremely low.

Let us now have a quick and final look at the numbers involved here. The countries which made progress – marked on the map in green -- show the number of undernourished people decrease by almost 100 million, 95 million all together. In the countries that experienced a set back, the number of undernourished was increased by almost 80 million. This is shown on the two graphs. As may be seen, the net difference between the two is the positive progress, which is the decline in numbers. However, if we only insert China in the green bar, it will be noted that China accounts for 60 percent of the total decrease worldwide. If you balance the rest of all developing countries you see that the numbers have increased if we exclude China. That is, of course, of concern for all countries that need to make more progress.

Speaking of the State of Food and Security, we can not exclude reference to the countries currently affected by food emergencies as of October 2004; these are 35 countries, the majority of them in Africa. The causes are varied, as we all know, drought and civil strife are the main causes of food emergencies in eastern Africa. Southern Africa continues to suffer from drought. Central America has been particularly hard hit by hurricanes this year, where floods continue to plague parts of south Asia. Desert locust, as we all know, has posed a serious threat to agriculture production in parts of western Africa and sub-Saharan Africa and the Saharian countries. Particularly affected was Mauritania which also suffered from a drought.

I refer you to a recent press release on the effects of the locust. All too often food emergencies are human-induced. This map shows countries that were affected and are affected by armed conflict, civil strife. Here the existence of internally displaced people or refugees is of major concern. More than half the reported food emergencies in Africa is concerning countries where a total of 35 million people are currently, worldwide away from their homes and therefore unable to take care of their land and, of course, to pursue normal work and take care of their livelihoods.

I should say these latest figures on the state of undernourishment referred to the year 2001. We will have a newer figure in the State of Food and Security Report that we are about to publish in two weeks' time. I did not yet review those latest figures, but the trends that we will have to convey to the world are similar to the ones that I have just reported.

Turning now to the basic trends in World Agriculture and World Agriculture production, this slide shows global agriculture production trends for the average of the 1990s and for the first three years of the current decade. This shows here in yellow the development of total agriculture production and you see here that the growth rates have increased in 2003 again to 2 percent, almost returning to the average growth rates – these are annual growth rates – obtained in the 1990s. The other two respective columns refer to plant and livestock production and you see the growth rates vary much more than the total which is easily explainable. I will not go into details here, but it may be of interest to you. It also explains that there were differences between countries depending on the importance of the respective subsectors in agriculture productions.

The next slide compares agriculture production growth in developing and developed countries. As you can see here, the annual growth rates of agriculture production are persistently higher in the developing rather than in the developed countries. However, in both groups production growth has accelerated significantly in 2003, which is of course encouraging.

Taking just one group of commodities, cereals, would still make up the majority of the calories that are going into direct human consumption, although that share is declining, FAO forecasts that cereal production will equal utilization in the current marketing year which ends in mid-2005. And this will, for the first time, match production and utilization with the result that the stock levels are expected to remain at the previous level. That is, we will not see a further decline in stocks which may have important implications for prices, as you can see on the next slide. We see a relatively close relationship between cereal stocks and prices. You see the declining white line represents the global stocks to utilization ratio for cereals. Notice the sharp declines in this ratio in the mid-1990s and again since 2000. The blue line represents an index of world prices for cereals

and you see that the spike that we all remember in the mid-1990s coincided with the drop in the stock-to-utilization ratio. Since 2000 the drawdown in global stocks has been accompanied again by a rise in the cereal price index. A levelling off of stocks, as we now forecasted for the mid-2005 should lessen the pressure on prices which, in fact, have moderated in recent months. The next slide shows, without much further explanation here, the price in cereals is matched by the price developments in most other agriculture commodities -- both this white line is the aggregate price index and there are a number of other prices that you see here for vegetable oils, cereals and meat, and they all go about in the same direction. As I said, we expect a moderation in the months to come as has started in the recent months.

Turning to agriculture trade, you may see that the overall rising trend and global agriculture exports has resumed its long-term upward trend after some years of decline. This has to do with a global economic development in general but important is that a significant trend in agriculture trade has been the growth of trade in processed and semi-processed products, not shown here but it explains the resumption of the trend to quite an extent.

This is related to the next slide which goes beyond what you find in the document but we found that you might have interest in this development. It shows the share of supermarkets in retail trade and it shows it for two periods, 1992 and 2002, for some regions and for some individual countries. You see that the share is rapidly rising and of specific supermarkets often selected number of partly globally acting supermarkets and that it is now at 50 percent at many countries. This has implications for small producers, small processors and traders and retailers and I just wanted to draw your attention to the fact that this is a trend that should concern us. It has potential, as well as risks especially for the small participants in the market, small farmers in particular. The Secretary is looking into it and will report about the implications as we see them, on another occasion.

The next slide, shows the dependence on agriculture measured in terms of percentage of the population who depend on agriculture for their livelihood. This is on the horizontal axis. On the vertical axis we have grouped the countries according to the percentage of the people undernourished. The bottom group is the one where more than 35 percent of the population is estimated to be undernourished. The top line is the country group with very little, that is, less than 2.5 percent undernourished. You see a clear relationship here that is growth in the agriculture sector is essential, of course, in reducing poverty and hunger, because as you can see countries where agriculture dominates the economy in the group is where the prevalence of hunger is most severe.

Now the next slides use the same grouping of countries. Here the implications are shown for capital investment. On the horizontal axis we have grouped countries according to the capital stock in agriculture per agriculture worker and it may be seen that the group of countries with the lowest prevalence of hunger has by far more capital invested in agriculture than the group of countries where hunger is highest. Not only this in the group where the prevalence of hunger is lowest, capital stock has increased, whereas in the most problematic groups, capital stock has decreased.

A similar pattern is shown on the next slide for public expenditure although that we are aware that a number of countries especially African countries have decided to increase the share of public budgets that goes into agriculture. These recent figures still do not show an effect. They still show that the share of agriculture going into public expenditure is by far the highest in the group of countries where hunger is lowest. The opposite is the case for the group where hunger is very prevalent. Here the public expenditure shares are rather low. Therefore, we take it as another confirmation of the fact that countries where the highest prevalence of undernourishment should do more to increase their contribution to agriculture. I should add that the measure used here is called "agriculture orientation index". We have not directly published the share of agriculture in total expenditure but we have related that to the importance of agriculture in the economy. Therefore, an index of one would be shown here in cases where countries' agriculture expenditure share equals the share of agriculture in the economy. None of the country groups falls into this

category of one. There is no country that has agriculture expenditure that is more than 50 percent of the economic importance of agriculture in the economy. All are far below in terms of agriculture expenditure share but the differences, as I have shown, are also in the undesirable direction.

Finally, development assistance is, of course, particularly important for countries that do not have enough resources domestically to promote agriculture and rural development and reduce hunger. This slide shows a similar pattern, very poor countries rely on external assistance as I have said, however from this figure it is apparent that external assistance does not target the neediest countries. It shows external assistance to agriculture, per agriculture worker, in countries grouped again according to prevalence of hunger. In 1999/2001 countries where less than 5 percent of the population is undernourished had about three times as much assistance from external sources, that is, development assistance to their agriculture than countries, where hunger was prevalent amongst more than 35 percent of the population.

In conclusion, the State of Food and Agriculture in 2004 gives cause for optimism but also for concern. First at the global level, agriculture production is growing strongly especially in the developing countries. Second, commodity prices have recently increased and recovered from their very low levels of a few years ago, but strong output growth that we expect suggest that the increases may be reversing and the prices will not spike as they did in the mid 1990s. This is at least our expectation.

Thirdly, progress in fighting hunger continues in many countries but others are falling behind. This shows us that progress is possible but it is not shared by many countries.

Fourth, we know what needs to be done; at least we believe that the overall direction is nowadays consensus among all experts. Investment in agriculture can be very effective in reducing hunger and poverty and many countries have followed this path but others do not. Therefore, the overwhelming evidence that we get from these data is that these investments are not being made in the most neediest countries and this refers to also external assistance.

So far the introduction into the document, I hope you found these explanations useful and of course we are available for further clarifications.

MA SHIQING (China) (Original language Chinese)

For more than 50 years countries over the world and FAO have been working together in an effort to reduce hunger and malnutrition, however, globally there are still more than 30 countries and regions which are confronting serious food shortage and malnutrition. There are 840 million malnourished people of which there are 798 million in the developing nations, an average of 60% in the Asia Pacific Region. Even though in the past 30 years Asian countries have made the most efforts/contributions in reducing malnutrition but owing to an ever rising population, reduction of resources and degradation in environment, the rate of reduction of the hungry population in developing countries is slower. According to the current rate of reduction we have to wait until 2015 for the malnourished population to be reduced to 610 million and we are not able to reach the target on time, the target set by the summit and the millennium objective. We express our greatest concern on the situation of malnutrition in the world. As the largest developing and agricultural nation in the world, the level of agricultural development and food security of China is of utmost importance to the development of the economy in China and social stability but also exerts a huge influence on the development of the world and stability of the world. The agricultural development has always been the primary mission of the national economy in China. Through the implementation of reform and the opening up policy, as well as in reform in agriculture, we have increased the motivation of hundreds and millions of peasants with the result that the overall production capacity has been significantly increased. We have witnessed a historical transition in which a chronic shortage in the supply of major crops has been transformed into equilibrium between supply and demand with even a surplus in bumper years. Relying on her own efforts, China has successfully resolved the basic questions of clothing and feeding its 1.3 billion population. At the same time we also see that because of a huge population, shortage of

capital, arable land and see fragility of the ecological environment, coupled with the low level in its agricultural techniques, China is still being confronted with many difficulties in raising its agricultural development and to realize sustainable agricultural development. We are still required to deploy long-term and arduous efforts. The Chinese Government has always viewed the problems of agricultural rural areas and peasants as top priorities. We are making relentless efforts in the structural development of agriculture so as to raise the global production capacity in agriculture and to push ahead with agricultural structural development and to increase our support in this sector, and to step up our research and extension in agriculture and to increase infrastructure and construction so as to increase the revenue of farmers, hence, to open up a new situation in the rural areas.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the agricultural development of developing nations. We attach importance and value our cooperation with FAO. We are willing to work together with the international community in eliminating global poverty and to make a due contribution to the attainment of the Millennium objectives.

China has accumulated much experience in agricultural development; we have developed and applied a series of mature technologies in farming. We are willing to share this experience and technology with developing nations and, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, to step up our efforts, cooperation, exchange with FAO, and international community, and, actively together with FAO, to engage in South-South Cooperation. We have been consistently supporting the South-South Cooperation within the framework of the Special Food Programme on Food Security; we have sent more than 500 specialists and technicians to cooperate with African and Asian countries and, on the basis of our experience, our own resources to cooperate with these countries within our own capabilities. Governments and international communities should attach great importance to agriculture and to implement seriously the commitments made in the Summit and the Summit *5 years later*. In order to adopt active measures and make relentless efforts to reduce hunger and make the peasants more prosperous.

At the same time, we would like to appeal that developed nations and the international community should step up its external assistance to agriculture, in order to speed up the development of developing countries in helping them to overcome poverty so as to attain the common objective of food security.

Fabio VALENCIA COSSIO (Colombia)

El GRULAC quiere hacer una pequeña declaración general y sobre cada punto concreto de la agenda a medida que se vayan desarrollando, en algunos quisiéramos establecer un punto específico. La intervención general es la siguiente:

En nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe ante la FAO deseo renovar a Ud. nuestra satisfacción por la conducción eficiente y acertada que ha tenido el Consejo bajo su liderazgo. Es de mayor interés de nuestro Grupo Regional abordar los asuntos del Consejo con un sentido práctico y mucha voluntad política por cuanto estamos persuadidos que estas condiciones coadyuvan al entendimiento que tanto se requiere para tomar decisiones sobre asuntos tan complejos. Como Presidente del GRULAC, y es natural que así sea, en esta declaración inicial formularé observaciones de carácter general; en el curso de las negociaciones los miembros del grupo que presido intervendrán sobre los aspectos puntuales de la agenda o sobre otros asuntos o propuestas que surjan durante los debates.

El Consejo aprobó una agenda nutrida y cada uno de los asuntos que examinará oportunamente tiene una importancia particular; sin embargo, en esta ocasión me referiré a los temas sobre los cuales el GRULAC tiene interés en fijar una posición política. El primero deriva del trabajo del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, en cuyo reciente periodo de sesiones se adoptaron dos decisiones relevantes para nuestros gobiernos, así como para el trabajo de nuestra Organización; la primera fue la aprobación de las directrices voluntarias, preparadas por el Grupo Intergubernamental para apoyar la realización progresiva del derecho a la alimentación en el contexto de la Seguridad Alimentaria Nacional; la responsabilidad de cada nación de garantizar el

derecho a una alimentación adecuada de sus pueblos es insustituible, por ello el conjunto de directrices voluntarias proporcionan orientaciones programáticas que sin duda favorecerán la observancia de ese derecho humano fundamental. Ahora bien, el apoyo internacional por vía de la cooperación, es un factor fundamental para que esas directrices puedan ser implementadas de forma eficiente y que puedan, por tanto, alcanzar su objetivo central, la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza existentes en los países en desarrollo. El GRULAC exhorta a todas las partes interesadas a trabajar en la implementación de las directrices y apoyará la iniciativa de transmitir las a instancias superiores en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas para su consideración y divulgación.

La otra decisión se vincula al Plan de Acción adoptado por la CMA de 1996 y a las medidas que habrán de tomarse durante el año próximo, para evaluar de alguna forma el progreso de su ejecución: La preparación de un diálogo entre las partes interesadas, es decir, Gobiernos, Organizaciones Internacionales y la sociedad civil, en el marco de un foro especial, es una decisión acertada y que respaldamos con firmeza. El GRULAC al endosar el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y expresar su reconocimiento a quienes trabajaron arduamente para lograr esos resultados, reafirma su compromiso para hacer efectivas esas decisiones importantes; en ese sentido el Comité reafirmó que con ellas las estrategias orientadas a reducir el hambre y la pobreza debían considerarse en el contexto más amplio del desarrollo.

En relación a las cuestiones programáticas y administrativas me referí a la decisión del consejo de aprobar la recomendación de efectuar una evaluación independiente de nuestra Organización. Los países miembros del GRULAC pensamos que esa iniciativa es conveniente en la medida que intenta fortalecer la demostrada eficiencia de nuestra Organización y procurar las vías para su modernización. El Grupo de los 77 ha venido considerando este asunto con el interés que le caracteriza y la posición que exprese durante los esperados debates del tema goza del más amplio y resuelto respaldo de nuestro Grupo Regional; tan sólo agregaré que tal evaluación no debe limitarse a los aspectos presupuestarios y programáticos de la FAO y que su realización en el mecanismo que se decide establecer debe contar con el apoyo institucional de la Secretaría General. El GRULAC tiene interés en que esta declaración finalice haciendo referencia a un tema inscrito en las cuestiones constitucionales y jurídicas relativo a las candidaturas al cargo de Director General de la FAO; al respecto tengo el agrado de manifestar que el GRULAC endosa la candidatura a la reelección del Director General, Dr. Jacques Diouf y le ofrece todo su apoyo para que continúe desarrollando su gestión dirigida al cumplimiento de los nobles objetivos de la Organización. Esta es la declaración general, y en la parte pertinente al punto 3, el estado de la agricultura y la alimentación, el GRULAC desea dejar la siguiente declaración: ante los elevados índices de desnutrición en el mundo y el aumento de personas en estado de subnutrición que vulneran el derecho a una alimentación adecuada, se exhorta a los países miembros y a las organizaciones de Naciones Unidas, en especial a la FAO, a implementar estrategias sostenibles e integrales de lucha con el hambre que permitan alcanzar los objetivos de la CMA del Milenio. El logro en el aumento de la seguridad alimentaria en sus 4 dimensiones: disponibilidad, acceso, estabilidad y utilización, solo será posible si existe un firme compromiso de la comunidad internacional en apoyar decididamente una mayor inversión para el aumento de la productividad; así como la implementación y desarrollo del sistema de información y cartografía sobre inseguridad alimentaria y vulnerabilidad. La FAO debe tener una posición firme de defensa de los intereses de los países en desarrollo en el progresivo fortalecimiento de las capacidades nacionales con miras a favorecer, en coordinación con la Organización Mundial del Comercio, el comercio internacional agrícola, la apertura de mercados y la eliminación de barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias, así como los subsidios internos a la producción y a la exportación. Los primeros pasos que deberá dar la FAO para lograr estos fines serán principalmente la continuidad en los esfuerzos para que los programas normativos no se conviertan en barreras no arancelarias al comercio internacional agrícola y la realización de estudios de impacto sobre los subsidios agrícolas y su incidencia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial. El GRULAC hace un llamado a los países desarrollados a revertir la tendencia a la disminución de la asistencia externa a la agricultura, para propiciar condiciones equilibradas de mercado, sin olvidar la preocupante tendencia de que los países en desarrollo tiendan a convertirse en importadores netos de productos

agrícolas, preocupados por el creciente número de desastres naturales, como los ocurridos en América Central, el Caribe y en otras regiones del mundo que provocan dramáticas emergencias alimentarias. Exhortamos a la FAO y a la cooperación internacional a proveer los recursos necesarios para mejorar los sistemas de alerta temprana y los programas de prevención y rehabilitación en las regiones donde se verifican el mayor número de estos desastres. El GRULAC finalmente solicita a la FAO apoyar decididamente y coordinar esfuerzos para alcanzar los compromisos asumidos en la declaración de los jefes de estado y de gobierno sobre la acción contra el hambre y la pobreza suscrita en Nueva York el 20 de septiembre del 2004 que tiene como finalidad la búsqueda de nuevas iniciativas internacionales destinadas a luchar contra estos flagelos e incrementar los recursos financieros destinados al desarrollo como aspectos esenciales para la seguridad y estabilidad mundial.

Suthiporn CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

We are satisfied to learn from the document presented by FAO that despite some of the setbacks in the reduction of malnutrition and undernourishment, the long-term trends for several food security indicators has been positive. However, we have strong concern in the high price fluctuations in the international agricultural commodities, which have negative effects on many developing and least-developing countries, particularly, those relying on exports of a small number of agricultural commodities for a large share of their export earnings.

For this we encourage FAO to take serious action in analysing the situation and finding solutions to stabilize prices of agricultural commodities within an acceptable range.

We are also concerned to find that agricultural share in international trade is declining and that the share of agricultural exports in total merchandise exports for developing countries have continued on a downward trend.

We agree that both policy and market factors have been a driving force for this trend, and urge member countries to create a favourable environment for international agricultural trade, which will subsequently increase agricultural production, thereby ensuring food security among members of the world.

In my opinion, a favourable environment can be created by the abolition of tariff and non-tariff measures and other trade barriers, this is agreed by my former colleague from Colombia who has just presented his speech. Examples of this favourable environment are the setting of food safety standards and environment protection. Developed countries and international organizations can provide scientific knowledge to help developing countries to improve the quality of their products in order to meet internationally agreed standards.

In this way, the long-term trend is a win-win situation, where developed countries can obtain safe food and agricultural products at lower costs than those produced in their own countries and they can use their resources to develop other innovations, while developing countries could make the best of their local resources and produce for international market at a fair price. At the end there would be enough food and agricultural products available for all.

Creating a favourable environment for agricultural production can also be done by reducing damage caused by natural disasters. FAO could take a major role in improving existing early warning system through which member countries should be given accurate information on the prevention and alleviation of the incidence in a timely manner.

In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to the spread of avian influenza among chicken industries in many Asian countries early this year.

Thailand has suffered from such outbreak to the extent that 60 million birds were stamped out and this was about US\$1.2 billion loss in terms of total revenue. However, FAO has taken an important step in combating the avian influenza in the region by establishing an early warning centre to detect and inform member countries of any outbreak as soon as possible. Thailand would like to congratulate FAO in such efforts.

Flavio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brazil)

Let me first greet you once again at the podium as our conductor, we feel secure under your leadership. I would also like to congratulate Mr de Haen for his excellent summary. His summary gave us a clear and better view on the state of our work in combating hunger than the more general document CL 127/2 could have offered us.

We are invited to assess the state of food and agriculture in 2004. Document CL 127/2 brings to the fore facts and figures about the scourge of poverty and starvation in a world of opulence.

This plenary shall declare from the beginning that we live the unacceptable situation of millions of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition against a world of wealth and dissipation.

Most of them, to be precise 798 out of 842 million human beings, come from developing nations. These numbers characterise the inherent inequality of the unjust model of development adopted for the so-called civilized world. They stress the need to redeem an unacceptable moral debt.

Hunger is the most perverted materialization of social exclusion. It reflects a human illness with no humane response, but above all it constitutes the end result of our inability to promote development.

The root causes of food insecurity penetrate the gloomy depths of underdevelopment.

Despite their potential to aggravate poverty and human suffering, natural disasters or infectious diseases by themselves hardly constitute direct cause for both visible phenomena. A whole series of economic and social factors explain better why hunger and malnutrition kill more people every year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined, and why every five seconds a child dies because he or she was hungry, referred to in a WFP News Release, published on 12 November, 2004.

"L'Espoir n'est jamais spontané, Il se construit [Chemilier-Gendreau]" que je prends pour référence.

We should concentrate our efforts in promoting development.

Our common dream of a united world fighting poverty and hunger cannot be seen as a mere discourse to build on human hope, we need actions.

The gap between rich and poor still remains deep and wide. While international capital flows swiftly, overseas development assistance decreases; while financial services flourishes, investment in development falls off; while mechanisms are being created to facilitate the operational needs of enterprises, the flux of people searching for job opportunities becomes progressively restricted; while political rhetoric adopts the mantra of free market, developing countries strive for fairer competition in difficult OMC negotiations.

We should dream the civilized dream of a unified world fighting the wild enemy from within, aiming at an inclusive world, a system which aspires to social justice and indicates the road to equality, building on the emancipation of humankind from the bondage of hunger and poverty through development.

Progress in the fight against hunger and poverty will be successfully achieved when all causes of underdevelopment have been properly addressed by the international community. The values of humanism offer an opportunity to defeat barbaric conditions. The moment, demands from society and political leaders, a sense of justice, practical measures, new opportunities, renewed and innovative financial sources, new solutions and mechanisms, under our common shared responsibility to build a new and more solidary world.

In the last few months, states have shown their ability and good will, engaging themselves in both bilateral and multilateral encounters to favour our common goal towards development.

Last August, in Geneva, WTO's Member States have reached a promising agreement on common steps for trade liberalization. The decision adopted by the WTO's General Council on 1 August

2004, represents a solid international commitment to bring trade to a new phase, free from market distortions and built upon fairer conditions.

The implementation of the Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture, agreed last August, opens new roads towards trade liberalization in agricultural products. When fully implemented, the main traits of the Geneva agreements will offer powerful stimulus to developing nations exports, contributing to the achievement of the development goals of the Doha Round.

Last September, in response to an invitation made by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, 61 Heads of States and Governments, followed by Heads of 20 International Organizations, met in New York at the United Nations Headquarters to mobilize international community attention to the urgent need to recover at the fullest possible extent the road towards development, focussing at this point on the challenge posed by hunger and poverty. I draw the attention of this Plenary to the eloquent wording of the Final Declaration of the Summit the Action Against Hunger and Poverty: "we acknowledged that it is also appropriate and timely to give further attention to innovative mechanisms of financing public or private, compulsory and voluntary, of universal or limited membership, in order to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals, and to complement and ensure long term stability and predictability to foreign aid. In this respect, we urge the international community to give careful consideration to the report that has been prepared by the Technical Group established by the 30 January 2004, Geneva Declaration. This report explores ways to find new resources for development, on a sound economic basis and at a significant level".

FAO's Member Nations are fully engaged in the process of combating hunger. Countries gathered here are committed to the accomplishment of the goals established in 1996 and reaffirmed in 2002, by the World Food Summit. We shall persevere in our efforts to fully implement the 1996 Plan of Action.

Based on its national experience, Brazil feels that an all-encompassing association of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and a significant range of representatives from the civil society, including the political, academic and private sectors is urgently needed. For well considered reasons, Brazil welcomes the decision taken by the Committee on Food Security under Item IV (b): "Arrangements for the special forum foreseen in the World Food Summit Plan of Action: Objective 7.3(g) and its effects on objective 7.3(h) of the World Food Summit Plan of Action-Future Developments".

We call the attention of this Plenary for the decision then approved and reproduced in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the Report of the 30th Session of the Committee on Food Security, document CL 127/10. It is an important step towards the realization of the objectives of the 1996 Plan of Action.

Brazil applauds the decision taken by the Committee on Food Security to undertake in 2005 a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the agenda item dealing with the preparatory process of the Special Forum. It is our understanding that stakeholders' involvement in the preparatory stages of the Special Forum will probably favour a more comprehensive and productive progress assessment of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, to be undertaken by the Special Forum in 2006.

This successful negotiation of the Set of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food is an example of this collaborative action among partners. We believe that the excellent document produced should not be confined to FAO context and limits. The ideas and proposals included in the guidelines deserve full disclosure among all interested parties. During the discussion of the report of the Committee on World Food Security, my delegation invited Members of the Council to recommend that the Guidelines be transmitted for their due consideration, to all major UN Agencies dealing with issues related to food security, as well as to invite the General Assembly of the United Nations to acknowledge and endorse the text.

It is by recognizing the reality of multilateralism that we will succeed in our efforts to build a more balanced international order.

We should strive against the injustice of poverty and hunger and the international community has the necessary and adequate means to do it. The international process should revive multilateralism based on a reformed and strengthened United Nations system.

At this final juncture, it seems proper to remember that fighting poverty and defeating hunger through development are priority goals for the whole United Nations system. In December 2005, our nations will gather in New York in that occasion when a review of the Millennium Development Goals is expected to happen, our nations should renew their strong commitment to the achievement of the goals established in that occasion.

Finally, allow me to return to Monique Chemilier-Gendreau eloquent motto, using her civilized language: *"Nous sommes là pour construire l'espoir. Nous ne pouvons pas rater."*

Peter WOOLCOTT (Australia)

Australia very much values the work undertaken by FAO and as this is the first time I have spoken here, at the outset may I say I look forward to continuing Australia's high level of contribution over the next few years. I wish to thank Mr de Haen for his introduction.

Australia welcomes the continuing work of the FAO Secretariat in the production of the State of Food and Agriculture Report which is particularly helpful in reviewing the prospects for world agricultural markets and the various factors which impact upon them. Australia also welcomes the high quality and timeliness of this report. The continuing state of food insecurity highlighted once again in this year's report is worrying because the numbers of undernourished people in the world have increased to 842 million. This is largely due to increased undernourishment in sub-Saharan Africa and in the Near East and North Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa stands out as having a chronic problem with 33 percent of the population suffering from undernourishment. Of particular concern to Australia is the large percentage of undernourished people, 60 percent of the total who are our neighbours in Asia and the Pacific. While the Report projects that the numbers of undernourished people in developing countries will continue to decline from current levels, Australia agrees that progress has been slow and uneven. It is disappointing that the 1996 World Food Summit target and Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of hungry people by 2015 are unlikely to be met. We should not relax our efforts to address these goals and we need to consider policy responses to these worsening conditions.

To this end, Australia is supportive of effective strategies to address the problem of food security in developing countries. However, it is important to remember that the world already has the capacity to produce enough food to feed the world's people. Inadequate food availability stems primarily from problems of distribution and access to food, not the ability of the world to produce adequate quantities. In recognition of the immediate food insecurity challenges, highlighted during the 1996 Summit, Australia has continued to foster the development of agriculture and assist in addressing the food security needs of developing countries, particularly within the Asia and Pacific Region, through our overseas aid programme.

Australian support for food security aims to encourage sustainable development, reduce poverty and promote food security in partner countries. Australian food security assistance is provided through the World Food Programme in keeping with the undertakings of the Food Aid Convention and is also channelled through assistance for agricultural research, rural development trade liberalization and governance.

Our aid aims to reduce poverty and improve access for the poorest and most vulnerable to sufficient nutrition-adequate and safe food. Key Australian food security initiatives include one billion dollars over the next five years to programmes and initiatives that would enhance the food security of people in developing countries. Australia has worked with our regional neighbours for many years to build national capabilities in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. While much has been achieved by countries of the region in this time, much still remains to be done.

Like others, such as Thailand and Brazil, have said, it is beyond dispute that international trade plays a vital role in delivering economic growth and reducing poverty in developing countries.

The Report underscores the importance of achieving an ambitious outcome in a WTO Doha Development Round of agriculture and negotiations. This Development Round will be the last opportunity for a generation to achieve global agricultural reforms. Successful WTO agricultural negotiations have the potential to produce large gains to developing countries through increased trade and production at more stable market prices, leading to higher incomes where their comparative advantage in agriculture is realized through increased access to developed country markets and increasing trade between developing countries and LDCs. South-South agricultural trade is already significant and growing. South-South agricultural exports, as a share of total developing country agricultural exports, have increased from around 32 percent in 1990 to over 41 percent.

The July WTO Framework on agricultural reform was an important milestone and it is important that the momentum and cooperation between WTO members generated in reaching the Framework is used to build upon this and go on to include the Doha Round as quickly as possible. The Framework provides the opportunity to significantly discipline the protectionist policies and high support levels in the major developed countries. Without such an outcome, there can be no agreement. We can understand the reluctance of many developing countries to seriously engage while huge levels of domestic subsidies continue to be used by developed countries. It will be to the benefit of all WTO members to contribute to further trade liberalization with the largest countries needing to do the most. Special and differential treatment for developing countries will be helpful to allow scope for developing countries to adjust flexibly to a more liberal trading environment.

Australia considers that an important aspect of FAO's role in facilitating policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality in the long term is in assisting and encouraging developing countries to participate in an informal manner in the WTO agricultural negotiations. Australia very much welcomes the initiative of African countries in proposing ambitious reforms on cotton subsidies, noting that the framework called for a sub-committee to be set up to address all trade-distorting policies affecting cotton. The sub-committee should be set up quickly to address significant issues for setting trade in that sector. It is critical that all countries seize the opportunity presented by the July Framework in agricultural reform to secure comprehensive reforms to world agricultural trade policies. Countries should now focus on the modalities faced in the negotiations in a lead-up to the next WTO ministerial meeting scheduled for Hong Kong in December 2005. Developed countries must not be able to continue to distort markets and undermine the agricultural advancement and poverty reduction objectives of many developing countries. Developing countries will benefit from market opening opportunities and from an increased trade between many developing countries and LDCs.

Anwarul Bar CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh)

At the outset, the Bangladesh delegation conveys its felicitations to the newly elected Vice-Chairman of the Session. The delegation, at the same time, would like to register its thanks to the Director-General of FAO and Assistant Director-General of Economic and Social Affairs, FAO, for the realistic projection of the global state of agriculture and food.

Against this backdrop, I would like to put in a few words on the state of food and agriculture in Bangladesh, which is symptomatic of the problems and prospects faced by the Low-Income Food Deficit countries. As you are aware, agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of Bangladesh and it will remain so in the foreseeable future. Yet, productivity and income in agriculture is much lower than in the non-agricultural sector. In the year 1999-2000, an estimated 62.93 percent of the total labour force was directly engaged in agriculture. In the 1980s, this share was higher: it was 72 percent. Agriculture contributed 23.46 percent to gross domestic product in 2002-2003 down from about one half in the early 1970s. Agriculture and agro-base commodities accounted for 11.2 percent of the exports in the year 2002-2003.

Food grains production in Bangladesh was on average about 1.46 percent of the world's cereal production. During the year 2003-2004, cereal production in Bangladesh was 27.6 million metric tons. In 1998-99, it was 21.81 million metric tons. There was an increase of about 14 percent over

the year 1998-99. The growth rate of principle food grains outplays the proportion growth rate in Bangladesh. Per head daily availability of food grains increased substantially. This is considered a remarkable achievement and a way forward for improving the food security system in Bangladesh. The government policy has been instrumental in increasing production. Series of mid-term plans, massive sector programmes and focussed budgetary stimuli have over the years nurtured and promoted our agricultural sector. Public sector investment for agriculture in agriculture research and accessory services, seed, irrigation and flood control dams is being continued on a priority basis. Agricultural credit is being made easily accessible to farmers to solve their cash problems in adapting new technologies.

The question is whether the current outpacing of food grain growth rate over the population growth rate can be sustained in the next decade. The country has been constantly suffering from increasing population pressure, high incidence to property, widespread malnutrition, unemployment and natural disasters like the reoccurrence of floods including land degradation. All these are threats to increasing agricultural production and improving food security.

From a largely peasant-based subsistence activity, agriculture today is more of a commercial entrepreneurial activity than ever before. Sub-sectoral growth performance indicates more diversification in the fisheries sector. Growth of the crop sector was more unstable than the growth of other sectors in agriculture. Lately, Bangladesh agriculture emerged as a dynamic sector since the 1980s. There was significant growth in institutional infrastructure as well as a shift towards liberalization from government control. Irrigation development was a major factor behind the spread of HYV coverage and its increase. Irrigated area increased by 5.5 percent annually.

However, Bangladesh agriculture is facing a few constraints in its growth.

Firstly, the high cost of production, particularly HYV rice. Rice production is not showing profit. In fact, increased growth in cereal production has not been translated into higher farm income because of high price of seed, fertilizer, fuel for irrigation and pesticides on the one hand, and low price of produce on the other hand. These aspects have made this sector non-profitable. Again subsidy in agriculture in Bangladesh is very negligible as compared to other sectors.

Secondly, seed fertilizer irrigation technology, which phenomenally increased agricultural production in the 1970s and 1980s, resulted in the decline of soil fertility due to nitrent mining, groundwater depression, high incidence of pests and arsenic hazzards. At the same time, cultivated land has been shrinking and agriculture is being pushed into marginal and vulnerable areas due to population growth and rapid urbanization. Thus, Bangladesh agriculture faces a new challenge, not probably because of changes that are internal to the country, but also because of changes in the global environment.

Thirdly, agriculture is no more a mere domestic affair. Rather, it is driven to be a commercially competitive sector exposed to the global market. At this stage, improvements in quality and product diversification for increasing incomes are of critical importance for reducing the level of malnutrition, satisfying consumer needs and entering into a competitive export market for sustained growth of this sector. So policy support, creating an enabling environment in the agricultural sector, has to target sector productivity, investments and risk by rationalizing public expenditure allocation, increasing public investment in infrastructures and services and promoting private investment in agriculture.

There are several areas and specific challenges which have to be dealt with as the country tries to sustain a high rate of growth of GDP with the agricultural sector making commensurate contributions. The areas are seed, fertilizer, irrigation, land, mechanization and development of marketing chains. These are the areas where FAO's interventions in the form of technical assistance are much needed. These are the areas, we believe, where most of the Low-Income Food countries need help and FAO can come up with a country-specific long-term recommendation.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de passer la parole au Représentant des Etats-Unis, je vous signale qu'il y a demande d'intervention du Pakistan, des Philippines, de l'Ouganda, du Burkina Faso, de l'Indonésie, de l'Inde, de la Suisse, du Congo, du Mexique, du Japon, de la Tunisie, du Chili, de la Communauté européenne, du Swaziland, de Cuba, de la République de Corée et de l'Île Maurice.

Jim G. BUTLER (United States of America)

The United States is committed to the goal of ending world poverty and hunger. The global ramifications of hunger are hard to over-state.

Persistent hunger causes human suffering and death. It results in lost productivity and unrealised potential of entire nations and regions. It leads to political instability, economic stagnation, civil unrest and war. It limits economic growth and trade opportunities.

To ensure a brighter future, the poor and the hungry of the world need greater economic opportunities which will come from increasing integration in the global economy. FAO and its members have a crucial role to play in this regard. Increasing agricultural productivity is one of the single most important conditions we can make to opening up economic opportunities to the world's poorest regions.

Success will require mobilizing political will and financial support, engaging our governments in establishing partnerships with civil society and the private sector. We also need to ensure that the UN Agencies, involved in the battle against hunger and poverty, are efficient as they can be.

This is a priority for my government and has been a key concern of Tony Hall, our Ambassador to the UN Agencies in Rome. Ambassador Hall is not at my side today because he is currently on a mission to investigate the humanitarian crisis in Darfur and to promote the international relief effort in the region. We expect his return later this week and look forward to his report to the Council on the current situation, as well as his thoughts on how this body can take steps to strengthen FAO, and the UN system, in their work around the world.

Turning to the specific Agenda Item before us, we believe the FAO State of Food and Agriculture Report is a viable tool for monitoring trends in global food security. The Report describes a sharp decline in the overall percent of the global population that is food insecure. Unfortunately, sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the least favourable trend in food security.

The Report notes that a large number of countries, predominantly in Asia, have experienced strong improvements in food security. It fails, however, to make the connection clear between this positive performance and the policy environment and opportunities for economic growth and trade. We believe that there are important lessons to be learned from this experience and the Report could have been more explicit on this point.

The Report notes the increasing importance of conflict and economic crisis as causes or contributions to the food emergencies. Recent research done by the Department of Agriculture also concludes that systemic shocks, both natural and man-made, are a major contributor to the chronic food insecurity, especially in vulnerable countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The G-8 recognizes the need for the focused efforts to address this problem in sub-Saharan Africa. Last summer the G-8 adopted an Action Plan for ending the cycle of famine in the Horn of Africa. This initiative is focused but not limited to Ethiopia.

We will work closely with FAO and other organizations to improve global emergency assessments and agriculture information systems. We will also work on the increasing agriculture productivity and advancing a vision of the second green revolution adopted by the African conditions.

Increasing agriculture productivity through science and technology is an important part of the solution to chronic food insecurity. FAO's annual publication, the State of Food and Agriculture

2003-2004, Agriculture Bio-technology, Meeting the Needs of the Poor, comes to the significant conclusion that agriculture bio-technology has the potential to benefit small resource-poor farmers in developing countries.

We welcome this Report and its careful balanced sifting of the science and economic evidence. Its conclusions reinforce our conviction that the gene revolution has the potential to enhance global food and agriculture production in poorer rural communities as did the Green Revolution.

We also wish to underscore the Report's lessons for ensuring that benefits of agriculture bio-technology reach the poor. Farmers in the developing world must have access to this technology. More resources, including public sector resources, need to be devoted to agricultural research and development and regulatory procedures must be strengthened.

The state of hunger and poverty in the world is directly linked to the state of food and agriculture. Hunger and poverty are complex problems. We must do better to reach the world's goals we set in the World Food Summit. FAO and its members must use every tool available to fulfil their responsibilities for alleviating hunger and poverty.

We look forward to a report next year that shows substantial progress in all regions of the world and hope for those in the grasps of the world's most persistent crisis.

Muhammad Ismail QURESHI (Pakistan)

The Report on the State of Food and Agriculture 2004 is timely, instructive but also very troubling.

Pakistan appreciates FAO's Report and the fine presentation made by Mr de Haen today, which lays bare the common challenges of poverty and hunger that we face today.

In Pakistan, agriculture is a crucial contributor to the national economy with a contribution of one-quarter of the GDP and 47 percent of the labour force. Fifty percent of industrial production comes from the agro-business and 70 percent of export revenues indirectly and directly through agriculture. It also provides 67 percent livelihood to the rural households.

Historically, Pakistan has done well in agriculture. Our average annual growth rate in the 1980s has been 5.4 percent; in the 1990s it has been more than four percent, but since 2000 it has moderated. I think the early period led to a significant decrease in poverty and hunger but the moderation of the growth since 2000, which now we start recovering, is for the new challenges to us to meet the MDG's target of poverty and hunger.

Agriculture, I think it is important to note, has been a key source of growth in South and East Asian countries, including Pakistan. I think it is important to note also that periods of high growth of GDP are generally co-related with the highest growth of agriculture.

The World Food Summit target of halving hunger by 2015, as we now know, will not be met. The number of undernourished in sub-Saharan Africa will increase from 168 million to 205 million by 2015 and from 25 to 37 million in the Near-East and North Africa. By 2030, 40 percent of the undernourished people in developing countries will be in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to 25 percent today.

The available evidence suggests that hunger can have severe negative effects on economic growth rates of the countries suffering from high undernourishment.

In view of the urgency of the matter, the international community should come forward in a big way and help these countries to fight poverty and under nourishment. It is imperative to develop human capital resources in the region. The price of cereals in recent years have risen quite sharply and this may also conversely compound the problem of food importing countries.

This data underscored the need of addressing the problem of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and underdevelopment, in developing countries in general, and sub-Saharan Africa in particular. Agriculture in this region lags behind other developing regions in terms of irrigation, value added

per worker, the use of fertilizer and other technologies in productivity growth and needs special attention.

The performance of agriculture, in view of large contributions in GNP, as a source of livelihood and employment, supplies of raw material for industries and markets for its product export is critical for the economy of developing countries. In the wake of globalization and related developments, the agriculture sectors exposed new challenges and problems.

At the same time, new opportunities have also emerged for the developing countries. Moreover, new markets are becoming available. However, many countries have not been able to fully benefit from these opportunities and have lagged behind. Many of these countries do not have adequate in-house institutional capacity and technical know-how to address the emerging policy challenges and issues. These are in dire need of technical assistance on a sustained basis for capacity building and training of local expertise.

The data on external assistance agriculture revealed a sharp declining trend over time. Both bilateral and multilateral assistance have contributed in this contraction. This trend needs to be reversed quickly if the requirement of capacity institutional building in the developing countries, critical to their improving agriculture, food security and the alleviation of poverty are to be met.

As per available information, the negative agriculture trade position of many developing countries has worsened over time, in spite of having a comparative advantage. In this context, the role of the WTO and the recently concluding negotiations in Geneva have become critical, as the outcome may help in increasing trade in agricultural products and contribute to economic development.

I want to share with my colleagues here the recent literature on the implications and the effectiveness of the trade policy.

According to the World Bank, the so-called poverty elasticity is one, about two. In simple terms, this means that the rise of one person in per capita income would unleash the reduction of people in poverty by two percent. We conclude then, that one way to fight against poverty is through trade policies that enhance growth in the developing world.

How do we achieve this? One of the recent books by Mr William Klein on trade policy and global poverty provides a unique and deep inside look at how trade liberalisation may reduce poverty through economic growth. According to him, the bulk of agricultural production stems from trade barriers, from tariff and non-tariff measures, tariff rate quotas, import licences, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical obstacles of trade, such as seasonal barriers and technical quality standards. Standards of size, colour, shape, port of entry, discretionary market entry barriers, anti-competitive marketing orders and transporters, restrictions and inspections beyond competitive needs.

The study estimates that the complete elimination of production would raise global welfare by about 230 billion US dollars annually. Developing countries would benefit with an improvement in welfare valued at 87 billion dollars. Imagine a scenario where if developed countries were to eliminate border production, global welfare would improve by 135 billion dollars with 57 billion dollars accrued to the developing countries alone.

The outcome is quite important, since it helps to defeat the common debate over the role and responsibilities of the developing countries in the trade liberalization process. In fact, by removing trade barriers, developed countries could transmit substantial economic benefits to developing countries worth more than twice the amount of annual international assistance. By giving a hand to developing countries, through the elimination of trade barriers, developed countries could grow through more fair trade.

The World Bank supports this assertion. It estimates that about nine percent of the gains of welfare could come from trade liberalisation from the part of developed countries.

Moreover, there is not a level playing field in agriculture, where developing countries are in a position to compete unless there is a complete elimination of export subsidies and substantial reduction of internal support measures that distort trade. The classic pillars of agriculture: internal support, export subsidies and market success are inter-linked. Welfare gains from trade liberalisation cannot be grasped by the developing world fully unless developed countries decide to go for the permanent elimination of distorting subsidies.

The long-term poverty reduction of trade liberalisation, estimated in the dynamic model at 539 million people. In other words, trade liberalisation or free-trade could reduce the number of people earning less than two US dollars a day by about 539 million people, 549 million from Asia, 14 million from Latin America, 15 million from the Middle East and 47 million from sub-Saharan Africa. This is an impressive result by any yardstick.

The central message is that a global reduction in poverty is possible if all nations agree to move all trade barriers. However, it would be unrealistic and even quite wrong to assume that trade liberalisation, *per se*, should be an end itself, rather than a powerful means to achieve development, a process in which people's incomes, productive capacities and freedom substantially increase.

The poor performance of agriculture in various countries and regions is symptomatic of inadequate investment in human capital, physical infrastructure, research and extension and long-term crisis management, as well as the building of an arsenal of trade barriers, especially domestic support and subsidies. The longer these investments and trade liberalisation is delayed, the less competitive agriculture will become and the weaker its potential for contributing to the overall development of the economy and addressing the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty in these countries.

It is time for joint action of both government and non government to reduce and eradicate poverty and hunger. We have the means now. We need firm resolve to eradicate this and transfer it into reality.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais faire une annonce. Le Groupe des 77 se réunira à 12h30 à la salle de Malaisie, donc immédiatement après la levée de cette session que d'ailleurs je lève, il est 12h30, nous reprendrons nos travaux à 14h30 précise. Je vous remercie.

The meeting rose at 12.35 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.35 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session Cent vingt-septième session 127º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-27 November 2004 Rome, 22-27 novembre 2004 Roma, 22-27 de noviembre de 2004
SECOND PLENARY SESSION DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
22 November 2004

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours
Mr Aziz Mekouar,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Aziz Mekouar,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

3. State of Food and Agriculture 2004 (CL 127/2) (continued)

3. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 2004 (CL 127/2) (suite)

3. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 2004 (CL 127/2) (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames, Messieurs, on reprend notre session. Avant de poursuivre avec les interventions sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 2004, nous allons passer un petit film sur la sécurité, la sécurité pour tout le monde, la sécurité physique des gens.

PRÉSENTATION DE LA VIDÉO

Merci. Nous allons donc reprendre le débat sur le point 3 de l'ordre du jour "Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 2004". Les pays suivants sont inscrits sur la liste des orateurs pour ce point: Philippines, Ouganda, Iran, Burkina Faso, Indonésie, Inde, Suisse, Congo, Mexique, Japon, Tunisie, Chili, Communauté européenne, Swaziland, Cuba, République de Corée, Maurice, Kenya, Angola et Sénégal. Je demanderais aux Représentants d'essayer d'être concis parce que nous avons pris un léger retard sur notre agenda et il faut que nous terminions nos travaux à cinq heures et demie. Je vous remercie. Je passe la parole aux Philippines.

Felix Jose MONTES (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to join our colleagues and express its appreciation to the Secretariat for an excellent paper. We remind that nothing seems to be working towards the World Food Summit goal of halving the world's hungry and malnourished by the year 2015, as the number of undernourished people in the world remains stubbornly high at an estimated 842 million people in 1999/2001. We agree with the Secretariat's conclusion that food security is much more than a food production problem in that the productivity and income growth in the agricultural sector can provide an important and, in some cases, indispensable contribution to reducing both food insecurity and poverty.

Food availability in my country is more than enough to meet the food needs of the population. The more serious problems are those related to access to food. Distribution of income and wealth in the country is highly unequal. The percentage living below the poverty line deteriorated to 34 percent in 2001. The number of undernourished people also deteriorated from 13.2 million in 1996 to 15.2 million in 2002.

It appears that the prospect of achieving the objectives of reducing the number of malnourished by half by the year 2015 are not bright. The priority issues and the main constraints to the achievement of food security and poverty alleviation in the Philippines are as follows:

First is inadequate local economic growth; second is inadequate agricultural and rural development; third is inadequate access of the poor and the marginalized to resources and opportunities that will allow them to participate fully in the development process; fourth is the lack of appropriate political, social and economic environment conducive to the elimination of poverty, hunger and malnutrition; and last, but not least, is population management.

My government is committed to finding solutions to all these problems. The Philippines Government is now redrafting our Medium Term Philippine Development Plan, embodying the government's anti-poverty and overall development framework. However, we cannot do it alone, external assistance is needed to beef up the very scarce resources.

Finally, the Philippines just like other countries believe that international agricultural trade plays a big role in achieving food security and in this context would like to highlight paragraphs 38 – 41 of the document under review.

I would also like to support the statement of our colleagues from Thailand, Brazil and Pakistan on this view. We would also like to call on the Secretariat to draft programmes and projects that will assist developing countries in its capacity building efforts towards achieving the Geneva Consensus arrived last July.

Fabius BYARUHANGA (Uganda)

The food security situation in sub-Saharan Africa is worrying to say the least, and the trade does not give us any hope. On the other hand, we were informed that the food security situation of China is improving very rapidly.

Sub Saharan Africa is not oblivious to what is happening in China and some other countries in Southeast Asia, and would wish to emulate them. Uganda believes that as long as our farmers continue to produce for the stomach or for their stomachs that is as long as our farmers continue to engage in subsistence agriculture, as opposed to engaging in commercialized agriculture i.e. producing for the market, the problems of hunger and poverty will remain with us. To put it in another way, Africa must industrialize or perish. The mere increase in agricultural production or productivity is not sustainable when Africa continues to produce and trade in unprocessed agricultural goods.

We have noted that whenever we produce more the prices collapse and this in turn discourages future production. Moreover, when we export raw agricultural goods, we are actually exporting jobs and with these jobs, of course, access to food. In order to join the rest of the world in the march towards involvement and the world without hunger, sub-Saharan Africa must first invest in the following.

One, human capital through education for all, through fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and through conflict prevention and resolution, which could be done mainly through democratization.

Two, we must invest in physical infrastructure, these ones include but are not limited to irrigation infrastructure and technology, roads, railways, electricity generation and telecommunications, to enable us to produce, process and move our products to the market.

We must invest in agricultural modernization through improved agricultural research, advisory services, agricultural credit delivery and post harvest handling.

Of course what I am saying is not new, you must have heard the same at various international fora. Africa itself has come out with various proposals under NEPAD.

What remains lacking is the commitment of the rest of the world to lend us a hand, to lend us the necessary financial resources to get the human development and physical infrastructure development projects off the ground. Also lacking is a world trade organization agreement that would guarantee us open access to the markets, an agreement that would also scrap the agricultural subsidies in the developed world.

Through the FAO programmes, Africa gets palliative treatment to this programme of hunger and under-nourishment. It is like when you give a person with malaria some paracetamol just to lower his body temperature without treating the real cause of the disease and, as I have said, the real treatment lies elsewhere. It lies with our big brothers who seem to be satisfied with giving us food aid where a once for all treatment or a once for all support in the development of the necessary infrastructure for development would do. Uganda, therefore, calls upon FAO to re-double its efforts in advocating for open markets and direct foreign investment in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our farmers will not fail you, they will respond with increased food production.

Mohammad Hossein SHARIATMADAR (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

In the name of God, at the outset I would like to welcome you once again as the Chairman of the Council and congratulate the bureau and the drafting committee members on their election.

My delegation also seizes this opportunity to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparation of a very good report on the State of Food and Agriculture. This report, compared with previous ones, has improved by providing more analysis rather than simply presenting facts and figures, emphasizing that still there is room for further improvement by inclusion of more analytical issues.

Since we all have read the report and many of my colleagues have already commented on that, my delegation takes advantage of this opportunity to share my country's experience in this regard with other honourable delegates rather than repeating what has already been said.

In general, Iran is considered a mountainous and semi-arid country. More than two-thirds of the total area is located in arid and semi-arid zones suffering from acute water deficiency. Nevertheless, in the light of expanded agricultural infrastructures, supportive policies, human capacity building, increased water efficiency, improvement of research, education, extension and technology, the agricultural volume of products has increased from 60.5 million tonnes in 1993 to 85.8 million tonnes in 2003, that is to say that per capita supply of food has increased from 692 kilograms in 1993 to 837 kilograms in 2003. In other words during the same period the country's per capita food production has exceeded populations growth 21 percent versus 17.7 percent, while at the same time the agricultural trade has moved from a negative to a positive territory.

Agriculture is regarded as one of the most important economic sectors in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In 2003 domestic agricultural production accounted for 93 percent of national food requirements with a share of more than 25 percent in the GDP employment and non-oil export value. In 2002, per capita supply of nutritional energy has increased to 3,600 kilocalories per day providing more energy than what an average individual requires. Whereas cereals have remained the staple food, food diversification should be brought into consideration.

Benefiting from appropriate strategies and policies together with favourable climatic conditions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken excellent strides toward improvement of yields and production, particularly in cereals and namely wheat. Importing annually more than 4 million tonnes of wheat, Iran ranked as one of the top wheat importing countries between 1989 and 2001. However, the Comprehensive Wheat Production Programme has brought, after 45 years, wheat self-sufficiency in the last farming year.

The Fourth Economic Development Plan that is to commence in 2005 has outlined the main strategies of the agricultural sector within the context of which the constraints are to be resolved. These are: agricultural export promotion; safeguarding natural resources; increasing the share of animal proteins in diets; development of agro-processing industries; promotion of food safety and improvement of agricultural marketing system.

Technical assistance rendered by FAO within the framework of TCP and TCDC has immensely favoured realization of the Iranian achievements, and still they are needed if the achievements are to become sustainable and to overcome the impediments of development.

In conclusion, I believe that in the light of cooperation, understanding and peace the international community will successfully accomplish the Millennium Development Goals and objectives of the World Food Summit.

Salif DIALLO (Burkina Faso)

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais donc saluer la sagesse avec laquelle vous dirigez ces travaux et également féliciter M. de Haen pour sa belle présentation de ce matin. Cette présentation montre que la situation alimentaire dans le monde reste très précaire en ce qui concerne les Etats africains et également préoccupante dans le cas des échanges mondiaux, notamment du commerce. Au

Burkina Faso, nous avons réalisé ces dernières années des progrès sensibles en matière de production végétale et animale et nous sommes parmi les pays où il y a une forte réduction de la pauvreté en milieu rural ces dernières années. En effet, une étude de la Banque mondiale vient de montrer que nous avons obtenu une baisse de la pauvreté de 9,5 point, consécutivement à l'augmentation de la production végétale. Mais nous sommes également un pays producteur de coton et le commerce mondial n'a pas favorisé cet arrêt et nous assistons à une augmentation de la production mais inversement nous assistons à une baisse des revenus monétaires pour les producteurs de coton due, non seulement aux subventions octroyées aux producteurs des pays riches, mais également à l'augmentation généralisée due à la production du coton.

Monsieur le Président je voudrais maintenant me faire l'écho de l'ensemble des pays de la région de l'ouest africain. Cette déclaration a pour but d'attirer votre attention sur la situation nouvelle que nous avons connue à partir de la campagne passée, situation due à l'invasion acridienne. En effet, le Burkina Faso s'honore de pouvoir parler au nom des pays de l'Afrique de l'ouest pour dire à M. le Président et à cette session que la situation acridienne est restée très grave les mois de septembre et octobre, mois durant lesquels plusieurs essaims se sont formés dans la plupart des pays de l'Afrique de l'ouest faire rendre d'importants dégâts tant sur les cultures que sur les pâturages. Une importante population acridienne s'est déplacée notamment de l'Afrique de l'ouest vers l'Afrique du nord, et une deuxième génération de ponte et d'éclosion s'est produite dans beaucoup de zones du Sahel. La situation est critique notamment en Mauritanie, où les criquets pèlerins poursuivent leur destruction. Le bilan des dégâts est particulièrement lourd dans ce pays. Si l'on n'y prend pas garde, les pays au-delà de la Méditerranée pourront être bientôt infestés. La production céréalière dans les pays du Sahel, qui avait atteint l'année dernière un niveau record d'environ quatorze millions de tonnes, va certainement chuter pour s'approcher de la moyenne des cinq dernières années, à savoir, tourner autour de dix millions de tonnes.

La chute de production qui se réduit donc en très grande partie à cause des infestations des criquets, avec son cortège de conséquences néfastes sur la vie de nos populations, interpelle fortement la Communauté internationale engagée dans un processus mondial de lutte contre la pauvreté.

Les moyens importants mis en place par les pays touchés, conjugués avec l'appui de la Communauté internationale, ne réussissent pas à envoyer une situation qui demeure préoccupante.

Aussi, par la voix du Burkina Faso, l'Afrique de l'ouest lance-t-elle un appel vibrant à la Communauté internationale et aux institutions des Nations Unies pour mettre en place un mécanisme durable et efficace sous les auspices de la FAO, doté de moyens conséquents et dont la mission consisterait en une lutte coordonnée et en profondeur, en vue de l'éradication totale du fléau acridien, dont on sait qu'il est cyclique. La sécurité alimentaire mondiale et la victoire contre la pauvreté sont également à ce prix et nous souhaitons que cette session puisse mettre l'accent dans les débats sur l'éradication du péril acridien. Je vous remercie.

Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia)

As we have a new Government as a result of our general elections I want to convey the warm regards of the new Minister of Agriculture, His Excellency, Dr Anton Apriyontono, His Excellency, Freddy Numberi, the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and His Excellency Mr Ka'ban, the Minister of Forestry to you and to the Director-General. Let me also express my appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for the excellent preparation of this document and for the clear presentation this morning.

In paragraph 3 of the document it was noted that the number of the undernourished people in 1999-2001 is estimated at 842 million where 798 million are living in developing countries, 60 percent of the total undernourished are found in Asia and the Pacific. It is further noted that due to population growth the total number of undernourished people in developing countries is expected to decline slowly, estimated at 610 million by 2015 and about 414 million by 2030. These forecasts suggest that the World Food Summit target and the Millennium Development Goal of halving hunger in the world by 2015 will not be met. We therefore urge the Council to request the

Director-General to take the necessary action to anticipate the above negative trends, because to achieve the MDG is already a world community commitment. The document also stated that the total number of the undernourished has been declining in recent years, especially in countries like Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan. To ensure the continuation of this positive trend, Indonesia appeals to the multilateral organizations and the developed countries to enhance their cooperation to develop the agriculture sector with the above countries. In this regard, my delegation noted with concern the delayed international investment in basic needs of agriculture development. The longer these basic investments are delayed, the less competitive agriculture will become and the weaker its potential for contributing to reducing undernourishment and poverty.

With regard to paragraph 22, it is true for Indonesia as predicted by FAO that in 2004 Asia and the Pacific in particular have gained increase in per caput food production as it was reported by our central bureau of statistics. This year rice production is expected to exceed the target. The production of rice up to December 2004 for Indonesia is expected to reach 54.34 million tonnes. It is above the projected target of 53 million tonnes. This achievement will assure that there will be no need for Indonesia to import rice for the time being. The rice production this year is sufficient enough to cope with this national demand. The total demand of rice for consumption in Indonesia is about 51 million tonnes per year. Consequently, there will be 34 million tonnes of rice available, and a surplus of three million tonnes of rice. The main reason behind the success of self sufficiency in Indonesia for this year, since the last achievement of 1982, is the successful expansion of the new land for rice planting. The land was formally used to grow horticultural crops, estate crops and land for new migrant people. The total area of the new land may reach 380,000 hectares and it is expected to produce one million tonnes of rice.

Regarding paragraph 39-40, we are all aware that the WTO negotiation has come up with a July package. The July package has stipulated a clear directive on special and differential treatment, modalities that will be developed in the area of domestic support, market access, export competition for the developing countries. We express our hope that the modalities currently under consideration at the WTO agriculture session in Geneva will be able to fully accommodate the interests of the developing countries. Stated in the document of Framework Agreement, agriculture is of critical importance to the economic development of developing countries and they must be able to pursue agriculture policies that are supportive of their development goals, poverty reduction strategies, food security and livelihood concerns.

We and the developing countries expect that the modality of tariff reduction schemes will not result in radical and dramatic changes as many developing countries do not have tools within the three pillars of agriculture development similar to those belonging to the developing countries in the pillar of domestic subsidy and export competition.

We and the developing countries expect that the implementation of the mechanism for Special Products and the Special Safeguard Mechanism will not cause any problems to developing countries. The modality will be able to adapt the interests of the developing countries concerning rural development, livelihood security and food security.

On the issues of the international food aid, Indonesia recognizes the importance of food aid as mentioned in paragraph 16 as part of a humanitarian programme. However, it is important to note that food aid in the form of cereal usually may disturb local market prices for a country where cereal is one of their major purchasing crops. The timely delivery of food aid should be calculated accurately because the delay of delivery should coincide with the expected harvesting period may lead to over supply that distorts the local market and consequently harms the income of farmers. We follow with attention the progress of the negotiation in Geneva on the issues of the food aid.

With regard to fisheries, my delegation took note of paragraphs 42 to 46. Indonesia will continue to enhance the development of aquaculture with a careful consideration on the environmental protection needs, and in line with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Indonesia will also continue to increase significantly its assistance to the small fishermen especially on post harvest handling, property allocation and environmental management.

We are preparing a technical guidance on the role of small scale fisheries that can contribute to food security and property allocation.

With regards to paragraphs 47- 49, Indonesia will continue to prioritize several main issues including combating illegal logging and illegal trade, preventing and controlling forest fire and rehabilitating degraded forest land.

The first issue on combating illegal logging and trade has been an important agenda discussed in a careful and steady manner in both bilateral and in multilateral fora. In 1999 a national movement was launched to increase forest function, not only as wood producers but also food producers for forest enrichment with food producing trees. This has been implemented in the form of seed distribution of food producing trees. In addition in 2003, a national movement for forests and land rehabilitation has been stated publicly. For the first period of 2003 -2007 an area of three million hectares of degraded forest and land will be rehabilitated. In particular, the movement is aimed to rehabilitate degraded forest and land priority, water sheds, provide employment and business opportunities and increase household income of the poor nearby the forest areas. By implementing the above programmes, Indonesia believes to strongly contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly goal number one and goal number seven.

As noted in paragraph 51, the external assistance to agriculture shows a significant fluctuation from year to year in terms of both bilateral and multilateral assistance. Indonesia urges the developed countries, donors and FAO to work together to achieve a maximum efficiency in the use of resources for agriculture development in developing countries.

We are grateful to know that the availability of food in developing regions has improved significantly over the last decade. In Indonesia food production has increased during the last three years and has resulted in a significant decreased food import. We are however concerned on the food shortages and purchasing power in some areas that lead to the vulnerability and malnourishment problem. Given this condition Indonesia supports any efforts to improve accessibility to food through income generating activities, especially in the rural areas.

Finally, in considering this important document my delegation is of the view that all Member Nations need to cooperate more closely. The challenges are very heavy. However, my delegation believes that with a strong commitment from the Member Nations and a wise leadership of FAO a more cohesive and significant global action to fight hunger and poverty and the development of the rural poor are areas that could be enhanced.

Ms Radha SINGH (India)

The presentation put forward by FAO on the State of Food and Agriculture has brought to the fore some very disconcerting facts, all of which are a great challenge to us all. In this context I would like to make a short summation of Indian agriculture during the year 2004, which is still home to a large number of poor and undernourished, around 20 percent of the globally undernourished.

Many in this distinguished assembly will recall the account of the extraordinary severe drought faced by India in 2002, given in the last Session of the Council and the Conference. It is now confirmed that our food production data plummeted 274.19 million tonnes, which is a decline of the order of 19 percent. Adequate precipitation in the following year increased production to 212.06 million tonnes. The current year also saw aberrations in rain fall coverage. Despite this, we are confident of achieving a food grain production level of 225 million tonnes. This should be good news to this august assembly as prospects of Indian agriculture has an important bearing on the World Food Security scenario. The large scale off take of wheat and rice by a public distribution system, a liberal allocation of these food grains as partial payment of wages under the Food for Work Programme approach for generating additional rural employment to alleviate seasonal unemployment and to safeguard livelihoods of victims of natural calamities, has sharply brought down the level of our food stocks. These are now at a level of our buffer stock norms. The endeavours of government to wipe out food insecurity are thus clearly bearing fruits, the evidence being a sharp decline in the rural poverty ratio to an estimated current 28 percent as

against 31 percent during the year 1999-2000. Nonetheless, I must mention that the production of pulses and oil seed continues to fall short of our requirements. There was an increase in the import of pulses from 0.63 million tonnes to 1.70 million tonnes in 2003-04, costing around US\$0.48 billion. There was a similar upswing physical and financial in the case of edible oil imports which during 2003-2004 stood at 5.29 million tonnes, costing US\$2.53 billion. We are treating this as a major area of concern and have set in motion a number of policy responses, including stepping up investment to boost production and incentivize its production of rice and wheat.

The value of output in agriculture at constant prices based on the year 1993-1994 has stood in 2001-2002 at US\$73 billion, thus registering a rise of around 21 percent from the base year.

The increase in value of output from forestry and logging was however of the order of only 3 percent during the corresponding period, indicating a high degree of prudence on our policies of exploitation of natural resources. Similar growth rates were also observed in the fisheries sector.

With a gross sown area of 187 million hectares, the area that is sown twice annually is 46.84 million hectares. Increasing population entails not only pressure on land but also an increased demand on agricultural produce, particularly with an upward mobile economy and a growing middle class creating additional demands.

The imperative need therefore, is to increase cropping intensity and to enhance crop areas to the extent that such enhancement is ecologically sustainable.

Massive step up in investment in irrigation, particularly application of newer water conservation methods thereof, treatment of water sheds and catchments areas on a large scale are steps in that direction.

We are also in the process of finalizing a scheme of promoting dryland farming that would more appropriately address the ecological needs of a fragile region and areas that are severely drought prone. Similarly, more investment in research pulses and oilseeds is on the anvil to achieve technological breakthrough. We are acutely aware of the need to carry out the diversification of agriculture which in itself poses complex policy options and imperatives, including operational issues, all of which will need to be cautiously addressed. Diversification is augustly not an end in itself. Shift from one crop to the other must be sensible and a response to demand with the twin underlying motives being improvement in the income base of the farmer and sustainability of agricultural operations. The real challenge is to have a paradigm of diversification, which protects and promotes farmers incomes through value addition, equitable marketing arrangements and helps to enrich the soil and environment. Among the initiatives set in motion we have requested the FAO for inputs to achieve this complex goal through delineation of best practices elsewhere in the world and adaptation to the Indian situation.

Promotion of the well-being of farmers through risk coverage needs much greater refinement to insulate the farming sector, not only from the vagaries of nature but also the highs and the lows of the market as well as from other manmade hazards. We in India are experimenting with more broad based insurance coverage programmes to protect income and livelihoods, with emphasis on development of horticulture wherever the agro-climate is so permitting. Out of the 140 million or so rural households more than 40 million, though dependent on agriculture, have limited or no access to land. This group is in the most food-insecure category. Seasonal unemployment and loss of livelihood caused by aberrations of nature bring the food insecurity to the fore. Government is determined to redeem a pledge made to the people. It is actively engaged in the process of putting in place a legislative framework for providing employment guarantee in the rural areas, ensuring a 100 days of guaranteed employment to each rural household on demand. We have every reason to believe that this massive intervention will effectively take care of resistant pockets of rural poverty in our country.

I underscore the fact that the Indian farming community, the agriculture extension, research and education systems in the country have made appreciable strides that are all too evident.

Through this august forum I call upon the FAO and the member nations to see that Indian expertise in agriculture and allied disciplines finds adequate representation in international organizations for the larger good of global agriculture. We are confident that developing countries will derive optimum benefits from the network of our research institutions and agriculture universities, in training research scientists and professionals and for caring on a sustained campaign against poverty, food insecurity and lack of self sufficiency in agriculture production in the Least Developed Countries. We too share the collective concern regarding inadequacy of resource flow to the agriculture sector, and would like to urge all concerned parties, especially the developed countries, to enhance their commitment to agriculture and rural development as that is the sector where the poor live and poverty exist.

Eduard HOFER (Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, nous nous allions aux félicitations exprimées vis-à-vis de votre conduite de la séance.

Nous remercions aussi Monsieur de Haen pour son. excellente présentation des derniers faits et le Directeur général pour ses mots clairs.

La Délégation suisse remercie, en plus, le Secrétariat pour le document CL 127/2, il est concis et bien structuré et met en évidence les aspects positifs et négatifs de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde.

Comme relevé dans ce document, le progrès enregistré dans la lutte contre la faim est très lent et très inégal selon les pays et les régions. Les raisons principales de cette situation sont connues: absence de volonté politique, mauvaise gouvernance, insuffisance du flux de ressources du secteur agricole, faiblesse des prix des produits de base, crise alimentaire provoquée par des conditions climatiques défavorables mais aussi par l'homme.

La Suisse déplore vivement le peu de progrès réalisés dans la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition. Il importe, si nous voulons atteindre notre objectif, d'agir et de prendre ensemble des mesures efficaces.

La FAO sera forcée dans un contexte de contraintes budgétaires de définir de manière encore plus précise les priorités de son action et de renforcer sa coopération, notamment sur le terrain avec les autres Agences de l'ONU.

Pour sa part, le gouvernement de mon pays continuera, en plus de son importance bilatérale, à apporter son soutien à l'action de la FAO dans la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition.

De manière très concrète, la Suisse entend notamment s'engager en faveur de la mise en œuvre des projets et actions suivants:

- Premièrement: "Le traité international des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture". La Suisse a ratifié ce traité et déposera aujourd'hui l'instrument de ratification auprès du Directeur général de la FAO. Mon pays accorde beaucoup d'importance à la mise en œuvre du traité. Il considère que ce traité peut contribuer de manière substantielle à une agriculture durable et, par ce biais, à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Nous reviendrons sur cette question dans le traitement du point de l'ordre du jour consacré aux ressources génétiques.
- Deuxièmement: "Le droit à une alimentation adéquate". La Suisse, je crois pouvoir le dire, a fourni un engagement actif tant sur le plan financier qu'intellectuel à l'élaboration des lignes directrices volontaires. Elle vise à assurer la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire. Il va sans dire que mon pays se félicite de l'approbation de ces directives par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale lors de sa réunion du mois de septembre et espère, bien évidemment, que ce Conseil les adoptera. Une première étape importante a été franchie avec leur élaboration, mais il faut tout de suite passer au stade de la concrétisation. La Suisse est, pour sa part, prête à y contribuer. Mon pays est, par ailleurs, très curieux de connaître, lors de cette réunion, les intentions et les propositions de la FAO concernant

son engagement dans la mise en œuvre effective des directives. Nous aurons l'occasion de revenir sur ce point au point 4.1.

- Troisièmement: "Partenariat international pour le développement durable dans les régions de montagnes". La Suisse continue à fournir son appui à ce Partenariat lancé lors du Sommet international sur le développement durable en 2002. Au cours de cette année, mon pays a notamment apporté une contribution substantielle à la mise sur pied et au succès de la Deuxième Réunion mondiale du Partenariat qui s'est déroulée fin octobre à Cuzco au Pérou. Cette conférence s'est achevée par l'adoption d'un plan d'action servant de cadre. Il fixe des objectifs clairs et des priorités pour une collaboration efficace entre les Membres pour une évolution durable dans les régions de montagnes.
- Quatrièmement: "L'agriculture et le développement durable". Dans le prolongement de la Conférence qu'elle avait organisée en étroite collaboration avec la FAO en 2002, la Suisse a soutenu les travaux d'élaboration d'un projet de quatre ans. L'objectif à long-terme de ce projet, qui va démarrer en 2005, est de faciliter une meilleure formulation, mise en œuvre et évaluation des politiques en faveur de l'agriculture et du développement durable en région de montagnes. Au vu de l'importance de ces questions, la Suisse espère que la FAO accordera à l'avenir une importance accrue à la thématique de l'agriculture et du développement rural durable pas exclusivement, mais notamment, en région de montagnes.
- Cinquièmement: L'engagement de la Suisse ne se limite cependant pas aux projets que j'ai mentionnés. Mon pays apporte et continuera à fournir un soutien important à d'autres actions réalisées par la FAO, entre autre dans le cadre du Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire de manière plus spécifique dans le secteur de la petite irrigation avec l'utilisation de pompes à pédales ou dans le financement de l'échange sud-sud. Elle continuera également à apporter son appui au système EMPRES, en particulier aux programmes de prévention et de contrôle des criquets pèlerins.

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse, conformément à sa tradition, continuera par une attitude pragmatique et constructive à contribuer aux efforts de la FAO pour atteindre les objectifs de lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Muhammad Ismail Qureshi, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the Chair
Muhammad Ismail Qureshi, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Muhammad Ismail Qureshi, Vicepresidente del Consejo

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Notre délégation tient à féliciter et à remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document relatif à la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture qui nous est soumis.

Au sujet de la situation actuelle de la sécurité alimentaire, selon la FAO, le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées dans le monde reste obstinément élevé, soit 842 millions de personnes en 1999-2001. Soixante pour cent des victimes de la sous-alimentation vivent dans la région Asie et Pacifique, vingt-quatre pour cent en Afrique Sub-Saharienne. Les projections sur le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées en 2015 et 2030, élaborées par la FAO, confirment l'urgence que revêt le problème dans les pays d'Afrique Sub-Saharienne, où le nombre des victimes de la sous-alimentation devait atteindre neuf millions entre 1997/1999 et 2015. D'ici 2030, environ quarante pour cent des personnes sous-alimentées dans les pays en développement vivront en Afrique Sub-Saharienne, contre vingt-cinq pour cent aujourd'hui. Ces tendances et projections justifient de manière impérieuse le rang et le vœu de priorité qu'il convient d'accorder au développement agricole de l'Afrique Sub-Saharienne.

S'agissant de la situation actuelle de l'agriculture, l'Afrique Sub-Saharienne est la seule région en développement où la production alimentaire par habitant n'a pas augmenté durant les trois dernières décennies. Cette production se situe aujourd'hui au même niveau qu'il y a deux décennies. À la différence des prix des denrées alimentaires de base qui ont un peu progressés, les prix des produits tropicaux et des matières premières agricoles restent mitigés.

Monsieur le Président, devant ce tableau très sombre, comment comprendre qu'il y ait toujours dans ce monde une indifférence caractérisée des riches envers les pauvres. Comment comprendre que l'Afrique soit indiquée comme étant le plus gros bénéficiaire par habitant de l'aide alimentaire en céréales alors que les volumes sont largement inférieurs à ceux d'il y a dix ans. Comment comprendre qu'en 2001, l'aide extérieure à l'agriculture est demeurée quasiment inchangée par rapport aux deux dernières années. Comment comprendre que l'aide extérieure à l'agriculture soit plus importante dans les pays où la prévalence des victimes de la sous-alimentation est à la population faible? Comment comprendre enfin, qu'à cause des pratiques discriminatoires, honteuses et grossières, les négociations sur le commerce agricole en cours au sein de l'OMC et dont le résultat jouera un rôle primordial dans l'amélioration du rôle des échanges agricoles sur le développement économique de nombreux pays en développement puissent piétiner?

Monsieur le Président, face à ce constat insolite, notre délégation propose au Conseil, de souligner avec force dans le rapport, que ce sont les égoïsmes mondiaux qui ne favorisent pas des avancées significatives en vue de la réduction de la prévoyance de la sous-alimentation dans le monde, particulièrement dans les pays en développement.

Monsieur le Président, en République du Congo, les secteurs de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche figurent au nombre des priorités de notre action. Afin d'assurer une base pour le lancement du programme décennal 2004-2013 de développement agro-pastoral et haléutique, il a été mis en œuvre en 2003 un programme d'urgence de relance de l'agriculture d'un coût global de 7,6 milliards de Francs CFA entièrement financé par l'État. Le développement de notre secteur économique non-pétrolier implique aussi une exploitation bénéfique et rationnelle de notre forêt. La production nationale de bois de 500 000 m³ en 1997 atteindra 1 500 000 m³ en 2004. Celle des sillages s'est considérablement accrue passant de 50 000 à 200 000 m³. Par ailleurs, le gouvernement a résolu de créer des aires protégées et des parcs nationaux avec l'aide des partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux. Ainsi, la superficie de celle-ci passe de 200 000 à 3 600 000 hectares soit 11 pour cent du territoire national. Par sa politique et son action forestière, le Congo a acquis la notoriété internationale de pays très avancé dans la gestion durable de ses ressources forestières et de sa bio-diversité. Promus pour jouer le rôle de laboratoire pour une nouvelle gestion des forêts tropicales, il œuvre et continue d'œuvrer pour la concertation, la transparence et la bonne gouvernance forestière en Afrique Centrale.

Monsieur le Président, nous tenons ici et maintenant, à rendre hommage à tous ceux de nos partenaires qui ont résolu d'accompagner concrètement le Congo dans le difficile processus de sa reconstruction.

Antonio RUÍZ GARCÍA (México)

Quisiera empezar señalando que México apoya en todos sus términos la posición expresada por el Presidente del GRULAC en relación al informe presentado. En este sentido ve con profunda preocupación que las actuales tendencias en la lucha para combatir el hambre en el mundo mantienen un ritmo extremadamente lento, por lo que, cada vez es más difícil que pueda cumplirse el objetivo, fijado por la Cumbre Mundial de 1996 y refrendado cinco años después, de reducir en el 2015 a la mitad el número de personas que padecen hambre en el mundo.

La FAO está realizando una tarea importante. Las iniciativas en marcha, como el Programa Internacional contra el Hambre y la conclusión de las negociaciones sobre las directrices voluntarias sobre el derecho a la alimentación, constituyen un marco propicio para continuar impulsando las acciones de toda la comunidad de naciones. Sin embargo, urge emprender acciones específicas y mejor coordinadas para reducir los grandes desequilibrios que se presentan en el sector agrícola y en la alimentación, con especial atención a las regiones donde el número de personas subnutridas se ha incrementado y donde las estimaciones para la reducción de esta lamentable situación no presentan un panorama favorable.

Tal como se desprende del apartado 2 del Documento CL 127/2, según la presentación hecha esta mañana por el Sr. de Haen, nos llama la atención que México sea considerado un país en el cual se incrementó el número de personas subnutridas en el período de estudio, cuando México cuenta

con una evaluación externa de su estrategia contra la pobreza alimentaria, realizada recientemente por el Banco Mundial, que certificó la reducción en 3.2 millones de personas en esta condición, por lo que mi país mantendrá reservas acerca del Informe sobre Inseguridad Alimentaria próximo a publicarse.

Si bien la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza es una tarea primordialmente nacional, se debe contar con el apoyo y el respaldo de la comunidad internacional y de los organismos internacionales. Por ello, constatamos con preocupación, tal como lo indica el párrafo 51 del documento citado, la tendencia decreciente a largo plazo de la asistencia externa a la agricultura. Los compromisos y objetivos asumidos en Monterrey adquirirán un sentido relevante, si el financiamiento al desarrollo se dirige especialmente al sector rural, que es donde se concentra el mayor número de pobres en el mundo. El apoyo a la agricultura es una buena inversión, sobre todo si está orientada a la agricultura viable, sostenible y comercial de pequeños agricultores. Así se logrará disminuir el hambre, impulsar el desarrollo de los países como también la paz y la estabilidad en el mundo.

México enfrenta todavía grandes retos en el sector rural, pero estamos dando pasos firmes para impulsar la productividad agrícola y disminuir la pobreza alimentaria. El Gobierno del Presidente Vicente Fox aplica una política social y económica amplia e integrada, con el propósito de elevar la competitividad agrícola, aumentar la disponibilidad de alimentos de calidad a precios accesibles y, en general, promover el desarrollo del medio rural. En este sentido, el Gobierno mexicano trabaja en dos grandes líneas estratégicas: por un lado, el fomento productivo y económico, y por el otro, el desarrollo humano y social. Todo esto en un nuevo marco legal que tiene como punto de partida la Ley de Desarrollo Rural Sustentable, recientemente publicada en 2001, que posee una visión integral, participativa y descentralizada del desarrollo rural, y un acuerdo político, llamado Acuerdo Nacional para el Campo, que consiste en la firma de un documento programático entre todos los actores relevantes del medio rural en México.

En lo relativo al fomento económico y productivo del sector agrícola, se ha ido modificando el uso de recursos públicos para pasar, de los mecanismos de subsidio compensatorio a lo que son los subsidios distorsionantes de países que intervienen en sus agriculturas, fundamentalmente países desarrollados, hacia el uso presupuestal de recursos a mecanismos de inversión y capitalización del sector agrícola, provocando con ello un crecimiento relevante a la acumulación de capital en el sector en los últimos años e induciendo el crecimiento de inversión privada y financiamiento al sector. Esta estrategia ha mostrado su pertinencia, ya que durante el período 2001-2003, se ha dado por primera vez desde el trienio 1959-1962, un período de crecimiento de tres años consecutivos del sector agrícola, y donde cada año se crece más aprisa que el año anterior y que en promedio da una tasa de 6 por ciento anual.

Para la segunda acción orientada al desarrollo humano y social, sobresale la estrategia llamada Oportunidades que llega a más de cinco millones de familias, la cual mediante y subsidio neutro al ingreso de familias pobres entregado a través de las madres de las familias y condicionado a un monitoreo de salud, educación y alimentación, ha demostrado ser un mecanismo eficiente y eficaz de disminución de la pobreza alimentaria, tal y como lo certificó la evaluación realizada por el Banco Mundial anteriormente mencionada.

Es importante mencionar, en este sentido, que México ha contribuido con su parte a las metas del milenio y, por lo tanto, ha definido nuevas metas internas, más ambiciosas, llamadas Objetivos más allá del Milenio a cumplir para el 2015. En el ámbito internacional México trabaja afanosamente para que continúen avanzando las negociaciones que lleven a la desaparición de políticas proteccionistas en el sector agrícola y se abra plenamente el acceso a los productos agrícolas de los países en desarrollo. Mi país está comprometido con un comercio internacional justo y equitativo como medio idóneo para el desarrollo de las naciones. En este sentido nos congratulamos con el contenido del párrafo 41 del documento citado y exhortamos a la FAO para que continúe prestando su valioso apoyo técnico para el avance de las negociaciones en el marco de la Organización Mundial del Comercio.

Yoshitaka SUMI (Japan)

The document by the Secretariat explains the recent conditions of food and agriculture in the world and summarizes the main issues which concern the attainment of the World Food Summit Goal of halving the number of undernourished people by the year 2015. The progress of reaching this goal has, so far, been unsatisfactory and the national efforts and the international alliance against hunger should be further strengthened.

Our delegation considers it important to make the national activities and international alliances more effective and efficient, together with the effort to increase the amount of resources. We also consider that the priority of activities in each of the regions and countries should be adequately studied.

Japan has been providing technical and financial cooperation to developing countries for medium- to long-term agricultural and rural development, as well as for emergency relief and rehabilitation from natural and man-made disasters. It has also been contributing to international initiatives such as by hosting the SAD Tokyo International Conference for African Development, Article 3, and by participating in the Asian Food Stock Programme for Emergency Assistance.

Concerning the issue of international trade and food security, Japan has been attending WTO agricultural negotiations and the DOHA Declaration to realize the flexible and balanced rules of agricultural trade with the basic consideration that the existence of various types of agriculture is important for sustainable agricultural and rural development.

Japan understands that this year's Framework Agreement is very meaningful for the development of a multilateral trade system under WTO and for the economic development of developing countries. Our country would like to make contributions to the negotiations for the establishment of balanced and realistic modalities trying to improve substantial market access while making appropriate considerations to developing countries.

I would like to remind you that these trade-related issues need to be discussed in an appropriate forum in Geneva with full mandates by concerned parties. As is sometimes mentioned by member countries, the responsibility for food security lies with each of the national governments. Under self-efforts of the governments would be the premise for regional and international cooperation and alliance. With this thinking, the government of Japan would like to continue the possible and appropriate assistance, respecting the self-efforts and independence of developing countries.

Mohamed LASSOUED (Tunisie)

Monsieur le Président, tout d'abord un grand merci à la FAO pour avoir préparé un document aussi exhaustif et qui donne une vue globale de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde basée sur une analyse scientifique. C'est ce que les intervenants ont déjà dit, donc je vais m'abstenir de répéter tout cela.

Maintenant, en ce qui concerne la situation alimentaire dans le monde, nous aimerions que les projets visant à augmenter la production et la productivité soient soutenus aussi bien par le FAO que par les Gouvernements Membres. J'aimerais rappeler que l'on ne peut pas parler de la situation de l'alimentation sans prendre en compte les fléaux qui menacent le continent africain. J'aimerais rappeler à ce propos le criquet pèlerin qui a envahi un bon nombre de pays africains depuis l'automne 2003. Ce fléau jusqu'à ce jour continue à se propager d'une façon sans précédent. Cette situation est absolument extraordinaire. La gravité de la situation risque d'empirer, surtout avec la reproduction hivernale, et malgré les efforts déployés par les pays touchés par le criquet, ce grave fléau constitue un danger sérieux pour l'agriculture et pour la sécurité alimentaire dans un bon nombre de pays africains. Devant cette situation désastreuse les Ministres de l'agriculture de l'UMA ont organisé une réunion ce mois-ci, au cours de laquelle ils ont élaboré un programme de travail pour la lutte contre le criquet en deux phases. La première phase vise à renforcer la lutte contre le criquet dans la zone du Maghreb et surtout dans les zones de reproduction hivernale qui couvrent deux millions d'hectares avec un coût de 40 millions de dollars américains. La deuxième

phase constitue les dangers auxquels les pays de l'Afrique du nord seront confrontés si l'on n'arrive pas à contrôler la reproduction hivernale en ce moment. Dans ce cas, la lutte devra se faire sur plus de 8 millions d'hectares coûtant plus de 140 millions de dollars américains.

A ce propos, j'aimerais exprimer nos remerciements à toutes les Organisations nationales, internationales et aux pays frères et amis, qui nous ont soutenus, ainsi que la société civile et les Organisations internationales et nous espérons que grâce aux efforts conjugués de tout le monde nous arriverons à mettre un terme à ce fléau.

Ángel SARTORI ARELLANO (Chile)

El documento CL 127/2 nos motiva una serie de reflexiones para abordar un tema tan relevante como el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación. Quisiera compartir con este Consejo cuales han sido las prioridades que nuestro país ha identificado con el propósito de superar esta situación.

Nuestro sector silvo-agropecuario convive con el comercio internacional, es un sector dinámico que ha hecho inversiones, que se ha caracterizado por hacer uso de innovación, de modernidad, de inversiones, de riego, etc.; sin embargo también existen sectores más tradicionales, donde la pobreza ha sido una norma permanente y que poco a poco hemos ido superando. El sector exportador y las políticas que para ello se han diseñado, ha sido fruto de años de acuerdos entre el sector agrícola, el sector público, el sector privado, la academia, los comerciantes, con el propósito de elaborar una política agrícola chilena, una política agrícola que ha definido instrumentos, instrumentos que tienen financiamientos, instrumentos que han sido validados y están absolutamente consolidados por el sector.

Este sector de nuestra agricultura está absolutamente incorporado al comercio internacional. Hemos mejorado competitividad, acceso al mercado, mantenemos permanente nuestra voz en los organismos del comercio con el propósito de que sea lo más libre posible. Creemos en el libre comercio; creemos en un libre comercio que sea equitativo y que debe estar señalado por la calidad, la oportunidad, los precios, sin interferencias. Este sector exportador genera ingresos, demanda mano de obra, es un sector dinámico.

Pero también hay un sector que sustituye importaciones y hay un sector que fundamentalmente es de subsistencia. Y aquí tenemos que hacer un esfuerzo, con el propósito de incorporar estos sectores también a una dinámica que genere capital, que genere recursos y que pueda superar situaciones de pobreza.

Y aquí es justamente donde, desde el punto de vista de nuestra delegación, hay algún déficit en el documento que hemos visto. Nosotros pensamos, y ya ha sido mencionado por otras delegaciones, que el tema de la investigación y de la generación de tecnología es un punto sustantivo con el propósito de mejorar competitividad, mejorar la rentabilidad del sector. Aquí hay un tema interesante, la investigación, cómo innovamos, producir nuevos bienes y que estos bienes sean de calidad, que incorporen mayor mano de obra. Por lo tanto, el tema es el de la investigación agrícola, de la generación de tecnología y de cómo podemos hacerla llegar a los sectores más pobres.

En este tema hay un sector importante para contribuir a superar estas situaciones, es la incorporación de cadenas agroalimentarias, y en esto la FAO tiene experiencia; la incorporación de cadenas agroalimentarias en las que incorpora mayor cantidad de productos, nuevos productos, le agrega valor, es un medio para mejorar la rentabilidad del sector cuando hay situaciones de caída de precio de los productos.

También se ha mencionado un hecho relevante: producir aquellos bienes que efectivamente los mercados requieren; hay una lógica de producir aquello que se demanda y producir aquello que se demanda de la mejor calidad posible.

Son temas que me llaman a la reflexión, son temas que nuestro país, país pequeño, ha utilizado con el propósito de superar situaciones de pobreza. Estamos dando pasos importantes y quedan muchos por hacer; hemos querido compartir nuestra experiencia con otros países de la región.

Nuestro país está comprometido con el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria, estamos contribuyendo con países de la región, y en forma bilateral con otros países en el tema de sanidad animal, sanidad vegetal; queremos manifestar además en esta oportunidad nuestra decisión de seguir cooperando en estos temas. Concientes que las decisiones políticas internas, las decisiones de gran política de los países en definitiva terminarán con estas situaciones de pobreza, debemos reconocer también que hay un entorno internacional que debiera ser propicio con el propósito de que estas expectativas puedan efectivamente cumplirse.

Luis RITTO (European Community)

I welcome this first opportunity to speak on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States and to thank the FAO Secretariat for providing a general assessment of the State on Food and Agriculture in 2004.

The distributed document CL 127/2 gives an overview of the situation in 2004 concerning food security, the trend for crop and livestock production, trade and international commodity prices and the resources to agriculture. However, the wealth of data made available in the document does not match with expectations on the depth of the analysis. The same comment was made by quite a number of delegations on the FAO assessment of the world food security situation at the latest Committee on Food Security in Rome. Moreover, data estimates as referred to in the introduction of the document are not really up-to-date since they refer to years 1999-2001. On this issue, I would like to thank Mr de Haen for having provided this morning more up-to-date figures which all delegations certainly would like to receive now.

The European Community and its Member States continue to be concerned by the food security situation in the developing world particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where there is a need to frame food security more firmly into national and regional poverty reduction strategies. Promoting agricultural development is certainly important but not sufficient as food availability is not *per se* solving food insecurity problems where access to food is denied. Once more, as we have made reference at the CFS in September 2004, we reiterate the importance of focussing on the political dimension of food insecurity by giving greater attention to promoting good governance, preventing conflict and building peace. In this context, it must be recalled that point 15 of the document highlights the fact that in many countries which enjoy relatively stable economies and governments, a natural disaster need not result in a prolonged humanitarian crisis. Disaster prevention and mitigation policies and strategies should take long-term food security more broadly as well as in the process of linking relief, rehabilitation and development. Too much focus is put on food aid which is an instrument instead of food security that is a goal. Besides, responses to needs are also too much food aid oriented.

I would take this opportunity to reiterate the position of the European Community and its 25 Member States on the utilization of the food aid instrument. As reflected in guideline 15 of the voluntary guidelines for food aid, based on sound needs assessment, should be targeted to the most vulnerable people and normally be used in internationally recognized emergencies, as well as in those situations where food aid represents the most effective way of answering the needs of the victims of humanitarian crises. All food aid should be in fully grant form and local and regional purchases should be promoted as the preferred method of supply.

The WTO negotiations on agriculture as part of the DOHA Round will deal with food aid trade-related aspects, as you mention in the document, the result of which will have an impact on the future of the CSSD and the Food Aid Convention. Since the early 1990s, the EU has embarked on a process of reform of the common agricultural policy, with a view to reduce marketing balances and trade distortions, limiting spending and addressing societal expectations in the areas of environment, rural development and food quality and safety. The speed and scope of this process have been intensified by the reform adopted in June 2003, extended to April 2004 to other outstanding sectors which constituted a major shift from support to products towards support to producers' income while further integrating sustainability concerns and limiting expenditures. This will lead to an increased proportion of EU domestic support through minimal trade-distorting mechanisms and hence reduced risk of negative impact on developing countries.

The enlargement of the European Union to include ten new member states from 1 May 2004 is a historic milestone. Numerically, the enlargement impact on EU agriculture is dramatic. A further four million farmers will be added to the EU's existing population of seven million people. The new Member States will add about 38 million hectares of utilized agricultural area to the 130 million hectares of the current member states, an increase of 30 percent while production in the EU will expand by about 10-20 percent for most products. The agreed set of overall agricultural measures ensure a smooth transition for the new Member States into the common agricultural policy including a rural development package adapted to the needs, phasing in of direct payments between 2004-2013 and a simplified scheme for applying direct payments.

The CAP Reform will help the integration of new Member States by allowing smoother price convergence, giving more emphasis to rural development and bringing a more market-oriented dynamic to the agricultural sector.

In July 2004 the European Commission adopted a proposal to reinforce the used rural development policy and to greatly simplify its implementation. Reflecting citizens' demands to focus on the environment, food safety and quality, the Commission wants the EU rural development policy to play a more important role in the new, reformed Common Agricultural Policy. By introducing a single funding and programming instrument, the new policy will be much simpler to manage and to control. Coherence, transparency and visibility will be increased. Member States and regions will have more freedom as how to implement the programmes.

As regards its trade policy, the EU has taken important steps to promote the gradual integration of developing countries into the world economy by enhancing their potential for trade and contributing to their development through its preferential agreements and its GSP schemes including the Everything But Arms initiative, which fully opens the EU market to imports from the Least Developed Countries.

The crucial importance of agricultural commodities for poverty reduction in developing countries has been emphasized by the adoption by the EU ministers on 27 April 2004 of an Action Plan on Agricultural Commodities, Dependence and Poverty, with a particular focus on the most commodity-dependent developing countries. The EU ministers pointed out the crucial importance of agricultural commodities for poverty reduction in developing countries and they stressed the need for urgent measures to address the situation of commodity producers, in particular in the most commodity dependent developing countries. The Action Plan has a double objective: to improve incomes of producers of agricultural commodities and to reduce vulnerability at producer as well as macro-economic levels. In the broader context of the WTO Doha negotiations, the EU has also supported differential treatment and an enhanced trade-related assistance for those developing countries which are weakest in the areas of trade, in order to take account of their special needs and constraints.

The ongoing Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations between the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the EU are also key instruments for development given their emphasis on promoting regional integration, strengthening regional markets and institutions, promoting sustainable development, promoting diversification and developing supply-side capacity to increase exports.

Noah NKAMBULE (Swaziland)

First of all I wish to thank Mr de Haen for his concise but very clear presentation of the World State of Food and Agriculture in 2004. His slide presentation has not only demonstrated the magnitude of the food situation problem facing most of our countries, but also the complexities of the facts contributing to such a problem.

It is very discouraging to note that the objectives that were set in 1996 at the World Food Summit and which were later adopted as part of the Millennium Development Goals, may not be achieved in 2015, but only by 2030.

It is further disheartening to note that sub-Saharan Africa continues to lag behind other developing regions in reducing the number of the malnourished population. In fact, paragraph nine of the document CL 127/2 projects a phenomenal increase in the number of the malnourished in this region.

The agricultural conditions facing agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa, as described in paragraph ten of the document and the discussion, are almost identical to the situation facing agriculture in my country: Swaziland. We face high production availability, particularly for our staple crop, maize. This largely mirrors the availability in our rainfall situation.

With this very gloomy background in mind, my delegation is pleased to observe, with the appreciation the bold initiatives taken by some African countries to stimulate agricultural production with a view to directly addressing the food insecurity situation in our region. Such initiatives have been taken under auspices of the African Union, as well as the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Some of these include the commitment by these governments to set aside at least ten percent of their national budgets for agricultural development over the next five years.

These are some of the national commitments by African governments, reflecting a collective effort to address the problem of lack of investment in agriculture, as pointed out by the FAO Director-General this morning. We appeal to FAO to help coordinate the mobilization of more resources from the donor community to compliment these noble efforts. We also applaud any augmentation of the present level of private sector investment in agriculture in our part of the world.

Within the SADC framework, the Heads of State of Government recently adopted a declaration and a plan of action to address and turn around the situation of agriculture and food security in those countries. This plan of action was adopted in May 2004 in Dar-es-Salam, United Republic of Tanzania, and will be implemented, initially, for the period 2004-2006 with a very concrete reporting and monitoring structure. My country has adopted and translated this programme to suit its own local conditions. We invite FAO and the international community to partner with us in the implementation of this programme.

I wish to report that we are in the middle of yet another season that is pointing to a fourth year of drought in succession. We are consciously monitoring the current rainfall pattern with the hope that the situation will not be as bad as presented or as predicted by meteorologists at this point in time.

Meanwhile, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to the international community for providing the much needed food aid, particularly during the past three years, when food insecurity was at its peak due to the prolonged draught conditions. In particular, I wish to thank FAO for providing basic agricultural inputs for vulnerable farmers through a programme, known locally as Input Trade Fairs. We also wish to thank WFP for mobilizing food aid for almost a third of our population during this period.

Alfredo Néstor PUIG PINO (Cuba)

Nuestra delegación se complace en poder saludarlo nuevamente en este 127º período de sesiones del Consejo y desea expresarle la seguridad de que bajo su conducción las deliberaciones serán exitosas.

Felicitamos a los Representantes que han sido elegidos como Vicepresidentes y Relatores para acompañarlo en la conducción de nuestros trabajos.

Cuba suscribe en todos sus elementos, las declaraciones realizadas por los distinguidos Representantes de Colombia, en nombre del GRULAC, de Brasil y de otras delegaciones como la de Australia, cuyas consideraciones en sentido general compartimos.

La delegación cubana considera que el documento sometido a la consideración del Consejo sobre el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación es un buen documento para el debate. La

existencia de una gran cantidad de estadísticas en el cuerpo de dicho documento nos permiten avalar, en sentido general, sus conclusiones.

Al igual que la mayoría de las delegaciones que me han antecedido, nuestra delegación desea mostrar su preocupación por el lento avance en el logro de los objetivos de la CMA como dijera el Director General en su intervención inicial, por el peligro de fracasar en el propósito suscrito por nuestros Jefes de Estado en la misma.

Consideramos que la realidad del empeoramiento de la situación del hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo se enfoca ampliamente en el documento; sin embargo, deseamos enfatizar que dicho documento no llega a las verdaderas causas de la persistencia de este flagelo en las amplias regiones del mundo. De modo específico queremos llamar la atención sobre el tratamiento del enfoque acerca del crecimiento demográfico y su relación con el crecimiento del número de hambrientos y desnutridos en el mundo. Cuba considera que puede traer lamentables confusiones el hecho de que se aborde el problema del crecimiento demográfico y no sean abordadas las verdaderas causas que, a través de los años, ha tenido el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo, tales como la desigual distribución de las riquezas a escala mundial y las injustas relaciones económicas a las que han sido sometidos nuestros países del sur como expresión de un orden económico internacional ya insostenible.

El informe que analizamos también se refiere al aumento de las emergencias alimentarias, lo cual contrasta con una disminución progresiva de la ayuda alimentaria y la asistencia a la agricultura, especialmente en las regiones donde más se necesita. Nos sumamos al llamado que varias delegaciones han hecho de que esta ayuda se incremente. Nuestra delegación no comparte totalmente el enfoque del documento acerca de que las causas de las emergencias alimentarias que presenciamos hoy están motivadas por las guerras civiles y desastres naturales sobre los cuales son limitadas nuestras capacidades de reacción. Existen, repetimos, causas más profundas que no son abordadas en el documento y que precisamente son las razones fundamentales de los conflictos civiles, de la existencia del gran número de refugiados y de la escasa capacidad de nuestros países para reaccionar ante los efectos de los desastres naturales.

La delegación cubana se complace que sean abordados en documentos de este tipo, aspectos tan importantes para los países en desarrollo como los vinculados a los precios de los productos básicos y las cuestiones referentes al entorno comercial internacional. Sin dudas, ambos temas son expresión de la permanencia de un orden económico irracional e injusto que impide que los países en desarrollo alcancemos los objetivos propuestos en la CMA y nos haya sido vedado hasta hoy el camino del desarrollo.

Cuba ha logrado avances considerables en la lucha contra la pobreza y el hambre, sobre la base de una voluntad política de su gobierno y a través de la puesta en práctica de ambiciosos programas sociales que han tenido como objetivo principal concederle a todos los cubanos y cubanas una participación activa en la determinación de los destinos del país.

En este sentido, esperamos que después del amplio intercambio de información que nuestro país ha mantenido con la FAO en los últimos meses, su situación alimentaria y nutricional quede debidamente reflejada en los informes que emita la Organización en un futuro.

LEE YOUNG-GU (Korea, Republic of)

On behalf of the Republic of Korea, I would like to congratulate you for Chairing this important committee. Also, I would like to express many thanks to the FAO Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for this session and for the quality of the report.

We are concerned about the world food security situation, especially the decreasing trend of the undernourished, which is far behind in meeting the target of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals.

Despite continuous growth of the world economy and an increase of food availability in major exporters, the food security of developing countries has shown little progress, demonstrating its remarkable diversity between regions.

In this regard, we would like to emphasize two points.

First, considering the uncertainty of the world food situation, mainly caused by increasing natural and man-made disaster, it is most important that each food deficit country establish their food security strategies, increase their food production in a sustainable manner and maintain the adequate level of food stocks. Regarding the international trade issue, we fully agree with the Japanese delegation, who emphasized flexible trade rules and coexistence of diverse agriculture.

Secondly, to meet the target of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals, each Member Country should renew their political views, prioritize agriculture in their national strategy and increase investment for agricultural development.

Thirdly, international communities, including FAO, should support these countries efforts.

Mooneeshwar RAMTOHUL (Mauritius)

The report on the State of Food and Agriculture 2004 has again highlighted the problem of hunger and food security at the world level. The problem south of the Sahara in Africa does not seem to be improving.

Delegates will recall that at the Maputo Summit, Heads of State pledged themselves to commit allocating at least ten percent of national budgetary resources for the implementation of the Common African Agricultural Development Programme and sound policies for agricultural and rural development within the next five years.

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization made it clear this morning that without resources, be it technical and financial, there will not be progress in the alleviation of hunger. These resources need to be channelled to the small farmers.

We should thank FAO for the technical assistance being provided right now to various African countries in the preparation of a national medium-term investment programme and the formulation of bankable project investment profiles in the agriculture sector. These would eventually be presented to various donor and funding agencies for consideration.

Mauritius imports all of its basic staples and has been classified as a net food importing developing country by the WTO. Government policy, so far, has been to develop economic activities that would provide employment to the people and, thereby, access to food. Given the increasingly unfavourable external environment and the island's inherent constraints such as land scarcity, high cost of production, unfavourable climatic and agronomy conditions, vulnerability to hurricanes or cyclones, Mauritius is aware that it needs to design and implement agricultural sector development policies and strategies that would adequately respond to the current and emerging challenges.

Recently the government prepared a strategic plan for the agricultural sector that aims at: promoting a transfer of technology; setting up a food technology lab to ensure a strict compliance with international norms governing food quality and safety; attaining a certain degree of self-sufficiency in sectors in which the country is not self sufficient and; promoting conservation of natural biodiversity and fostering sustainable utilization of natural resources.

Right now the national forest policy and the fisheries development plan are being reviewed with technical assistance under FAO.

Mauritius is lucky, so far, as we do not have hunger or food security problems. However, the country is still making concerted to further enhance agricultural production, both locally and by investing in the region. The agricultural development programme is in line with the approach and content of the NEPAD agricultural component.

These strategic plans are in implementation right now and can adequately pass the current four pillars of NEPAD CAADP and includes an element of livestock development, land improvement and irrigation, fisheries and forestry development programmes, as well as research and transfer of technology.

With the implementation and hopefully the completion of these strategy plans, the country is likely to meet all of the Millennium Development Goals before 2015.

James E.O. ONGWAE (Observer for Kenya)

The Kenya Delegation joins the other delegates in congratulating the Chair for ably steering the Council Meeting. In addition we want to congratulate the newly elected Vice Chairman. We also heartedly congratulate the Director-General and the entire Secretariat for the good organization of this Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session. Having listened to speakers this morning, including the Director-General and the representative of the State of Food and Agriculture 2004 Report, Mr de Haen, I wish to support the good presentation and also reiterate that most of the issues he mentioned are pertinent to our region.

We found the following relevant matters: public expenditure for instance failing to reflect importance of agriculture; investment in agriculture lagging behind in countries where hunger is prevalent; serious production and utilization sometimes below production; serious prices going up when stocks are diminishing; development assistance not targeting the neediest cases, etcetera. These are issues we of the international community need to put in perspective.

Kenya, like most developing countries, relies heavily on its agriculture for its economic development. This is due to the fact that agriculture and agricultural related activities contribute over 53 percent of our GDP. In addition, it provides employment to about 70 percent of the population and contributes to about 60 percent of all foreign exchange earnings. Agriculture in Kenya is mainly rainfed and, therefore, any change in the rainfall pattern has an implication on our food security.

In recent years, droughts in Kenya have been the major contributor to food insecurity. Drought has become more frequent and severe. For instance, during parts of this year the country experienced drought due to the failure of extensive rains. Kenya appreciates the support of the international community, including FAO and WFP, in managing the debilitating effects of the drought.

Apart from the drought the other factor is that over 70 percent of Kenya's arid or semi-arid where the rainfall is usually below 750 millimeters per year, outbreak of migratory pests, bugs, worms and desert locusts are quite common. The Government of Kenya is addressing the vast constraints and has come out with appropriate strategies. Noted among them are the country's economic recovery strategy for wealth and employment creation and the strategy for the revitalization of Kenyan agriculture. The key pillar of this strategy is to reduce poverty and improve food security. To achieve this output the government has restructured the cultural institutions to make them more effective and efficient in their operations and at the same time, encourage private public sector partnership, as well as empowering the farmer's organization. The government is also reviewing policies covering food and nutrition, livestock development, fisheries, agricultural commodities among many others.

Mr Chairman, as a follow up to the World Food Summit Recommendations, my country is currently implementing the Special Programme on Food Security. The programme strategy is upscaling successful food production initiatives which are community driven. The utmost aim of the programme is, of course, to reduce the number of food insecure people in our country. The programme has received strong political and financial support by the government.

Conflicts in our region have also contributed to food insecurity. The issues cannot be addressed by one nation single-handedly, hence, the need for a common approach and regional cooperation. Kenya has the privilege of handling conflict resolutions for Somalia and Southern Sudan. The conflicts are being resolved through positive negotiations which are being held in Kenya and with peace being realized in our region the food insecurity caused by fighting and influx of refugees is expected to reduce. Therefore, food insecurity will stabilize.

As Member Countries continue to implement country based remedies we should improve the exchange of information and experience. Kenya has been involved in the following regional

activities: firstly, the establishment of a regional Bio-science Research Centre facility in Nairobi. This facility will bring together top scientists from the east and central Africa region to undertake research, especially in bio-molecular technology. The centre is being opened on Wednesday of this week.

In October 2004, Kenya hosted a meeting of Ministers of Agriculture from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The major areas that were being looked at were information sharing in the region and the establishment of a central information management information system to facilitate information sharing.

Secondly, the harmonization of regulation to free movement of agriculture commodities within Member Countries.

Thirdly, support to the declaration of the African Union Summit in Maputo, Mozambique on allocation of at least 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture.

As we speak there are countries hosting the new partnership for the African Development Conference on Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme. These and many other initiatives on sharing ideas and research in the region are being vigorously supported by the Kenyan government.

There are also other important cross cutting issues that have an impact on food security and to which we also need to give special consideration. This includes HIV/AIDS, gender and environmental considerations where a lot of effort has been placed to address the issues of HIV as a cause. The problem is still a big challenge to us in the region, indeed the disease has had a very negative impact on our cultural labour force and family resources and hence food insecurity.

FAO Member States and world fraternity should devise financial mechanisms that will assist orphan children with basic necessities such as housing, food and education. By assisting these orphans we can be assured of food security in the years to come. On the issue of gender in agriculture we have on many occasions seen the important role played by women in food security. It is true that 70 percent of food production in Africa is led by woman. It is high time that we put in place more tangible strategies to assist woman in food production.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Ce document qui vient d'être présenté par le Secrétariat, que nous félicitons, présente des informations très utiles sur l'évolution de l'agriculture et de la sécurité alimentaire, la pêche, la sylviculture et l'élevage, aussi bien que sur le commerce agricole dans le cadre de négociations de l'OMC. Malgré la croissance de la production agricole et animale, il existe encore beaucoup d'endroit où la situation est stationnaire ou en régression.

Il est très préoccupant de constater, Monsieur le Président, que le nombre de personnes sous alimentées dans les pays en développement a augmenté et il est vraiment à déplorer que l'Afrique Sub-Saharienne, en particulier, est la seule région en développement où l'on n'a pas enregistré le moindre accroissement de la production alimentaire en tout point de vue. Cette situation désolante est bien illustrée au paragraphe 8, tableau 1, sur les projections des indicateurs de l'alimentation et de la faim par région. Comme on peut le constater, ne parlons pas de 2015, même en 2030 l'Afrique Sub-Saharienne sera donc la même situation. Monsieur le Président, la Déclaration sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique, ratifiée par les Chefs d'Etats et les informants de l'Union africaine, réunis en juillet 2003 à Maputo, à l'occasion de la seconde session ordinaire de l'Assemblée de l'Union africaine, a apporté un soutien politique au PDDAA du NEPAD, qui a pour objectif de restaurer la croissance agricole, le développement rural et la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique, et qui vise à mettre en œuvre aussi les principales recommandations adoptées dans les conférences mondiales comme celle de Johannesburg, du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après, de Montréal et de Kyoto.

Le plus important, Monsieur le Président, est l'engagement à consacrer dans les cinq prochaines années au moins 10 pour cent des ressources budgétaires nationales à la mise en œuvre de cette politique. À cet égard, les efforts qui sont déployés actuellement par les pays en développement et

africains doivent être appuyés par l'aide extérieure à l'agriculture. Il est réellement préoccupant de constater que les tendances à long terme de cette aide sont en chute vertigineuse et ce qui est incompréhensible et désolant, vers les pays qui en ont le moins besoin au détriment de pays frappés par la sous-alimentation. Monsieur le Président, s'agissant de la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, deux ans après la fin du conflit, on a enregistré une augmentation en terme global de la production suite à l'augmentation considérable des superficies cultivées par rapport à l'année antérieure. Au retour de la population dans sa zone d'origine, aussi bien des conditions climatiques favorables au début de la campagne agricole. Malgré cette augmentation d'une manière générale, nous signalons que la production de céréales est de 720 950 tonnes, plus de 9,54 pour cent que l'année antérieure; maïs 57 691 tonnes, 5,83 pour cent plus élevé, sorgho et millet 123 415 tonnes, 26 pour cent, 71 pour cent plus élevé, et le riz 20 620 tonnes, 32,12 pour cent plus élevé. La production de manioc est de 6,6 millions de tonnes, soit 16,46 pour cent plus élevé. La nécessité de céréales est dessinée à 820 tonnes soit plus de 11 pour cent que l'année passée.

Donc, 642 000 tonnes seront couvertes par les importations et 178 000 tonnes par l'aide alimentaire et la population qui a besoin de l'assistance alimentaire est destinée à 1 012 000 tonnes. Il est certain que la production augmentera l'année prochaine, alors le Gouvernement vient de tripler le budget pour cette campagne agricole, et le nombre de la population qui nécessitera de l'aide alimentaire sera en baisse. Il est sans aucun doute, Monsieur le Président, que les négociations commerciales au sein de la MC dans le cadre du droit, jouent un rôle primordial sur le développement économique de nombreux pays en développement. Grâce à tous ces efforts, un grain d'espoir se dessine. L'OMC a obtenu son accord et a réussi à effacer partialement l'échec historique de Cancun. Un accord qui, pour la première fois, prévoit d'ouvrir les négociations aux fins de fixer une date limite pour la suppression des subventions à l'exportation des pays du nord et la baisse des autres formes de soutien ayant les effets de distorsions sur les échanges mondiaux des produits agricoles. Le désir de certains Membres de l'OMC, Monsieur le Président, de vouloir réduire les aides alimentaires aura des implications négatives pour les pays africains et du tiers-monde en général. Car la région enregistre encore des conditions adverses, notamment, la dette extérieure, l'instabilité politique et sociale, les fluctuations climatiques et d'autres calamités naturelles qui conduisent aux faibles indicateurs de la production et de l'insécurité alimentaire. D'une part, le processus de globalisation amène les pays de la région à se diriger vers les processus productifs commerciaux adoptant des technologies modernes qui entraînent des investissements volumineux en laissant un petit espace de manœuvre aux programmes pour les populations rurales. Ce fait amène aussi à l'instabilité socio-économique et à l'augmentation de la pauvreté et des groupes vulnérables. En Angola un séminaire sera organisé.

Quant à la pêche, elle joue un rôle important sur l'économie mondiale comme indiqué au paragraphe 42. Dans les pays en développement, ayant des grandes richesses halieutiques, il y a de grandes possibilités d'augmenter la production piscicole par l'aquaculture, qui pour constituer une grande contribution à la sécurité alimentaire et leur excédant nombre générés de devises. Il est temps que la FAO continue à apporter son assistance dans ce domaine aux pays en développement en général et aux pays africains en particulier. La création d'un sous comité d'aquaculture au sein du Comité de pêche a été un pas important à cet égard. Notre délégation pense que d'autres mesures seront nécessaires, notamment la réalisation des projets de terrain en aquaculture et, par exemple, l'inclusion de ses composantes, ainsi que celles de la pêche de capture artisanale dans le Programme spécial de la sécurité alimentaire. En Angola, la pêche est un secteur prioritaire à cause de son long littoral abondant en ressources halieutiques et à cause de la forte consommation de ces produits dans la diète alimentaire de sa population. C'est une tradition séculaire. Grâce à l'appui de la FAO, notre Gouvernement vient d'approuver une nouvelle loi sur les ressources biologiques marines communément appelée "Loi de pêche". Sa réglementation est en train d'être finalisée. Vu la recrudescence de la pêche illégale dans nos eaux territoriales, comme observée dans d'autres pays, des mesures ont été prises pour le renforcement des services de surveillance le long de la côte. Compte tenu de la situation de certaines espèces, le Gouvernement a établi une période de repos biologique entre six mois et un an.

L'objectif est de rendre possible la récupération des stocks halieutiques et viabiliser un ensemble d'investissements qui sont en cours. En ce qui concerne l'aquaculture, nous sommes dans la phase d'élaboration et nous voulons commencer par des actions concrètes, aussi bien en ce qui concerne l'aquaculture artisanale l'aquaculture industrielle. Nous espérons pouvoir continuer à compter sur l'appui de la FAO dans ce domaine pour l'élaboration de projets bancables liés aux programmes, afin de trouver des partenaires et des financements nécessaires.

En ce qui concerne l'agriculture, un séminaire sera organisé en décembre 2004, pour l'évaluation du Programme national d'investissement à moyen terme sur le NEPAD, qui présentera de façon linéaire les projets bancables qui ont été élaborés et prêts à être présentés aux bailleurs de fonds et aux institutions financières internationales.

Monsieur le Président, pour terminer, notre délégation voudrait noter que c'est la première fois qu'elle, ainsi que le Président indépendant du Conseil, n'ont pas souhaité dans leur intervention liminaire, la bienvenue aux nouveaux Membres.

Wilfred NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present Tanzania's experience to the discussion on the State of Food and Agriculture for the year 2004.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing and presenting a comprehensive paper currently under discussion.

We are concerned about the state of food and agriculture in the world and especially in the developing countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Concerted efforts of food security including governments and development partners need to be increased if the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved.

Tanzania's economy is predominantly dependent on agriculture, smallholders and subsistence farmers who cultivate between 0.2 and 2 hectares per year dominate this sector. In the current year the country has seen improved food situation with food production amounting to about 9 million metric tonnes actually a food self-sufficiency ratio of 105 percent compared to last year's 90 percent. However, despite the food self-sufficiency at the national level some parts of the country have pockets of food shortages due to failure or poor distribution of rainfall during the year 2003–2004 production season.

The number of people affected by severe food shortages has been estimated at about 600 000 which is more than the previous years' 2 million people. There is adequate preparedness on the part of the Government to deal with food shortages after building emergency food reserves which now stand at the level of 90 000 metric tonnes of cereals.

Over the past five years the agricultural sector has grown at an annual average rate of 4.4 percent compared with annual population growth of 2.9 percent. During this period, the sector has shown signs of increased rates of growth, partly due to favourable weather conditions and interventions by the Government aimed at stimulating growth. In the year 2004–2005 this sector is expected to grow at more than 5.5 percent.

In order to achieve sustainable growth in this sector, the Government is implementing the agricultural sector development programme, which is a sector where the approach is in the current, in its third year of implementation. A number of interventions have been formulated and are at different stages of implementation. This includes expansion of the area of irrigated farming, for example the total irrigated area has increased by 44.9 percent from 157 thousand hectares in 1999 to 227 456 hectares in 2004. The target is to develop about 30 000 hectares for irrigation annually.

Other interventions include increasing production in productivity in crops and livestock, control pest and disease outbreaks, reducing post harvest losses, facilitating farmers with loans for agricultural inputs and mechanization, ensuring farmers are provided with agricultural inputs and veterinary drugs and the markets for outputs.

The Government, in view of the decline of the world prices of traditional export crops and stiff market competition, encourages farmers to diversify their production enterprises mainly by embarking on production of high value non-traditional export crops, which have enabled farmers to improve their incomes. The Government also promotes other crops such as flowers, seeds and fruits and vegetables and the organically grown traditional crops such as coffee, cotton, tea and cashew nuts, which fetch premium prices in the external markets.

In order to improve the profitability of livestock sub sector, the Government, among other efforts, has embarked on construction and rehabilitation of the livestock marketing infrastructure, including stock roots and holding grounds, advertise livestock market centres and training centres. The Government also introduced incentives for investments especially in processing facilities for the sector.

Tanzania is also implementing the national forestry programme that sets out priority areas and strategies for the development of forests, the programme puts emphasis on supporting communities through participatory management of forest and watersheds. Conservation of forest biodiversity providing opportunities for improved livelihoods by ensuring improved economic activities in creating a conducive environment for food production.

On the other hand, the fisheries sub-sector is implementing programmes based on priority areas in the overall fisheries development strategy to ensure improved livelihoods for fisheries and national economy.

Such strategies are regional initiatives in the management and they are investing the major lakes. Monitoring in so far as to reduce rampant illegal and regulated reported fishing. Community participation in the management of fisheries resources and programmes are in place to ensure increased fish farming in the country.

The Government is implementing its commitment to increase public investment and through the agricultural sector development programme 75 percent of investment resources are directed at this level. This has been done in order to direct the target areas where actual production and development conservation activities are carried out. In so doing the objective is to empower farmers, livestock keepers and fish folks to build their capacities in exploiting the natural resources and thereby eradicating hunger and poverty.

These initiatives by the Government are part and parcel of efforts to implement the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals, the agricultural sector development programmes are therefore provided an opportunity for collaboration with development partners who have been contributing financial and technical assistance in the agricultural development programmes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our development partners and international and UN Agencies for their assistance.

In conclusion, we call upon all Member Countries and also those who are part and parcel to the international agreements in the conventions such as the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals to put together their collaborative efforts and honour their commitments so as to ensure that an International Alliance against Hunger is truly brought up and the goal of reducing hunger by 2015 is achieved.

Armando PALOMO (Guatemala)

Brindamos nuestra felicitación por la forma en que usted ha conducido la sesión y agradecemos a la Secretaría el documento bien elaborado. Reiteramos nuestro apoyo a la declaración hecha por el Presidente del G 77 así como a la del GRULAC que refleja la problemática de nuestros países.

Queremos hacer hincapié en dos situaciones que nos preocupan. La primera es la amenaza del cambio climático que sufren nuestros países, lo cual pone en relieve la fragilidad de los sistemas de producción agrícola en las áreas afectadas. Sin embargo, reconocemos la importancia de los programas de alerta temprana que sirven para mitigar estas situaciones. Y la segunda, los efectos devastantes que han tenido nuestras economías, la baja de los precios del café; esto ha hecho que

nuestros países busquen alternativas en una diversificación de productos de exportación agrícola. Debemos puntualizar que esta alternativa tendrá éxito únicamente con una base real de apertura de mercados y la eliminación completa de las barreras no arancelarias.

Mamadou Aliou DIALLO (Observateur du Sénégal)

Nous vous remercions Monsieur le Président.

C'est un honneur pour nous de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée donc pour conforter l'intervention du Burkina Faso et dire que la situation, en tout cas exceptionnelle que l'Afrique a vécu cette année, mérite d'être prise en compte dans l'analyse faite dans ce document. En effet comme vous le savez, l'Afrique de façon générale (l'Afrique du Nord et l'Afrique occidentale) a subi cette année une invasion acridienne qui a affectée sensiblement toutes les productions prévisionnelles et les estimations actuelles, dont nous disposons, font part d'un déficit qui varierait de l'ordre de 25 à 30 pour cent. Mais, il serait aussi intéressant de dire qu'il y a quelques perspectives innovatrices sur le plan continental et nous pensons que le NEPAD constitue encore un *challenge* pour les états africains sur la voie de la réduction du fossé et quand nous parlons de fossé, nous pensons aussi à la fracture agricole, et ce concept aussi constitue un moyen d'intégration des économies africaines, et avec le développement des infrastructures en vue de permettre une plus grande fluidité des différents échanges. Sur le plan sous-régional, on notera la mise en œuvre de la politique agricole commune, qui pourra garantir une meilleure gestion des ressources communes mais aussi le développement des indispensables complémentarités, en vue de l'accroissement de la production agricole et de la consommation des produits régionaux.

Sur le plan national, on aimerait juste dire quelques idées fortes qui témoignent, en tous cas, de la volonté politique du Gouvernement du Sénégal de faire du secteur de l'agriculture le moteur de la croissance économique. Ceci se traduit par la promulgation de la loi d'orientation agro-sylvo-pastorale qui fixe un horizon sur vingt ans, et décline une vision pour la production agricole. Cette loi sera complétée par une réforme foncière qui va plus valoriser le statut de la terre, et permettra un encouragement au niveau de l'investissement, surtout privé. Il convient de noter la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action prioritaire 2003-2005, qui est actuellement en cours et qui est issu de la stratégie nationale de la réduction de la pauvreté et dont 80 pour cent des ressources sont destinés au monde rural.

Enfin Monsieur le Président, on voudrait porter à l'attention du Conseil les différents programmes d'urgence de relance de cultures vivrières que le Gouvernement du Sénégal a mis en place et ces programmes d'urgence sont assortis de mesures exceptionnelles de soutien de la production et visent notamment le développement des cultures stratégiques comme le maïs, le sésame et le manioc. Il convient aussi de noter l'admission récente du Sénégal au titre du *Millennium Challenge Account* qui permettra au Sénégal d'avoir un meilleur accès au niveau des échanges. Voilà Monsieur le Président les quelques éléments que l'on voulait porter à l'attention du Conseil. Nous vous remercions.

Aït Amer MEZIANE (Observateur de l'Algérie)

À partir du diagnostic présenté par Monsieur de Haen, dans l'exposé introductif de ce point de l'ordre du jour et que nous remercions, il se confirme que la situation mondiale au lieu de s'améliorer ne cesse malheureusement de se détériorer. Nous constatons paradoxalement que le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition ne cesse de s'accroître alors que la production des produits de base est en augmentation. Constat qui va à contre sens des objectifs du SMA visant à renverser la menace et la tendance de l'insécurité alimentaire, et à le contrebalancer par un meilleur accès à la nourriture et une lutte renforcée contre la pauvreté, tout en suscitant une croissance économique globale génératrice d'emplois.

Les données montrent que l'Afrique a de loin le plus grand nombre de pays ayant un niveau de sécurité alimentaire bas ou critique. Les causes sont multiples et les catastrophes naturelles ont causé autant de souffrances que les catastrophes dont l'homme est responsable.

Ces derniers mois, plusieurs régions ont connu une importante recrudescence de l'activité acridienne. Les pays de la région occidentale de l'Afrique (Afrique du Nord et pays du Sahel) et depuis peu, les pays du pourtour de la Mer Rouge, ont été le théâtre d'invasions importantes qui ont provoqué beaucoup de dégâts et des pertes de récolte substantielles. C'est ce qui équivaut à la préservation de la sécurité alimentaire. La mesure la plus urgente est de mobiliser toutes les énergies pour faire face à cette situation dangereuse, non seulement pour limiter les dégâts des invasions actuelles, mais aussi et surtout, pour juguler la reproduction et la dissémination de ce dangereux migrateur.

L'autre enjeu que nous ne devrions pas négliger, qui est inhérent à tout problème de sécurité alimentaire, quel qu'en soit la cause, devrait aider à restaurer rapidement la capacité de production des pays touchés par la crise, pour éviter qu'elle ne se transforme en un problème d'insécurité alimentaire chronique.

Malheureusement, et malgré les moyens consentis par les pays touchés et l'implication de la communauté internationale, les ressources mobilisées sont nettement insuffisantes pour la réalisation des traitements dans les délais requis et atteindre ainsi les objectifs que je viens d'évoquer. L'examen de cette question, encore aujourd'hui au niveau de notre Conseil, atteste à l'évidence de l'importance accordée à la question acridienne et à la gravité de la situation qui prévaut actuellement dans les pays affectés, situation qui ne cesse de se détériorer d'une manière alarmante.

Je voudrais remercier le Directeur général de la FAO pour les efforts qu'il ne cesse de déployer et les donateurs qui ont répondu à son appel pour la mobilisation des ressources financières pour y faire face. Je saisis également cette occasion pour faire quelques commentaires et remarques qui découlent tout naturellement de l'importance particulière qu'attache mon pays l'Algérie à cette question dans toutes ses dimensions.

Monsieur le Président, la période de rémission enregistrée depuis plusieurs années n'est nullement le fait du hasard, mais résulte des efforts fournis dans le domaine de la lutte précoce contre le criquet pèlerin par les pays concernés et les organisations régionales tels que la Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin en Afrique de l'ouest (CLCPRO) et certains bailleurs de fonds; c'est cette activité soutenue de surveillance et d'intervention qui a permis d'éviter que les recrudescences souvent importantes n'évoluent en invasions généralisées.

Les pays où existe un important potentiel agricole à protéger, c'est le cas de mon pays, déploient des efforts incommensurables et mobilisent des moyens logistiques et financiers considérables pour lutter contre les invasions acridiennes. Conscient de la gravité de la situation actuelle et de son évolution potentielle, mon pays avait lancé une alerte précoce dès l'année 2003 en regard de la recrudescence acridienne observée dans la région sahélienne. Pour faire face à ce péril, le Gouvernement algérien a déjà consenti plus de 150 millions de dollars pour la lutte au niveau national et plus de 6 millions de dollars pour l'appui aux pays de la région en pesticides, matériels de traitement et de prospection ainsi que par la voie d'équipes de traitements spécialisés. Cependant, malgré les efforts déployés jusqu'alors par les pays de la région occidentale, l'infestation au niveau de la région, loin de diminuer, connaît un développement inquiétant. Il est aujourd'hui vital et urgent que des efforts concertés de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale soient déployés en vue de convenir de mesures urgentes susceptibles de renforcer les moyens de prévention et de garantir l'efficacité de la lutte contre ce fléau.

L'efficacité des interventions de la FAO et des pays touchés par cette calamité, demeure incertaine en raison de l'insuffisance manifeste de l'indispensable appui financier des principaux bailleurs de fonds, et des efforts supplémentaires sont plus que nécessaires pour permettre de lutter contre ce ravageur qui d'ailleurs ne connaît pas de frontières, et pourrait surprendre bien des pays qui se considéreraient naturellement à l'abri. Il est certain que toute action ou stratégie de lutte serait inefficace, voire illusoire, si elle ne reposait pas sur une assise financière à la mesure des défis à relever et des objectifs à atteindre.

Yahya NGAM (Observateur de Mauritanie)

Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, de vous féliciter pour la manière dont vous dirigez nos travaux.

Je félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents soumis à l'attention du Conseil et je félicite également l'ensemble des Membres du Conseil pour le sérieux et la rigueur avec lesquels ils s'acquittent de leur mandat.

Monsieur le Président, la Mauritanie et l'ensemble de la région ont connu cette année une invasion acridienne sans précédent. Le Gouvernement mauritanien avec l'appui considérable de la FAO et l'ensemble des pays amis et des institutions internationales a mis en place un dispositif de lutte particulièrement important. C'est ainsi que le centre national mauritanien de lutte anti-acridienne a élaboré un plan d'action de septembre à décembre 2004 pour traiter un million cinq cent mille hectares, plan reposant sur un dispositif terrestre et un dispositif aérien ainsi que des quantités importantes de pesticides d'un montant de 26 millions de dollars E-U. Selon les experts agricoles, suite à cette invasion, les cultures pluviales qui représentent un tiers de la production céréalière sont définitivement compromises et plus de quarante pour cent des pâturages sont déjà, malheureusement, détruits. Cette situation, combinée à l'action dévastatrice de la chenille foreuse de tige appelée *sesami* ou *sesami acritica* font planer encore plus le spectre du déficit en céréales pour la présente campagne agricole. Ce tableau particulièrement sombre est malheureusement le même pour l'ensemble des pays de la région sahélienne où la sécurité alimentaire reste des plus précaires. Aussi, tout en saluant les efforts faits par la communauté internationale en matière de lutte anti-acridienne, le Gouvernement mauritanien joint sa voix à celle de l'ensemble des pays de la région pour un soutien encore plus accru en matière de lutte contre les ennemis des cultures afin d'éviter une catastrophe humanitaire.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Observer for Afghanistan)

When I read this paper yesterday, I did not know how to characterize it. First, I thought it was alarming. Then, when I listened to Mr de Haen, I changed my mind to rather disturbing. But then luckily I heard the distinguished representative from India and she characterized it as revealing disconcerting facts and I think she had it right.

The facts are more critical in the case of sub-Saharan Africa and the LDCs in other developing regions. However, when you listen to the distinguished representative of the Philippines, he described the constraints in his own country. But I think that we can assure him that what he said applies equally to many, many developing countries. We also listened to the distinguished representatives of Uganda, Bangladesh, India and others, where remedies were outlined. I think these remedies are all very relevant.

Therefore, I would like to emphasize four aspects of the remedies. The first is related to the rate of investment in developing countries, in general, but in sub-Saharan Africa and LDCs, in particular. When we say investment, we mean three things. First, raising the ratio of investment to GNP in general, because investment in education and health infrastructure helps agricultural and food production. Second, is raising the ratio of agricultural and rural investment in total. The third and very important, is the pattern in investment in agricultural and rural development.

The second issue is more towards the aid for sub-Saharan Africa and the LDCs. The third issue, and very important issue, is good governance. Without good governance, investment can go to waste. The fourth factor is liberal trade as stipulated in the WTO recent general council decision, especially Annex A.

The paper also reveals some other disconcerting figures. First, cereal importing developing countries are squeezed because the world prices of their traditional export are not coping with the rise in the world import prices of cereals.

Second, the food belt of the LDCs is rising and their agricultural trade deficit is increasing, widening very sharply. Now, for these LDCs to meet their import belt, they have to have other

sources of earning foreign exchange, and, in this connection, I think my colleague from Uganda said it very clearly. He said: "Africa either becomes industrialized or perishes."

The third factor is the external aid to agriculture. In the paper it is quite clearly stated that this external aid to agriculture is of low aid and the greater level of undernourishment, the lesser the external aid for agricultural workers. That is very disturbing and I think here the donor community needs to look into what should be the pattern of distribution of their ODA.

My last point is the figures shown in the paper about capital stock per agricultural worker. The paper draws the logical conclusion that the lower the incidence of undernourishment, the higher the level of capital stock per agricultural worker and vice versa. It also shows that in sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia and the Pacific, the capital stock per worker has not changed very much. However, if we look at the rise in productivity due to increase in capital stock per agricultural worker, it does not tell the whole story.

In Figure 8, the long-term trend in per caput food production in Asia and the Pacific was much faster between 1997 and 2003, compared with Latin America and the Caribbean. Despite the fact that capital stock for agricultural worker in Asia and the Pacific region has remained fairly stable as shown in Figure 26.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

I would want to please plea if you would kindly pass the floor to the Netherlands so as to allow Prof. Rabbinge to elaborate on the Inter-Academic Council's Report, realizing the promise and potential of African agriculture. I have browsed through the document and am aware that the African Union leaders have had the opportunity of seeing that document and, because the African Union is in support, Nigeria is currently the chairman of the AU. I am, therefore, soliciting your cooperation and kindness to allow Netherlands to speak.

Before I do that, however, I would like to take the opportunity just to make one simple statement of appreciation to the GRULAC Group. In the general statement made this morning by the GRULAC Group, it was clearly stated that they have endorsed the candidature of Mr Jacques Diouf. As the Chairman of the African Union, I would like to register our deep appreciation to the Latin America and the Caribbean Group for putting their support behind our candidate. Having said that, could you kindly give the floor to the Netherlands for my colleague Prof. to make his statement.

Rudy RABBINGE (Observer for Netherlands)

I have the opportunity to present here on behalf of the Inter Academy Council, which is the umbrella organization of the Academies of Science in the world, the report on Science and Technology Strategies for Improving Agricultural Productivity and Food Security in Africa. Although we have seen, during this day, some interventions which made clear that the situation in Africa and other places is very worrying, we have the idea that the promise and potential of African agriculture can be realized and that science and technology can contribute to that.

You are all aware of this figure, and you have mentioned it very clearly. What we see here is the food availability per capita which has increased over the last forty years considerably in Asia and South America and has decreased in sub-Saharan Africa. That is, of course, the most dreadful situation which you can think of. That simple figure made Mr Kofi Annan ask a request to the Inter Academy Council, as I said, the umbrella organization of the Academies of Science of the world, to present to him within a year a report providing a technological strategic plan for harnessing the best science and technology to provide substantial increase to agricultural productivity in Africa. He would like to welcome the specific action proposed that could contribute to food security in Africa through global collaboration of governments, civil society and the cooperative sectors. That report has been produced during the last year and has been presented to Mr Kofi Annan. It has been discussed in the UN and it has been discussed with the African Union and NEPAD and I think it is worthwhile to present here again.

The panel which was appointed on nomination by different academies of science by the Inter Academy Council, the former Vice-President of Uganda, myself and, last but not least, Mr Swaminathan, the former Chair of the Council of FAO. There are a lot of panel members, at least 50 percent of them from Africa, one of them is here, that is Bongiwe Njobe who is the Director-General of Agriculture in South Africa. That panel has done a bottom-up and a top-down process: bottom-up by listening very carefully in regional consultations in different places around Africa; making use of all the input from the different countries of Africa, from the different scientists, from the different regions, and using that information and confronting it with the result documents which were prepared by specialists and resulted finally in a kind of a diagnosis.

Why is the situation in Africa different from Asia? Why is it so different from other places in the world? Why was there not a green revolution which occurred in the 1950s in Europe and in the Americas and did happen also in Asia in the 1970s.

There are several reasons for that, there is not one simple reason for it. One of them is the absence of dominating food crops. In the world, three crops, rice, wheat and maize, are explaining 80 percent of food availability. This was demonstrated again this morning in the presentation of Mr de Haen, and, in Africa, that is completely different. These three crops are only explaining 20 percent of food. The overruling factor in Africa is that there are wedded soils. There is an erratic rainfall. There are endemic plant and animal diseases which occur in all these crops which are not present in other places around the world. There is a multitude of farming systems, not only one. There are forty different farming systems which occur in Africa and not the three dominating farming systems which occur in other places in the world.

The land and labour productivity is very very low. In Europe and Asia, it has increased over the last forty years, with at least five up till 60 percent. In Africa it has scarcely increased, there is a dominant role for women which have limited access because of absence of property rights to resources. There is a lack of investment in agriculture research and it has already been mentioned this morning, that there is a very low investment in agriculture and agricultural research which should be stimulated considerably.

There is lack of knowledge of infrastructure and there is a considerable brain drain, 50 percent of the people with an academic training from Africa are working outside Africa, in Europe and in America. There is a lack of functioning academic institutions, they are nearly absent, there are only ten academies of science in Africa. There are no functioning of local and regional markets, which explains that a farmer who buys a fertilizer in Uganda or in Kenya has to pay four times the price of a farmer who buys the same amount of fertilizer in Iowa in the United States.

Land entitlement is inappropriate; there are in many places no land entitlement. There are no stimulating political and economic environment up to recently because we have seen that the leaders in Africa have made it clear, very openly, that it is important to stimulate and to invest in agriculture and there is an inadequate capacity to impact global policy formulation. We see that there are some things happening in WTO negotiations, but it is only slightly changing. And, finally, there is a lack of good governance at many places.

This all seems very dreadful and worrying but is there no hope? Yes there is hope and there is a possibility if we consider very clearly what farming systems have possibilities. We have prioritized on the basis of the number of underweight children in the agricultural value added what is the best way to contribute to food security and agricultural productivity. And so these four farming systems were identified as most promising: the irrigated system, the mais mix system, the tree crop system and finally the cereal root crop mix system which is most promising. And we will find them at different places in Africa, you see it here indicated where the hunger hot spots are indicated also this morning in the presentation of Mr de Haen and you see the farming systems which are most responding to these hunger spots and have best to offer in terms of increased food security and increased agricultural productivity.

That leads to some strategic recommendations in four domains and it is, I think, very important to distinguish these very clearly. Technology options that can make a difference, we are making use

of the hitrogenetic and the variation and combination of different farming systems which we see in Africa. There is a new paradigm necessary and a new way of using technology pull rather than technology push, making use of the variation of the farming systems and building in these farming systems which we have just identified.

It is important in the domain of the impact-oriented research knowledge and development institutions, their structure is considerably necessary and the third domain is creating and retaining a new generation of agricultural scientists. They are the hope of the nation and the hope of Africa, they have something to offer and can contribute.

Finally, markets and policies should be fair and they should be organized in such a way that the poor can prosper and be food secure. Five recommendations in that field, five in the third domain, five in the second, eleven in the technology options domain where we see the combination of the new technologies and also in such a way that they are really having an impact.

I will give you by way of example some recommendations from the second domain. I will not go into it extensively in the third domain, you see here that building impact oriented research knowledge and development institutions requires an investment and a design of national agricultural science systems which also make clear that there should be a involvement of farmers in education research and extension. We see that it is important to cultivate African centres of agricultural research excellence building on the academies of science, strengthening the academies of science, strengthening the universities and also having a role of the north universities to contribute at the development and an increase to support for agricultural research and development. There should be a considerable increase because it is very low at the moment.

If you would like to invent a better future, the world is increasingly driven by science and technology. Business as usual will leave an ever growing gap between the have and have not nations and that gap is widening, that is why it is so important to see whether it is possible to close the gap. Capacity building is a key in that and a dissemination of knowledge and the participatory knowledge model is very important to get things done. This requires a regional and a global responsibility.

We see here that the impact of oriented research, the current agricultural research and development is 1.8 billion in sub-Saharan Africa, which is very small compared with other situations, 40 percent is by donor funding and it is 0.8 percent of the gross domestic product which is much lower than what we see in other places around the world, where it is up to 2 or 3 percent.

Private funding is virtually absent, it is less than 5 percent whereas for example in Europe or in the Americas it is more than 60 percent and up to 70 percent. So there is an enormous increase of support for agricultural research and development necessary. A 10 percent annual increase should be required and is possible, there is also the willingness of the donor community to contribute. Then it should be 1.5 percent of the gross domestic products that requires doubling before 2015.

If we would like to see also a situation where the agricultural scientists are working in Africa that means creating a new generation of agricultural scientists, then we have to broaden a deep political support, we have to reform university curricula and we have to strengthen science and education of primary and secondary school levels, in order to build the new generation of agricultural scientists which are instrumental, and of vital importance for the increase of agricultural productivity which is necessary. We see here the research capacity distributed in Africa, 55 percent in sub-Saharan Africa 9 percent North Africa and in Egypt alone 36 percent, which I think is very exceptionally high and you see it also in the consequences in terms of agricultural production.

The fourth domain is very important, as it is the enabling environment for agricultural and agricultural science. Markets and policies that do make the poor income and food secure increase investments in rural infrastructure. Strengthen the capacity to expand market opportunities and finally improve data generation and analysis related to agriculture.

You see here the increase in investments in infrastructure, what are the consequences? For example in Uganda if you look at the agriculture research and extension, the benefit cost rates are, 20.7 percent, whereas if you look for example the other types of investments then it is much lower. The reduction in numbers of poor per billion shillings in Uganda if you invest in agricultural research and extension, is 107.2 so it is a very good investment to do that and to have a result of it.

The follow-up of our report and I gave it to you here in a nutshell, is that it is disseminated to the politicians and international organizations. I mentioned already the United Nations, it has been discussed with the African Union, NEPAD and other places around the world. We hope it is also being discussed in FAO. It was discussed in a meeting of FAO in Ethiopia and it will also be done in a meeting which will take place in the Netherlands early January. Africa stakeholders in the African Research Organization, and the Civil Society discussions are taking place.

We should organize a commitment that support from all relevant stakeholders and we are formulating at the moment an African owned action plan, where all the institutions such as FAO play an enormous role for implementation.

So the conclusion is that there are ample opportunities for science and technology to increase food security to alleviate hunger and to strengthen development. The Africa situation requires specific instead of generic science and technology solutions. It is out of the question to have one green evolution, but the multitude of rainbow evolution is possible, necessary and can be achieved because of the big creation of farming systems and we should build on that. The full power of science and technology will only be unlocked when scientific development is accompanied by adequate enabling conditions, and that requires strengthening investment in agriculture, agricultural research and to resources which are made available also from the developed world in order to strengthen the agricultural productivity, reduce poverty and strengthen food security.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

It has been a long day and I now request Mr de Haen to respond to some queries. I know there is not much time but surely it will be something good within the shortest time possible.

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

We have noted a general agreement with the overall assessment provided in the document, although we have heard some cause for further analysis. We took note of this request and we will certainly try to do better in future reports on the State of Food and Agriculture.

What I have noted is that there were several calls for more explicit conclusions on lessons learned. This is a call that we have heard on other occasions. I draw your attention to the next two sessions of the Committee on World Food Security, where lessons learned will play a major role.

I can also offer, in a nutshell, the five main lessons that we have learned from studying your previous reports on action taken in implementing the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit and in studying the statistics and reports available to us. I will summarize them in five points, five elements of a package of successful strategies or policies in terms of reducing hunger in Member Countries.

First, peace; good governance; rule of law and; broadbased participation of all stakeholders.

Second, and that is very evident and we have shown it in the State of Food Insecurity Reports previously. The second point is strong economic growth.

The third is that this strong economic growth must be based, in most countries, on strong agriculture growth. This entails all the measures needed to promote agricultural growth. This is, of course, mainly investment but also policy reform.

The fourth factor is integration in the world agricultural trade. We can show that countries that have a high ratio of agriculture plus imports as a share in total agriculture production – we call that, high degree of integration in the World Agriculture Trading System – have a significantly lower prevalence of hunger. If you are interested we can provide that evidence in more detail. Integration in the World Trading System is positively correlated with reduction in hunger.

The fifth is social safety nets that we find in various forms in countries that were successful in reducing hunger sustainably.

There are some lessons learned and if you agree with this kind of summary into five main points, then we can say that, in this regard, we seem to see convergence and consensus amongst those dealing with the design of strategies.

We have noted a number of calls on the international community and on the Secretariat for a range of action in a number of fields. I will not summarize them here but we have taken good note and we will certainly consider them in our further work. They included the call to step up significantly resource mobilization, including external assistance, for agriculture and rural development; better information and better assessment methods for food emergency situations; promotion of market liberalization through studies and analysis; training and capacity building; investment in agricultural productivity enhancement and finally; several of you made reference to the acute situation in countries effected by the outbreak and epidemic of desert locusts. We have certainly noted these calls for further action to remedy and prevent a further spread of locusts.

I will not go into further details. I will contact some countries that have made specific reference to estimates of the number of undernourished. For instance, Mexico. We will deal with that bilaterally.

Certainly, we are welcoming such requests for clarification because it enables us to improve our estimates and, perhaps, fulfil or reach our aim to gradually hand over the estimates to Member Countries so that at the end, we are reporting about countries estimates and not FAO's estimates.

To conclude, I wish to react to several who wanted to know whether the statement I made at the opening, using some PowerPoint slides, is available to members. It is available, by request, at the documents desk. However, it is also being placed on FAO's Web site that refers to the Council meeting that we are having here. You may even download the slides if you wish.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Mr de Haen, for summing that up very nicely. I know that this has been a very long and useful discussion today.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session Cent vingt-septième session 127º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-27 November 2004 Rome, 22-27 novembre 2004 Roma, 22-27 de noviembre de 2004
THIRD PLENARY SESSION TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
23 November 2004

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Mr Aziz Mekouar,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 00
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Aziz Mekouar,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

4. Report of the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, September 2004) (CL 127/10)

4. Rapport de la trentième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, septembre 2004) (CL 127/10)

4. Informe del 30º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 20-23 de septiembre de 2004) (CL 127/10)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la troisième séance de la cent vingt-septième session du Conseil.

Nous allons examiner ce matin le point 4 de notre ordre du jour relatif au rapport de la trentième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui s'est tenue à Rome du 20 au 23 septembre 2004. Le document pertinent porte la référence CL 127/10. J'aimerais demander à son Excellence, Monsieur Salif Diallo, Ministre de l'agriculture, de l'hydraulique et des ressources halieutiques du Burkina Faso, Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale d'introduire ce point.

Salif DIALLO (Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale)

Je voudrais d'abord remercier le Président pour la tenue de cette séance et dire merci au Groupe des 77 qui ont présidé à mon élection en tant que Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Je voudrais souhaiter un bon déroulement à cette session et dire au Conseil que nous allons examiner le document intitulé "Rapport du Comité de la sécurité mondiale" CL 127/10 en sa séance des 20 au 23 septembre derniers.

Les principaux points de l'ordre du jour ont inclus les points suivants:

- Premier point: l'évaluation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.
- Deuxième point: la suite à donner au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, rapport sur les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du plan d'action. Ce deuxième point de l'ordre du jour a deux alinéas: en premier lieu, le modèle révisé du rapport; en deuxième lieu: l'organisation du Forum spécial à l'occasion de la trente-deuxième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire en 2006.
- Troisième point de l'ordre du jour, vous aurez donc le rapport du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental chargé d'élaborer un ensemble de directives volontaires à l'appui de la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, point qui sera traité ultérieurement.
- En quatrième point de l'ordre du jour, vous aurez l'Alliance internationale contre la faim. Je voudrais également signaler à l'attention de l'assistance que le Vice-Premier Ministre de la Thaïlande avait livré un discours important lors de cette session et la deuxième personnalité qui est intervenue lors de cette même session fut Monsieur Norman Borlaug des Etats-Unis, Prix Nobel de la Paix et Président de l'Association South Global Africa.

Mesdames et Messieurs, le Comité a, par ailleurs, formulé les recommandations suivantes sur les questions de l'ordre du jour: les recommandations du Comité concernent d'abord l'évaluation de la sécurité alimentaire et se trouvent au paragraphe 10 du rapport final. Ensuite, vous avez les recommandations relatives à la suite à donner au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation qui se trouvent au paragraphe 17. Les recommandations concernant le modèle du rapport révisé se trouvent aux paragraphes 19 et 20. Les recommandations concernant l'organisation du Forum spécial se trouvent aux paragraphes 21 et 22. Les recommandations du rapport du Groupe de

travail inter-gouvernemental se trouvent au paragraphe 26 et celles concernant l'Alliance internationale contre la faim se trouvent aux paragraphes 28, 30 et 31.

Monsieur le Président et Honorables Délégués, le rapport du Comité montre que les progrès relatifs au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, visant à réduire la faim d'ici 2015 sont encore lents et très lents au niveau global. Au niveau des pays, la situation reste précaire en matière d'alimentation. Les défis de vaincre la faim et la pauvreté dans plusieurs pays en voie de développement restent forts et le Comité lance un appel pour des efforts plus concertés de la part des pays concernés aussi bien que de la Communauté internationale.

Je voudrais donc demander, avant l'ouverture du débat, que le Vice-Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire puisse me remplacer car je dois repartir bientôt pour la suite des travaux.

Je ne sais pas si vous avez d'autres points.

Abdelkabar AMMAR (Maroc) (Langue originale arabe)

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, Il convient de noter que le Comité de la Sécurité Alimentaire est parfaitement conscient, à l'instar de la FAO, de la gravité de la situation qui perdure depuis plus d'un an du fait du criquet pèlerin. Je n'en veux pour preuve, si tant est que telle preuve est requise, que l'attention attirée par le CSA dans le paragraphe 7 des résultats et conclusions sur l'aggravation de l'invasion acridienne et l'étendue grandissante des zones infestées et le nombre des pays touchés. La première de ses recommandations à l'ensemble des parties concernées par la question de la sécurité alimentaire a, par ailleurs, insisté sur la nécessité d'apporter un soutien efficace et urgent aux opérations de lutte anti-acridienne. Pour abonder dans le sens de certains délégués des pays concernés qui ont pris la parole hier, permettez-moi de souligner au nom de mon pays, le Royaume du Maroc, que les efforts de nos pays basés sur nos propres moyens et appuyés par la mobilisation de la FAO et la contribution de certains donateurs ne sauront, certes, venir à bout de ce fléau qui vient de s'étendre à d'autres pays à l'est et au nord au-delà de la mer Méditerranée.

Pour conclure, tout en remerciant la FAO pour ses efforts, en nous félicitant de la coordination et de la solidarité entre les pays touchés par ce fléau, et en rendant un hommage particulier au Secrétariat Général de l'Union du Maghreb Arabe qui s'est associé à ce combat inégal, nous saisissons cette occasion pour réitérer l'appel lancé aux composantes de la communauté internationale en vue d'une action rapide avant qu'il ne soit trop tard. Autrement, les pertes et les coûts de réhabilitation dépasseraient de loin ceux nécessaires pour endiguer ce fléau. Merci.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais signaler que nous sommes en train de traiter le point 4, il s'agit du rapport de la trentième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Nous passerons au point 4.1 qui traitera du Groupe de travail inter-gouvernemental chargé d'élaborer un ensemble de directives volontaires pour la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate. Je demanderais aux délégations qui veulent intervenir de se cantonner au point 4. On passera au point 4.1 immédiatement après.

Est-ce que des délégations souhaiteraient prendre la parole sur le point 4.?

Excusez-moi, il y a un problème de traduction.

Vous avez un break, vous pouvez vous reposer en attendant de réparer l'appareil de transmission.

The meeting was suspended from 10.10 to 10.20 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 10 à 10 h 20

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.10 a las 10.20 horas

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous reprenons nos travaux. L'anglais sera sur le canal 7. Je répète l'anglais sera sur le canal 7, est-ce que cela marche? Même sur le canal 7, cela ne marche pas.

Cela marche maintenant.

Je passe la parole à Madame la Déléguée de l'Inde.

Je demande: "Est-ce que cela marche? cela marche?".

Ms Radha SINGH (India)

We appreciate the progress made in developing the Voluntary Guidelines for the Right for Food. This has been an extremely elaborate and difficult process and we commend FAO and the Member States and particularly the Inter-Governmental Working Group and its Chairman, in arriving at a consensual draft of the Guidelines.

The draft Guidelines are acceptable for us. We realize that in attempting to satisfy the concerns and needs of various players, the consensus that has emerged is not the ideal solution, but a suitable compromise in the circumstances.

We are happy that the Guidelines carry dos and do nots, not only for developing countries to attain national food security, but for developed countries too, with regard to their role in this process. The international environment is critical for global food security and we regard international trade, official development assistance, the role of financial institutions, technical assistance, capacity building, technology transfers and others as key elements in the battle against hunger.

We now look forward to effective implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines, both at the national and international level. Herein lies the challenge and the test of our commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Madame, nous sommes en train de traiter le point 4 et non pas le point 4.1. Si vous voulez intervenir sur le point 4, je vous passerai la parole sinon on attendra le point 4.1 pour ne pas faire de confusion. Bien, Madame la Déléguée de l'Inde, est-ce que vous voulez intervenir sur le point 4? 4.1? Ok, très bien. Alors je passerai la parole au Royaume-Uni.

Mathew S.S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

I would like to ask you, please, to give the floor to the delegate of the Netherlands, who will speak on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

Ewald WERMUTH (Observer for the Netherlands)

The Netherlands is speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

The European Community endorses the Report of the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which met in Rome from 20-23 September 2004. We would like to express our thanks to the FAO Secretariat.

The EU notes that on-going efforts to fight hunger are important but insufficient. Our Heads of State and Government have identified rural development as essential to sustainable development and poverty and hunger eradication at the World Food Summits and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Millennium Development Goals are clear about what has to be achieved by their target date.

The EU, therefore, welcomes the recommendation of the CFS to accord priority to food security through agriculture and rural development in national development plans, strategies and national budgets. The EU has taken note of the CFS recommendation that concerned parties should

enhance allocation of resources, including ODA, to agriculture and rural development, with a view to enhancing purchasing power, employment and food security of the neediest groups.

A reverse in the decline of investments in rural development is slowly emerging. We believe this is a critical phase. Expectations are high that new investments are effectively leading to an increase of rural employment and income in a sustainable manner. But agriculture, and I should say sustainable agriculture in itself, is not sufficient to tackle all the underlying causes of rural poverty, hunger and environmental degradation. We need global partnerships for development, as aimed for in MDG 8, in which developed and developing countries and all parts of the UN system, will play their part.

The EU welcomes the July WTO Framework Agreement, aiming at concluding the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations. We want to emphasize the need for further steps to improve market access. However, trade liberalization alone is not a guarantee for development. Well-functioning local and national markets also play an important role. In addition, sound domestic policies are necessary to maximize the benefits of trade liberalization. The EU also calls upon FAO to adequately capture the overriding need for an enabling political, social and economic environment. The fight against hunger has to be an integral part of the overall development agenda.

Studies have shown that rural issues are not well covered in the country driven Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. There is also a clear lack of interface between policies and programmes for agriculture with those for water management and biodiversity. This highlights the necessity to properly monitor not only the reduction of hunger, but also the net results of a wide range of development efforts and to develop country specific concerted programmes.

Performance of countries in tackling poverty and hunger and their progress towards internationally agreed targets are uneven. We welcome the ongoing efforts to improve the methodology and indicators for measuring progress towards achieving the target of reducing the number of hungry people by half by 2015. The EU urges FAO to speed up its efforts, including the efforts through FIVIMS, and to report on these efforts to the May 2005 CFS.

In order to provide a more accurate and comprehensive basis for policy recommendations, we look forward to a revised reporting format by the Secretariat for the follow-up of the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action. In order to be able to learn from the experiences of other countries, we also look forward to the requested paper by the Secretariat on good practises at country level on results in enhancing food security and reducing hunger.

The EU stands ready to support and assist the regionally balanced working group of experts, who is supposed to review the various options for reporting, as soon as possible.

The EU warmly welcomes the initiative to undertake, within available resources, during the Thirty-first period of Sessions of the CFS, a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the Agenda Item dealing with the preparatory process of the 2006 Special Forum, following the precedent of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. We support active participation from governments, relevant international organizations and actors of civil society.

Recently, World Food Day around the world has illustrated that civil society stakeholders continue to underline the need to combat poverty and hunger and that they are themselves willing to actively contribute to the fight against hunger.

The multi-stakeholder dialogue should also include discussion of future actions to improve dialogue, consultation and understanding.

To finalize, the CFS has made it clear that we need adequate responses to the challenges of poverty and hunger reduction. At the international level, FAO should increase its efforts to liaise and cooperate with other UN organizations and the international financial institutions.

The EU believes that the challenges are tremendous and can only be addressed through full cooperation, and not through competing claims on resources. It takes political will to ensure the

achievement of the goals of the World Food Summit, the World Food Summit Plus 5 and the Millennium Development of Goals.

Willem BRAKEL (United States of America)

At the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, Members recommended measures to accelerate progress in achieving internationally agreed Development Goals. The Committee stressed that the primary responsibility for the fight against hunger rests with national governments. The Committee pointed out that good governance and a conducive national policy environment are essential for accelerated development and the reduction of poverty and hunger and noted that progress should be supported by a conducive international environment. We agree with this assessment.

The United States was pleased with the consensus achieved on the many issues discussed at the CFS, including on the International Alliance Against Hunger and on the 2006 Session of the CFS.

Finally, many delegations at the CFS highlighted ongoing emergencies affecting food security in various regions, including, notably, the outbreak of desert locusts in the Sahel in North Africa. FAO played an important role in identifying and responding to the latter crisis, but we believe that the Organization's response could have been better coordinated and more efficient and effective. We look forward to informal discussions among affected states, donors and the Secretariat to draw lessons from the 2004 locust crisis that could help to strengthen and enhance FAO's emergency response capability in the future.

Noel D. DE LUNA (Philippines)

As far as this Item on the Report of the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security is concerned, we would also like to express our endorsements of the recommendations contained in paragraph 10 on the Assessment of the World Food Security Situation; paragraph 17 on the Follow-up to the World Food Summit Report on the Progress in the Implementation of the WFS Plan of Action; paragraph 20 to 26 and paragraphs 28 to 31 on the International Alliance Against Hunger.

However, we would also like to draw your attention to paragraph 9, which we think is understated. We urge the Secretariat to formulate serious and timely work to give substance to the recent consensus reached in the WTO negotiations last July in Geneva, within the context of national food security revealed in paragraph 10 of the Report.

I would also like to dwell for a few seconds on paragraph 20 of the Report and thank the Secretariat for the financial support through the Asia FIVIMS Project, which provided US\$23 000 to support the institutional capacity building for the development of FIVIMS in the Philippines in 2002.

Under this project, we were able to: (i) test FIVIMS indicators; (ii) develop a manual of operations; and (iii) conduct capability building in support to the implementation on FIVIMS in the Philippines.

Antonio RUIZ GARCÍA (México)

Como es usual, la Delegación de México participó activamente en el 30° período de sesiones del Comité. En esta ocasión queremos dejar constancia de nuestro aprecio por el informe escrito y por la presentación verbal así como por el trabajo realizado por la Señora Margarita Flores en su calidad de Secretaria del Comité.

Con respecto a la evaluación de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria, tema 3, mi delegación sólo desea en esta ocasión reafirmar la voluntad y el empeño del Gobierno mexicano para atender las recomendaciones que el Comité ha dado a los gobiernos, particularmente para facilitar un entorno económico, político y social favorable a la erradicación de la pobreza y para aplicar políticas públicas a favor de la seguridad alimentaria.

Es importante también que la FAO atienda y dé seguimiento a las recomendaciones que el Comité formuló a la Organización; en manera particular a la recomendación 10ª del párrafo 10 sobre la ayuda que debe brindar a los estados en desarrollo para que éstos obtengan el máximo provecho del libre comercio agrícola aumentando sus capacidades, así como atender de una mejor manera las cuestiones de género en el ámbito rural.

En relación con el seguimiento de los objetivos de la Cumbre, mi delegación reitera su firme convicción de atender las recomendaciones del Comité para presentar sus informes nacionales y continuar reforzando las políticas agrícolas de desarrollo rural y de seguridad alimentaria. En este sentido, deseo presentar a la atención del Consejo, de nueva cuenta, el estudio efectuado por Banco Mundial sobre la pobreza en México publicado en 2004 y en el cual se constata que hay una efectiva reducción de la pobreza tanto extrema como moderada. De esta manera, México ha superado la etapa de diseño y de estrategia de programas y la etapa actual es de aplicación y de resultados que muestra la conveniencia y la efectividad de las acciones que emprende el gobierno federal.

En este sentido, en la más reciente reunión de la Junta Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, la administración del programa expresó su pleno reconocimiento a la política social del Gobierno mexicano, así como los resultados en materia de educación, salud y alimentación en los sectores nacionales más pobres. Se constató que las acciones que emprende el Gobierno Federal mexicano, por el éxito que han tenido, están siendo replicadas por otros países. A este respecto, y con el fin de que la FAO atienda la recomendación primera del párrafo 17, sería conveniente dar seguimiento a las enseñanzas exitosas en México para su utilización en otros países.

Finalmente, mi país renueva su respaldo a las disposiciones para la realización de un foro especial ya previsto en el Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial bajo las modalidades decididas por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en su 30º período de sesiones.

Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brazil)

I have first to congratulate the Secretary of the Division which is in charge of this Committee on World Food Security for her strenuous work. She has been of help to all of the Delegations. But let me talk about what is in the report, what is contained in the report.

Brazil would like to stress its support on the recommendations made in Paragraph 10, but I would like also to indicate that we consider, in particular, important recommendations contained in that paragraph, in bullet 4, when FAO is involved to consider trade as one of the ongoing elements of analysis in the assessment of World Food Security. To consider, in particular, the eighth bullet which mentioned the need to include aspects of access to assets, land, capital, information and political voice when reviewing the access aspect of Food Security and the bullet which says that it is a particular task of FAO to assist developing Member Countries in maximizing the benefits from trade liberalization by building up their capacity to exploit new opportunities.

Of course, we support all the recommendations. I am only stressing on some of them, but for all parties concerned it is important to recall the fight against the locust invasion in Africa, the appropriate humanitarian development assistance to Haiti, and other countries in Central America and the Caribbean. Third, enhance the allocation of resources including ODA to agriculture and rural development, including the rural non-farm sector with a view to enhancing purchasing power and employment of the neediest group.

On this report of the Thirtieth session of the Committee on World Food Security, the Brazilian delegation would like to call special attention to paragraphs 21 and 22. The two paragraphs contain the Committee's decision regarding the arrangement for a special forum as foreseen in the World Food Summit Plan of Action. This decision, as many delegates will recall, derives from an original GRULAC proposal unanimously embraced by the Committee on World Food Security. In fact, the Committee simply reaffirmed the previous decision of the World Food Summit to convene in Special Forum within the Thirty-second Session of the CFS work in 2006.

Moreover, the CFS decided to promote an encounter of governments, international organizations and actors of civil society, relevant to the mandate of the Committee in order to assess their suggestions, as a preparation for this special forum 2006. This encounter will take place in 2005 during discussions on the appropriate item of the agenda of the Thirty-first Session of the CFS.

The Committee took as an example the initiative already adopted in other UN fora, calling this particular meeting for its Thirty-first Session 2005 a multi-stakeholder dialogue involving the active participation of all interested parties.

With the earlier, inclusive start of the preparations for this special forum, the Committee on World Food Security took an important step towards the realization of the objectives of the 1996 Plan of Action.

I believe its decision deserves the warm welcome of the Council today.

Suthiporn CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

I would like to draw your attention to the keynote address made by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand at the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. He strongly believes that Food Security can effectively be achieved through trade. Of late we have created several regional arrangements, one of which is the Ayeyarwady-Chao Phaya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy or ACMECS Programme. It comprises Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia with Viet Nam joining in the new future.

These countries are situated in important adjacent rural basins of the Southeast Asian region. The ACMECS aims, among other things, to promote production and trade of farm commodities wherever comparative and competitive advantages can be realized. For example, soybean production in Thailand has been and is stagnant, while the domestic demand for soybean and soybean meal is almost 10 tonnes. Each year we import almost 2 million tonnes of soybean meal from all over the world.

Countries such as Myanmar and Laos have the potential to produce more efficiently than the Thai farmers. Thailand is now launching joint efforts with these countries of the ACMECS to relocate its production base to these countries where soybean produce can be exported into Thailand. However, Thailand is not in a position to finance all technical and economic cooperation programmes by herself. The South-South Cooperation Programme advocated by the FAO, in particular, provides a distinct opportunity for countries with similar economic background to work together for the betterment of the rural poor. It can achieve its goals much more easily when countries involved are of similar historical and cultural background.

Thailand is committed to implement a South-South Cooperation Programme with Myanmar and Cambodia. However, this cannot proceed without core funding towards the cost of the programme. Therefore, I urge donor countries to consider contributions in financing it in the pursuit of South-South Cooperation, adopted in accordance with the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Mohamed LASSOUED (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe)

Monsieur le Président, je commencerai par remercier le Secrétariat d'avoir préparé ce document très important.

Monsieur le Président, on procède à une évaluation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. On se rend compte que la lutte contre la faim varie grandement d'un pays à l'autre ou d'une région à l'autre. Les indicateurs et les données, qui sont présentés dans le rapport, nous montrent que l'objectif de réduire les populations affamées de moitié mérite que l'on y consacre davantage d'efforts afin de pouvoir atteindre cet objectif. J'aimerais saluer les solutions pragmatiques, concrètes, qui ont été présentées par le CSA à sa trentième session. Nous souhaitons que chacun donne suite aux recommandations qui sont formulées et nous souhaitons que ces recommandations soient également hiérarchisées en fonction des priorités et que l'on tienne compte de la nécessité d'accélérer les choses dans les pays qui souffrent le plus de l'insécurité

alimentaire. Il faut aider ces pays à avancer et à progresser. On y parviendra grâce au secours alimentaire, mais aussi en mettant en œuvre des programmes et des stratégies qui permettent de parvenir à la sécurité alimentaire.

Ms Maryam Ahmed Moustafa MOUSSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to express our appreciation to the CFS for its report. In this regard, I would like to refer to the desert locust problem which requires the mobilization of international efforts in order to combat. I should also like to stress the importance of political will for the achievement of development and food security. Moreover, I should like to recall the recommendation to seek and analyze the deep root causes behind emergencies and crises in order to elaborate adequate strategies.

Ms Radha SINGH (India)

Permit me to spend a few minutes in outlining the efforts of my Government in the campaign against hunger as there are a large number of malnourished and underfed people in India.

Ensuring food security of the country is the primary objective of the Food Policy of the Government. The State has been playing a pro-active role in ensuring food security to a large segment of its population. India has adopted a multi-sectoral, multi-pronged strategy to combat the problem of hunger and improve the nutritional status of its population. Though the Right to Adequate food is not listed as a Fundamental Right, there are other constitutional provisions particularly in the form of Direct Principles of State Policy, which ensure food security and nutritional safety. In order to ensure that not only there is access to adequate food but also the means to earn livelihood, the Constitution provides that the State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the Right to Work, to agitation and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old-age, sickness and disability.

The Public Distribution System, which has been in existence in India for more than five decades, has played a major role in ensuring a certain level of availability of foodgrains to the population of the country. Foodgrains are made available through a network of 47 million Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country. Besides, there are other food based interventions in the form of welfare schemes like Integrated Child Development Programme, Midday Meal Programme, Rural Employment Programme and many others. These are all aimed at providing food security to the targeted population. More recently, an initiative has been launched to focus attention on the poorest of the poor among those who live below the Poverty Line. In the fight for alleviation of hunger amongst the most vulnerable sections such as the old and infirm, terminally ill, disabled persons without family or societal support, primitive tribal groups, etc. the Scheme has been expanded to cover about 20 million people. The efficacy of these schemes can be judged from the fact that though India has faced several severe drought conditions in many parts of the country over the last three years, there was no shortage of foodgrains in any part of the country and the foodgrain prices remained stable.

The Apex Court of the country has also given several directives and rulings enjoining social and food security arrangements for the destitute and the poor. These directives have been effectively converted into benefits of eight food-related schemes which are now legal entitlements, and has directed the State Government to introduce cooked midday meals in all government and government-assisted primary schools.

Alongside, India has a very strong press and media and a vocal empowered civil society, with an independent judiciary, all of which ensures that the food security concerns of the country are adequately met.

With these words we endorse the recommendations of the Committee.

David INGHAM (Australia)

Australia welcomes the report of the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, in particular Australia notes that a stable and enabling economic, political and social environment is vital to the success of the efforts to overcome food insecurity. Australia endorses CFS comments supporting special coverage of trade in the documents on the food security situation and the recent consensus reached in the WTO negotiations. It is critical that all countries seek the opportunity presented by the July Framework on agricultural reform to secure comprehensive reforms to world agricultural trade policies. Countries should now focus on the modalities phase in the negotiations in the lead up to the next WTO Ministerial Meeting scheduled for Hong Kong in December 2005.

Australia welcomes the importance of the recommendation for FAO to consider trade as one of the ongoing elements of analysis in the systems of world food security in the report. We are pleased to see trade liberalization discussed in the context of alleviating food insecurity. It is important for FAO to continue to pay special attention to trade analysis in future reports. Australia has long recognized the more active trading environment and the stimulation of economic growth in development, this fact is vital to overcoming poverty and hunger in the longer term.

Australia notes the call for CFS's immediate international assistance in response to the worsening locust crises in Africa. In recognition of the seriousness of the crises and the potential devastation to crops and livelihoods, I would note that Australia made a contribution to FAO in September 2004 to assist with the locust crises. I would also add that Australia fully understands this problem as we have our own problems with locusts, the situation in the state of New South Wales remaining of serious concern despite a substantial control effort in October and November.

Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia)

Let me start by expressing my appreciation to you and the Secretariat for enlightening us on these very important issues and for the preparation of this report for our consideration. We have noted with a positive approach paragraph 9 of the report, with regard to the latest situation in the WTO and in line with this report also we have noted the recommendation here under paragraph 10, especially on the need to assist the developing Member Countries in maximizing the benefits from trade liberalizations by building up their capacity to exploit the new opportunities. In this regard, I wish to support the statement of my friend from the Philippines with regard to the situation in the WTO.

We also would like to express our appreciation for the Committee on giving the recommendations under paragraph 17, on the existing developing countries to build their capacity to benefit from the opportunities provided by a liberalized trading environment. Also the strengthening of the national agriculture, rural department and food security policies and strategies and accord high priority budget allocation to rural agriculture. We also would like support the recommendations for the follow-up with donors and international organizations, to give a preference, where appropriate, to local and regional purchase in the provision of food aid to developing countries for emergency assistance and for development programmes, also in view of the situation of the rice production of Indonesia we are ready to work together with FAO on this matter.

Concerning food security, Indonesia realizes the importance of the availability of food at the regional level in each Member Country. We are consequently very active participants in the regional food resource networking like the Asian Food Security Board. Through the boards we look forward to closer collaboration among the members of Asia and the other partner countries and institutions. Especially in achieving the food security in the region.

With regard to paragraph 20 we also support the recommendations that FIVIMS work should contribute to the development of an appropriate analytical methodology and selection of food security indicators for the WFS reporting process. We support all the efforts to strengthening the work of the FIVIMS. With this statement we will go along with the approval of this report.

Gustavo AYARES (Chile)

La Delegación de Chile agradece el Informe y quisiera hacer referencia específicamente a la recomendación que se señala en el párrafo 13, con relación a la reunión especial llevada a cabo en el ámbito de las Naciones Unidas sobre la acción contra el hambre y la pobreza. La Delegación de Chile quisiera señalar su complacencia por la organización de esta conferencia contra el hambre y la pobreza que originalmente congregó a más de 50 jefes de estado y de gobierno, en la cual jugó un destacado papel, la participación del Presidente de Chile, Ricardo Lagos. Como corolario de este encuentro, se acordaron varias propuestas sobre los mecanismos financieros e innovadores para combatir el hambre y se produjo la declaración que fue suscrita por más de 110 países. Éstas fueron remitidas al Primer Ministro del Reino Unido para ser presentadas en el ámbito de la próxima Cumbre de los G8. Nosotros también hemos generado una institución específica que va a seguir esta iniciativa, por lo cual aprobamos con entusiasmo la recomendación señalada precedentemente.

Asimismo, la Delegación de Chile quisiera señalar y apoyar la recomendación contenida en el párrafo 21 del informe con relación a la preparación del Foro Especial de 2006 sobre el desarrollo sostenible en el cual participarán activamente los gobiernos y las organizaciones internacionales y representantes de la sociedad civil. Nos parece que en este párrafo se abre un camino nuevo para la FAO, que nosotros consideramos interesante y relevante destacar.

Alfredo Néstor PUIG PINO (Cuba)

La Delegación de Cuba no quiere dejar pasar por alto la discusión de este documento para destacar precisamente el trabajo realizado por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en su 30^o período de sesiones y agradecer en este sentido la presentación de este informe a la Secretaría que, en nuestra opinión, recoge de forma resumida todos los temas tratados en este período de sesiones. En este sentido nuestra delegación apoya las recomendaciones recogidas en el documento y, en particular, consideramos que la decisión del CSA de analizar con mayor profundidad las causas de la persistencia de la inseguridad alimentaria es un motivo permanente de este Comité, que debe mantenerse como se ha examinado en el Informe Mundial de la Alimentación, en tanto se procede en el aún largo camino para alcanzar los objetivos de la cumbre del milenio.

Coincidimos y estamos de acuerdo con la propuesta del CSA de incluir, en forma permanente, el análisis de los temas del comercio internacional y sus efectos sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial, dadas las consecuencias que provocan los subsidios agrícolas y otras barreras comerciales en las economías de los países en desarrollo.

Apoyamos la decisión del CSA de continuar trabajando en favor de los países en desarrollo hacia el aumento de sus capacidades para enfrentar las negociaciones comerciales internacionales y participar más activamente en ellas. Resaltamos la importancia de la decisión del CSA de abordar los efectos de endeudamiento externo sobre la seguridad alimentaria y su impacto en la lucha contra el hambre y la desnutrición.

Coincidimos y apoyamos el establecimiento de un grupo de expertos para examinar la propuesta del modelo revisado para el seguimiento del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. Sin embargo, debemos resaltar que sería útil que dicho modelo recoja un conjunto de indicadores que den una visión más exacta de los logros alcanzados en la reducción del hambre y la subnutrición, y que evite la duplicación de indicadores y que aborde fundamentalmente la posibilidad de apoyar a los países en desarrollo en el aumento de sus capacidades nacionales para enfrentar la recolección de estas informaciones y la elaboración del informe.

Apoyamos la decisión del CSA de realizar un foro especial para analizar los resultados alcanzados en la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial de Alimentación en el 2006. Sin embargo, proponemos que al analizar esta propuesta en la próxima reunión del CSA se tenga en cuenta las modalidades de participación y de selección de las organizaciones no gubernamentales.

Apoyamos sin lugar a dudas, los esfuerzos realizados por la FAO en la instrumentación de la Alianza Internacional contra el Hambre. En este sentido sugerimos que el Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria Especial (PESA), sea considerado incluso un ejemplo de lo que es o puede constituir una alianza positiva e internacional contra el hambre. Nuestro país ratifica su apoyo a este programa y continuará participando en el mismo como lo ha hecho hasta el momento.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

Canada endorses the report of the Thirtieth Session of the CFS. In addition to the remarks we made at the CFS itself, we wish to emphasize:

First, our strong support for the special coverage of trade in the document entitled "Assessment of the World Food Security Situation"; and

Second, our strong support for the recommendation in paragraph 10 that FAO "consider trade as one of the ongoing elements of analysis in the assessment of world food security".

Fabio VALENCIA COSSIO (Colombia)

Quiero dejar una declaración del GRULAC en relación con los temas que estamos discutiendo. El pasado mes de septiembre participamos en dos grandes eventos de mucha importancia para avanzar en el cumplimiento de los objetivos del milenio, el 30^o período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y la última reunión del grupo de trabajo intergubernamental para la elaboración de un conjunto de directrices voluntarias con el fin de respaldar la relación progresiva del derecho a una alimentación adecuada en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional. El Comité, en su trigésima sesión, examinó los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación y reiteró su preocupación por el lento avance en la reducción del número de personas subnutridas en el mundo y resaltó que *"en refuerzo de la seguridad alimentaria dependía de la mejora de las condiciones económicas en general y del crecimiento agrícola en particular"* con la participación amplia de todas las partes y en refuerzo de una cooperación en la lucha contra el hambre en el ámbito global, regional y nacional. Es importante dar continuidad a los esfuerzos que hasta ahora hemos hecho en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza, por eso es preciso que tengamos en cuenta las recomendaciones que ha formulado el CSA en su 30^o período de sesiones a los gobiernos, a la FAO y a todas las partes interesadas para cumplir con los objetivos del milenio de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria mundial, la reducción de la pobreza y el regulamiento de la calidad de vida de los más vulnerables.

Siguiendo el lineamiento de examinar las recomendaciones de la Comisión contenidas en el documento presentado por la Secretaría, consideramos importante resaltar los siguientes aspectos: es indispensable que los gobiernos faciliten, dentro y fuera de sus fronteras, un entorno económico, político y social favorables para la erradicación del hambre, propiciando planes y estrategias nacionales de desarrollo mediante la agricultura y el desarrollo rural.

Compartimos la necesidad de que la FAO analice las causas de la persistencia de la inseguridad alimentaria en todo el mundo, con el fin de orientar los programas de mitigación del hambre y de desarrollo, especialmente en los países desarrollados.

Consideramos relevante abordar las cuestiones relativas al aprovechamiento y la ordenación de los recursos naturales ayudando a los Estados Miembros en desarrollo a sacar el máximo partido de la liberalización comercial aumentando su capacidad para aprovechar nuevas oportunidades.

Creemos importante tomar como ejemplo las experiencias de los países que han logrado reducir la pobreza y el hambre, como base de aplicación para nuevos casos. No obstante, consideramos que la FAO debe aprovechar los estudios analíticos ya existentes y los esfuerzos de otros organismos internacionales con el fin de no generar duplicidad y ahorrar recursos que permitan ayudar a los países en desarrollo a reformar sus capacidades nacionales.

Vemos con agrado la recomendación de brindar asistencia humanitaria y para el desarrollo apropiada para hacer frente a la crisis provocada por los recientes huracanes en Haití y otros

países de América Central y el Caribe, así como potenciar y mejorar la asignación de recursos, incluida la asistencia oficial para el desarrollo AOD, a la agricultura y desarrollo rural con inclusión del sector no agrícola rural, con vista a aumentar el poder adquisitivo y el empleo de los grupos más necesitados.

Reiteramos nuestro apoyo y colaboración al CSA en la preparación del foro especial para el 2006 previsto en el Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y en relación con el grupo de trabajo intergubernamental para la elaboración de las directrices voluntarias, el GRULAC quiere resaltar la labor y logros alcanzados por el grupo de trabajo intergubernamental creado en el 2002 por este Consejo, durante sus 123⁰ período de sesiones *"para la elaboración de un conjunto de directrices voluntarias con el fin de respaldar la realización progresiva del derecho a una alimentación adecuada en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional"*. Este instrumento, como un órgano auxiliar del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, y también del excelente conducción de su Presidente a quien queremos felicitar el Embajador Noori de Irán, que con su esfuerzo y con dedicación ha logrado que hoy nuestros países puedan contar con un instrumento para orientar y mejorar las políticas nacionales en materia de seguridad alimentaria y desarrollo sostenible. Estas directrices, más que un conjunto de buenas intenciones, son una obligación natural que compromete nuestras conciencias para conseguir el objetivo de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación de reducir el hambre y la pobreza. Debemos estimular la aplicación de estas directrices voluntarias pues han sido concebidas como una herramienta útil y práctica a disposición de los estados y su desarrollo. Es importante recalcar que si bien su aplicación en el contexto nacional es responsabilidad de nuestras propias naciones, su impacto será aún más beneficioso si cuenta con el decidido respaldo de la comunidad internacional. Siempre es conveniente recordar que la cooperación internacional en todos los sectores del desarrollo es un factor crucial para la ejecución efectiva y eficiente de los acuerdos que alcanzamos colectivamente.

Mamadou DIALLO (Observateur du Sénégal)

Nous remercions Monsieur le Président. La délégation du Sénégal partage la plupart des recommandations formulées dans le document, mais aimerait qu'un accent très fort soit mis sur la nécessité d'une massification des investissements dans le secteur agricole si nous voulons inverser de façon durable les tendances actuelles en ce qui concerne la sécurité alimentaire. Concernant la situation exceptionnelle liée au péril acridien, nous pensons qu'au-delà d'un appui ciblé, en terme d'assistance alimentaire, que le Conseil puisse recommander la mise en œuvre de programmes alternatifs d'urgence qui viseraient particulièrement à restaurer la capacité productive des populations dans les zones touchées par le fléau: on pense surtout à la facilitation des intrants agricoles et éventuellement, à l'ensemble des facteurs qui contribuent au niveau de la relance de la production agricole dans ces zones. Nous vous remercions Monsieur le Président.

Ms Bettina CORKE (International Alliance of Women)

I would like to refer to the Report, paragraphs 21 and 22 if I may. As Representative of the International Alliance of Women in FAO, we have been an active member for the last eight years or so of the International Non-Governmental Organization here in FAO, the Ad Hoc Group.

During the 1990s until the present time, FAO's programme to eliminate hunger has not been, in our view, very successful. There are more hungry people now than there were in 1996.

In the year 2001, a five year review of the UN/FAO World Food Summit was held and disappointment was voiced by many present at that meeting, in the non-implementation of the goals of the World Food Summit. This was reflected in the opinion and statements given by most of the Ad Hoc Group of INGOs in consultative and liaison status with FAO, by certain Member States and by the INGO Forum on Food Sovereignty.

This negative assessment of the implementation of the UN/FAO World Food Summit and FAO's present day inability to solve the question of hunger indicates how much more analysis and hard thinking must take place inside and outside of FAO, by the Secretariat and by Member States of FAO and International NGOs, if the implementation of the aims and objectives of FAO which

are: to promote agricultural produce and to promote rural development and improve the living conditions of rural populations and by these means eliminate hunger.

Having said that we would certainly welcome the report of the Thirtieth Session and we would like to suggest that many of the recommendations and analysis of food security, and the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, be taken into account in the proposed review of FAO.

We would end by saying that our work as an INGO, working on agriculture to increase domestic food production and food security works within many countries in an atmosphere of destabilization. A destabilization of Member States caused by a relentless pursuit of transnational practices of cash cropping, unregulated food aid flows and a downsizing of the effectiveness of Ministries of Agriculture and its outreach programmes.

We would, therefore, like to suggest that many of the recommendations and proposals and analysis that we have carried out over the last eight years, certainly be continued to be debated and have a dialogue within the Committee on Food Security. We welcome that input and we hope that the next time we speak about food security we can speak about it in a more positive sense.

Muhammad Ismail QURESHI (Pakistan)

Pakistan wishes to support the recommendations of the CFS Committee. However, we also wish to emphasize that elimination of export subsidies by the end date, as agreed in the recently concluded WTO negotiations in Geneva, is actually the end game. Therefore, all references to reducing export subsidies in the report have to be understood as to lead to elimination of export subsidies, in developed countries preferably, in a short period of time. I would like to make special reference to paragraphs 9, 10 and 15. That is the background. I hope that it is clearly understood.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

First, I would like to take the opportunity to once again, on behalf of my country, congratulate Ambassador Noori-Naeeni for the work done with respect to the Rights to Food document. Our only prayer is that the document will receive the widest publicity because it is one thing getting it and another, whether people know about it.

The second point, is with respect to the document itself. Nigeria has no reason not to support the document. I was at the Food Security Committee Meeting held in September. Our contribution was made then, but the recommendations in paragraph 10 are fully endorsed with special emphasis on the effort to assist developing Member Countries in maximizing the benefits from trade liberalization. The effort to address the implication of indebtedness of countries in their food security situation and the analysis of the lessons of experience of successful examples that could be transferable, I think these are important. I would be interested in knowing the secrets of success that can help those who are lagging behind and copy them.

Hideo INOMATA (Japan)

I would like to make a few quick comments. One is on the ongoing locust situation. Japan shares the concern expressed by many countries, in particular by African countries, regarding the ongoing desert locust situation and its implications in terms of food security.

The desert locusts are not just moving northwest but also towards northeast, this means that we certainly have to deepen our discussion on this issue. However, I would like to remind you that our extraordinary session with the Desert Locust Committee is scheduled for next week and I hope we can discuss this issue in a more detailed manner, both from an emergency middle and long-term point of view.

Japan would like to emphasize that at the forum it is WTO who has to discuss this issue and make a final decision I would like to submit our concern for FAO Council to continue this discussion, because as a member of this issue, is rather limited.

With regard to the endorsement of the Report of the CFS, what Japan can agree to is the text of the Report as it is. In other words Japan can only participate as endorsement of this Report provides that FAO does not go beyond the prescription of the Report, in particular to other issues.

Lydie ROSSINI VAN HISSENHOVEN (Conseil International des Femmes)

C'est au nom du Conseil International des Femmes que je voudrais féliciter le Secrétariat pour le document CL 127/10-Supp.1 dont nous sommes saisis. Je désire remercier le Président, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Noori de l'Iran et les Membres du Groupe de travail inter-gouvernemental que j'ai suivis avec intérêt, pour avoir tenu en considération les besoins et les droits des femmes, comme décrit ci-dessus. La Directive 3: "Stratégies" point 3.5; Directive 7: "Cadres juridiques", point 7.4; Directive 8: "Accès aux ressources et aux moyens de production", points 8.3 et 8.6 très importants; Directive 11 "Education et sensibilisation", point 11.2; Directive 13, point 13.4: ce sont des priorités que le CIF, né et fondé en 1888 à Washington D.C., poursuit de longue date sur le plan législatif, sanitaire, nutritionnel, de l'éducation, etc. Je voudrais donc me permettre d'insister auprès des Membres du Comité et Représentants des Gouvernements pour qu'ils mettent en œuvre les mécanismes nécessaires pour que ces directives entrent en fonction sans tarder où elles ne sont pas déjà en place, et se manifestent de manière concrète, tant à niveau régional, national et international. Merci Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le débat est à présent terminé. Je demanderai au Secrétariat d'intervenir et de répondre. Peut-être que Monsieur de Haen pourrait dire quelque chose et ensuite, je passerai la parole à Madame Flores. Attendez, je crois que le Royaume-Uni et l'Angola voudraient intervenir également. Je passe la parole au Royaume-Uni.

V. HEARD (United Kingdom)

I would like to ask you please to give the floor to the delegate of the European Community who will speak on behalf of the European Community.

Jorge DE LA CABALLERIA (European Community)

In fact we have heard one of the present delegations mention the reference to the agreement in Geneva and would like to make a very short statement.

The European Community considers that the precise terms of the framework agreement of last July has to be fully respected. A report which refers to the whole membership means the Committee cannot contain a selective or incomplete quoting, this is why we always prefer agreed wording and we do not want to reopen discussions which are closed in Geneva. That means, and I read, that in paragraph 17 of the said framework agreement, it is stated: "as an outcome of negotiations, members agree to establish detailed modalities ensuring parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect" this is the exact wording and we want to put this on the table just to avoid problems in the Drafting Committee.

Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Merci Monsieur le Président. Je serai également bref. Nous aimerions avant tout féliciter l'Ambassadeur d'Iran Noori, le Groupe des Amis du Président, les groupes régionaux, pour l'excellent travail réalisé qui a permis d'arriver à un consensus les directives pour le droit à une alimentation adéquate. Nous soutenons l'idée de l'approbation de ces directives par le Conseil et son envoi à la Conférence pour qu'elles puissent ultérieurement être mises en pratique et faciliter l'accomplissement des objectifs établis par le *Millenium* pour 2015, que comme nous avons eu l'occasion de vérifier, enregistre des résultats satisfaisants. Monsieur le Président, nous reconnaissons que les catastrophes naturelles et celles qui résultent de l'activité humaine, se trouvent parmi les premières causes de l'insécurité alimentaire. C'est pourquoi les efforts doivent se concentrer en premier lieu sur l'aide aux organisations régionales, internationales appropriées, pour qu'elles trouvent des solutions aux conflits qui apportent la famine et la pauvreté.

D'autre part, des efforts sont nécessaires pour que les pays et les régions améliorent les activités de prévention aux catastrophes naturelles, la rapidité de l'aide aux personnes affectées, à travers l'application de systèmes plus efficaces, la création de réserves alimentaires au niveau des pays et des régions. Les experts de formation de ressources humaines et des capacités institutionnelles, en particulier dans les pays en développement, doivent être, comme il est mentionné dans le document du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire parmi les premières priorités pour que ces pays puissent faire face aux difficultés qui se présentent et utilisent avec succès les stratégies de combat contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Monsieur le Président, hier nous avons analysé la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation au niveau mondial. En ce qui concerne l'Afrique sub-sahélienne, nous avons constaté que la situation continue à être délicate. Pour cette raison, nous aimerions faire sortir la recommandation du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, avec laquelle nous sommes d'accord, qui consiste à analyser les causes de la persistance de l'insécurité alimentaire en Afrique en vue de prendre des mesures pertinentes. Le travail louable réalisé pour le "*International Academy Council*" présenté hier dans cette salle, peut constituer un point de départ après une appréciation plus élargie. Je vous remercie.

Percy Wachata MISIKA (Observer for Namibia)

This delegation welcomes the report of the Thirtieth Session of CFS as outlined in the two documents CL127/10 and CL 127/10 – Sup. 1. This delegation also wishes to commend the Secretariat for having done a good job in reflecting in these two documents the actual outcome of the deliberations of the CFS session that took place here in September in which this delegation participated.

My delegation fully supports the recommendations contained in these two documents, in particular, this delegation welcomes the recommendations in paragraph 10, more specially those relating to the following:

First and foremost, the need for the governments to provide an enabling economic, political and social environment for the eradication of hunger. We support this because we believe that peace and stability should serve as a conducive environment and that they are keys for allowing stakeholders to undertake measures that can indeed reduce poverty and hunger, thereby enhancing food security.

Number two: we also attach particular importance to the recommendation for FAO to consider trade as one of the ongoing elements of analysis in the assessment of world food security. Market access opportunities in terms of both market entry and market share for the developing countries like Namibia represents one of the most significant incentives for those poor farmers to produce more, thereby generating much needed incomes to finance other basic needs including education for children and health.

In tandem with this recommendation, the recommendation of paragraph 17 is of relevance, that is for FAO to assist developing countries to build their capacities to benefit from the opportunities provided by the liberalized trading environment. The market opportunities may be opened but, without the necessary skills, financial resources, knowledge and technology, developing countries may find themselves missing the boat once again just like they did during the Green Revolution.

We also attach critical importance to the recommendation for FAO to analyse the HIV dimension of food security and integrate the findings of international food security strategies at different levels. This is most important for sub-Saharan Africa as the increasing HIV pandemic has been and still continues to frustrate the noble efforts of governments and civil society in our part of the globe, to improve food security by (1) diverting meagre resources away from productive users that could ensure food security to finance medications and funerals, on the one hand, and (2) by diverting the time of the productive healthy members of the families from farming away to ensure that they can tend and care for their sick.

Lastly, this delegation also attaches critical importance to the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines that were adopted by the CFS in September and fully supports its adoption by this Council. In line with that, we also fully support the expansion of the scope of the crop and food supply assessment missions to cover cereals as well as non-cereal crops and livestock and fisheries. This is critical for sub-Saharan Africa and it is also in line with NEPAD through the CADIP which is now being revised to reflect the importance of non-cereals, fisheries and livestock in food security.

Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia)

As one delegation took two times for expressing one issue, allow me to say a few words on this. We hope that the Chairmanship will not allow the quotation of the WTO/UNEP package into the report of the WFS. If it is done, it opens the possibility for other Member Countries also to quote another paragraph of the UNEP package in order to make a balance of the statement in the Drafting Committee.

Sayed Ataur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

The Bangladesh delegation would like to refer to the last bullet of the paragraph 17, wherein it has been stated that donors and international organizations should give preference to local and regional purchase in the provision of food aid to developing countries.

We would like to share the same view with the Indonesian delegation on this point and invite special attention of all donors and development partners to implement this recommendation in the interest of food security of developing countries.

Having said this, the Bangladesh delegation would also like to join with other speakers and strongly support the recommendations of the Thirtieth Committee on Food Security.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je passerai donc la parole, je crois qu'il n'y a plus de délégation qui souhaite prendre la parole, à Monsieur de Haen.

Monsieur de Haen voulez-vous prendre la parole?

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

I can be very brief and I will only say that the Secretariat has listened with great attention to this debate and is fully committed to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the CFS to the Council and this includes a whole range of things, from better analysis, from capacity building in particular on trade-related matters, on identification of ingredients to successful strategies in achieving the aims of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals and on improving the reporting of countries on their action in the fulfilment of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

I only wanted to reconfirm our readiness to implement these recommendations and if you could give Ms Flores, the Secretary of CFS, the floor for more details that would be appreciated. Thank you.

Sra. Margarita Flores (Secretaria, Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria)

Solamente quisiera agregar dos cuestiones, puesto que varios de los temas propuestos por la plenaria fueron discutidos ayer y otros han sido tratados por el Sr. de Haen en su intervención. Sobre la coordinación con respecto al seguimiento del impacto que ha tenido la langosta del desierto, creo que la intervención de Japón recoge muy claramente esta necesidad y la reunión que se realizará próximamente del Comité de Combate a la Langosta, así como las intervenciones de la FAO en el terreno, han llevado a una coordinación con varios organismos regionales, tanto en la evaluación del impacto como en las intervenciones de acción para combatirlo; sin embargo, como lo han manifestado los señores delegados y señoras delegadas, esto requiere de mucho más apoyo y, forzosamente, un seguimiento que se está dando en la FAO.

Con relación a las recomendaciones del Comité para hacer una revisión del modelo de informe con el cual los gobiernos dan seguimiento al Plan de Acción y los indicadores, estamos preparando una Reunión de Expertos para realizarla; se ha discutido ya con la mesa del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y esperamos y agradecemos anticipadamente el apoyo de los países miembros para poderlo concretar. Igualmente se están adelantando ya los preparativos para ese foro especial en lo que se refiere al intercambio y acercamiento con Organizaciones No-Gubernamentales, siguiendo los lineamientos que están dándose en las recomendaciones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial; las modalidades como dicen los señores delegados, tendrán que ser discutidas específicamente en la sesión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en mayo del 2005. Por lo demás, me parece que todas las cuestiones relativas al seguimiento y al análisis de las causas de la inseguridad alimentaria mundial, la Secretaría toma debida nota de las recomendaciones de los señores delegados para su implementación y seguimiento.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous en avons terminé avec le point 4. Nous allons examiner à présent le sous-point 4.1 de notre ordre du jour intitulé "Groupe de travail intergouvernemental" chargé d'élaborer un ensemble de directives volontaires à l'appui de la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale. Le document pertinent porte la référence CL 127/10-Sup.1. J'aimerais demander à Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de la Suisse d'introduire ce point.

4.1 Intergovernmental Working Group for the Elaboration of a Set of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security

4.1 Groupe de travail intergouvernemental chargé d'élaborer un ensemble de directives volontaires à l'appui de la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale

4.1 Grupo de Trabajo Intergubernamental para la elaboración de un conjunto de directrices voluntarias con el fin de respaldar la realización progresiva del derecho a una alimentación adecuada en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional

Anton KOHLER (Vice-Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale)

Je me sens honoré, sur demande du Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, Son Excellence Monsieur Salif Diallo du Burkina Faso, de présider à la continuation de nos débats sur le point 4.1 de l'agenda. J'espère bien que je peux remplacer son français élégant avec mon accent helvétique.

Vous vous rappellerez qu'à sa cent vingt-troisième session, tenue du 28 octobre au 2 novembre 2002, le Conseil a créé le Groupe de travail intergouvernemental chargé d'élaborer un ensemble de directives volontaires à l'appui de la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale, au titre d'organe subsidiaire du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Le Groupe de travail intergouvernemental et son bureau, présidés par Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Mohamed Saeid Noori-Naeni de l'Iran, ont porté à terme cette difficile tâche par une série de réunions qui se sont tenues de mars 2003 à septembre 2004. Le Groupe de travail intergouvernemental a amené son débat général de façon à permettre aussi bien aux États qu'aux autres entités, y compris la société civile, de participer aux échanges de vue sur un pied d'égalité. Des représentants des organismes des Nations Unies, en particulier du Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies au droit de l'homme, du Comité des droits économiques, socio-culturel, du rapporteur spécial des Nations Unies chargé du droit à l'alimentation, du Programme alimentaire mondial et du Fonds international de développement agricole ont contribué à régler des questions difficiles. Les généreuses contributions extra-budgétaires fournies par l'Allemagne, la Norvège, la Suisse et la Belgique, ont permis au Groupe de mener à bien ces travaux, ainsi que les activités afférentes, comme la rédaction des documents d'informations et les études de cas. Le Groupe de travail intergouvernemental a adopté les directives volontaires par acclamation à sa quatrième session et les a soumises au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire

mondiale dans sa trentième session pour approbation avec un bouquet de "flores" de Señora Margarita Flores pour l'Ambassadeur Noori-Naeni pour transmission, conseil et j'espère bien pour les mettre en œuvre. Plusieurs groupes régionaux et plusieurs Membres ont souligné l'importance des directives volontaires en tant qu'instrument supplémentaire de la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté. Ils ont fait remarquer qu'il convenait que les Membres et le Secrétariat se consacrent désormais à leur application. Ces directives volontaires, jointes au rapport du Président, qui décrit le processus complet du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental, sont présentées dans le document CL 127/10-Sup.1 que je vous sou mets ici pour approbation.

Mohammad Saeid NOORI-NAEINI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Let me start by thanking the Honourable Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security for his nice words, as well as my other colleagues, delegates and NGOs who have already spoken on this issue and have mentioned my name. Thank you very much.

Having been closely involved with the elaboration of the Voluntary Guidelines over the past twenty months, it gives me great satisfaction and pleasure to see them on our agenda for approval by the Council and my delegation strongly recommends their approval.

I believe the Voluntary Guidelines represent a significant step towards achieving the right to food and freedom from hunger for all, to which we all subscribe. FAO and its members should feel proud about being the first inter-governmental body to agree on the implications of the right to food for policy and practice, thereby contributing to the international debate on the relevance of rights-based approaches to development.

The guidelines are a practical tool to facilitate governments' efforts to implement the right to food. They outline actions to be taken at the national level to build an enabling environment for people to feed themselves in dignity and to take appropriate measures for those who are unable to do so. The guidelines can serve to empower the poor and hungry to claim their rights. In that sense, they are also a tool for achieving the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals.

However, because the right to food is in practice a relatively new area for FAO and its members, more work is required to ensure that this right is implemented effectively. To achieve this goal, information on the content of the right to food has to be disseminated. Right-holders and duty-bearers have to understand the right to food and corresponding obligations. FAO has to internalize the right to food in its programmes and activities to be in a position to support FAO Member Nations in their efforts to implement the right to food. Such actions imply the preparation and broad dissemination of awareness-raising and training materials to governments, civil society and other stake-holders wishing to strengthen their capacity to implement the right to food. This should be undertaken soon if the positive momentum created by the successful negotiation process is to be taken advantage of. We should not forget that the voluntary guidelines place FAO at the forefront of this debate, an opportunity that should be seized and not lost.

Being painfully aware of the restrictive financial position that FAO and most Member Countries find themselves in, the challenge facing us is to find the resources and the will to pro-actively pursue attainment of the right to food through the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines. In this regard, I would be glad to hear how FAO envisages following up the guidelines process to ensure that they contribute meaningfully to achieving the right to food for all.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the FAO Director-General who has already started the dissemination process by sending a copy of the Voluntary Guidelines to the President of ECOSOC.

My sincere thanks go to the FAO Secretariat, especially the Economic and Social Department and the Legal Office for their sincere cooperation and assistance and to the Governments of Germany, Norway, Switzerland and Belgium for their crucial financial support to the guidelines process and sincerely hope that the right to food will continue to be a priority focus for development assistance as well as for that of other donor countries.

Having said all this, let us remind ourselves that the right to food is not a new concept in human history. As an example, I would like to bring to your attention a quotation from an Iranian Sufi who was living at the dawn of the Second Millennium, i.e. one thousand years ago: Abul Hassan Kharaghani, whose house was opened to the public as a guesthouse and at the entrance there was a writing which I quote: "Whoever enters this house, give him or her food. Don't ask his/her faith because the one who is entitled to food by the Almighty, he or she is certainly entitled to food by Abul Hassan."

At the dawn of the Third Millennium, let us be generous and try to be committed to the right to food for all. Thank you.

Ms Radha SINGH (India)

We appreciate the progress made in developing the Voluntary Guidelines for the Right to Food. This has been an extremely elaborate and difficult process and we commend FAO and the Member States and particularly the Inter-Governmental Working Group and its Chairman, in arriving at a consensual draft of the Guidelines.

The draft Guidelines are acceptable for us. We realize that in attempting to satisfy the concerns and needs of various players, the consensus that has emerged is not the ideal solution, but a suitable compromise in the given circumstances.

We are happy that the Guidelines carry dos and do nots, not only for developing countries to attain national food security, but for developed countries too, with regard to their role in this process. The international environment is critical for global food security and we regard international trade, official development assistance, the role of financial institutions, technical assistance, capacity building, technology transfers and others as key elements in the battle against hunger.

We now look forward to effective implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines, both at the national and international level. Herein lies the challenge and the test of our commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation congratulates the IGWG for its success in drawing up the Guidelines to the Right to Adequate Food and its completion of the task put upon it by the Council at the Hundred and Twenty-third Session.

The Guidelines are an important step forward in food security for FAO. It is a tool providing guidance to States in the formulation and the implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to fight hunger and eliminate poverty. It is also a means that can actively promote the fulfilment of the goal of reducing by half the number of undernourished in the world by 2015, as set up by the World Food Summit.

China has participated in all meeting of the IGWG. It is fully aware of the great difficulties and complexities involved in the formulation process. For two years Member States, relevant inter-governmental organizations, NGOs, the civil society and parties concerned have all contributed to the Guidelines.

We would like to point out, in particular, that we cannot separate the successful drawing up of the Guidelines from the fruitful work done by the Bureau, under the leadership of the Chair of the IGWG, Ambassador Noori-Naeini from Iran. His wisdom and outstanding leadership have been one of the key elements that ensured the successful conclusion of the negotiations. We highly appreciated his work.

At the same time, our heartfelt thanks also go to the IGWG Working Group Secretariat, led by Mr de Haen, for their effective support and highly efficient service.

Establishing Guidelines is, of course, important. But the key to rendering the Guidelines effective is through actions. The same view was expressed by many countries at the Fourth Session of the IGWG, as well as at the Thirtieth Session of the CFS.

The Chinese Government has always attached importance to food security and to poverty reduction, for which policy and measures have been laid down and adopted, leading to enormous achievements. A good illustration of which is the reduction in the number of China's poor in rural areas from 250 million to 29 million in the years between 1978 and 2003. The figures are reached by the statistic standards prescribed by the World Bank.

The Chinese Government will continue efforts to promote the advancement of food security and poverty reduction, so as to ensure and promote the realization of the right to adequate food in China. China stands ready to exert concerted efforts, together with the international community, so as to make contribution towards the realization of the World Food Summit goal of halving the number of the world's undernourished by 2015.

We recommend that the Council adopt the Guidelines.

Veli-Pekka TALVELA (Finland)

Finland now speaks on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. We also want to express our support to the statement which will be delivered by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

At the World Food Summit five years later in 2002, the international community decided to elaborate a set of voluntary guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to food in the context of national food security. The Nordic countries wish to express their satisfaction that this task has now been accomplished. We commend also Ambassador Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeeni for his skilful chairing of the demanding process towards attaining an agreed text.

The Nordic countries endorse the Voluntary Guidelines. We support the need to see national food security within a framework of human rights, democracy, good governance and sustainable development. States' compliance with their obligations under international human rights laws is central for the achievement of sustainable food security. The Nordic countries therefore support the mainstreaming of a rights based approach throughout the United Nations system in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

For the Voluntary Guidelines to become a useful tool, all the governments must make an effort to operationalize them. We also call upon FAO to provide guidance to the countries which are requesting support in this work.

Noel D. DE LUNA (Philippines)

The Philippines is most pleased to endorse the approved Voluntary Guidelines contained in the document CL 127/10 Sup. 1.

Now that we have the Voluntary Guidelines, the Philippines would like to request FAO to devise programmes and projects which will help developing countries implement these Voluntary Guidelines. These actions should be budgeted in time for the next biennium in the regular process.

Finally, we would also like to request the Director-General to spread the word in the United Nations system that FAO has set Voluntary Guidelines so that this rights-based approach can be done in a coordinated way.

Saulo ARANTES CEOLIN (Brazil)

First and foremost, the Brazilian delegation would like to offer a word of respect and appreciation for the work of Ambassador Noori-Naeeni of Iran, who chaired the IGWG. As others have stated before, without his dedication and distinguished leadership, the IGWG would have not accomplished its difficult task with such remarkable success.

Ambassador Noori-Naeeni, with usual accuracy of vision, believes that our work regarding the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food is far from finished. The Brazilian delegation could

not agree more. The successful conclusion of the efforts of the IGWG, although an outstanding achievement, was only a first step.

Brazil has always supported our collective work on the advancement of the Right to Food. As a member of the Bureau of the IGWG, we have participated from the first drafting of the Voluntary Guidelines to their final submission to the Committee on World Food Security. We are firm believers on the importance of the Guidelines as an instrument to combat hunger and poverty.

Indeed, the Voluntary Guidelines are a fundamental contribution to the evolving concept of the Right to Food. They deserve to receive adequate attention from the international community. They need to be appropriately integrated into the various and international institutions and, of course, they need to be fully implemented.

The Brazilian delegation understands that this Council can and should do more than simply approve the Guidelines. We would like to call the Council to pass a strong recommendation that the document before us be publicized as widely as possible, as the Philippines have said before us, in all levels of the United Nations system and among its Member Countries.

Our suggestion is that the Council recommends for the Director-General himself to communicate the approval of the Voluntary Guidelines to the main bodies concerned: the ECOSOC's Commission on Human Rights; the High Commissioner on Human Rights and; the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. It will be equally important to address all Agencies of the UN System, to call their attention to possible links and common actions on this matter.

More importantly, however, the approved text of the Guidelines should be considered by the United Nations General Assembly itself, the supreme body of the community of nations.

The endorsement of the Guidelines by the General Assembly would help promoting its effective incorporation into the internal fabric of Member States and produce the necessary political impact on the international scene.

Over 800 million people in the world still suffer from hunger. Have they not the right to feed themselves? Our work on the Right to Food must not stop here. If the successful conclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines was indeed a first step, as Ambassador Noori-Naeeni has said, may today be the second. The journey is long, but let us not lose momentum.

Mme Barbara EKWALL (Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse voudrait commencer par remercier le Président du Groupe intergouvernemental, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Nouri, le Secrétariat de la FAO et tous ceux qui ont contribué à l'élaboration des lignes directrices pour ce travail, pour l'esprit constructif qui a marqué notre coopération.

La Suisse se félicite de l'adoption historique par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, de l'ensemble des Directives volontaires à l'appui de la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate, dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Pour la première fois, des négociations intergouvernementales, hors des forums consacrés aux droits de l'homme, aboutissent à un instrument international visant à réaliser un droit de l'homme économique et social. Mon pays se félicite également du contenu des Directives qui couvrent tous les aspects des droits à une alimentation adéquate. Nous considérons qu'elles peuvent constituer un instrument opérationnel important, en vue d'atteindre l'objectif de réduire de moitié, d'ici 2015, la proportion de la population souffrant de la faim.

Nous sommes convaincus que ces Directives apportent une plus value aux efforts de la Communauté internationale pour soutenir la réalisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate. Monsieur le Président, le respect des droits de l'homme, est de la responsabilité première des États. Ceci affirmé avec force, il convient de reconnaître également que des stratégies efficaces contre la faim nécessitent le soutien d'une large coalition de parties prenantes afin de renforcer la volonté politique de lutter contre la faim.

Les Directives invitent les Etats à mettre en œuvre une approche multipartite en matière de sécurité alimentaire nationale. Elle mentionne la nécessité de renforcer les partenariats et actions concertées entre les Etats, les Organisations internationales, le secteur privé et l'ensemble des Organisations non-gouvernementales. Il convient donc que la FAO et tous les Etats collaborent avec toutes les autres parties prenantes lors de la mise en œuvre de ces Directives. C'est en effet cette action conjuguée qui contribuera à la réalisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate. Selon les Directives, les Etats peuvent de leur propre initiative, rendre compte au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, des activités entreprises et des progrès réalisés dans leur application et ceci conformément aux procédures d'établissement de rapports établis par le Comité. Une forte participation des Etats à ce mécanisme de rapports permettrait de mesurer effectivement les progrès à accomplir et d'identifier les principaux obstacles à surmonter. Nous proposons, par conséquent, que le Conseil charge le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale d'évaluer la prise en compte des Directives pour la première fois dans, par exemple, trois à cinq ans et de formuler les recommandations relatives à leur adoption. Nous sommes, d'ailleurs, d'avis que les Directives volontaires du droit à l'alimentation devraient faire l'objet d'une discussion, non seulement dans le Conseil mais également lors de la prochaine Conférence de la FAO compte tenu de l'importance qu'elles représentent pour le travail de la FAO. Monsieur le Président, une première étape importante a été franchie avec l'élaboration des Directives, mais il faut maintenant passer au stade de la concrétisation. Il s'agit notamment, pour la FAO, de faire un effort particulier de communication et d'informations, d'intégrer le droit à l'alimentation dans le travail de la FAO, de contribuer au travail normatif et d'assister les pays désireux d'adopter l'approche du droit à l'alimentation sur la base des Directives. C'est une chance à saisir pour valoriser le travail exceptionnel et fructueux accompli ces deux dernières années au sein de cette Organisation. La Suisse est prête, pour sa part, à fournir sa contribution à la concrétisation des Directives "Droit à l'alimentation". Elle soutiendra dans l'immédiat plusieurs projets d'information et de sensibilisation de la FAO. Nous sommes persuadés que la mise en œuvre du droit à l'alimentation dans les différents pays peut contribuer à réaliser les objectifs contenus dans le Plan d'action de Rome et dans la Déclaration du Millénaire. Nous appelons la FAO et ses Membres à se joindre à cet effort commun.

Willem BRAKEL (United States of America)

At the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Committee on World Food Security, the United States was pleased to join consensus in the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines to support Member States' efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

Now that we have all joined consensus in the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines we hope that governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector will work together to take practical steps to achieve national food security. These steps include: increasing agriculture productivity, creating an enabling environment, promoting transparent and accountable government, boosting agricultural science and technology, developing domestic market and international trade opportunities, securing property rights and access to finance, enhancing human capital, protecting the vulnerable, advancing the status of women and mainstreaming a gender perspective in national institutions, policies and budgets around the world.

On September 23, following the adoption of the voluntary guidelines by the Committee on World Food Security, my delegation made a statement for the record expressing our views on the nature of what is described in the guidelines as the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. This statement which is included in the report of the IGWG continues to express the views of the United States.

Once again the United States would like to express its appreciation for the spirit of cooperation among delegations, the leadership of the Chair of the IGWG and the support of the Secretariat.

V. HEARD (United Kingdom)

I would like to ask you please to give the floor to the delegate of the Netherlands who will speak on behalf of the European Community and its twenty-five Member States.

Ewald WERMUTH (Observer for Netherlands)

The Netherlands is speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States. The candidate countries Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria associate themselves to these statements, and I want to have it put on record as well that the previous statements of the European Community have been endorsed by the three candidate countries as well.

The EU welcomes the conclusion of the negotiations for a set of Voluntary Guidelines to support a progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in a context of national food security. The international community has developed and implemented policies and programmes for food security for several decades. For the first time, however, in UN history we have now agreed to put those policies and programmes into the context of a Rights-based approach in particular within the framework of action at national level. The EU underlines the importance of these guidelines in order to inform and guide national action aimed at achieving internationally agreed development objectives including the objectives of the plan of action of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals.

Defeating hunger is vital if we are to beat poverty. The guidelines are to provide guidance to states in their realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security. They are intended as a human rights based practical tool addressed to all states.

On behalf of the EU and the three candidate countries, I would like to congratulate the Intergovernmental Working Group with their results. I would especially like to congratulate Ambassador Noori-Naeini for on his excellent leadership. Ambassador, dear friend, your skills and understanding were decisive in many difficult moments and during the whole negotiating progress. Negotiations were sometimes difficult but took place in an open, constructive and positive atmosphere that laid the basis for its successful outcome. Our ultimate goal, the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security.

In developing these Voluntary Guidelines, the IGWG has benefited from the contribution and active participation of governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and representatives of civil society. The implementation of these guidelines which is primarily the responsibility of states should benefit from the contribution of all members of civil society at large, including NGOs and the private sector.

FAO and its Member States can and should be proud of the results but we can not rest on our laurels. All partners should now focus on action on the ground and to ensure that ongoing and future activities are in line with the principals laid down in a set of Voluntary Guidelines.

The European Community stands ready to do so and will continue to support action on the ground.

We should encourage the FAO Secretariat to mainstream and institutionalize the human rights based approach as contained in the Voluntary Guidelines in its food security strategies and programmes. FAO should also be ready to assist countries to implement the Voluntary Guidelines and to implement a rights based approach in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and its programme of action as described in these Voluntary Guidelines in the national food security strategies.

I would like to conclude that the EU endorses the Voluntary Guidelines. We would like hear from the Secretariat which follow-up the FAO intends to give to the endorsement of these Guidelines in this FAO Council.

We reiterate the full implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines will be a tremendous help in realizing the right to adequate food in the context of National Food Security and to win our battle against hunger in the world.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons arrêter la session maintenant mais on reprendra la session cet après-midi avec le Mexique, l'Angola, le Panama, l'Indonésie, l'Uganda et l'Afrique du sud.

Il y a deux ONGs qui souhaiteraient prendre la parole et qui doivent quitter Rome cet après-midi, donc avant de lever la session je vais leur passer la parole. Il s'agit du Bureau du Haut Commissaire pour les droits de l'homme et FIAN International.

Je passerai la parole au Représentant du Bureau du Haut Commissaire pour les droits de l'homme.

Ms Maria Luisa SILVA (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomes the adoption by the Intergovernmental Working Group of the set of Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of National Food Security. We are looking forward to the endorsement by this body, following the steps already taken by the Committee on World Food Security.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights recognizes the success of the Intergovernmental Working Group in completing its work within the established deadlines and allowing for ample participation of states and other stakeholders. We would like to particularly commend the leadership role played by its Chairman, Ambassador Noori Naeni, who skilfully guided the Intergovernmental Working Group towards fulfilling its mandate.

The very good work of the Secretariat should also be recognized. The consistent participation of relevant human rights mechanisms as well as non-governmental organizations grouped under a north-south coalition has also impressed a mark during the negotiations and the achievement of the final results.

From our side, we are grateful to have been given the opportunity to contribute to the process. In addition to cooperating with FAO in the Secretariat and participating in the deliberations of the intergovernmental working group, we have held two seminars which resulted in expert inputs to the process.

The Voluntary Guidelines aim at providing practical orientation to states in their efforts to progressively realize the Right to Adequate Food. As stated in the text of the Voluntary Guidelines, they do not establish new legal obligations nor do they detract from existing obligations. Thus for a state party to the international human rights treatise, the Voluntary Guidelines represent an implementing tool that should be read and used in the context of existing human rights instruments relevant to the Right to Adequate Food as well as with the authoritative interpretation of its provisions made by the general comments adopted by the committees created to monitor a state compliance with international human rights obligations.

Like Brazil and others that have spoken before, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights believes that it is now time to seriously focus all our efforts on implementation of the Right to Adequate Food. The FAO State of Food Insecurity Report clearly shows that progress in achieving the World Food Summit Millennium Declaration Goals to reduce the number and the proportion of hungry people in the world remain at an unacceptably slow pace for the most marginalized and vulnerable.

The Right to Adequate Food provides a strong ethical and legal basis for the mobilization of social and political actors and economic resources to fight hunger and malnutrition. The Voluntary Guidelines could be used for this purpose. They provide a checklist of issues to address and recommendations of measures to adopt both at the national and the international level. But

human rights require urgent and decisive action. Without implementation rights lose meaning and becoming deceiving exercises of window dressing.

The engagement of the various actors concerned with Food Security and Human Rights is essential. We have learned the hard way that the development and realization of Human Rights require normative and policy coherence. Morally sectoral action does not normally generate the necessary impact to reduce hunger and malnutrition.

In a view, the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines should count with at least the same coalition of actors and be subject of the same attention if not more than that given to the process of elaborating the Voluntary Guidelines. An encouraging sign was the discussions held last week at the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights during which the committee explored ways of using the Voluntary Guidelines through the dialogue with the states regarding the implementation of their human right obligations.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights looks forward to continued fruitful collaboration in this process with FAO and other partners during the implementation phase.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais dire qu'après notre session à 12h30, il y aura une réunion du Groupe des 77 dans cette salle. Je voudrais signaler également que la réunion d'informations pour les Membres du Comité de rédaction, qui était prévue à 12h30 aujourd'hui au Slovak Business Centre, a été remise à demain, mercredi, 24 novembre 2004, à 12h30, et aura lieu dans la salle Queen Juliana Room, c'est la salle B324.

Voilà, je vous remercie. On reprendra nos travaux à 14:30 cet après-midi.

The meeting rose at 12.35 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.35 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session Cent vingt-septième session 127º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-27 November 2004 Rome, 22-27 novembre 2004 Roma, 22-27 de noviembre de 2004
FOURTH PLENARY SESSION QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
23 November 2004

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
Mr Aziz Mekouar,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Aziz Mekouar,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

On reprend la séance. Donc on va continuer le débat sur le point 4.1 et je passerai la parole au Mexique.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET

DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

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

4.1 Intergovernmental Working Group for the Elaboration of a Set of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (CL 127/10-Sup.1) (continued)

4.1 Groupe de travail intergouvernemental chargé d'élaborer un ensemble de directives volontaires à l'appui de la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale (CL 127/10-Sup.1) (suite)

4.1 Grupo de Trabajo Intergubernamental para la elaboración de un conjunto de directrices voluntarias con el fin de respaldar la realización progresiva del derecho a una alimentación adecuada en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional (CL 127/10-Sup.1) (continuación)

Jesús HUERTA GONZÁLES (México)

En primer lugar, mi delegación desea dejar constancia del reconocimiento a la excelente labor realizada por el Embajador Mohammad Saeid Noori, por su liderazgo al presidir las sesiones del Grupo de Trabajo Intergubernamental, lo que permitió concluir con éxito las difíciles negociaciones durante los dos últimos años. Negociaciones que se caracterizaron por el espíritu positivo y de cooperación entre todas las partes interesadas, tal como se indica en el párrafo 19 del informe CL 127/10 Sup.1.

No hace mucho tiempo Norberto Bobbio dijo que los derechos humanos, por fundamentales que sean, son derechos históricos en el sentido que se forjan en ciertas circunstancias como producto de una lucha por la defensa de nuevas libertades contra viejos poderes. Esto es lo que sucedió en estos dos años de negociación y, afortunadamente, salió fortalecido el derecho a la alimentación. Todos debemos sentirnos profundamente contentos, pero no totalmente satisfechos. El camino aún es largo. Las directrices representan un paso importante, pero no es el único y, menos aún, el último. Erradicar el hambre en el mundo debe ser el objetivo final; sólo entonces el derecho a la alimentación se habrá alcanzado plenamente.

El relator especial de Naciones Unidas para el Derecho a la Alimentación ha indicado que, en términos prácticos, tal derecho implica que todas las personas en todas partes puedan beneficiarse de condiciones de vida decentes y disponer de nutrimentos en cantidad y calidad suficientes, tanto en tiempo de paz como de guerra. Compartimos esta visión.

También estamos concientes que, en primer lugar, corresponde a los gobiernos nacionales realizar todo su esfuerzo y poner todo su empeño para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria de su población. Sin embargo, en un mundo interdependiente, en el que incluso la seguridad y la paz internacionales dependen de un entorno estable, es indispensable la cooperación de toda la comunidad internacional para la realización plena del derecho a la alimentación. Por ello, también expresamos nuestro aprecio a las delegaciones de países en desarrollo y desarrollados, que en todo momento de la negociación impulsaron y apoyaron la cooperación internacional como componente fundamental de las directrices.

La Delegación de México considera que una amplia difusión internacional de las directrices es altamente deseable. Por ello, respaldamos lo dicho por Filipinas, Brasil y Suiza, para que las directrices se eleven a instancias superiores de las Naciones Unidas, particularmente a la

Asamblea General, y a la propia Conferencia de la FAO en 2005. Ello permitirá su más amplia difusión, aplicación y seguimiento.

Mi país se suma con entusiasmo y con firmeza a la aprobación por el Consejo de las directrices voluntarias. Lo hace convencido de que las mismas fortalecerán, en el futuro, las normas internacionales, de manera particular el derecho a la alimentación como un derecho humano fundamental.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Ma délégation est déjà intervenue sur ce point 4 et le sous point 4.1. Je voudrais vous demander de donner la parole au délégué de l'Afrique du sud, qui assure le Secrétariat d'une part et veut intervenir sur ce point.

Ms Bongiwe NJOBE (South Africa)

We are indeed pleased to see you presiding over this very critical issue, particularly following our experience of your leadership at the Twenty-third FAO African Regional Conference which was held in Johannesburg in March this year. As a country with their right phased approach to food enshrined in its Constitution, South Africa wishes to record its pleasure with the conclusion of the process of developing the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of initiatives for national food security. We endorse the reports and recommend Council approval. Having actively participated in the process of developing the guidelines and being a country that is practically involved in the implementation of an integrated programme for food security and nutrition and integrated sustainable rural development programme at a national level, as well as being involved in the SADC Regional Food Security initiative at the NEPAD level and increasingly in continental initiatives for food security providing support in disasters such as the West African locust outbreak, we wish to underscore the importance of these guidelines as a stimulus to other Member States to guide and assist global action against the scourge of hunger. We hope that through the FAO platforms we shall continue to share best practice with implementation of the guidelines as envisaged in guideline 17; as well as to ensure the development of appropriate institutional, systems and human capacity, particularly in those sectors of the world such as our continent, Africa, where vulnerability is highest and capacity to respond weakest. We are convinced that once Member Countries start acting to implement the guidelines it will result in the need for fundamental change to occur in the existing and traditional approaches to food assistance, food aid, development assistance, in general, and global trade. We therefore urge developed countries, food secure countries and relevant international organizations to support the implementation of these guidelines as a firm step towards the attainment of our commonly agreed Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit targets. We further urge those countries faced with the challenges of persistent hunger to reflect their own commitment to redress through demonstrative leadership and the allocation of their own resources.

Finally, we would like to encourage FAO to confirm its acceptance of the leadership role bestowed upon it with respect to this matter.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

En nombre del G-77 y China, deseo expresar nuestra gran complacencia por el consenso alcanzado respecto a la elaboración de un conjunto de directrices voluntarias, para respaldar la realización progresiva del derecho a la alimentación. Para nuestro Grupo, esto es de fundamental importancia.

El G-77 y China se sienten muy satisfechos por haber contribuido a este consenso que, como decía hace un momento, tiene una gran importancia para nosotros, ya que lo consideramos un elemento básico en la lucha contra el hambre.

Permítame también expresar nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones al Embajador Noori, de Irán, Presidente del Grupo Intergubernamental, y creo que la mejor manera de expresar esta complacencia es compartir algunas palabras que le escuchamos decir a él hace pocos días, en el

sentido de que estas directivas marcan un hito en la historia de las Naciones Unidas. Nosotros creemos que es así y respaldamos este concepto.

Ahora, no podemos quedarnos aquí, hay que seguir adelante. Ahora es necesario, es importante, es imprescindible, la implementación de estas directrices. El Grupo de los 77 y China, y todos los que hemos trabajado en ello, nos comprometimos a seguir con el mismo empeño para lograr esta implementación.

Yo quisiera compartir aquellos conceptos emitidos por Filipinas, Brasil, México y otros, en el sentido de que esto sea divulgado, transmitido a las Naciones Unidas y a los otros organismos del sistema para que lo conozcan. Al respecto quiero informar que en una serie de mesas redondas realizadas en París la semana pasada, y en las cuales participaban distinguidas personalidades, nosotros, en calidad de Presidente del G 77, expusimos lo que se había realizado; asimismo lo hicimos, siempre en París, en la reunión de Presidentes del G-77; y, en ambos casos, fue acogido con mucha, mucha satisfacción y recibimos muchas felicitaciones por haber participado en este concepto.

Shobar WIGADA (Indonesia)

Let me thank the FAO Secretariat for the good preparation of the document CL 127/10 As mentioned in the document, the objective of these Voluntary Guidelines is to provide practical guidelines to States in their implementation of the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the context of national food security, in order to obtain the goals of the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit. Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars for food security are availability, stability of supply, access and utilization. We observe in the document under consideration many guidelines which have a relation to the principle of doing an international food assistance activity. We understand that being voluntary in nature depends on the judgement of each and every member as to how they will implement this agreement. However, we believe that the agreement is an important reference. We are following with attention common and other substantive considerations of members of the Council. I wish to refer to paragraph 15.1, paragraph 15.2, paragraph 15.5 of the guidelines on the international food aid, among others, with regard to the principle of not disrupting the local production. The need to provide an exit strategy, avoid dependency, promotion of increased use of local and regional commercial markets, and then, consistent to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, the need for close cooperation with the national and local governments, etc. We observe that many important principles are contained therein and therefore if as many principles could be implemented voluntarily perhaps the implementation of the food aid programme will be acceptable to all parties concerned. In relation to the work of the intergovernmental working group my delegation would also like to propose the following contents:

As IGWG should improve its working mechanism through one office, improving the representation of IGWG members so that each region is equally represented in IGWG and international intergovernmental working groups assist Member States to establish and implement the food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system of FIVIMS, in collaboration with the Secretariat. We will go along with the others in the favourable consideration for endorsing these Voluntary Guidelines.

Fabius BYAR UHANGA (Uganda)

Uganda thanks all those who are involved in the negotiations that produced the guidelines before us. We fully endorse these guidelines and commit our services to their implementation. I am however dissatisfied with the spirit of 16.7 which reads as follows: "states should put in place adequate and functioning mechanisms of early warning to prevent or mitigate the effects of natural or human made disasters". I would understand if all of the natural disasters were due to the hand of God that is if all natural disasters were uncontrollable like we have the earthquakes. But many natural disasters as we know are caused by pests and diseases of plants and animals. In the

last century, mankind got rid of smallpox and you recall that WHO, a sister organization, was at the helm of this struggle. We now note very strong efforts for the eradication of polio and we see also the international effort against HIV/AIDS and malaria, and we hope that someday soon these two will also be eradicated. Why can we not do the same for the pests and vectors and diseases that destroy our agriculture? Why should we continue to lament about locusts; locusts that, we read for example in the Bible, were destroying the agriculture of North Africa and the Middle-East in Moses times. Why should we continue to get the disasters caused by the tsetse fly, or by the horse tick which are responsible for the low animal productivity in Africa, and yet we know that science has already provided the means to eradicate these menaces. I believe that countries should be called upon to adopt strategies aimed at eradicating these pests and diseases. Under the EU, Africa already has the particular program for the eradication of the tsetse fly and it is facing problems of funding. We call upon FAO to augment the efforts of the African Union in looking for the funding for the eradication of the tsetse fly from Africa.

Simply put, I would like that we become more aggressive in our strategies towards food security for mankind.

Martin NISSEN (Germany)

We all followed the promise that the Heads of States had made during the World Food Summit: *five years later* to finalize Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food within two years.

Germany very much welcomes this result. In the presence of the Director-General, all parties in the German Bundestag and highlighted the outcome of the IDWG already at the 22 October 2004. Today, our Parliament started final discussions on the federal budget for 2005. We hope that the German Bundestag will decide, on Friday, a 40 percent increase in our bilateral cooperation with FAO.

During the CFS we said we thought the result of the work of all of us was worth celebrating it and we promised to organize a reception during the Council meeting. We follow our promise. Therefore, invite all of you for a reception given by our State Secretariat, Alexander Muller and our Ambassador. The reception will take place tomorrow evening between 18.00 and 20.00 hours in the FAO Cafeteria, on the eighth floor, and we should be happy to welcome all of you there.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

Hablo en nombre del GRULAC.

El GRULAC desea expresar su respaldo irrestricto al Conjunto de directrices voluntarias para una alimentación adecuada como instrumento para la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza, en la medida que exista la voluntad política en los gobiernos para su aplicación; el GRULAC hace un llamado para que después de la aprobación de estas directrices por parte del Consejo, se hagan conocer a través de otras instancias de Naciones Unidas, en especial por la Asamblea General, con el propósito de que trasciendan en todo el contexto global y sean, no sólo conocidas, sino aceptadas y puestas en práctica, ya que es la única forma que existe para lograr el cumplimiento de los objetivos propuestos.

Trond SABO SKARPETEIG (FIAN International)

I speak on behalf of those NGOs who have followed the process on the Voluntary Guidelines. We are integrated in the overall NGO structure of FAO and we function as a working group in the international planning committee.

The NGOs and civil society organizations do very much appreciate the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines. The adoption will be an important step further in the implementation of the right to adequate food. The Voluntary Guidelines will allow us to hold the governments accountable. We have put a lot of effort to contribute to and influence this process. We already brought up the issue at the parallel NGO Forum at the World Food Summit and the World Food Summit: *five years later* in 2002.

We have continued the discussion and have now broader lines of more than 300 particularly interested organizations from all continents.

I would like to express our appreciation for the unusual space we have been granted to speak and participate as an NGO here and that we hope to use it in a good manner. We would like to thank the Chair of the Inter-governmental Working Group, his Excellency Ambassador Noori-Naeini for his extremely skilful management and for the open and inclusive dialogue throughout the process.

The important question now is the follow-up, we are committed to work as hard as possible to make this document become a meaningful one. Three pillars could be identified.

Firstly, meaningful follow-up at the country level, in every country civil society organizations, governments and FAO should play together.

Secondly, FAO has to mainstream the right to food and the right for its approach in its overall work. There must be their own unit adequately staffed to reach and react to the needs of governments and civil society.

Thirdly, the Voluntary Guidelines offer an extremely good possibility to right to food issues also in other international environments, particularly, regarding management development goals. The hunger taskforce has developed in its typology a useful understanding of those who are really hungry, 50 percent of the hungry are marginalized smallhold farmers and 22 percent are landless labourers.

Voluntary guidelines will be very helpful. FAO and Member States should bring the Voluntary Guidelines and the right approach into the Millennium debate like Ambassador Noori has said. FAO has a primary role now with the development of the Voluntary Guidelines and starting to adopt the right based approach. This advantage could also be brought to the Millennium Development Goals process.

Ms Francesca RONCHI-PROJA (International Federation for Home Economics)

I am speaking on behalf of the Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs Representatives to FAO in Rome. International NGOs with a long history of cooperation with FAO, we were pleased to find that NGOs were allowed direct participation as full partners in elaboration the guidelines. This is what we as Ad Hoc Group recommended in our official statement at the World Food Summit; *five years later*. We hope this example will be followed in other cases in FAO.

With reference to the appeal made by Mr Noori, we are already planning to give wide dissemination to the guidelines by informing our member organizations through various channels, for example, the next issue of our Bulletin *call to action*, which we prepare in collaboration with the INGO Group in Geneva, will provide an account to the guidelines with exhortation to stimulate action for their implementation. The Ad Hoc Group is also ready to cooperate with FAO in any activity planned for the follow-up of this important initiative.

Anton KOHLER (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I think that this was a rich debate, very up to the point, we have reached results, a basis from which to continue as soon as possible, if not immediately. I hope that the many echoes which we have heard on turning our present guidelines into a plan of action will be echoed very soon. We have heard many delegates speaking in favour of it and we have heard some delegations talking about substantial contributions. These will hopefully lead us into our next step which is urgently required, according to the words which we heard from Ambassador Noori-Naeini.

I would like to thank Ambassador Noori once more for all the energy which he put into his work with the Inter-Governmental Working Group.

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

May I congratulate you, on behalf of the Secretariat, the Inter-Governmental Working Group, the CFS and the Council, on what is obviously a very successful conclusion of difficult negotiations. The Secretariat notes the challenges now before us all for the Secretariat, as well as Member Countries to implement these guidelines. This has been very clear from all the statements made. I believe also that the process that has brought us to this moment has been exemplary in terms of in house collaboration, especially with the Legal Counsel and the technical departments, inter-agency collaboration, especially with the Human Rights Bodies, collaboration with the Bureau under Ambassador Noori and other governments and, certainly also, the close collaboration with NGOs and civil society. We have learnt from this and I hope we draw the right conclusions for other endeavours ahead of us. I think that it has also been a very good example of donors embarking on commitment made at the World Food Summit and World Food Summit; *five years later*, enabling the Secretariat to fulfill that commitment in collaboration with Member States.

I believe that there was only one question raised by several delegates and that concerned the intentions of the Secretariat regarding the implementation of these guidelines. This is of course a large question and I have to be brief in the answer, but the Secretariat sees three different types of action.

Firstly, the need to clarify the implications of the guidelines for practical policies and strategies in combating hunger and food insecurity. This means translating the guidelines into a practical concept, practical plans and policy advice which is not a trivial exercise; it requires also preparation of training material of further interpretation.

Secondly capacity building. While we normally speak of capacity building in Member Countries we have to begin with capacity building within the Secretariat because this requires further interpretation for the dialogue amongst all in the house, but also the capacity building in other agencies working in regard to the better common understanding of these guidelines. But of course, it means the end capacity building in Member Countries that request our assistance and there is already a waiting queue, and we see that the demand is relatively clear. The third type of action is awareness building and communication of messages and some of you have requested that this kind of communication is made very actively and worldwide; we have noted that.

Some of you have spoken about partnerships. I believe that all these three types of action require that the Secretariat works in partnership with all stakeholders at international and national levels. I will only mention here the national and the international alliance against hunger which could be one of the vehicles in my view, to make this communication and dissemination of the message practical.

We have taken note of the recommendations made by several delegates to mainstream or integrate work on the Guidelines on the Right to Food in FAO's overall work. As I said this will require concerted effort, it is not simply a straight forward dissemination of a distinct message, it requires dialogue amongst the technical units, amongst the experts at all levels and it requires learning by doing and field testing in interaction with Member Countries I think that we are all here - although we have a consensus on the guidelines - still challenged to make them practically work.

We have noted the request that the Director-General should disseminate the guidelines widely, including to the General Assembly, ECOSOC, Human Rights Institutions and other agencies. You can count on us that this will be done; partly, it has already happened.

We have also noted a proposal that the guidelines be brought to the attention of the FAO Conference.

Finally - and this was a question that was also raised by several as regards funding - we have noted a number of requests for the Secretariat to incorporate the work on the Right to Food Guidelines in the Regular Programme. This is the most difficult to answer of your questions. We see three steps regarding funding.

Firstly, is the tradition measure. We have good reasons to be hopeful - and I am choosing my words carefully - but I think we have very good reasons to be hopeful that the support of donors for the continuation of the Ad Hoc Unit that we have established for the negotiations will continue for a number of months; more or less half a year. This will help us maintain the momentum, put the actions that I have just mentioned on track and enable us to plan ahead with regard to the longer term solution that we need.

Secondly, a Multilateral Trust Fund, I can inform you that the Director-General has already given instruction that such a trust fund be established inviting donors to support this work and Member Countries will soon be approached in this regard.

Thirdly, inclusion of Right to Food work in the Regular Programme and I would say beyond the current capacity in the ES Department, of which I am in-charge, as well as the Legal Office - and Mr Pucci is here to confirm this - is currently existent but below the minimum capacity. In order to bring it to the minimum capacity more resources would have to be allocated. We confirm that we will make appropriate proposals of programme activities and programme entities and their funding for the PWB and the MTP. However I must also say that the extent of which these proposals will be accommodated will finally depend on the overall budget level and on the relative priorities of the Right to Food work relative to other activities that will finally be established by our membership and not only by the Secretariat.

So far my responses to the questions. I hope I have replied to all the questions if not we can also continue in a bilateral dialogue.

CHAIRMAN

Now before moving on to the next item, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the Council to thank Ambassador Noori-Naeini for all his work in helping us to reach this positive outcome. Thank you Ambassador.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

Well, we have concluded this sub-Item and we are moving to the next item and I will ask my Vice-Chairman to take my place. Thank you very much.

Muhammad Ismail Qureshi, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the Chair

Muhammad Ismail Qureshi, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Muhammad Ismail Qureshi, Vicepresidente del Consejo

**5. Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture
(Rome, 9-10 February 2004) (CL127/9)**

**5. Rapport de la dix-huitième session du Comité de l'agriculture
(Rome, 9 et 10 février 2004) (CL 127/9)**

**5. Informe del 18º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura
(Roma, 9-10 de febrero de 2004) (CL 127/9)**

CHAIRMAN

This Session of the Committee was dedicated principally to FAO's proposed follow-up to the Report of the Joint WHO/FAO Expert Consultation on Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases. I would like to request Ambassador Costa Ricky MAHALU, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, to kindly introduce this report.

Costa Ricky MAHALU (Chairman, Committee on Agriculture)

The Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) convened on 9-10 February 2004 in Rome was a special session exclusively dedicated to FAO's proposed follow-up to the Report of the Joint WHO/FAO Expert Consultation on Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases which was on Document COAG/2004/3.

This Expert Consultation held in 2003 had been reported in a technical report series document which had been made available to COAG prior to the Session. The representative of WHO at the Session informed that WHO's draft global strategy diet, physical activity and health had been considered at its Executive Board in January 2004 and that, after consultation with members, the amended draft strategy was expected to be presented with the Fifty-seventh Session of the World Health Organization Assembly in May 2004.

The COAG Session was attended by 105 FAO Member Countries, 6 as Observers, and by representatives of the Holy See and the UN specialized agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations and others.

The Committee generally acknowledged the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in both developed and developing countries and the associated rise of public health, social expenditures and economic losses.

While recognizing the Expert Report could be a useful resource for governments in considering nutritional recommendations to alleviate the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, COAG agreed that the subject was complex and that further studies by Member States at national and regional levels would be required. It was also noted that the Expert Consultation had not addressed the social, economic and agricultural implications of the experts' recommendations. A majority of members felt that the scientific basis for these recommendations was inadequate and that the application of its global recommendations at the individual country level would need to take into account the specific circumstances of each country. In particular, these members questioned whether it was valid to establish nutrient inter-goals for individual dietary factors in isolation from consideration of energy balance.

Following these observations, COAG members suggested that, in accordance with its core mandate, FAO should continue its collaboration with WHO on diet, nutrition and non-communicable diseases and provide members with policy advice on nutrition and health diet, to prevent such diseases. It also requested a thorough assessment, taking into account the specificities of individual countries, population groups and dietary patterns of linkages between changing food consumption patterns and non-communicable diseases and possible effects of changing demand on agricultural production systems and commodity trade, as well as on supply responses through diversification. Members agreed that addressing the issue of malnutrition was an absolute priority for FAO and that adequate resources should be devoted to it and not diverted away from this objective. In this respect, they expressed concern on the financial implications of any follow-up to COAG/2004/3.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Debido a la importancia que concedemos a este asunto, deseamos reiterar nuestras preocupaciones manifestadas durante el período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura. Me dispongo a hacer esta declaración en nombre del G-77 y China.

Deseo aclarar que los miembros del G-77 no tenemos disposiciones predeterminadas sobre el tema objeto de examen. No tenemos intención de presionar por productos alimenticios específicos, sean estos cereales, carne, grasas, azúcar; únicamente deseamos sostener los principios de objetividad y equidad en este tema importante de forma abierta y transparente.

Es objetivo común de todas las naciones ricas y pobres asegurar que sus ciudadanos tengan acceso a una dieta adecuada, equilibrada energéticamente y saludable, tres cualidades de la dieta diaria

que soportan los fundamentos de la seguridad alimentaria nacional, tal como se encuadra en la declaración de la CMA.

Suscribimos también la opinión de que la prevención de enfermedades crónicas debe constituir parte integrante de las dietas diarias de todas las naciones; no obstante, no podemos ignorar o desatender el hecho de que cada sociedad practica una variedad de dietas y de que cada dieta es, a su vez, el reflejo de preferencias sociales específicas, de diferencias que pueden existir en la dotación de recursos de la comunidad, de hábitos de producción de alimentos y en el grado de acceso de las personas a las oportunidades económicas. Toda dieta uniforme o de modelo apto para todos es un concepto ilusorio y no merece una consideración seria.

En beneficio de una nutrición mejor y la seguridad de la salud, los miembros del G-77 y China se muestran abiertos a propuestas para cambios en las dietas predominantes, siempre que tales propuestas se basen en conocimientos científicos, apoyen un mejor equilibrio en la ingestión total de energías, no perjudiquen a la seguridad alimentaria nacional, sean económicamente accesibles, sensibles a la herencia cultural, no causen perjuicios al sistema de producción alimentaria predominante, a las prácticas de elaboración y comercialización de alimentos, respeten el medioambiente y protejan los derechos de los agricultores, los pastores, los pescadores y los forestales; además, tales propuestas deben tener el apoyo de una comunidad científica más amplia.

Desafortunadamente, es opinión de G-77 que el documento publicado en la serie de informes técnicos de la OMS N° 916 no satisface la prueba del rigor, objetividad y equidad científica; compartimos también la opinión de que el documento de seguimiento propuesto COAG/2004/3, es más o menos una ratificación del documento publicado en la serie de informes técnicos de la OMS.

Lo más brevemente posible deseo presentar, en nombre del G-77, las observaciones siguientes para que sean sometidas al COAG. Por lo que respecta al documento de la serie de informes técnicos de la OMS, deseamos hacer las siguientes observaciones: las conclusiones y recomendaciones del informe no se basan en estudios científicos, en particular, estudios clínicos contemplados; el informe aparece distorsionado en el sentido que, en vez de concentrarse en el equilibrio energético de la dieta, cataloga diversos productos alimenticios como buenos y malos; como productos buenos a priori se indican el pescado, las hortalizas y frutas, y como malos, la grasa, la carne roja y el azúcar. Concluye, sin ninguna prueba científica, que los alimentos malos son la causa principal de las enfermedades crónicas; esta conclusión arbitraria, aparte de sus fundamentos científicos poco sólidos, es sin duda perjudicial. Los datos de apoyo y la información utilizada para el estudio son o bien parciales o bien incorrectos y, en algunos casos, poco pertinentes.

El informe adolece de graves defectos metodológicos, tiende hacia la selectividad y manifiesta un fuerte tono impresionístico, no hace uso adecuado de estudios recientes publicados por la misma OMS y la FAO y otras instituciones renombradas para fundamentar sus conclusiones y recomendaciones. La obsesión del informe respecto a la obesidad ha erosionado otro problema muy grave con que se enfrenta la humanidad, a saber, la presencia de 2,000 millones de personas en todo el mundo que padecen de subnutrición y enfermedades por carencia de micronutrientes. Hay que señalar que la lucha contra la obesidad se ha de conducir a través de una educación nutricional mejor y no mediante recomendaciones cuantitativas arbitrarias respecto a la dieta. La mayoría de los observadores, incluida la FAO, admiten que las metas cuantitativas para las dietas no tienen base científica, en el caso que se dispusiera de una base científica, las diferencias respecto de la dieta entre las naciones y entre grupos dentro de cada nación son tan marcadas, que cualquier recomendación sobre la distribución porcentual de los productos alimenticios en la dieta es como caminar en un callejón oscuro, debido a que la distribución porcentual de un producto alimenticio predeterminado, como la grasa o el azúcar, en el contenido total de calorías puede disminuir, pero en la ingestión diaria absoluta puede aumentar debido a la ampliación de la torta calórica total; de hecho, es lo que está sucediendo en los países ricos. Al parecer, no se ha realizado ningún examen de expertos homólogos y no se han realizado consultas con otras partes interesadas ante la publicación de informes tales como la de Internacionales de Ciencia y

Tecnología Alimentaria, que representan más de 200,000 miembros en el mundo; además, en el estudio no se consultó con instituciones competentes de los estados miembros, el proceso preparatorio para el estudio dista mucho de ser transparente. No se celebraron consultas con los estados miembros sobre el mandato del mismo y sobre la selección de las 24 personas que presentaron documentos en base a la consulta de expertos; paradójicamente, sólo 2 de los 24 contribuyentes proceden de regiones en desarrollo.-

Habían 30 especialistas y miembros de la consulta de expertos y la mayoría de ellos eran nutricionistas. Al parecer ninguno de los treinta tenía ninguna base académica en el campo de la antropología, la sociología, la economía, la gestión de recursos naturales y la agricultura; es más, ninguno de ellos parece haber tenido ninguna experiencia directa en trabajos de elaboración política.

El G-77 y China considera motivo de preocupación esta organización del trabajo y totalmente desajustada respecto a la tendencia universal hacia una mayor participación y transparencia en cuestiones de importancia mundial. El informe no ha trazado, analizado, ni evaluado los efectos de sus recomendaciones sobre los cambios estructurales potenciales en la agricultura mundial, los cuales de acuerdo a un estudio independiente llevado a cabo por la Universidad de Reading, eran posiblemente importantes y de gran alcance. No deseo repetir las conclusiones de este útil estudio, ya que copias del mismo están disponibles para los miembros del COAG y otros interesados y los principales puntos están recapitulados en el resumen ejecutivo de dos páginas.

La Federación Internacional de Productores Agrícolas ha señalado las penalidades económicas que se derivan de la aplicación de las recomendaciones incluidas en el informe técnico de la OMS para muchos agricultores en el mundo.

El G-77 y China desean manifestar su decepción respecto al seguimiento propuesto por la FAO al informe técnico 916; aunque acogamos favorablemente los datos de los cuadros 2 y 4, no consideramos muy conveniente los análisis que figuran a continuación de la sección C de la parte 2ª; en concreto, consideramos que la parte 3ª del documento de la FAO, de las páginas 5 a 12 es algo superficial y, tal como se dice en el apartado 15, es el resultado de una rápida evaluación. Las implicaciones del estudio de la OMS son demasiado graves para prestarse a cualquier evaluación rápida. Esperamos una evaluación profunda que refleje todos los efectos de las recomendaciones sobre el futuro uso de la tierra, la estructuración de los cultivos, los sistemas de producción animal, el uso de la mano de obra agrícola, la estructuración del uso de los insumos en la agricultura, los efectos sobre precios de ingresos y las manifestaciones sobre el comercio de alimentos y precios.

Una evaluación de impacto en este tipo tendría que ser posible considerado los datos y la información reunidos por la FAO en relación con la preparación de la agricultura mundial hacia el 2015-2030. Si así no fuera, la FAO debería haber tomado más tiempo para completar un análisis profundo y conveniente de sus recomendaciones.

En el apartado 51 la FAO busca la aprobación del COAG respecto a 3 direcciones; no consideramos que estas 3 direcciones tengan importancia alguna en relación con el seguimiento del informe de la OMS; en realidad, se trata de actividades de rutina de los programas ordinarios de campo.

En conclusión, el G-77 y China no están dispuestos a apoyar ninguna recomendación que proponga una revisión uniforme de la OMS, lo que si estamos dispuestos a aceptar, es una recomendación a la OMS y a la FAO de no apresurarse en estas cuestiones y a tomar tiempo, recabando información directamente sobre el informe, quizás, a través de las Conferencias Regionales de este año. Cualquier iniciativa futura debería esperar la respuesta de los estados miembros y, considerando la complejidad de la materia, es aconsejable trabajar sin ninguna prisa.

Disculpándome por lo extenso de la declaración.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

Hablo en nombre del GRULAC. El GRULAC respalda la declaración del G-77 y quiere agregar otras consideraciones que creemos importantes en el contexto de lo que estamos hablando.

El GRULAC desea reiterar la posición que manifestó durante el 18° período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura en febrero del año en curso. "En el 18° período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, la FAO propuso un seguimiento al COAG 2004 – 3, al informe de la Consulta de Expertos OMS-FAO 916 sobre Dieta, Nutrición y Prevención de Enfermedades Crónicas. Este documento adolecía de un defecto fundamental, el aceptar tácitamente las conclusiones y recomendaciones de la Consulta Técnica como un documento básico, al que se le debía garantizar un seguimiento operativo inmediato, proponiendo nuevos programas de asistencia que se adaptarían a las recomendaciones de la Consulta Técnica y provocando consecutivamente cambios importantes en la producción agrícola mundial, cambios que repercutirían negativamente en el desarrollo de las políticas agrícolas de nuestros países, con serias repercusiones socio-económicas y comerciales. El informe no toma en consideración las grandes diferencias existentes en las poblaciones de los países tales como clima, producción agrícola, acceso a los alimentos, seguridad alimentaria, tradición alimentaria, recursos naturales, comercio, diferencias genéticas y estilos de vida de los individuos. En ningún momento este informe puede constituir una base para formular una estrategia global sobre dieta, actividad física y salud. Un seguimiento y análisis al informe 916 demandaría recursos suplementarios y no previstos en el presupuesto de la FAO, con potenciales y negativas consecuencias sobre programas ya en desarrollo."

"El inciso C del párrafo 51, COAG 2004 – 3, exigió mucha atención, ya que la diversificación de la producción agrícola es una alternativa cuya implementación es compleja. En el ámbito de la FAO, tradicionalmente una de las formas de cooperación de la Organización ha sido, y es, a través de los programas de cooperación técnica, por lo tanto una decisión de esa naturaleza podría significar una labor que va más allá de las posibilidades logísticas y de personal de la FAO. Situación que sería preocupante, ya que podría provocar desvíos de recursos de programa hoy en implementación y de interés para los países en desarrollo. La asistencia de la FAO tendría que ir más allá de una simple ayuda técnica para lograr una diversificación agrícola en todos los países. Se vería en la obligación de financiar programas de sustitución de producción agrícola tradicional, controlando consecuencias de disgregación."

"Las políticas de diversificación agrícola no son inmediatas. Implican procesos largos y delicados por su impacto socio-cultural y económico, los cuales resultarían imposibles sin el apoyo técnico y financiero de la comunidad internacional."

"En conclusión, los países que conforman o hacen parte del GRULAC en la FAO preferirían no tomar en consideración las recomendaciones del informe 916 ya que podrían influir negativamente en el diseño de la política agrícola de la FAO y en contra de las economías de los países en desarrollo. Por lo tanto, el seguimiento propuesto por la FAO al COAG 2004 – 3 no tendría razón de ser."

En este mismo sentido queremos hacer notar que el documento del Consejo 127/9, bajo la sección Asuntos que requieren la atención del Consejo, elaborada por la Secretaría como una introducción al informe, en el segundo punto entre paréntesis budget, está en contradicción con el informe del 18° período de sesiones del COAG al afirmar que el Comité fue quien reconoció que el Informe de Expertos podía ser un recurso útil para los gobiernos al considerar las recomendaciones nutricionales; pero, en realidad, el informe dice que fueron muchos países quienes así lo consideraron, según consta en el párrafo 8.

En el párrafo 7 hay, sin embargo, una moción contraria apoyada por la mayoría de los países, que dice: "La mayoría de los miembros opinaron que las recomendaciones del informe de los expertos no contaban con una base científica adecuada y que para aplicar sus recomendaciones globales en los distintos países sería necesario tener en cuenta las circunstancias específica de cada uno de ellos". Lamentablemente, esta opinión de la mayoría no fue recogida por la Secretaría.

El GRULAC espera que la Secretaría atienda las recomendaciones del COAG y presente un análisis sobre las repercusiones de este estudio en la producción y el comercio internacional.

Shobar WIGADA (Indonesia)

Let me start my intervention by expressing my delegation's appreciation to the Secretariat for the successful preparation of Document CL 127/9.

This Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture focuses on the fact that there is a growing burden of non-communicable diseases as well as concerns on malnutrition in both developed and developing countries and the associated risks for public health and social expenditure and economic losses.

The Indonesian delegation agrees with the Committee's request that FAO develop a thorough assessment, taking into account the specificities of individual countries, population groups and dietary patterns, and also the assessment of the linkages between changing food consumption patterns and non-communicable diseases, as well as malnutrition; and the possible effects of changing demand of agricultural production systems and commodity trade, as well as on supply responses throughout the food diversification programme.

The Indonesian delegation notes that the results and recommendation of the Joint WHO/FAO Expert Consultation on Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases, which still needs elaboration and further study.

From a human health point of view, the recommendation provided a direction of healthy nutrition intake that reduces the risks of non-communicable diseases. The change on dietary habit, as recommended, will influence the demand for food products and finally influence the production system, processing and trade.

The Indonesian Government has formulated the so-called Desirable Dietary Pattern (DDP), which is, in principle, in line with the recommendation of the above Joint WHO/FAO Expert Consultation on Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases. However, the current consumption pattern is generally still below the DDP limit, only about 68 percent.

Noting the possible consequences of increasing dietary intake, our challenge is how to raise income and food production so that dietary intake can reach the minimum requirements.

The global strategy to achieve nutritional goals is expected not to have a devastating impact on the current food producers. Food production in our country is mainly the source of income for the smallholders. While diversification should be encouraged in response to changing market demand, in the short term, protecting the status of the current production system is also important.

I feel it is necessary to raise some points related to some specific commodities.

Firstly, as a source of fats, the palm oil industry also plays an important role in providing an income for a million small farmers. It is also one of the main sources of foreign exchange earning. Initiatives to reduce consumption of fats will provide a negative impact on our palm oil industry.

Secondly, the preference of calorie consumption on whole grains provided undesirable consequences on the dependency of wheat imports, of which Indonesia does not produce this commodity at all.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to express its support for the approval of the Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Je commencerai mon intervention en félicitant le Secrétariat pour l'élaboration et la présentation de ce rapport sur la dix-huitième session du Comité de l'agriculture et son Président, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de Tanzanie, pour les résultats obtenus par le Comité qu'il avait présidé. L'Angola a participé à cette session dont le rapport est soumis au Conseil; donc, notre délégation n'a pas eu de difficultés pour appuyer toutes les recommandations proposées par le Comité à la FAO et contenues à la page 1 de la version française du document. Toutefois, la Délégation de l'Angola

voudrait insister sur le deuxième volet des recommandations qui stipule que les Etats Membres doivent effectuer d'autres études à l'échelle nationale et régionale. Nous voulons également souligner le rôle important que doivent jouer les Gouvernements des Etats Membres dans l'éducation, en matière d'une discussion pour permettre aux populations de prendre des décisions relatives à leur régime alimentaire, en connaissance de causes. S'agissant du paragraphe 2 du document CL 127/9, ma délégation voudrait rappeler le rapport sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 2004 qui nous a montré que la situation était déplorable; c'est pourquoi notre délégation voudrait réitérer, comme convenu, la recommandation, c'est-à-dire le cinquième volet, qui stipule que la FAO doit accorder une priorité absolue au problème de la malnutrition et allouer des ressources nécessaires. Pour terminer, notre délégation appuie fermement la déclaration du Groupe des 77.

Noel D. DE LUNA (Philippines)

In as much as this session might be considered an extraordinary one, the Philippines would also like to concur with the Report of the Secretariat.

The Expert Report, being passionately debated, is very much of interest to us since we are also a sugar producer. While we would also support that FAO continue its collaboration with the WHO on diet, nutrition and non-communicable diseases, in accordance with its core mandate, and provide Members with policy advice on nutrition and healthy diet to prevent such diseases, we believe that this should be done within reasonable financial bounds. This is especially the case if the Secretariat will conduct a thorough assessment -- taking into account the specificities of individual countries, population groups and dietary patterns -- of the linkages between changing food consumption patterns and non-communicable diseases and the possible effects of changing demand on agricultural production systems and commodity trade, as well as supply responses, through diversification -- which we are looking forward to reading and, as mentioned earlier by some of our colleagues.

Luis RITTO (European Community)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for providing this Report on the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. The Session focused on FAO's proposed follow-up to the Report of the Joint WHO/FAO Expert Consultation on Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases.

The European Community and its 25 Member States take note of the conclusions of the Report on the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, which reflects the complexity of the topic under discussion.

As we pointed out in the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, the European Community recognizes the potential which the promotion of healthy nutrition and physical activity has, not only for the prevention of diseases, but also for enhancing quality of life in general. It is of importance that Member States are provided with reliable science based policy advice on nutrition and healthy diet. The focus must be to prevent nutritional diseases as one of many different efforts to improve the situation of poor people.

In this context, we support the suggestion that FAO continue its collaboration with the World Health Organization on diet, nutrition and non-communicable disease, taking into account the numerous cultural, economic and social aspects linked to the nutritional recommendations.

Jugdis BUNDHOO (Mauritius)

Mauritius fully supports the statement of the G-77 Group, made at the COAG meeting in February 2004 and also, again, reiterated here and also the views expressed by GRULAC.

We would again like to emphasize that science based on the technical Report 916 has been questioned at various FAO meetings and also other forums. To name a few, we have the Committee of World Food Security, COAG meetings and the FAO Council meetings. This has

been well documented in all the reports and it would be unwise for me to go over the comments and the apprehension expressed.

The issue of combating non-communicable diseases and NCDs is not being disputed but, on the contrary, we are fully conscious that actions have to be taken to reduce the proliferation of NCDs for they have a very negative impact on national economies, especially the developing ones. We know fully well that resources are not unlimited to take care of NCDs. However, we want to emphasize very clearly that OBCD, which is responsible for NCDs is not dependent on any specific food but it is rather a question of balancing the energy input and the energy utilized.

With the concept of quantitative nutrient goals, as per Technical Report 916, it is a concept of good food and bad food which is being driven forward. The objective, however, should be to drive forward the concept of food based, dietary guidelines and also to promote the issue of health education and recognize that physical activity is critical to achieving a healthy lifestyle.

Mr Chairman, enshrined in the mandate of FAO is to combat hunger. We have heard through the presentation made yesterday morning, that the world is not on target in its fight against hunger and it, therefore, seems that the FAO strategy should be to use all our available sources to combat hunger.

From the Mauritian perspective and as a Small Island Developing State and also from that of the sugar industry – but more specifically we now call it the sugar cane industry -- it is important that we do not use the findings and recommendations of a report which has been questioned systematically, as it may cause irreparable damages to economies which are dependant on the sugar cane industry. It would be very appropriate to use this forum to sensitize Council Members on the multifunctional role of the sugar cane industry. It is not just producing sugar which matters, but a more global approach which is being adopted.

The multifunctional roles, among other things, providing employment to the rural community and, therefore, plays an important role in rural stability and helping in foreign exchange earnings.

It is very fitting to say at this moment in time, avoiding imports of fossil fuels through the use of ethanol and bagasse as energy. The use of bagasse – a bio-product of the sugar industry – is helping in a significant manner in the production of electricity. There is also carbon sequestration and therefore helps in the mitigation of greenhouse effects. It also helps in soil preservation by reducing soil erosion. In the case of Small Island Developing States, like Mauritius, soil erosion may have a very detrimental effect in agricultural production in a very short span of time.

The sugar cane industry also provides a very pleasant green environment in many of the tropical islands, which is so important for the tourist industry, a major contributor to national economies. Furthermore, in many of the tropical countries, the sugar cane plant has been and is one that can resist severe cyclones, droughts and other climatic vagaries. These are some of the benefits that are derived from the sugar cane industry.

Furthermore, we have taken note of a report that has been circulated this morning, document CL 127/7, the Medium-term Plan of FAO, which spans over the period 2006-2011. In paragraph 224, concerns managing nutrition in transforming food economy. Especially paragraph 333, we feel that the concept of healthy diets, which the document wants to promote, goes in the right direction.

In this regard, we would like to thank the Secretariat.

To conclude, we fully support the fact that appropriate level of intakes of energy, nutrients and food – including: free sugars; salt; fruits; vegetables; legumes; whole grains; and nuts – should be determined in accordance to national dietary and physical activity guidelines, based on the best available scientific evidence and we would like to emphasize here, as part of the Member States policies and programmes, taking into account cultural traditions and national habits and practices. We believe this approach was also decided upon by the WHO World Health Assembly, in the resolution producing the WHO Global Strategy on Nutrition and Physical Activity.

Charles NYAMRUNDA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

The delegation of Tanzania would like to congratulate Ambassador Mahalu, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture for his presentation and we do express our appreciation for the work done by the Committee which looked into issues presented in the report.

The report is consistent with the situation in developing countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa where there is a growing burden of non-communicable diseases, on public health, social expenditure and economy. We also agree with the report, that in areas affected by chronic and non-communicable diseases, public educational programmes would significantly contribute to the reduction of these diseases and certainly such programmes could educate communities on increased production and the consumption of alternative dietary resources. These should be followed up with the hows on the preparation, utilization and preservation of foods/diets.

My delegation is in total agreement with the Committee that the subject is complex and that further studies at both national and regional levels are necessary and should be encouraged.

Promotion of diets and foods should be given a priority and also encouraged among communities with high prevalence of non-communicable diseases. Tanzania therefore reiterates and applauds the suggestions made by Committee in paragraph 9 of the report, that FAO continue its collaboration with WHO on diet, nutrition and non-communicable diseases and provide Members with policy advice on nutrition and healthy diets to prevent such diseases. That also country case studies or assessments be made to explore thoroughly the actual needs of Member Countries, particularly the developing ones where food insecurity unfortunately continues to exist.

Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

Under Item 5 of the Council Agenda, Member Countries are to consider the Report adopted in the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. At the discussions which took place last February, Brazil fully supported the G-77 and GRULACs interventions, which expressed the developing countries growing concerns about the document COAG/2004/3 on the grounds of its bias acceptance, without proper critical review, of the conclusions of the Report of the Joint WHO/FAO Expert Consultation on Diet, Nutrition and Prevention of Chronic Disease.

It became very clear then that the Expert Consultation Report could not be acceptable, given its recommendations regarding actions for the preventions of non-communicable diseases that, if applicable, would certainly affect the demand and supply of several commodities with possible disrupting effects on the agricultural sector.

The Report also ignored the most serious problem facing humanity, namely the presence of two billion people all over the world suffering from under nutrition and micronutrient deficient disease. The Brazilian delegation was of the opinion that Member Countries, in order to consider any decision on this particular field would have to seek a transparent process, science-based evidence, both on a large spectrum and more detailed research, a comprehensive analysis of the whole universe involved including, in particular, socio-economic consequence and a clear cut political decision.

Those ideas were reflected in the Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, which decided in paragraphs 9 and 10, that members called for additional information and analysis to enable them to address in a more deliberate science based manner the question have been raised.

It was also suggested that in accordance with its core mandate FAO continue its collaboration with WHO on diet, nutrition and non-communicable diseases and provide Members with policy advice on nutrition and health diets to prevent such disease.

A thorough assessment would be needed in respect of the linkage between possible changing food consumption patterns and non-communicable diseases and of the possible effects of changing demand on agricultural production systems and commodity trade, as well as on supply responses through diversification where appropriate. This will take into account the specificities of

individual countries, population groups and dietary patterns. Members agree that addressing the issue of malnutrition was an absolute priority for FAO and that adequate resources should be devoted to it and not diverted away from this objective. Those recommendations are still valid ones.

In presenting the COAG Report for the appreciation of Council Members, FAO Secretariat prepared an introductory section called, "Matters requiring attention of the Council." It is important to note what bullet number 2 says, and I quote, "The Committee, while recognizing that the Expert Report could be a useful resource for governments in considering nutritional recommendations in order to alleviate the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, agreed that the subject was complex and that further studies by Member States at national and regional levels would be required." In fact, the COAG Report explicitly confirms that the recognition of the Expert Consultation Report as a useful resource was made only by many members and not by the Committee as a whole. On the contrary the majority of the members expressed a different view on the Expert Consultation Report. On this regard it is important to highlight paragraph 7, which affirms that a majority of members expressed the view that the scientific basis for the Expert Report recommendation was inadequate and that the application of its global recommendations at individual country level would need to take into account the specific circumstance of each country.

The Brazilian delegation expects that this misunderstanding be elucidated and the second bullet of the section called "Matters requiring the attention of the Council" be corrected. Brazil fully endorses the point of view expressed by GRULAC and the G-77 of the Council.

Armando PALOMO (Guatemala)

Mi delegación en nombre de los países del Sistema de Integración Centroamericana quiere reiterar la declaración hecha por el Presidente del G-77, y China, y el GRULAC sobre el informe del 18º COAG, documento CL 129/9 relativo al informe de la Consulta de Expertos OMS/FAO 916, sobre Dieta, nutrición y prevención de enfermedades crónicas. Nos gustaría hacer notar que durante la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud, el pasado mayo del año en curso, en una resolución sobre la Estrategia global de la dieta, actividad física y salud, no se hizo referencia alguna a las recomendaciones del informe 916; la única referencia a este informe fue cancelada. El sentir general de los países en Ginebra fue que su base científica era muy controversial y, por lo tanto, era mejor obviar su conclusión. Esta resolución reconfirmó que, "en los niveles apropiados de ingerencias para la energía, nutrientes y alimentos, incluyendo azúcares libres, sal, grasas, frutas vegetales, legumbres, granos enteros y nueces, deberán determinarse de acuerdo a las dietas nacionales y a los parámetros de actividad física basados en la evidencia científica y como parte de las políticas y programas de los estados miembros, tomando en cuenta las tradiciones culturales y los hábitos y prácticas".

Así como en FAO, los países miembros en Ginebra adoptaron un compromiso para evitar largas y costosas deliberaciones sobre el tema; mi delegación quisiera que este informe no fuera tomado en consideración. Las repercusiones que la adopción de estas recomendaciones tendrían en otros foros, tales como la OMC, son preocupantes para los países en desarrollo en general, y para Guatemala en particular, ya que somos países productores de azúcar. Al igual que Mauritius anteriormente, la posición de mi país y de los demás países de América Central es de no dar ningún tipo de seguimiento al informe 916, para evitar dispersión de recursos que sería más apropiado utilizar para programas concretos en la lucha contra el hambre, prioridad absoluta de FAO y de todos nosotros.

Gustavo AYARES (Chile)

En relación con los temas de Dieta, nutrición y enfermedades no transmisibles, en el contexto de la Consulta de Expertos Mixta FAO/OMS, la delegación de Chile se suma a las preocupaciones manifestadas en las declaraciones del G-77 y GRULAC sobre este tema. Creemos que no es posible aceptar la calificación de productos alimenticios dañinos de por sí, si no más bien dietas mal equilibradas o insuficientemente formuladas.

Ms Maryam Ahmed Moustafa MOUSSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Egypt's comments on COAG report, document CL127/9.

First: Egypt supports cooperation between FAO and WHO.

Second: Egypt endorses the G-77 position on the joint WHO/FAO expert consultation report.

Third: Egypt stresses the need for scientific studies to be based on comparison. While this experts' report on basic diet does lack such a basis. It should have shed light on special considerations such as cultural specificities of countries. Thus, Egypt expresses its reservation on the content of this report and it deems such a report does require further in depth review which would take into account specific factors such as cultural diversity and the economic and social impact of the outcome of this study on developing countries. In conclusion, Egypt reiterates its position in support of the interests of developing nations.

Richard HUGHES (United States of America)

At the Eighteenth Session of COAG last February, which was a special session to discuss the Expert Report, members recognized the growing burden of diet related, non-communicable diseases in both developing and developed countries. The United States agrees that policies intended to prevent these diseases are very complex.

We look forward to FAO's continued collaboration with the World Health Organization on diet, nutrition and non-communicable diseases. We believe that nutrition and physical activity, education and healthy lifestyle promotion are critical to helping individuals and families make informed dietary choices. The United States, believes that agricultural policies meant to prevent non-communicable diseases should be rigorously assessed for impacts, negative and positive and tailored for individual nations. Before a policy is implemented, impacts on agricultural trade and malnutrition should be considered. Any FAO assessments in support of this goal must be within its mandate and available resources.

We also agree with many of our colleagues, that addressing hunger and malnutrition should remain an absolute priority for the Organization.

Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland)

I wish to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in making a very clear presentation of the report of the Committee. My delegation wishes to endorse without reservation the comments made by the Chairman of the Group of 77, that is the delegate of Panama. While we share COAG's conclusion that non-communicable diseases pose a serious burden to developed and developing countries we believe there was no sufficient scientific basis to apportion conclusive blame to certain food stuffs such as free sugar, red meat and others.

Jesús HUERTA GONZÁLEZ (México)

Mi delegación se suma y respalda la declaración realizada por el Presidente del GRULAC. Desde que se presentó en la FAO, mi delegación ha externado su preocupación por las implicaciones que pueda tener para los pequeños productores el informe de la Consulta de Expertos Mixta FAO/OMS. Varias delegaciones indicaron durante la reunión del COAG, que el informe de la Consulta Mixta no podía ser aceptado; desafortunadamente, dichas opiniones no quedaron fielmente reflejadas, en la página inicial del documento CL 127/9 denominada Asuntos que requieren la atención del Consejo, que incluso se contradice con el contenido del texto. En ese sentido, creemos que la discusión está aún abierta y no ha llegado un consenso sobre la objetividad, la representatividad y la veracidad, pero sobretodo, sobre las consecuencias en la producción agrícola que pueda acarrear dicho informe.

En una reunión informativa organizada por la Secretaría de la FAO, previa al 18º período de sesiones del COAG fue evidente que había una posición favorable sobre las implicaciones en la salud de las poblaciones de los países desarrollados y no se consideraba la viabilidad productiva de los campesinos en los países en desarrollo. Para mi delegación ambos aspectos son importantes y es indispensable encontrar un equilibrio que favorezca a ambos y no, que en detrimento de uno, se beneficie a otro.

Reiteramos nuestro respaldo a la declaración del GRULAC y pedimos que el Consejo solicite al COAG que analice una vez más este informe en su próximo período de sesiones, para poner énfasis en las repercusiones que tendrían las conclusiones de los expertos en la producción de los campesinos pobres de los países en desarrollo, y el impacto en el comercio agrícola internacional.

Mi delegación ve con simpatía, lo expresado por América Central a través de la delegación de Guatemala.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Australia wishes to express our support with many of our colleagues who have spoken on this item today, including that of the G-77. Australia supports the conclusions of the COAG Report.

Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of the almighty most merciful and compassionate. Speaking on behalf of my country, especially since we produce sugar cane which is a source of revenue and income for Sudanese farmers, we think that this report could wipe out sugar production with one stroke of a pen. Sugar cane production is the major crop produced by people in my country for centuries. Sugar cane does not just give us sugar, but other biproducts such as malasis, which is a source of an important nutrition for cattle in order to fatten them and to make them produce milk. We also get our gas from sugar cane stalks which is a source of energy, electricity in particular. Sugar cane plantations are also useful shelter belts and purify the air.

This crop gives our small farmers an income. We have vast areas sown with sugar cane and they provide not only income but labour, not only for us but for many developing countries. And it also makes it possible for us not to import such sources of energy from abroad. Sugar cane also fixes the land and is an important crop and a source of biological diversity. Sugar cane is also used in tropical countries, not only as a source of energy but also as a source of income, which is why I request that this report to be reviewed and that the Council enter a reservation with respect to the contents of this paper which are harmful to the vast majority of developing countries and their people.

We also unreservedly support the position of those developing countries that have queried the report and its contents.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you all for your rich contributions, I would like to give the floor to Mr de Haen, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Department so that he can respond to the points raised in the debate.

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

I am giving a short response also on behalf of Ms. Louise Fresco, my colleague here, because we are jointly in-charge of the Committee on Agriculture but we are also certainly jointly in-charge of any follow up work which always entails not only nutrition issues but also food and agriculture production, marketing and trade issues.

I do not think that I should go into detail because much of what was said was also raised during the Committee meeting itself and there we have attempted to give response already, so I will not repeat that. I only wish to say and repeat again that FAO and WHO had seen it as their duty to undertake scientific assessments and we feel encouraged that you request us to continue in this endeavour and in this particular case we did so in phase of a growing burden of diet related diseases which are worrying and happen both in developed and developing countries. I can also note a consensus that this burden is in fact recognized also by those who spoke.

We have noted a number of comments on the process and the scientific basis on which the experts that the two Agencies had invited to advise us based their recommendations. We are, of course, aware that recommendations for healthy diets or any recommendations that might effect consumption patterns and consumption behaviour or change, would therefore have an impact on

the economic interests in the farming community and the food industry at all levels of the food chain and that such kind of recommendations may also meet with criticism. We take this criticism seriously. However, please also understand that we considered our mandate to engage scientists and provide advice to us, and through us, to our members. I can only repeat that the two Agencies have done their best to engage the right scientists. But of course, as I have said at the occasion of COAG as well, science is evolving and the views in this field of science may also be diverse depending on whom you invite. At least we have followed a very transparent process. We have selected experts on their scientific capacity, on their personal capacity from an international geographically balanced origin. We need to recognize in this case that although we have attempted to find more experts from developing countries, the two Agencies found it very difficult to find enough of them. This is one conclusion that the experts and the Chairman of the Expert Group made when he addressed you at the side event at the COAG Session that this was a concern that we all share, that this balance was not achieved as it would have been desirable.

Background documents were all peer reviewed by a large number of scientists. The draft report was put on the Web and feedback was received from 120 different sources. A redraft of the report on the basis of these comments was made by the experts and I should also say that all background documents were published in a peer reviewed scientific journal.

Regarding the composition of these groups, I thought it would be important that I say for clarification the following: it was not the intention of WHO and FAO to convene in this Expert Group, experts on agriculture economics or social sciences, it was the express intention to have the advice from experts in nutrition and medicine and health. The implications of these recommendations in regard to economic agricultural and social impacts, was always considered as the next step. I see a note that FAO, the Secretariat has received the advice from COAG that the impossible impact on agricultural production systems, trade supply, response diversification and so on. And I take it on incomes, especially of poor farmers, of poor consumers, of any changes of the diet should be studied as a follow up and I can confirm that FAO is of course, disposed to do so within our means.

Finally, I wish to confirm that we will follow COAG's guidance that FAO continue its collaboration with WHO on diet nutrition and non-communicable diseases, in fact we are already doing so. This gives us the occasion to say that, at least in my view and in our view the scientific evidence of what constitutes a good diet is constantly evolving and we are determined to constantly update their scientific advice to our members and make it available through the appropriate channels. This of course means also that we recognize that each country and each population has different needs and different cultures and different requirements. Therefore there is a need as COAG has also stated that the work be done at country and locations specific level.

In conclusion FAO and WHO see it as their challenge to follow-up on you comments and on your guidance and I hope that you will find the follow-up that we in the Secretariat of FAO, will be undertaken in full compliance with your guidance.

Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

I would like your guidance and your orientation on the matter that Brazil and many other delegations have raised about this bullet number two that was included in the section called, Matters Requiring the Attention of the Council. We have raised the question on the issue that there is a misunderstanding in this section in saying that the Committee recognized the Expert Report as a useful resource. In fact as we are firm in our report and our intervention, it was not the case. It is very clear in the COAG's report that only many members expressed their view that this Expert Report was useful. I would like a clarification by the Secretariat on this matter and I expect to have the report of our discussion here in the Council reflect this matter.

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

I may only confirm that we have noted the request by Brazil to rectify the language in the second bullet to bring it in line with the main text. I think it is our duty to reflect this in the Draft Report that will be before the Drafting Committee for its approval.

CHAIRMAN

I hope that this satisfies Brazil. I think this concludes our work on Item 5 and we may move on to Item 6, World Food Programme.

I would now like to welcome Ms Sisulu, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA

6. World Food Programme

6. Programme alimentaire mondial

6. Programa Mundial de Alimentos

6.1 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2003 (CL 127/3)

6.1 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2003 (CL 127/3)

6.1 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre las actividades del PMA en 2003

(CL 127/3)

Ms Sheila SISULU (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

I am happy to introduce Agenda Item 6.1 Annual Report of WFP's Executive Director to ECOSOC and the FAO Council 2003. I wish to draw a distinction between this Annual Report to ECOSOC and the FAO Council, which covers inter-agency matters in standard UNDG format, and the separate Annual Performance Report (APR), that reports on WFP's achievements. You will all recollect that this new dual reporting cycle originated from the Governance Recommendation approved by the Executive Board of WFP in 2000 for greater streamlining in corporate reporting to the Executive Board and WFP parent bodies.

With that clarification I will move on to the body of the report.

In the words of the Secretary-General, the UN will ultimately be judged by "its impact on the poor, the hungry, the sick and the threatened." This task that is before us is a daunting one. One which no one agency can manage alone. Recognizing the possibility of reaping rich dividends in terms of a stronger and more efficient organization in the service of the world's hungry and poor, our activities have increasingly focused on coordination and harmonization with UN agencies, with NGOs and other development partners, and we are fully committed to the UN reform agenda and process. WFP Executive Director, James Morris, has set the goal of making WFP the "best possible partner, better equipping ourselves to serve our beneficiaries in the areas of HIV and AIDS, nutrition, gender and, above all, vulnerable children, and especially orphans". This document highlights WFP's work within the UN system in both the humanitarian and development fields through established UN structures like UNDG, ECHA, CAP and IASC.

Throughout 2003, our relations with UNICEF, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNAIDS and the Bretton Woods institutions were consolidated, but, I would like to highlight the collaboration with the two Rome-based agencies, FAO and IFAD, which grew in scope and strength.

The International Conference on Financing for Development, which was held in March 2002 in Monterrey, Mexico, concluded that achieving the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration demands a "twin-track" approach, that stresses the importance of both long-term investment in agriculture and rural poverty reduction and immediate direct assistance to the hungry and the poor. Such an approach constitutes the guiding principle in our collaboration with Rome-based agencies FAO, IFAD and IPGRI in general and in the context of the International Alliance Against Hunger. Through the Alliance, we are joining forces at the national and international level towards halving the number of hungry people by 2015, enlisting the participation of other international organizations, food producers and consumers, scientists, academics, religious groups, NGOs and civil society. The Alliance seeks to leverage the influence of broad segments

of society on donor and recipient countries to exert their political will to the cause of hunger and devote their resources accordingly.

World Food Day 2003 provided an important forum for advocacy and exchange of information among FAO, WFP, IFAD, IPGRI, the NGO Ad Hoc Group, and civil society and government guests.

In November of the same year 2003, FAO and WFP signed a document called "Deepening Cooperation between FAO and WFP", which expresses a joint commitment to enhanced cooperation. By the end of that year, WFP was working with FAO on 77 projects in 41 countries. In general, WFP provided food to improve local infrastructure or create productive assets, while FAO provided technical assistance to improve agricultural production, or seeds and agricultural tools. With IFAD, WFP collaborated on 21 projects in 19 countries, focusing on rural infrastructure development and micro-finance activities.

FAO and WFP reviewed the methodology for joint needs assessments: (i) updating the guidelines for Crop and Food Supply Assessment (CFSA) missions; (ii) tracking people in need of food and livelihood assistance; and (iii) harmonizing planning of short-term and long-term interventions. In 2003, WFP and FAO carried out 18 joint CFSA missions, including eight in Africa, four in Asia and one in Eastern Europe – in which FAO assessed food production and supply at the macro level and WFP assessed the emergency food requirements of vulnerable populations.

The inter-agency process I have described above has been well served by WFP's role as principal drafter and lead advisor in formulating the UNDG/ECHA Working Group's Report on Transitional Issues and as Chair for the Standardization and Harmonization Group. WFP's continued contributions have been: harmonization of programming cycles, active involvement in the CCA/UNDAF process, and strengthening of the Regional Coordinator system.

In the spirit of operational coordination, WFP strived towards working through common premises and common humanitarian services, whenever feasible. In the area of coordinating the logistics capacities of humanitarian organizations during large-scale emergencies, our collaboration with the Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) continued. Our newly-created Nutrition Service actively managed the activities of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN).

Our commitment to Gender Balance has been reflected throughout our effort towards greater diversity in the composition of our staff. While currently 31 percent of total WFP staff are women, we have established the goal of attaining 50 percent representation of female staff; but managers are aware that they should focus on achieving recruitment targets of 75 percent women. Gender training has been mainstreamed into WFP's overall training programmes.

Although over half of WFP's resources continued to be provided by the United States, it should be noted that of our 20 top donors, 16 increased their contributions in 2003. In pursuit of expanding our donor base, we sought to spur the interest of public donors from emerging countries. Contributions from public donors totalled US\$80 million in 2003, 74 percent more than the US\$46 million in 2002. Five donors contributed to WFP for the first time in 2003: Cameroon, Kuwait, Malawi, the Marshall Islands and Monaco. We similarly reached out to the private sector: Benetton and TPG, to name only two.

Towards increased responsiveness and efficiency, WFP revised its evaluation policy and introduced new Monitoring and Evaluation guidelines following their field-testing. I would draw attention to two major evaluation initiatives: Real time evaluation of the Southern Africa Emergency Operation and the Thematic Evaluation of WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRROs).

Working on our vision of being one of the leading agencies in Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance, WFP strengthened its capacity by establishing the Emergency Preparedness and Response and Emergency Needs Assessment units while improving training for Emergency Response personnel in light of evolving needs.

Overall, 2003 was a challenging year for WFP: fighting hunger in a world that sometimes seems intent on producing ever more hungry people. Our capacities were strained to the limit in the face of violent civil conflicts, natural disasters and the unyielding pandemic of HIV and AIDS.

The Annual Performance Report highlights some of these major operational challenges. WFP provided 4.6 million tonnes of food aid, with an additional 1.4 million tonnes through Iraq Oil-for-Food resources. Total operational expenditures amounted to US\$3.3 billion, exceeding by more than 40 percent the expenditure in 2002, and through which we were able to assist 104 million hungry people and food-insecure people around the world, 54 million of them being women and girls.

The bulk of WFP's food was destined for relief assistance, with the Iraq operations being the largest: 2.1 million tonnes of food from donor contributions and from the Oil-for-Food programme reached the entire Iraqi population of approximately 26 million people. Complex crises in Southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, West Africa, and the Great Lakes Region in Africa required substantial relief assistance. Food needs were no less in Afghanistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

WFP reached 61 million beneficiaries through emergency operations and 27 million through Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations. We managed to cover 90 percent of total WFP operations' estimated food requirements, though, as in past, late or unpredictable contributions frustrated efforts to reach all beneficiaries on time with the full rations. On the development programme front, slightly more than half the beneficiaries target was achieved.

That we were able to handle so many crises simultaneously around the world bears testimony to the dedication of our staff, to the confidence of our donors, and to the contribution of our UN and NGO partners.

In spite of the above in our major role in staving off hunger in humanitarian crises such as in Iraq, Afghanistan, Southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, Liberia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to name a few, with 842 million people worldwide remaining hungry, our job in the service of the hungry and the poor is hardly done. It is the right combination of investments in staff, partnerships, systems and accountability that holds the key to further progress in our efforts to help the hungry and the poor, and we proudly embarked in this direction during 2003.

Additionally and in conclusion, additional details on WFP's performance in 2003 may be obtained by consulting our Annual Performance Report, available on request. We would welcome any questions or comments you may have.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

Quieto pedir disculpas por las interrupciones que se puedan presentar durante mi intervención, los cambios climáticos no sólo nos traen desastres naturales sino que también afectan mi salud.

El GRULAC quiere agradecer a la Secretaría la presentación del Informe Anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA y del ECOSOC y al Consejo de la FAO sobre sus actividades en 2003, ya aprobado previamente por la Junta del PMA durante su período de sesiones anual del presente año como Informe Anual del Director Ejecutivo.

El GRULAC reconoce y apoya las actividades operacionales realizadas por el PMA en este período y, en particular, aquéllas encaminadas a que la Organización trabaje de forma coordinada con la restante estructura del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Apreciamos el incremento de los recursos en 2003, provenientes principalmente de los contribuyentes habituales bilateralmente pero notamos con preocupación, como ya hemos expresado con anterioridad durante el examen de estos temas, la tendencia decreciente de los recursos multilaterales, lo cual reduce sobremanera las actividades de desarrollo del programa, y por lo que hacemos un llamado a revertir esta tendencia y a que estas actividades cuenten también con el apoyo de la comunidad internacional, pues son las que verdaderamente contribuyen a erradicar las causas que provocan las emergencias alimentarias.

El GRULAC apoya por ello que el PMA continúe trabajando en el fortalecimiento de las capacidades de nuestros países, como se recoge en su prioridad estratégica número 5, en la ampliación de la base de donantes no habituales y hacemos énfasis en la necesidad de que continúe fortaleciendo el mecanismo de respuesta rápida en nuestra región ante la ocurrencia creciente de desastres naturales o provocados por el ser humano. Es precisamente en este último ámbito donde deseamos llamar la atención sobre el continuo fortalecimiento institucional del PMA, de modo que pueda estar siempre preparado para atender las constantes arremetidas de la naturaleza que no dan tregua, como lo hemos observado recientemente en América Latina y el Caribe. Primero en Centroamérica y el Caribe con el paso del huracán Iván que dejó inmensos daños y pérdidas de muchas vidas humanas en países como Haití, Cuba, República Dominicana, y luego, en un gran número de países de América del Sur con un intenso e implacable invierno que ha afectado a millares de personas como el caso de Colombia, uno de los países más afectados con más de 300 000 damnificados.

El GRULAC reitera su apoyo al informe en cuestión y a la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA la cual es sabiamente presidida por un miembro del GRULAC.

V. HEARD (United Kingdom)

I would like to ask you please to give the floor to the delegate of the Netherlands. He will speak on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

Ewald WERMUTH (Observer for Netherlands)

On behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States and the three candidate countries who align themselves to this Statement. I would to thank the Executive Board of the World Food Programme and Executive Director, Mr Jim Morris, for the Annual Report of the WFP Board on WFP's activities in 2003.

The Annual Report has already been extensively discussed in the Annual Meeting of the WFP Board in May 2004. The Board did not raise or propose specific issues to be discussed by the FAO Council. We, therefore, propose that the Council take note of the Report.

Ms Radha SINGH (India)

At the outset, India commends the achievements recorded by WFP in 2003 and reiterates its strong support to the Organization in its endeavour to eliminate hunger in the World. We do hope, however, that the niche carved by the Organization in providing for emergency feeding does not eclipse its potential of developing and implementing more long-term initiatives for alleviating hunger and promotion of food security. Endeavours like the Food for Work approach for tackling the base of seasonal rural employment globally, and particularly in India, are one of its major policy initiatives of alleviating rural poverty. To a considerable extent, these initiatives have drawn on WFP's pilot testing of similar approaches to be adopted elsewhere where food insecurity is chronic. The point which we wish to underscore here is that the immediate concerns of crisis response and acute distress mitigation, important as they are, should supplement rather than supplant the developmental roles of the Organization.

India firmly believes that the long drawn-out interventions against food insecurity have a better chance of succeeding if WFP is in the vanguard of this campaign with a substantive development agenda and adequate funds. We are glad that WFP is making a determined effort to encourage contributions from new donors and are happy that a policy has been developed in this regard. By adopting innovative approaches for leveraging resources from traditional as well as new donors, we are confident that WFP will be able to strengthen and widen its donor base and consequently expand and intensify its humanitarian activities.

We wish to reiterate our repeatedly stated position that the existing methodology of associated costs should be applied with modifications to potential donors, the not so rich countries who with the strides made by their agricultural systems have surpluses to share but are without the comfortable financial cushion of the developed countries to meet the rather liberal associated cost regimes adopted by the Organization. We are happy to see the various areas of collaboration

between WFP and the Rome-based agencies as well as with other UN organizations. We feel that further synergy and coordination will result in closer cooperation and pooling of comparative advantage among concerned organizations and we will watch with interest future developments in this regard.

Harry SANTOSO (Indonesia)

We appreciate the FAO Secretariat for the successful preparation of the document CL127/3. Indonesia notes that some conclusions stated in the Council document CL127/3 of the WFP programme supporting several programmes' implementation planning especially the human development programme in a developing country like Indonesia. Our delegation has a general comment in response to FAO and WFP's activities.

Indonesia is gradually recovering from a multiple crisis that affected the country from 1997 until 1998. Poverty rates have declined but are still above pre-crisis level. Economic achievement and political stability have facilitated settlement and integration of large numbers of displaced persons. Household food security improved except in some structurally food-insecure areas, but malnutrition rates remained high and have even increased among children under five. The government, in collaboration with the World Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund, which consists of WFP, FAO and WHO, and donors has embraced ambitious nutritional targets for 2010. This protected relief and recovery operation will contribute to meeting them by reducing micro-nutrient deficiencies among vulnerable groups including primary school children in areas most affected by poverty, malnutrition and social tension. About 62 percent of food resources will be allocated for this.

The Indonesian government will maximize the use of local resources, infrastructures and partnership with WFP and other donors, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to improve the sustainability of interventions. Since Indonesian regulations are trying to stop importing the rice commodity, the WFP and Indonesian government agreed to buy local rice for the food aid distribution programme for the poor people.

Indonesia is decentralizing; decision-making and budgeting is being delegated to the provincial and district levels creating new opportunities and challenge. WFP and the Government of Indonesia will need to work together with a range of stakeholders to ensure the success of its operations. The Minister of Agriculture and WFP have worked together to create a food insecurity Atlas of Indonesia to guide decision-makers in improving social safety-net programmes and assist planning for disaster mitigation and preparedness. The Atlas will be a tool for regular monitoring of district food security. The activity has been continued in 2004 for all the provinces in Indonesia (30 provinces) and will be completed by the end of 2004.

Various programmes to eradicate hunger have been implemented in Indonesia. To monitor the programme impact of eradicating hunger programmes, Indonesia has developed an instrument *inter alias*: "The Guidelines of the Hunger Monitoring Instrument".

This instrument is still undergoing a process of verification and validation as a tool for hunger surveys. The hunger survey using a validated survey instrument would be initiated at mid-2005.

Based on experiences in 2003, the following programmes have been proposed:

1. Developing an Early Warning System. WFP will help the Ministry of Agriculture to develop an early-warning system for natural disasters;
2. Strengthening local health centers. WFP will contribute to strengthening health centers by supplying nutrition education materials to improve the quality of their work;
3. Gender Issues. Implementing partners and government counterparts will receive training on those subjects and will be involved in a gender baseline study and in further project intervention budgeted by WFP.

Suthiporn CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

The Thai Delegation would like to express its appreciation to the UN World Food Programme for its excellent achievements. The Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance Programme of the WFP has proved to be very helpful and greatly contributes to the World Food Security and its Millennium Development goals. Thailand wishes to commend the WFP in emphasizing the human resources development especially of women and children. This is the main reason why Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand has graciously accepted to join the WFP as the Special Ambassador of the UN WFP for school feeding.

Her Royal Highness the Princess has displayed a strong determination and devotion to raise the living standard of the Thais and the people in the neighbouring countries. And as a Special Ambassador of the UN WFP for school feeding she will certainly raise public awareness and support from the international community in the area of school feeding for the better livelihood of the poor and the hungry.

In addition, I would like to inform the Council that Thailand is the host country for the WFP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. We also provide contributions in the form of money and food supplies to the Organization. This confirms Thailand's full support to the UN WFP in reducing hunger and starvation in the food deficit countries.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the WFP for the considerable increase in donations in the year 2003, not only from traditional but also non-traditional donors. There are countries which have contributed to the WFP for the first time. This has ensured continuity of the smooth and close cooperation between WFP and its members, both developed and developing countries in the years to come.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

Mi delegación suma su apoyo a la declaración realizada por el Presidente del GRULAC, que ve con simpatía la declaración formulada por India. Mi delegación agradece también la presentación efectuada por la Embajadora Sisulu que refleja fielmente el magnífico trabajo del PMA en 2003 y, en consecuencia, suma su apoyo al informe. Sin embargo, el nombre del informe presentado al Consejo de la FAO y al ECOSOC se presta a equívocos. Si se trata de un informe de la Junta Ejecutiva como indica el documento CL 127/3, sería deseable que el Presidente de dicho órgano de gobierno, es decir, de la Junta Ejecutiva fuera quien hiciera la presentación tanto al Consejo de la FAO como al ECOSOC. Por el contrario si se trata de un informe del Director Ejecutivo como lo dijo la Embajadora Sisulu, entonces la práctica de presentación seguida hasta ahora es sin duda adecuada, pero entonces tendría que cambiarse el título del informe presentado a este Consejo y al ECOSOC. Ojalá que el PMA y su Junta Ejecutiva estudien esta contradicción.

Estamos convencidos de que la mejor forma de atender eficientemente las emergencias es trabajando en las causas que las provocan, en este sentido deseo recordar que en la más reciente reunión de la Conferencia de la FAO dicho órgano dio indicaciones claras al PMA para realizar acciones específicas sobre las causas de las emergencias. Esperamos que, como respuesta a dicha petición, el próximo año el Programa pueda incluir en su informe las labores que realiza para atender las indicaciones de la Conferencia.

Por otra parte es conveniente recordar que en la sesión anual de la Junta de este año, la Delegación de Suecia manifestó su preocupación por la disminución de las contribuciones multilaterales. México comparte con el GRULAC dicha preocupación. El PMA debe trabajar para reforzar este importante componente porque al hacerlo reforzará su naturaleza multilateral, naturaleza que la diferencia de otras organizaciones que realizan operaciones de distribución de alimentos.

A mi delegación satisface el extraordinario trabajo realizado por el Sr. James Morris y por el personal del PMA, sobre todo en materia de movilización de recursos, lo que se vio reflejado por el importante incremento alcanzado en 2003. En dicho año, el Programa movilizó 2600 millones

de dólares como lo indica el párrafo 8 del informe, lo que a su vez permitió efectuar operaciones importantes en las regiones con emergencias o con problemas estructurales en materia de alimentos. En este sentido, deseamos agradecer y reconocer el trabajo realizado en América Latina y el Caribe. Mi delegación desea dejar constancia del aprecio por el acercamiento del Sr. Morris con el Gobierno mexicano, particularmente por el encuentro realizado con el Presidente de México el mes de octubre pasado, lo que abre excelentes perspectivas de mayor colaboración entre México y el PMA.

Ms Sharon KOTOK (United States of America)

The United States appreciates the progress made by the World Food Programme in contributing to the UN's operational activities. We welcome the enhanced cooperation between FAO and WFP, both at headquarters and in the field. We look forward to their continuing collaboration on the twin-track approach to food security, needs assessments, emergency responses and the provision of agricultural inputs and nutrition.

We also commend WFP for expanding its donor base by attracting new donors, for ongoing improvements in the business process review, and for its commitment to continue its process of improvement.

Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)

Thank you Ms Sisulu for your concise but comprehensive presentation.

As our colleague from the Netherlands said, this document is fully discussed in the May Session of WFP's Executive Board. In that sense, I think the comment should be a brief one so Japan will make brief and general comments.

Japan highly appreciates WFP's activities. In order to alleviate hunger and poverty, WFP implements not only emergency food aid but also various projects such as school feeding – I understand Ms Sisulu is taking a leading role in this dimension, HIV/AIDS related intervention and food for nutrition in response to the various situations of different beneficiaries.

We have the intention to continuously support WFP in a positive manner because humanitarian aid, in the concept of human security, is one of the main pillars of Japan's foreign policy.

Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

La Délégation de l'Angola voudrait féliciter le Directeur exécutif du PAM pour son Rapport annuel sur les activités du programme 2003. Le rapport, que nous avons sous les yeux, a été présenté au Conseil lors de la session annuelle en mai 2004 et a mérité des commentaires de la part des Etats Membres et cela a permis au Secrétariat de l'améliorer. Quelques points importants méritent à notre avis d'être soulignés.

En premier lieu, il s'agit des préoccupations du PAM sur la réduction des contributions multilatérales. Les pays en développement en général, et mon pays en particulier, continuent à exprimer les mêmes préoccupations. Si des solutions adéquates ne sont pas trouvées, nous pensons que le PAM ne sera pas en mesure d'atteindre les objectifs et résultats pour lesquels il a été créé.

Le deuxième point concerne les paragraphes 9 et 10. Ma délégation félicite les donateurs qui ont augmentés leur contribution et elle voudrait féliciter également les donateurs non-traditionnels parmi lesquels deux pays africains qui, malgré leurs difficultés, ont décidé d'apporter leur contribution. Je crois qu'il faut voir le geste qu'ils ont fait et non pas le montant.

D'autres points importants méritent d'être cités notamment, la participation du PAM au système des coordonnateurs résidents, la collaboration avec les organisations ayant leur siège à Rome et la problématique hommes-femmes.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, l'Angola, qui est Membre du Conseil d'administration du PAM, approuve ce rapport du Directeur exécutif et encourage tous les Membres du Conseil de la FAO à le faire.

Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

Uganda's delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat and the World Food Programme management for producing the document before us for discussion.

The delegation further notes, with satisfaction, the operations of WFP and the support provided to 104 million people worldwide during 2003. We thank the Organization for assisting our country, Uganda, to feed the displaced people in the Northern part of Uganda affected by the war of the Lord's Resistance Army.

My delegation further registers a lot of thanks to the Organization for having tabled at its executive board Uganda's protracted relief and rehabilitation operations, which was approved by the board recently.

As my country receives solutions to the problem of the war in North, my country wishes to request the Organization to further continue to help foster the solutions to the problem, together with the country.

My delegation wishes to thank the Organization for having located their Regional Offices in our country and for the local purchases that the Organization is carrying out for food items, which is more flexible and helpful for the country.

Ms Shiela SISULU (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

Thank you very much for the comments and especially for the congratulations and the commendations on our report.

I have noted some of the concerns raised – for instance, by Mexico, about the potential confusion in the title of the report. It is the report of the Executive Director but possibly we need to work through that little loop where he gives it to the Board first and then the Board passes it through. It still remains his report but that is the process that it goes through. We will look at how we can make sure there is a minimum of confusion.

We have also noted the concerns and encouragement for us to continue to look into the underlying causes of hunger to strengthen our capacity in the areas of dealing with the underlying causes of hunger through our various programmes. We are, indeed, thankful for all of our donors, including the new and first time donors and the donors that have stuck with us and continue to support us.

CHAIRMAN

Let me thank Ms Sisulu for having given her brief response to the interventions.

The work on Item 6.1 has been concluded and we will now proceed to Item 6.2.

The main documents for Item 6.2 are CL 127/4 and CL 127/4 Sub 1. The Item concerns the election of six Members for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007.

I will now give the floor to the Assistant Secretary-General, who will run through the nominations.

6.2 Election of Six Members to the WFP Executive Board (CL 127/4)

6.2 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM (CL 127/4)

6.2 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA (C 127/4)

ASSISTANT DU SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Conformément au texte de la résolution 6/99, adopté le 30 novembre 1999 durant la Trentième session de la Conférence, le Conseil est appelé à élire six Membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM pour un mandat de trois ans allant du 1^{er} janvier 2005 au 31 décembre 2007.

Pour la liste A, il y a deux candidats, le Congo et le Niger pour deux postes.

Pour la liste B, il y a un candidat, la Thaïlande pour un poste.

Pour la liste C, il y a un candidat, Haïti pour un poste.

Pour la liste D, il y a deux candidats, l'Allemagne et le Canada pour deux postes.

Nous avons donc six candidats pour six sièges à pourvoir.

Sayed Ataur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to state on behalf of LIFD Members of WFP Executive Board on the membership of one vacant post for the term 2005-2007.

Against the vacancy of China, we have received indication that the Kingdom of Thailand and the state of Kuwait are interested in the membership. As per practice, the vacancy is to be filled by the nearest region. To resolve the situation, I believe, the state of Kuwait is generous enough to consider Thailand's position to be a Member of the Executive Board for the first year, i.e. 2005. Thailand has also kindly agreed to transfer to the state of Kuwait the remaining period, that is 2006-2007.

So, from Group B we may accept the nomination of Thailand first and then Kuwait after Thailand expires after 2005.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

En nombre del GRULAC, quiero agradecer la información presentada por la Secretaría en el documento CL 127/4, composición de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA y tenemos a bien referirnos a la decisión que ha tomado El Salvador de renunciar con fecha 31 de diciembre de 2004 al puesto que ocupa como Miembro del Consejo en la lista C a favor de Nicaragua, situación que apoya el GRULAC. Con respecto a la elección de los seis miembros cuyo mandato expira el 31 de diciembre del presente año, como se recoge en el párrafo 6 del documento puesto a nuestra consideración, el GRULAC desea expresar su apoyo para que Haití continúe ocupando su puesto en la lista C como Miembro de la Junta Ejecutiva hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2007.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Monsieur le Président, nous ne pouvons passer à pieds joints l'acte que vient de poser l'ensemble du Conseil.

En effet, Monsieur le Président, l'élection du Congo au Conseil d'administration du Programme alimentaire mondial, le PAM, vient symboliser la haute considération qu'ont les membres du Conseil pour notre pays et ses autorités. Nous ne manquerons pas dans les minutes qui suivent de le traduire auprès des autorités congolaises, de l'ensemble des parties et de notre peuple.

Monsieur le Président, avec cette élection, le Congo vient de plus d'être honoré. Au nom du Gouvernement de la République, de toutes les parties concernées et de l'ensemble de notre peuple, nous tenons à remercier le Conseil de cette gratitude. Monsieur le Président, cette élection a été rendue possible grâce à la sagesse légendaire des Membres du Groupe africain qui, au-delà de nos clivages pluriels, se sont présentés devant vous en rang serré avec une seule voix, celle de l'Afrique unie. C'est le lieu par excellence pour nous de les remercier tous et leur faire prendre conscience que c'est dans cet élan de solidarité agissante que nous pourrions prétendre à des victoires certaines plus grandes dans un proche avenir.

Monsieur le Président, qu'il nous soit permis ici et maintenant, de prendre l'engagement solennel devant le Conseil, d'assurer au côté des autres Etats Membres une participation accrue et efficiente aux activités du PAM, afin de contribuer de façon significative à l'effort de mutation qualitative du Programme alimentaire mondial.

CHAIRMAN

From the interventions and what I gather and what I hear, therefore I now ask if the Council now agrees to appoint the six candidates.

List A: Congo and Niger

List B: Thailand first year and to be followed by Kuwait in the second year

List C: Haiti

List D: Canada and Germany

For the six vacant seats by clear general consent. If you agree, I think I can hear the applause.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRMAN

I have been asked to inform the Council that the List D seat that is occupied by Ireland in 2003, was taken by Finland for the years 2004-2005. This arrangement was endorsed by the Hundred and Twenty-sixth FAO Council in December 2003. A footnote drawing attention to this matter was omitted erroneously from document CL 127/4.

If there are no further comments, we will move on to the next item on our agenda.

Let's move on to Item 7 on our agenda, outcome of the second FAO Oblique WHO Forum of Food Safety Regulators in Bangkok on 14 October 2004 and the Regional Meeting on Food Safety. The relevant document is CL 127/18.

Mr de Haen, the Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Division will introduce this item.

7. Outcome of the Second FAO/WHO Forum of Food Safety Regulators (Bangkok, 12-14 October 2004) and of Regional Meetings on Food Safety (CL 127/18)

7. Conclusions du deuxième Forum FAO/OMS des responsables de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments (Bangkok, 12-14 octobre 2004) et des réunions régionales sur la sécurité sanitaire des aliments (CL 127/18)

7. Resultados del Segundo Foro Mundial FAO/OMS de Autoridades de Reglamentación sobre Inocuidad de los Alimentos (Bangkok, 12-14 de octubre de 2004) y de las reuniones regionales sobre inocuidad de los alimentos (C 127/18)

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

I am pleased to refer you to the document CL 127/18 in which you find more detailed information on the recently held Second Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators which was held in Bangkok, Thailand in October as well the outcome of the Regional Meeting on Food Safety Regulators that was held in Malaysia in May of this year. There is also information on some other regional conferences that are still in the planning stage. I take this opportunity to express on behalf of the Secretariat the gratitude to the Governments of Malaysia and Thailand for having hosted these important events which were considered rather successful by the participants, I myself participated and can say that the delegates in both cases appreciated the holding of these events. We have also reason to thank the donors that made it possible to hold these events because you will recall that you had given the guidance that such regional or global food safety regulator meetings should be financed from extrabudgetary funds. One country, France, is also thanked for having made available and is still doing so a professional expert for a period of two years that helps the Secretariat in managing this additional work load.

The Second Global Forum was held under the main theme "Building Effective Food Safety Systems", it was a meeting attended by 400 delegates from 90 countries and ten observer organizations. One hundred conference room documents were made available by Member Countries and 13 working papers were presented in plenary and parallel events. This only to show that it was an event rich in substance and discussions, as was given as a guidance to this Global Forum the delegates did not come up with concrete decisions or even recommendations but the Chairman's summary has the character of a documentation of the consensus that the delegates came up with and these were the lead food safety regulators from around the world I might say.

Of course they had important things to say. Three of the many conclusions that you find in the document are worth highlighting; one is that the food safety regulators saw the need for governments to give higher priority and much more firm commitment to building effective food safety systems including, and this is perhaps interesting, consideration of a possible unification of food safety management authorities. There was a lot of discussion about the institutional arrangements, countries are going through reforms and the experiences gained with these reforms were exchanged very actively at the forum.

Secondly, the importance of promoting Good Practices throughout the food chain was underlined and discussed in some detail.

Thirdly, it may be of interest to note that two important networks both maintained by WHO and FAO jointly got high attention, one is an international food safety authorities network that was launched in Bangkok and will be maintained by WHO. It enables all food safety regulators of the world to be on-line, to be linked in case of an outbreak of a contamination or an emergency or in case of the need to interact very rapidly, this network should enable them to do so.

Fourthly, there was recognition and attention again to the International Portal on Food Safety and Animal and Plant Health that we had launched earlier in the year on the occasion of the Regional Food Safety Regulators Meeting in Malaysia. That was also presented at the Global Forum and I might remind you that this is the information system that is maintained by FAO and we thank the donors who enabled us to do so which will now contain, if countries contributed, all the official regulatory information that traders need, that governments need and anyone who wants to know what a country's requirements are. If you want to export to the country or sell something on the market of those countries.

Finally, at the Global Forum high priority was seen in further work on Risk Analysis and Capacity Building on Micro Biological Contamination of Foods, Risk Assessments of GMOs, Food Import and Export Inspections and Certification. There was no final decision by the participants on venue or timing of the Third Global Forum although nobody spoke against such a forum, the time did not suffice to come to grips with the character, timing, etc. of such an event and it was agreed that FAO and WHO would continue this discussion through a forum of web-based communication and at the occasion of the next Codex Alimentarius Commission Meeting.

In summary, Regional Conferences: one was held for Asia and Pacific, as I said earlier 35 countries attended the meeting in Malaysia which agreed again that the burden of food borne diseases and death was unacceptably high in the region, therefore the first thing that they agreed upon was a regional surveillance system that requires contributions of information from all Member Countries, mainly from the health authorities.

Secondly, coordinated multi-sectoral approaches; and thirdly a call on all agencies, national and international to help capacity building in the region.

I have to report to you on the state of preparations on three other regional food safety conferences that are still in the planning phase concerning Africa. You will recall that this was discussed earlier, the Twenty-third FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Johannesburg supported in principle that such a conference be convened, the Rome based Permanent Representatives have supported the offer of Zimbabwe to host such a conference in 2005 which the Director General of FAO has accepted. The venue of the conference and the holding of the conference in that country is contingent now upon the approval by the Director General of WHO which we hope we will receive soon. Discussions on the technical content of such a conference were held on the occasion of the Codex Alimentarius Commission Meeting in Geneva and we hope that donors will be identified to come to a concrete plan for that conference for the African Region.

For the Americas and the Caribbean, FAO and WHO have convened a meeting with the delegates of that region on the occasion of Codex Alimentarius in Geneva and the countries have confirmed their interest as well to hold such a regional food safety conference; they have also agreed that it should be an All Regional Conference and have asked us to include Canada and the United States.

In the further planning I cannot report to you any concrete decisions yet, but the considerations are under discussion and that would be for the second half of 2005.

Regarding the Near East, this is my final point, the participants of an informal meeting which was held with the delegations of the countries in the Near East Region attending the Codex Alimentarius Commission Meeting confirmed the interest of the Region in holding a Regional Conference on food safety. Participants also indicated the mutual benefits of holding such a conference back-to-back with the next meeting of the Codex Coordinating Committee for the Near East which will be held in Amman, Jordan from 7 – 10 March 2005. So, the current plans foresee that the food safety meeting would be held back-to-back with that meeting and that the delegation of Jordan which is currently the Codex Coordinator in the Near East welcomed the idea of such a back-to-back event and offered full cooperation. More specific things such as information on funding and substance would have to wait until we have finalized these preparatory talks with the Jordanians and the other members of the region.

Suthiporn CHIRAPANDA (Thailand)

Just a few brief comments in addition to what Mr de Haen has said. First of all, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the FAO Council for having accepted the Government of Thailand to host the Second FAO/WHO Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators in Bangkok. We would like to thank in particular, the FAO Secretariat for its assistance in the preparations and convening of the forum. The Second Global Forum has in our opinion met its objective in promoting the exchange of information on approaches and experience in dealing with current food safety issues. The success of the GF-2 can be seen from the number of countries and organizations attending the forum and also the number of papers and documents presented at the conference. The flow of information during the forum through documents and discussions were valuable to all participants especially those from developing countries.

As for Thailand, it was very useful and beneficial in the strengthening of our food safety control systems. The forum was in line with the Thai emphasis on capacity building in food safety as the year 2004 has been named Food Safety Year in Thailand.

Finally, in order to maintain the impetus on food safety among producers and consumers, there is a need to hold a third Global Forum. The objectives and the format of the next Global Forum are subject to be considered by FAO, WHO and Member Countries. We would like to request FAO to support the continuity of such a forum. In this regard, the Council may consider possibility of organizing the third Global Forum.

Fabius BYARUHANGA (Uganda)

Food safety and quality standards as demanded by the developed countries are not impossible to achieve but the unfortunate development which is mainly brought about by scarcity of financial resources available to the developing nations like Uganda is the development of two parallel food standard regimes. One for the food intended for export and the other, a very lax almost non-existent quality assurance system for the foods consumed locally.

Uganda therefore urges FAO and the developed nations to assist us with the developing nations to guarantee food safety and quality for our local consumers.

Shoban WIGADA (Indonesia)

The Second Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators (GF-2) provided an opportunity for food safety regulatory officials from 90 countries to exchange experiences and also take action to improve collaboration on food safety.

This conference was deeply concerned about the importance of political support on establishing food safety control systems. My delegation could agree that the commitment must be part of national strategy that hold all of the competent authorities or stakeholders on food safety, agricultural producers (farmers and agribusiness vendors) stakeholders of food processing and food industry, food retailers, catering services and consumers.

Based on that commitment on food safety control systems simplification, it is important to reform the institutions on food safety. Indonesia has a Government Decree on Food regulation since 1996 as a starting point in developing food security and food safety system.

Legal aspects on handling food safety still spread over on multi-stakeholders or multiple agency system. The weakness of the system are: no clear main job and function of all divisions; lack of consistency on the regulations causes frequent confusion and gaps in cooperates and mixed mandates; the need for a competent authority to conduct greater coordination efforts.

There has been un-unified approach to food safety management and this condition was a problem in the developing countries. The Second Global Forum (GF-2) has been successfully observed in several countries, there are real efforts to revise institutions that are handling food safety suitable to each country. The institutions must be supported: by the majority of food safety stakeholders; cooperation in reaching an agreed common goal; cooperation on conducting a holistic approach to food safety.

Collaboration on sharing of data and exchange of information is very important on handling of food security. National food security monitoring systems analyzing society health problem by using integrated data from all stakeholders at every food chain level, including data of crop, animal health and of disease human outbreak.

Prevention of food borne disease by implementing “good practices” is important. Therefore, conducting training in each food chain level, including vendors and consumers is a must. Consumers need health education on handling food as well as recognizing the programme Five Keys to Safer Food as a tool in training program at the household level.

On the other hand, farmers must be trained in several training programs which are related to food safety system and practices, health and child care education, such as: Good Agriculture Practices, Good Pesticide Practices and Good Manufacture Practices and the information on health food control at household level is very important in preventing food borne disease.

In supporting the GF-2 Agreement, we are of the view that an immediate action should be taken on the following.

Firstly, improving food safety in fighting microbial contamination through “managing food safety risk from microbial contamination” including the financial aid support.

Secondly, improving transgenic crop (Genetic Modified Organism) handling management, for example in case of implementing CODEX principles on GMO, accurate information for the consumer about the advantage and disadvantage of GMO, pre-market evaluation and the others.

Thirdly, reliable food import-export certification programs.

Fourth, capacity building for food security systems in every developing country, including suggestion to WTO related with mutual recognition of equivalence of countries food safety controls approval.

Indonesia also supports the continuation of Global Forum meeting.

Richard HUGHES (United States of America)

The United States supported Global Forums 1 and 2. We provided financial support for Global Forum 1, the Portal and contributed in kind support for Global Forum . We believe that such meetings are useful in building networks and expanding food safety skills and knowledge among food safety regulators throughout the world.

The United States supported the concepts and philosophy of Global Forums 1 and 2 and we note that the intent was to transfer responsibility and funding to such forums in the future to FAO and

WHO. This will however require both Organizations, to prioritize this activity in their Programmes of Work and Budget. We note that the Council's report on Global Forum 2 indicates differing views among participants as to the objective and format of the forum. We applaud the FAO/WHO Secretariat for its plan to conduct an e-mail forum to solicit views from member countries on these subjects. We believe there was significant concern expressed by the participants on the objectives and format of Global Forum 2 and we question the value of continuing the Forum as presently organized. We encourage attention to identification of the needs which should be addressed including the most effective way for the regulators to share information and gain insights in the international arena.

A further challenge is in organizing a productive meeting of countries with great disparity infrastructures, challenges and needs. All these points are important considerations in determining the future of the Global Forum.

Luis RITTO (Communauté européenne)

Je vais parler au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses vingt-cinq Etats Membres. La Communauté européenne voudrait remercier le Gouvernement de Thaïlande pour l'excellente organisation du deuxième forum mondial et exprime ses félicitations à la FAO et à l'Organisation mondiale de la santé pour sa réalisation. La Communauté européenne, que ce soit ses Etats Membres ou la Commission européenne, a très largement contribué au financement de ce deuxième forum mondial, comme cela avait déjà été le cas pour le premier forum à Marrakech. La Communauté est particulièrement heureuse de constater que sa contribution a permis à de nombreuses délégations de pays moins avancés, de participer de façon effective à cette réunion. La Communauté européenne accueille avec satisfaction le résultat de ce deuxième forum et voudrait souligner qu'elle appuie largement la globalisation des systèmes de contrôle d'aliments par exemple:

- 1) le principe de couvrir l'entière diète de la chaîne alimentaire, de la production primaire à la consommation;
- 2) l'intégration des structures de contrôle dans un cadre bien défini avec des procédures de coordination efficaces;
- 3) l'harmonisation des législations nationales sur la base des normes, recommandations et lignes directrices du *Codex Alimentarius* autant que cela sera possible; et
- 4) l'application de bonnes pratiques agricoles et de bonnes pratiques d'hygiène comme pré-condition nécessaire au développement des principes de HACCP pour la prévention des maladies d'origine alimentaire.

Monsieur le Président, la Communauté européenne pourrait appuyer l'Organisation par des ateliers spécialisés, un point particulier de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments visant à améliorer les échanges d'informations et d'expérience. En ce qui concerne l'organisation d'un troisième forum mondial, la Communauté européenne pourrait y être favorable à condition que ses objectifs soient clairement définis et qu'il y ait un soutien évident des pays en voie de développement. La Communauté européenne voudrait exprimer des réserves sur l'objectif, qui sera de faire adopter formellement des recommandations aux gouvernements et aux organisations internationales. En 1999 la FAO et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé ont organisé une telle conférence internationale à Melbourne dont les conclusions et recommandations sont toujours en cours de développement et d'application au sein du *Codex Alimentarius*. La Communauté européenne estime qu'il est donc prématuré de renouveler une telle conférence et propose d'attendre un délai d'une dizaine d'années, c'est-à-dire 2009, pour tirer un bilan et analyser le besoin d'une nouvelle conférence internationale. Le succès du forum mondial des responsables de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments repose sur son caractère informel, d'échange d'informations et d'expériences, sans avoir pour objectif de négocier des conclusions ou recommandations formelles.

Yoshishiro KURAYA (Japan)

Japan also generally approved and understands the importance of the information exchange in this field of food safety and considers that the first and the second Forum were useful and successful. However, at the same time the Japanese delegation suggests that when we discuss about the

holding of the third group Global Forum, we should also discuss again the appropriate financial plan for the Forum, the exact objectives and contents of the forum.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Observer for Mozambique)

In connection with Paragraph 20 of the Report, as indicated by Mr de Haen, when presenting the Report, during the Twenty-third FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in South Africa in March 2004, Africa agreed to convene an FAO/WHO Regional Conference in principal. Following this agreement, the African group of Ambassadors and Permanent Representative to Africa met in May 2004 and supported the offer by Zimbabwe to host such a conference in the year 2005. This offer was also supported by the Director-General of FAO and we also noted that the discussion took place on a technical level on the Twenty-seventh CODEX Alimentarius Commission and the Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators held in Bangkok this year.

Speaking on behalf of Southern Africa Region, we would like to reiterate our offer to host this meeting in Zimbabwe in 2005 therefore we ask the Member States, particularly donor countries, to pledge their support in the terms of volunteer contribution in the holding of the Conference in the year 2005, as we attach great importance to this event for improving Food Security in our continent.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Firstly Australia would just like to express our appreciation to Thailand and Malaysia for their hosting of these meetings.

Australia is of the view that there was value in the Second Global Forum for Food Safety Regulators to share their experiences in order to promote a harmonized approach to Global Food Safety and Regulatory issues. We would also wish to express our support for the value of the regional meetings along the lines of the practical approach taken at the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum for Food Safety. This Forum produced clear and specific outcomes in terms of significant linkages and cooperative agreements on advancing food safety in the region.

Finally, we would note that while participants in the Global Forum appear generally in favour of the organization of the third Global Forum, we also recognize that the FAO/WHO Secretariat will conduct an e-Forum to solicit the views of the members on the subject. The results would be presented to delegations attending the next session of the CODEX Commission in July 2005. We would also note the differing views on the objectives and format for the Global Forum and that this issue will be a key consideration as a part of this e-Forum.

We look forward to the conclusion of this process to help us in consideration of any future Global Forums.

Per Harald GRUE (Observer for Norway)

Through the very useful discussions of the Second Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators in Bangkok recently, we in Norway experienced that the distance between developed and developing countries has grown as regards to the level of protection within the food safety sector. The growing distance has also been experienced through the discussions of the SPS Committee in Geneva. This development has occurred despite the entry into force of the SPS-agreement in 1995, which should, *inter alia*, improve the conditions for developing countries. This problem has health consequences as well as trade consequences.

There are multiple causes for this development. The consciousness and knowledge about food safety has increased significantly in recent years, partly due to food scares, especially in Europe. Technology and science have made large progress, from which the sector has benefited. Consumers have become more demanding, and politicians have virtually not had any other choice than following up with extensive measures to maintain trust in the authorities and in food in general. This development should therefore not be interpreted as an intention to create barriers to trade, but as a political development which has its origin in specific conditions in these countries themselves.

Many countries still struggle with health problems due to foodborne diseases, contaminants, undesirable components in food, and poor water supply. This often leads to a situation where developing countries cannot take advantage of the trade preferences, which, for example Norway and the EU have provided for the least developed countries. Often, these countries cannot take advantage of the technological development which has taken place. Moreover, development assistance in this sector has been limited, which to a certain extent must be ascribed to developing countries themselves not prioritising this area.

It is therefore a need to focus on initiatives, which can reduce the gap between developed and developing countries.

The focus must be on health and trade respectively, where both aims will contribute to economic growth and combating poverty. Such measures should be inserted in a wide spectre, both by international organisations, such as FAO, and by bilateral measures. Donors should aim to cooperate, to avoid double work, or in the worst case initiation of projects which may be contradictory to one another.

Norway will propose that this issue is set on the agenda of the FAO for further deliberations at the spring FAO Council and the FAO Conference in November next year. We would therefore ask FAO, in cooperation with Member States, to assess this matter further.

Percy Wachata MISIKA (Namibia)

Namibia wishes to commend the FAO and WHO Secretariats for having jointly organized and convened the Second Global Forum on Food Safety Regulators. Namibia wishes to applaud the Government of Thailand for having hosted this Forum and for the general support it rendered in the preparation of the Forum and during the sessions of the Forum.

Namibia regards this Forum as an important forum area that provides an opportunity for not only exchanging information on food safety but also provides a forum for learning and transfer of technologies especially to participants from developing countries like Namibia.

Namibia welcomes the decision of the Rome based Permanent Representatives of Africa to FAO who have designated Zimbabwe as the venue for the Africa Regional Conference on Food Safety. We wish at this stage, to support the call by the distinguished delegate of Mozambique, in appealing for our developing partners to support in the realization of the Africa Regional Conference in Zimbabwe.

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

Having the floor again gives me the opportunity to express my thanks to those in the two Agencies that did a good job and I should have mentioned Mr Boutrif, here beside me, recently appointed Service Chief of the Food Quality and Standards and his entire team, you can imagine that if an event turns out to be successful it was the result of hard work of quite a large number of people. If they hear that the next global forum might be held in ten years, they may regret it but they may also feel relieved, so whatever prevails, but I thought I should express in public here a thanks to the team that made these events possible.

We have noted your comments on the process that we should follow in considering very carefully the modalities, the pros and cons of holding a third global forum and we will certainly report to you at the appropriate occasion about the outcome of the work based exchange and the meeting with delegations at Codex Alimentarius. We will certainly follow in the document the preparatory process for the outstanding regional conferences that all plan to have such an event in 2005.

May I just say that I should have taken note of the request expressed by Norway that the item be put on the agenda of Council again and I am sure that this will not be any problem.

CHAIRMAN

That concludes the work on Item 7 and I think I must appreciate the good contributions paid by my distinguished colleagues, so with your permission we move on to Item 9.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
IV. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION
IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

9. Programme Implementation Report 2002-2003 (C 2005/8)

9. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2002-2003 (C 2005/8)

9. Informe sobre la Ejecución del Programa, 2002-2003 (C 2005/8)

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

El Comité de Finanzas estudió el Informe sobre la Ejecución del Programa 2002-2003 en su 108º período de sesiones de septiembre de 2004. El informe detallado de nuestras deliberaciones al respecto figura en los párrafos 65 al 71 del documento CL 127/15. El Comité acogió favorablemente el documento y expresó su satisfacción general por las realizaciones del bienio 2002-2003 en él indicadas y, en particular, por la utilización casi completa de los recursos presupuestarios. El Comité observó que los cambios en la forma de presentación del documento tomaban en la debida cuenta la orientación recibida anteriormente de los miembros del Comité de Finanzas y reflejaban los progresos logrados por la FAO en la aplicación de los principios de presupuestación basados en los resultados. Sin embargo, el Comité de Finanzas manifestó su inquietud por la longitud excesiva que tenía ahora el documento al haberse duplicado algunas informaciones en el esfuerzo por dar cuenta de los resultados considerando diversas dimensiones, es decir, desde el punto de vista estratégico, regional y programático.

Se consideró que la sección sobre las Estrategias para Atender las Necesidades de los Miembros no resultaba apropiada para el marco temporal bienal del Informe sobre la Ejecución del Programa, (la sigla en inglés es PIR). El Comité instó a abreviar el Resumen de la Ejecución del Programa; la sección relativa a las Dimensiones Regionales podría eliminarse o bien incorporarse en la sección Ejecución del Programa.

El Comité apreció en particular la sección Rendimiento de la Organización, que ofrecía una buena visión de conjunto así como información específica sobre la utilización de los recursos que se ponían a disposición de la Organización. Complementada por el Resumen de la Ejecución del Programa.

Se acogió con agrado el nuevo cuadro sobre los Donantes de Financiación Externa para el Programa de Campo, proponiéndose que se proporcionara más información sobre donde se utilizaban los correspondientes recursos. Por tanto, el Comité refrendó el Informe sobre la Ejecución del Programa 2002-2003 para su envío al Consejo.

Atenderé con mucho gusto cualquier petición de mayores explicaciones que pueda formular al respecto de nuestros debates en esta materia.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

In anticipation of the introduction by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, I may end up duplicating something he will say but let me try.

I think, first of all, the point we would like to make is that the Programme Implementation Report is one of two accountability documents which are submitted to Conference through Council. They serve very different purposes and as you only see one of them at this Session, I thought it might be helpful to at least ensure that Members are aware of the other one.

The one you have before you, the Programme Implementation Report, is, first of all, biennial. It looks at the previous two-year period and is reporting what happened in that period. Secondly, it is substantially quantitative, it is looking at what resources were used and what products or outputs we produced. Thirdly, it is comprehensive; it covers all of FAO's programmes.

In a way, you can see the Programme Implementation Report as being the accountability document which responds to the previous Programme of Work and Budget. What we promised in the budget, what we actually delivered.

The second accountability document, which is also published every two years but does not come to this Session, is different in three ways. First of all, its time scale is much longer, it tends to cover a period of something like three biennia, six years. The second thing is that it is very much qualitative in its analysis. It is dealing with the outcomes we achieve and, even where it can, it deals with impact.

Finally, it is selective in its content. It cannot cover the entire Programme in one report. It usually covers two or three technical programmes, one or two thematic issues and one or two strategic objectives.

So in summary, the Programme Evaluation Report, that is the second one that you do not have in front of you, is the accountability document which best addresses the Medium Term Plan. The Medium Term Plan is where we make our promises about what we will achieve and the PER it is trying to measure what it is that we did in fact achieve.

Turning to this current edition of the Programme Implementation Report, I would like to draw your attention to a few features. The first is that this is the first one we have produced since results-based budgeting was introduced into FAO. The first full version of a budget applying the results-based budgeting techniques to technical programmes was the PWB 2002-2003, so you are seeing the first PIR that responds to this new structure.

It is also the first Programme Implementation Report, for many biennia, we are not having to report a reduction in resources. This was a budget where you granted ZRG to the Organization and it is reporting against that ZRG budget.

Finally, from this perspective, the format you have in front of you was, as mentioned by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, reformatted in line with the changes which were proposed to the two Committees and approved by them in May 2004. That included two new sections: one, was progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Framework, and two, was the section on Regional Dimensions.

Now there is a slight problem with these new sections. They inevitably are, to an extent, a duplication of the existing main section on the Summary of Programme Implementation. That section, as you know, is ordered by our programme headings. All three sections deal with the same outputs, the same achievements, but by their different dimensions. So, the section on strategic objectives is looking at what we achieved by each of the strategic objectives, such as A.3 on preparedness for emergencies or B.1 on the development of the international regulatory framework.

The second section on regions is looking at the same outputs but by the regional dimension, and then the third section or the main one, being by the programme headings, 2.1.1 for crops, 2.1.3 for livestock, etc. This had the unfortunate effect, of course, of making the document much larger, and both the Committees, in fact, were concerned about this. It has grown, as a matter of interest, from 57 000 words to 90 000 words or by about 59 percent since 1998-1999. This is a response to the need for accountability, but I think it is an increase which cannot be maintained particularly given the budget constraints that have come into play in 2004-2005. The Secretariat, in fact, sought the views of the two Committees as to those sections which they found most useful with a view to the possible elimination of those that were not so useful. In fact you heard from the Chairman of the Finance Committee that the section on strategic objectives is probably inappropriate in a document which is only looking at a two-year time frame.

I would stop there if I may. I would not discuss the actual implementation *per se*. I am sure there will be questions on that, but the overall result was good. We delivered 2 ½ percent more than we planned if you just look at it in terms of the number of outputs and in doing so we spent 99.9

percent of the appropriation which is about as close as you can get in keeping within the rules. I and my colleagues are here to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN

Ambassador Wermuth is now joining us. So we are asking him to introduce the item of the respective Programme Committee and Programme Implementation Report.

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

May I first of all apologise for my late arrival. Actually, I did not anticipate that we would have an evening meeting so I was already comfortable behind my desk at the office instead of being home.

But let take the opportunity to say from the outset that the work of the Programme Committee in general has been greatly facilitated by the skills of all my colleagues and collegial spirit in the Committee.

Actually, from a personal perspective as Chair of the Programme Committee, I would like to say to all Council and non-Council members that the discussions in the Programme Committee are very frank, open, substantive and, I would say as well as Chairman, very respectful to each others interest.

I do want to applaud all members of the Programme Committee to be so engaged in discussions in order to improve FAO's activities. These people really care for the Organization and I welcome that.

Regarding the Programme Committee's deliberations on the Programme Implementation Report, in its last Session, I actually would like, for consideration to the Council, to touch on three issues. First of all, the purpose and the scope of the Programme Implementation Report, its format and a few words on content.

Actually, we feel that the Programme Implementation Report merits the full attention of the Council as actually the prime purpose of the Programme Implementation Report is to meet the accountability requirements to members in full complementarity with the Evaluation Report. We had a very fundamental discussion in the Programme Committee on how we can actually enhance result-based budgeting in general and FAO's planning system more specifically. What we tried to do was to define very sharply the differences between outputs, reporting on outputs, on outcomes and on impact; and impact is the prime focus of FAO's evaluation reports, the contents of which are summarized in the Programme Evaluation Report.

Therefore, it was recalled that in two documents, the Programme Implementation Report and the Programme Evaluation Report, are quite different in their respective time frames and coverage. The Programme Implementation Report provides comprehensive coverage of the Programme by addressing all activities in a given biennium, covering both resource utilization and output production versus the plans endorsed in the approved Programme of Work and Budget. Whereas FAO's evaluation approach is to examine the extent to which outputs and their outcomes feed into a line of causality which can reasonably be expected to yield sustainable benefits.

The Committee recalled that auto-evaluation was in its first year of implementation and concluded that in the context of the PIR progress towards the achievement of outcomes should be reported where appropriate, for instance, on the basis of the auto-evaluation reports. We had an in-depth discussion with the members of the Secretariat and I applaud them for their cooperative spirit to see actually how we could improve the Programme Implementation Report to report rather on outcomes than on outputs.

We had an in-depth discussion, as well, on the format of the PIR. We noted that it has been updated to reflect the progress made by FAO in the application of result-based budgeting principles and the Secretariat should be commended for that. However, the Committee expressed concern, as well, that the document was too large and made recommendations for changes particularly with the intent of minimizing perceived duplication with a view to improving future versions of the document. Suggestions which are detailed in the report of the Committee included,

for instance, revamping or integration of the section on regional dimension as it was considered that as it was presented it was too general in nature inevitably duplicating some of the information provided in the subsequent summary of the Programme Implementation section; and shortening of the summary of Programme Implementation, perhaps posting of some of its contents on the FAO web site.

Regarding the third issue which we discussed on content, regarding the content of the document, the Committee was generally satisfied with the reported achievements in the 2002-2003 biennium including close to full utilization of budgetary resources and, in terms of outputs, delivery which slightly exceeded plans as just mentioned by the Director of PBE. The Committee was advised of current positive trends under the field programme and the expansion of emergency-related activities. Trust Fund support was also growing for non-emergency field programmes with especially promising prospects of cooperation with the European Union.

The Committee did, however, feel that a section on the Technical Cooperation Programme could have contained more detailed information on the implementation of the programme, including perhaps on the beneficiary countries and requested the Secretariat to take this into account in preparing the next PIR.

In light of the above comments, the Committee looks forward to further improvements to the format of PIR which would also be compatible with the general aim of reducing the size of documentation for governing bodies.

It agreed that it would be especially pertinent to consider these proposals together with the report on auto-evaluations that it was scheduled to review in 2005, as this would facilitate the Committee's assessment of how the content of the auto-evaluation reports could be enhanced through the PIR.

As I mentioned, the Programme Committee endorsed the PIR for transmission to the Council and I am ready to respond to any questions you may have regarding the PIR.

CHAIRMAN

We wish to open this floor for the discussion and debate.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

Voy a hablar en nombre del GRULAC para hacer una declaración con respecto al Tema 9. El GRULAC se une al consenso expresado en otros órganos rectores para acoger con satisfacción los esfuerzos de la Secretaría en cuanto a la ejecución de los programas de la FAO durante el bienio 2002-2003 deseando recalcar la preocupación que no sólo existe en nuestra región, sino que es compartida por otras, respecto a la disminución verificada en actividades de capacitación, las cuales son fundamentales para acercar los objetivos de la FAO a la realidad concreta de los países en desarrollo. El GRULAC desea reiterar al Consejo la progresiva eficacia de los programas de campo que cuentan con su alta valoración. El GRULAC entiende además que, al igual que otras regiones lo han venido haciendo en términos similares, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, PCT, es una pieza esencial para que la FAO pueda llevar a cabo con eficiencia sus mandatos tanto operacionales como normativos y que, en consecuencia, el PCT debe continuar siendo protegido y sostenido.

GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, I would like to thank the Secretariat for submitting a high-quality report to the Session which presents an overall view and summary of the work carried out by FAO over the past two years. It is informative and presents a good basis for the Member States of FAO to examine the work and programme implementation of FAO over the past two years.

We have noted that compared with previous reports, this report has an improved format and has more information on progress made in implementing the strategic framework and regional dimensions. It reflects a result-oriented approach. Therefore, the Chinese Delegation welcomes the new report's format. However, we believe that a balance should be maintained between the

extent and the depth of the report and, as far as possible, we should avoid repetition and over-lengthiness of the report.

We are pleased to note that within these two years, the Special Programme for Food Security has been further promoted and expanded. The Low Income Food Deficit Countries implementing this programme have increased from 56 at the end of 2001 to 75 by the end of 2003. Extrabudgetary resources committed also increased from US\$240 million to US\$382 million, which is a 59 percent increase.

The South-South cooperation within this framework has also made substantive progress since its initiation at the end of 2003. There are already 28 countries which have signed the tripartite agreements which include the tripartite agreements signed by China with the six countries which made true contributions to the Special Programme for Food Security.

It is also noteworthy that the Technical Cooperation Programme has witnessed an increase in the number of approvals which has increased from 463 from the previous biennium to 644 and the project delivery rate also increased by 49 percent from 2000 to 2001. That it is an increase from US\$68.5 million to US\$101.9 million. We are satisfied with this result.

Language balance is also an important matter of concern for the Chinese Delegation. We appreciate the efforts made by FAO in implementing the language policy and keeping the balance between languages. However, we have also observed that in the biennium 2002-2003 there is a decrease in the volume of Chinese language interpretation and translation in spite of the good cooperation between FAO and its partner in China in publications. We encourage and support FAO in making further efforts to balance up language uses within this Organization.

Ms Ryuko INOUE (Japan)

Japan recognizes that the reporting reform of the Programme Implementation Report has been made gradually and that the reporting innovation would be implemented further by the Secretariat following the guidance of the Governing Body.

Also, I would like to express that I highly appreciate the effort made by the Secretariat, especially Director Wade. However, we would like to point out a few points.

Generally speaking, we endorse the discussion and conclusion of the Finance Committee.

First of all, the document has become too voluminous but the Report does not fully succeed in conveying a clear and concise message on the overall organizational performance. We request the Secretariat to shorten the part of Summary of Programme Implementation, avoiding the duplication of some information under the different dimensions of strategic, regional and programme views. It would help reduce the related cost of staff and materials.

Secondly, in relation to the need of a more concise and clear message, we emphasize the importance of financial analysis regarding the Programme Implementation Report. The FAO Secretariat articulates that the new format of PIR is reflecting more the result-based budgeting principle. From the common usage of the words result-based budgeting principle, financial analysis, of where the resources are utilized, is an essential element. The Report by the Quantitative Analysis with figures is much more useful from the point of accountability requirement and the result-based management than just an explanation and analysis by sentences.

Thirdly, I would like to refer to more specific points. At the Council of 2002, Japan pointed out the necessity of an activity report regarding the Regional Offices and the Country Representatives – region by region and country by country. Japan is disappointed to see that the 02-03 version of PIR. Not so much improvement has come for our perception.

Regarding the major programme 3.4, FAO Representative, we can point out that the expense ratio of this programme is almost ten percent of the total expenditure on the basis of PWB. We need analysis of activities with financial figures. I believe that one by one figures of FAO Representatives must be essential, in order to finalize a total expenditure figure in the document.

The next point regards the major programme 3.2 Field Operations. Compared with the previous version, the most significant change is the introduction of Table 3.3.2 Sources of External Finding for the Field Programme, page 153 in the English version, country by country. However, from the point of a result-based format, the equivalent analysis of expenditure, I mean, in which country the project is implemented, preferably cross analysis, in which country, in what project type might be more useful.

I feel that FAO is keener to collect the funding than to analyse effective expenditures. To indicate a good result with financial analysis seemed, to me, the best way to induce the next step of funding.

Richard HUGHES (United States of America)

The United States follows these two accountability documents, described by Mr Wade, very carefully. We welcome the new reporting format for the Programme Implementation Report (PIR). It is a wealth of information on FAO activities, both regional and interdisciplinary, as they relate to the corporate strategies of the Organization.

In reading the Report, we agree that it is moving in the right direction in the terms of result-based planning and reporting. The Report has done an excellent job in communicating FAO's message according to Article I of the FAO Constitution.

We found the section on Regional Dimensions and Priorities important to many Members, as well as coverage of several other strategies to address cross organizational issues, namely organizational performance and the broadening of partnerships and alliances. However, we believe there are sections that can be improved, as in any accountability document.

Mr Chairman, with your indulgence, the United States would like to mention entities that caught our attention. I must insist that these are not to be interpreted as ours priorities, but noteworthy achievements among the many that have been described in this Report: the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa has been expanded to cover all of Africa; FARA and IICA are working together to assist Central American countries to control fruit flies; a new Regional IPM for the Near East was launched, with support, from national governments, NGOs and donors; there has been a shift from the use of toxic pesticides towards less toxic, which have an impact on human health and the environment; the ICPM has adopted six International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures and launched the International Phytosanitary Portal; we hope to see a fully funded IPPC Secretariat in the next budget cycle; we are pleased at the expansion of the Global Education Initiative, Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger – which have been translated into 13 additional languages; and the CODEX Commission completed all of its planned activities for the 2000-2003 biennium.

Regarding the Special Programme on Food Security, we are pleased to hear about countries themselves wanting to fund such projects and that two countries – Brazil and Sierra Leone – have the goal of eradicating hunger in their countries and that the Investment Centre has restructured along geographic lines to better serve Members.

However, there were two entities that raised questions with us.

One was, how does FAO plan to help the 41 developing countries without a FAO, where there is already substantial budget for them?

Another entity that caught our attention, in this new design of yours, was the box on page 81 concerning the Plant Genetic Resource Treaty for Food and Agriculture. It did not mention the Material Transfer Agreement, which is an integral part of a meaningful and functional Treaty.

Finally, we would like to commend the Director of the Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation and his competent and very able staff for this Report. We look forward to the forthcoming Programme Evaluation that compliments this.

Matthew S.S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

May I ask you please, to give the floor to the delegate of the Netherlands? He will speak on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

Hans HOOGEVEEN (Observer for Netherlands)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

The European Union would like to echo the opening of the Director-General's foreword that the Programme Implementation Report is a very important accountability document submitted to the Governing Bodies. Therefore, it is with great interest that we have studied the major achievements of the Organization during the biennium and we note with satisfaction the progress being made in result-based reporting.

Although we welcome, in general, the changes to the format of the document, concern should still be expressed about its accessibility, size and repetition of information. Whilst keeping the reporting on the implementation during the biennium of programmes and activities of interest to specific regions, duplication with other sections should be avoided.

One of the largest programmes of the Organization, Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), is hardly accounted for. We reiterate our request to the Secretariat to provide, in line with the overall aim of result based reporting, in future Programme Implementation Reports relevant and more detailed information on the outcomes of the Technical Cooperation Programme interventions.

In the report of the Ninety-second session of the Programme Committee, held from 27 September to 1 October of this year, the purpose of the PIR as an accountability document is clearly defined *vis-à-vis* FAO's evaluation reports as summarized in the Programme Evaluation Report. The focus of the Programme Implementation Report should be on addressing all FAO activities in a given biennium and covering both resources utilization and outcome versus the plans from the Programme of Work and Budget.

However, the European Community is of the opinion that the current reporting still focuses too much on outputs, such as workshops held, studies conducted, publications issued, etc. These kinds of outputs are not good indicators of results. For the Governing Bodies it is more relevant to receive plausible reporting on the extent to which intended outputs and their outcomes may have contributed to practical and sustainable impact on the field level. This requires the use of better, results-focused indicators. Therefore, we encourage the Secretariat to continue to invest in improving the reporting methodology so as to meet best practice accountability requirements.

There is still a more fundamental issue to address if we aim for producing outcomes which contribute to the sustainable effects of FAO. As we know now, the Strategic Framework of FAO comprises five Corporate Strategies, which are further broken down into 12 Strategic Objectives. In the 2002-2003 biennium the number of biennial outputs implemented by strategic objectives reached a total of 1 724. If we take strategic objective A1 – a Sustainable Rural Livelihoods and more Equitable Access to Resources – as an at random illustration, this Programme Implementation Report demonstrates that for implementing the 209 biennial outputs, the indicative expenditure amount goes up to US\$30.2 million. In other words, available resources for this strategic objective – which aims to respond to poverty as a major cause of food insecurity – were spread over 209 outputs, leaving an average of US\$144 000 per output for the biennium.

Although this may be a simplification, one can hardly imagine that this produces enough critical mass per output to reach sustainable effects. Therefore, the EU would like to leave with the Members of this Council and the Secretariat the question whether FAO scarce resources are not too thinly spread over too many activities and by doing so hampering FAO's overall effectiveness.

We need to learn from the past and take priority setting more seriously in the future. We encourage the Programme Committee, at its next session, to focussing this question in the context of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Govindan NAIR (India)

First I would like to endorse the comments of the Chair of the Programme Committee. As a member of the Programme Committee I would like to commend of Ambassador Wermuth is able leadership for the rich interaction of the Committee and also the invaluable support provided by Director Wade and his team. My delegation supports the revised format of the Programme Implementation Report. The sections of the document relating to outputs is interesting and it assists in assessing the utility and implementation effectiveness of various programme entities. We are happy to see that the outputs achieved largely match the targets. The section on regional dimension too is a useful addition but we feel that deeper analysis of trends and outcomes would add value to the report. My delegation is pleased to note the performance of FAO during the 2002-2003 biennium. FAO has recorded significant achievements during this period and we look forward to further progress in the various initiatives launched by the Organization. We are glad to note the full utilization of budgeted resources, we note that expenditure was 96 million dollars more than in the preceding biennium, an increase of 7.3 percent, and we are glad about that. We are happy of the higher level of expenditure against the TCP appropriation, 644 projects have been approved during the biennium for a total value of US\$143 million as opposed to 463 projects worth a US\$100 million in the previous biennium. The progress of disbursement, however, should be stepped up eliminating delays in project approval and speeding up project delivery and implementation. Mr Chairman, we have consistently argued for higher levels of budgetary resources in FAO to meet the increasing demand for FAO services. In real terms, however, due to insistence of a few larger contributors on a zero growth scenario, FAO's budget has declined by 24 percent in the last decade. By large, donors have been insistent on not increasing the contributions to FAO. It is ironic that they have been investing large amounts as extrabudgetary resources. Such funding militates against the concept of multilateralism and we are concerned that this trend may alter the very nature of FAO.

David INGHAM (Australia)

Mr Chairman Australia recognises the Programme Implementation Report as one of the key accountability document produced by the FAO and is pleased that the new format of the 2002-2003 Programme Implementation Report is a significant improvement on that of the previous document which, for example, a number of the characteristics of the FAO Programmes were being reported. However, Australia believes to maximize the benefit of the document for members, the document can still be improved. In this respect Australia welcomes the recommendations of the most recent Programme Committee and Finance Committee meeting to look for an increased FAICOSOM, ECOM information in the PIR and to ask the Secretariat to prepare a revised format for its consideration. Australia notes that while the ad hoc qualitative reporting on the highlights of the programmes in Chapter 2 in Magi programme 3.1 is interesting, to make the PIR a more useful document in terms of informing future planning, in that reporting on the analysis is necessary to the extent possible. While Australia acknowledges setting up the systems so that this information can be captured and reported is not easy, Australia hopes that the revised format being prepared would be able to incorporate and present these important information.

Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia)

Mr Chairman, let me start by expressing my appreciation to the Director-General and this Secretariat for the preparation of the Programme Implementation Report 2002-2003. The PIR focuses on the effective use of resources entrusted to the Organization and both the Regular Programme appropriation and extrabudgetary funding and the major achievement during the biennium. We take note of the report of the Programme Committee that regards this PIR. The Director-General stated that the years 2002 and 2003 marked the years largely free from the straight jacket of budgetary constraints. FAO's units could work towards full implementation of the programme of work specified in the PWB. We appreciate this statement because we know that in this current difficult world situation they are faced with many difficulties, challenges and limitations in doing their tasks and responsibility to implement the programme of work and

budget. With regard to the implementation of the WFS: five years later programme, it is important today to ensure that the WFS target could be achieved. It seems that coordination among the donors, the developed countries and the multilateral organizations should be enhanced to explore possible mobilization of funds and resources globally. Mr Chairman, we welcome the extension of the Special Programme for Food Security especially in Low Income Food Deficit Countries. We hope that donors of developed countries and multilateral organizations will continue their strong commitment to implement this important global programme. Mr Chairman, we take note of the FAO's support to developing countries for trade negotiation as stated in paragraph 51; we encourage FAO to continue to assist developing countries through technical assistance for better preparation of them in the negotiations. It could be in the form of seminars, workshops, short-term expert for training, analysis and in-depth study of tariff formula etc. My delegation also noted the progress in the process of decentralization. The close cooperation between the Headquarters, regional and sub-regional offices in the design, preparation and implementation of projects certainly contribute to an effective and efficient and better quality of work of FAO. With regard to the activities in Asia and the Pacific, my delegation requests that the activities on good agricultural practices, as stated in paragraph 156, be continued. The developmental works on agricultural land and water is a priority for Indonesia, we appreciate the work so far done in this area, as mentioned in paragraph 157, and we propose that the follow-up action should be taken in the next biennial budget so as to give a positive impact of FAO's work in this important area to Asia and Pacific.

Micro finance is one important aspect for agro-business for the smallholder, we therefore strongly propose that the activities in this field be enhanced, perhaps with the cooperation of multilateral donors agencies such ADB and IFAD. We note that FAO's activities in Fisheries and Forestry, we hope that the activities in Fisheries in Southeast Asia, as reported in paragraph 166, be continued. Related to Forestry programme, my delegation took note of paragraph 448. We agree with the report that the contribution of forest and trees to sustainable land use, food security and the welfare of human population living in the vicinity of forests remain a programme emphasis. My delegation welcomes the report of paragraph 449, we support the view that it is important to maintain the continuity of access to forest information and the international forestry dialogue.

Mr Chairman, we note with appreciation the higher level of expenditure on TCP appropriations paragraph 13, as well as the total field programme delivery which increased by three percent over the biennium 2000-2001. We note the report on the delivery of technical cooperation, as stated in paragraph 549 and 551, my delegation supports the increase of allocation of fund to the TCP and therefore happy to note the performance of programme delivery for the years under consideration.

Mr Chairman my delegation also notes paragraph 14 with appreciation to the major contributor. On geographical representations we note with attention the explanation on paragraph 267 and 269, we understand that an implementation of the new methodology is effective from 1 January 2004. My delegation is of the view that the implementation of the formula has mentioned in paragraph 217 is important, because it contains an element of fairness to all with this note my delegation will go along with the others to approve this report.

LEE YOUNG-GU (Korea, Republic of)

Overall the Republic of Korea are very satisfied with this report and we appreciate the Secretariat for the excellent work on the report. We agree with the recommendation submitted by the Finance and Programme Committees, however, before endorsing this report we would like to make comments on two points.

Firstly, regarding the regional dimension, we feel that this section is too brief and too general and we understand that the regional dimension of programmes are of keen interest to Members. Therefore we suggest that this section should mention the key activities and their outcome in detail focussing on the key areas. With respect to summary of the programme implementation, this section is too long and too general and we think that a general description on each programme can be deleted or can be put in annex or on the web site and the section should focus more on referring to the outcome of each programme.

Eduard HOFER (Suisse)

Je serai bref. La Délégation Suisse remercie le Secrétariat de ce rapport qui informe de manière détaillée sur les principales réalisations de l'exercice biennal 2002-2003. La Suisse apprécie les modifications qui ont été apportées au rapport sur l'exécution du programme, modifications qui traduisent les progrès accomplis par la FAO sur le plan de l'application des principes de budgétisation axés sur les résultats. Ceci dit, et comme l'ont déjà dit plusieurs délégations, la Délégation Suisse estime néanmoins que le rapport présenté est trop long et qu'il serait par conséquent souhaitable de le raccourcir. Nous partageons également l'avis du Japon: ce document ne fait pas passer un message clair et il serait nécessaire d'y intégrer une analyse financière plus approfondie.

CHAIRMAN

Let me thank you all for the very valuable contributions and very enriching discussion. I would now request Ambassador Seminario to be followed by Ambassador Wermuth and then I think Mr Wade in the same sequence I suppose. Would you like to respond?

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

Very briefly, as there are no direct questions posed actually to this Chair of the Programme Committee. However, I would like to compliment all members who have intervened on two issues actually by which I feel very encouraged. First of all, that everyone recognized the improvements in result based budgeting and the application of it in this Programme Implementation Report. However, I note as well that almost all interventions actually called upon the Programme Committee and the Secretariat to further enhance the result based reporting, in the sense that is even more valuable for Governing Bodies to assess FAO's activities if we can be clearer in our reporting on outcomes against intentions, as has been included in the Programme of Work and Budget. So I take that clearly as an encouragement for the Programme Committee to seek how we can further improve result based reporting in the framework of this Programme Implementation Report.

I feel encouraged as well by very valuable suggestions which have been made by the floor on how to improve the format of the PIR I know that many delegations thought that the format, that the size of this Programme Implementation Report is still too large, that it contains too much repetition and duplication. So I take that as an encouragement as well to discuss with the other members of the Programme Committee and the members of the Secretariat how we can further improve PIR formatting so that it will be more accessible, that the readability of the document will be improved as well. I will certainly do my best as Chair of the Programme Committee, that you will see the first results of our discussion with the Secretariat on the improvement of the PIR at the next Council in two years' time.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

There is quite clearly an indication from members that they want to see a smaller, more concise, document -- I do not think there is any doubt about that. There are, however, contradictory requests which require more information in this smaller document -- considerably more information actually -- and we have to be realistic about whether this is feasible or not.

Three delegates specifically asked for additional information. Japan is very interested in additional financial analyses and would like to see country by country data, both in terms of the expenditure on the Regular Programme and the field programme.

The Netherlands would like to see more than outputs by going beyond, to outcomes. This is an important point. Outcomes are defined in the report of the Programme Committee and here I refer to paragraph 8 of CL 127/12. "The use to which outputs were put by the primary user." Therefore, if I look at something like 224P6, Food Security Policy Analysis and Impact Assessment -- when we look at the indicators that we would use for our major outputs the indicators being a reflection of outcomes; that is, the use to which things are put. You are asking, on that particular output, for us to give some figures or data about the extent to which these Food Security and Vulnerability

Analyses have been used to develop national policies. If I do that for all the 1 724 outputs, you will have a massive document and I don't know that you will have a document that sends the message any better.

The Programme Committee Report comment was that we should try to bring into the document progress towards the achievement of outputs. Why does it use the expression "progress towards the achievement of outcomes"? Outcomes are defined through the medium term planning process which is for a six year period. This document is only covering two years. So at any one point in time you're looking at progress for only two years towards the achievement of what we planned for a six year period. In response to the suggestion, which I heard was echoed by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, I think we have to be a little bit realistic about what will be possible in a document of this type, otherwise we are going to raise expectations to a level which we will not be able to satisfy.

Australia took the argument a stage further and suggested that we include impact reporting analysis. Terminology is used differently by different administrations, but our definition of impact is "the benefits to the ultimate beneficiaries". If I use the same example, the benefit is where the food insecure or potentially food insecure people will benefit through improved policies and faster reduction in the number of under nourished people. So here for the 1 724 outputs I am trying to identify impact at the level of end beneficiary. I have in some way got to demonstrate the causality between these national security policies and what happens to the number of hungry. That I believe is not realistic in a document of this type. Having said that Mr Chairman, I want to say, that the Secretariat has been totally open to the idea that there is always room for improvement in a document of this type. We certainly will listen to these comments and try to address them in our next paper to the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee to find ways in which we can address the issues raised if not completely, at least partially.

The distinguished delegate from the Netherlands raised a very important point which concerns the spreading of resources too thinly and their concern or their perception that this might be the case. We as an institution, you as the Governing Bodies, and we as the Secretariat have an incredibly difficult time identifying programmes to be removed. Even programme entities to be removed. The priority setting process in the institution is of course required to represent the interest of all Members, so it is a very rare moment in which you find something in our documents which you all agree we shouldn't be doing. You all will have some things you think we shouldn't be doing, but you will all have colleagues, other Members who believe we should be doing it. So we have this difficulty which we have to face. We have been working with the Programme Committee for three separate sessions on priority settings and we will continue to try and find a solution to this problem. I think it is something we share and we have got to try to find a solution jointly. It can't be done by the Secretariat alone. In my experience, we have on a couple of occasions proposed the elimination of a major part of a programme and suffered tremendous reaction from certain segments of the membership for doing so. There must be some effort at arriving at a consensus of which programmes are not necessary. Priority setting is easy upwards, but it is very hard downwards. India presented the answer to the problem in very concise terms, which is, of course, the lack of funding. The real issue for the membership is that large segments of the membership really believe that these programmes are necessary to carry out. Unfortunately, it is not able to mobilize the level of funding to support them. While we have that contradiction, we have the difficulty which we face today.

Japan is expressing concern about the expenditure on Major Programme 3.4 which is a large part of the programme and is the FAO country offices. The United States of America raised the question which is posed by the table in 3.4-1 in paragraph 575. In that table there are 41 countries that are not represented in any way, neither through accreditation or through an FAO representation. How do we serve those countries?

The report on the evaluation of FAO's decentralization does address this issue and makes some suggestions about expanding the coverage ensuring the countries receive coverage, not

necessarily through full time representations but through accreditations and various other techniques.

Turning back for a moment to resources being spread too thinly, one of the most thinly spread budgets in the Organization is the budget for FAORs. We have trimmed this budget time and time again and yet, we have an increasing membership and an increasing demand for services.

Many of you raised the issue of us being able to work in coordination with the rest of the system and being able to harmonize our efforts in line with the rest of the system, in particular, in being able to contribute to the PRSPs. To get agriculture into the PRSPs is very hard indeed (i.e. a country level activity) without being represented at the country level. So again we are faced with a contradiction of resources versus real demands for services from the institution.

Mr Chairman, I think that is all I had to respond to at this stage, but if there are any questions that you would like me to address, please don't hesitate to come back.

CHAIRMAN

Let me thank Ambassador Seminario, Ambassador Wermuth and Mr Wade I am sure that this a work in progress and that you will continue to look at that through your committees and it also allows me to conclude Item Number 9 and move on to Item Number 10, we will introduce this item but leave the discussion for the morning. If that is ok with the Council.

10. Medium Term Plan 2006-2011 (CL 127/7)

10. Plan à moyen terme 2006-2011 (CL 127/7)

10. Plan a Plazo Medio, 2006-2011 (CL 127/7)

I move onto Item number 10 The Medium Term Plan 2006/2007 the relative documents are CL127/7 CL 127/12 CL127/15 and CL127/16. The Medium Term Plan 2006/2007 CL 127/7 Document CL 127/12 and CL 127/15 refer respectively to the report of the Ninety-second Session of the Program Committee in the report of the 108 session of the Finance Committee held in September 2004 Document CL 127/16 contains the report of the Joint Meeting of the Ninety-second Session of the Program Committee and Hundred and Eighteenth Session of the Finance Committee. Once again I will like to request Ambassador Seminario Chairman of the Finance Committee and Ambassador Wermuth Chairman of the Program Committee to introduce the item and after that I would like to pass the floor to Mr Wade Director of the Program Budget and Evaluations so that he can make his introductory remarks. So allow me to pass the floor to the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

Most of my summary will relate to the Programme Committee's deliberations, but I will indicate actually we have had substantive discussion of this item on the MTP also to place in the joint meeting and I would like to touch on three issues which I will put forward for consideration to you as members of the Council.

First of all on improvements on resources, resource levels on priority settings and on content. I will take the improvements first. Both Committees welcome the several improvements made to the document appreciating, in particular, the application for the first time of result-based budgeting principles to the non technical and technical cooperation area. Referring specifically to the Programme Committee deliberations, this Committee also endorsed the more effective adherence to the concept of a rolling plan in this third version providing full details only of new or substantially revised entities. The Programme Committee urged to continue application of the rolling approach to the plan in future versions, recalling that more detailed information was, as usual, available for consultation at FAO 's Internet Web site.

The Programme Committee appreciated the enhanced presentation of Part I of the Medium Term Plan, which describes how the proposed Medium Term Programme of Work would support the implementation of the twelve strategic objectives and its six strategies to address gross

organizational issues outlined in FAO's strategic framework. Thereby facilitating on the standing of the links between the strategic framework and a Medium Term Plan.

The Committee endorsed the proposed changes to the priority areas for interdisciplinary action, especially, the edition of a new PAIA to address the implications of HIV/AIDS in areas of FAO's mandate and actually this was recommended by many members in earlier sessions. However, concerning the PAIA the Committee looks forward as well to the review of its effectiveness as a tool for interdisciplinary working in the Secretariat.

My second issue relates to resources and resource levels. The Programme Committee noted that as in the previous versions indicative resource projections has been included in the plan with the proposal being for Real Growth at a 2.2 percent per annum growth rate exclusive of the eventual impact of cost increases. It was also possible to appreciate resource levels under Zero Real Growth conditions within the proposal. While there was some discussion about resource levels, the Committee recognized that it would not be possible to arrive at a consensus at this stage, but in any event the Committee was generally satisfied with the major substantive thrust in the Medium Term Plan.

A similar discussion was had in the joint meeting where it was underlined that the resource projections were of an indicative nature and non binding on the membership. The Committee stressed that the usual discussions among members and final decision on the budget level for the next biennium would take place in connection with the examination of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and full Programme of Work and Budget 2006–2007 proposals and that will cause as well in the Committee to include in the future budgeting documents a Zero Nominal Growth scenario.

The Committees recall and I would like to put that for consideration as well to the Council. The Committees recall that another aspect with potential impact on future financial contributions from members was the ongoing motivation of After Service Medical Care Liabilities. They were advised that the amount of US\$40.1 million which has been added by the last FAO Conference to assess contributions for the 2004–2005 biennium was no longer sufficient. The latest actual valuation showed a sharp increase in this liability and a consequent increase of US\$15.9 million in the biannual amount required. Assuming the additional liability was to be fully funded over the same period as the original liability.

Turning now to priorities. The Programme Committee recognizing the obvious links between the priority setting and the Medium Term Plan, welcomed explanations from the Secretariat on the use of the three criteria of relevance to establishing relative priorities, namely relevance to a strategic framework, focus on members express priorities and FAO's comparative advantage. Whilst recalling that these criteria were part of a broader set which had originally been established by the Council and which were applied by actually by Programme managers during entity formulation.

As said by the Director of PBE, Tony Wade, the Committee intends to return to the issue of priority setting at its next Session, in order to conclude the discussion carried out so far addressing issues such as whether resources are too thinly spread across various activities and whether current entities have sufficient critical marks to lead to effective results. The Committee at the next session would be facilitated by a report of the first batch of over evaluations which would also seek to explain the related process. The Programme Committee actually stressed the added importance of the evaluations and welcomed the effort in the Secretariat to make them an incredible tool systematically covering all entities in a phase manner and as objectively as possible. I hope that this will actually be echoed by the members of the Council, as I see huge potential for the merits of this evaluation report.

Turning to my last issue, the content, the Committee proceeded to examine in detail the Medium Term Programme of Work as contained in Part II of the document. The results of this examination are contained in the report of the Programme Committee and I will not therefore outline them here

but I would repeat that the Committee was generally satisfied with the major substantive thrusts in the Medium Term Plan.

Part III of the document Regional Dimensions essentially focussed on a selective presentation of the issues of importance to each region as assessed by the respective FAO Regional Offices or highlighted by the FAO Regional Conferences. While this was of interest, the Committee felt that a section could be integrated into Part II as a link with the proposed entities and activities in Part II were not apparent.

These are my comments which are put for consideration before the Council and I am ready to respond to any questions you may have regarding the work of the Committees in this regard.

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

A continuación les voy a informar el trabajo que realizó el Comité de Finanzas sobre el Plan a Plazo Medio del 2006 al 2011, por supuesto, desde nuestro punto de vista.

El Comité de Finanzas estudió el Plan a Plazo Medio 2006-2011 en su 108° período de sesiones de septiembre del 2004. El informe detallado de nuestras deliberaciones al respecto, figura en los párrafos 72 al 80 del documento CL 127/15. El Comité de Finanzas acogió favorablemente el Plan a Plazo Medio 2006-2011 y en particular, la aplicación de principios basados en los resultados a las esferas no-técnicas y técnicas de la cooperación, las propuestas para la presupuestación de capital y el hecho que proporciona la conexión necesaria entre las estrategias de la Organización establecidas en el marco y las propuestas bienales de los sucesivos programas de labores y presupuestos. Se informó al Comité de que las propuestas del programa de labores para cada uno de los 3 bienios, se había formulado con un enfoque gradual, partiendo del PLP 2004-2005, aprobado y suponiendo un poder adquisitivo constante. En primer lugar se solicitó a los Jefes de Departamento que prepararan un plan a mediano plazo para sus programas dentro de la asignación de recursos del bienio actual, transfiriendo recursos entre entidades programáticas, según fuera necesario para abordar los correspondientes cambios de énfasis y prioridades.

El factor de crecimiento real propuesto, estamos hablando de un 2.2 por ciento anual, se aplicó posteriormente a la consignación neta total y los recursos adicionales resultantes se asignaron selectivamente a los departamentos para elaborar propuestas de crecimiento real en un conjunto restringido de ámbitos de elevada prioridad. A continuación, se sumaron estas propuestas de crecimiento real, a nivel de programa, y se añadieron a la actual consignación neta, con el fin de obtener la consignación neta indicativa con crecimiento real para cada bienio del plan a plazo medio. El Comité estudio la cuestión planteada por el Auditor Externo sobre cómo tratar los recursos no programados en el segundo y tercer bienio del plan a plazo medio. El Comité aceptó hacer constar los recursos procedentes de entidades cuyos plazos conclúan en el primer o segundo bienio del plan a plazo medio, como no programados a nivel del programa, era el método más práctico para tratar tales recursos. El Comité manifestó su aprecio por la formulación basada en los resultados de los programas de los capítulos 5°, o sea, Servicios de Apoyo y, 6° Servicios Comunes, que se incluían por primera vez en el plan a plazo medio y refrendó en general las propuestas. El Comité acogió favorablemente las propuestas de presupuestación de capital que se presentaron para aplicar el servicio de gastos de capital, aprobado por la Conferencia, y nos estamos refiriendo a la resolución 10/2003; refrendó el planteamiento adoptado por la Secretaría, en cuanto a propuestas elegibles y nivel de financiación. El Comité también aprobó, en principio, la propuesta de transferir cualquier saldo no utilizado de atrasos al 31 de diciembre del 2005, al servicio de gastos de capital. El Comité reconoció que el plan a plazo medio era la propuesta del Director General para abordar los objetivos estratégicos de la Organización, en un contexto donde hay mayores retos y demandas para un período de 6 años, donde se ha considerado, niveles indicativos de recursos que eran vinculantes para los Miembros. Algunos Miembros, consideraron que el plan debería exponer una hipótesis alternativa sin crecimiento, en línea con las recientes tendencias presupuestarias, otros Miembros, consideraron que el nivel presupuestario proyectado en el plan suponía tan solo un crecimiento modesto y que no ayudaría a que la Organización cumpliera su mandato, teniendo en cuenta las exigencias que los Miembros le formulan, por tanto,

el documento debería refrendarse para su transmisión al Consejo junto con los comentarios y sugerencias del Comité de Finanzas.

Atenderé con mucho gusto cualquier petición de mayores explicaciones que pueda formular respecto a nuestros debates en esta materia.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I will keep my introduction brief. I will start by recalling that the Council is the primary recipient of the Medium Term Plan which is submitted to it for decision. The strategic and programme directions laid out in this document will be the basis for the Programme of Work and Budget but after taking into account, of course, the Council's comments and guidance as contained in your report.

I also draw to your attention the fact that the various sections of the Medium Term Plan will be extracted and will be submitted to the technical committees of the Council so this will also go to COAG, COFI and COFO for their review and advice in the areas of their technical competence.

The Organization has now been in the process of implementing results-based budgeting for several years. In fact, the first trial was carried out in the PWB of 1998-99 where we attempted to apply it for one programme 2.1.1 Natural Resources. The first full-scale application to all technical work was in the PWB 2002-2003. And now we present further substantive advances as can be seen from the changes in format and content which have been referred to by the chairs of the two Committees.

One important change that you will see in this version is that it is a rolling plan. If I can just explain a little bit: that means you only have the detail of those entities that are new or are changing. You do not have the full detail of all of the entities. However, that detail exists on the FAO web site and you can print it off in a relatively easy manner. In fact, you can print a complete version of the Medium Term Plan with all of the details of all of the entities if you wish to do so.

One change that we made which has not been referred to, was that the extent of data on extra-budgetary resources planned for the next three biennia has been reduced. We have removed much of this data because its collection was really problematic. It required technical officers to forecast voluntary contributions seven or eight years in advance and there are so many variables in that, that it really becomes a little bit meaningless and then frankly the results were not sufficiently reliable to be maintained in the document.

The implementation of the rolling Medium Term Plan and the reduction of the amount of information on extra-budgetary resources has reduced the size somewhat, but that has been offset by the fact that we have now included a fully comprehensive version of results-based budgeting by applying it to non-technical and technical cooperation programmes. So you will find that the results-based technique has been applied for Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Chapter 5 and 6. Of course, we will not repeat this information in every plan, again respecting the rolling concept, it will be repeated where a change occurs or where a new entity is implemented.

As was also mentioned, we have included a section on Regional Dimensions based on the previous requests of members in Part III of the document where the issues are addressed in each region under each technical area. However, we already have some feedback from the Committees that they feel that this would be better integrated into the main sections of the document and we will look at that, but we are of course interested in the views of the Council on this point that.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee also mentioned the introduction of capital budgeting which is a very important step forward for the Organization, allowing it to plan for those expenditures which are of a time scale greater than one biennium and which therefore will be funded in a much more rational way than they have been in the past. Again, any comments you have on what we have suggested would be very useful.

I have not gone into the substantive content of these proposals, because I think that is most efficiently addressed by responding to your questions. So I would propose to stop here.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much for those scenarios of Mr Wermuth and Mr Wade. I think that what is to be done now is that we introduce Item 10 and, as agreed, I think we will be discussing it tomorrow. Let me thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. It was a long day and we all deserve some rest. This Council resumes its work at 09:30 hours tomorrow morning. I wish you all a restful evening. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 19.50 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.50 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session Cent vingt-septième session 127º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-27 November 2004 Rome, 22-27 novembre 2004 Roma, 22-27 de noviembre de 2004
FIFTH PLENARY SESSION CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
24 November 2004

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.25 hours
Mr Aziz Mekouar,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 25
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 10.25 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Aziz Mekouar,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

VI. OTHER MATTERS
VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES
VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

17.3 Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CL 127/LIM/4; CL 127/LIM/6)

17.3 Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO (CL 127/LIM/4; CL 127/LIM/6)

17.3 Evaluación externa independiente de la FAO (CL 127/LIM/4; CL 127/LIM/6)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je suis désolé de commencer aussi tard mais nous avons des consultations sur des points importants. Est-ce que tout le monde est prêt? Oui, très bien. Mes consultations avec les groupes régionaux et avec les différents Membres du Conseil m'ont amené à conclure que le Conseil souhaitait que l'on commence dès ce matin à parler du point 17.3 "Evaluations externes de la FAO". Si vous êtes d'accord, on pourrait donc aborder ce point, commencer à y travailler et conclure nos travaux sur ce point demain matin, comme cela était prévu. L'idée est que nous puissions avancer et que nous arrivions demain avec un accord sur ce que nous aurons à décider demain. Est-ce que tout le monde est d'accord pour aborder cette question maintenant? Oui? Très bien. Je vous remercie. Est-ce que quelqu'un souhaite prendre la parole? Oui? Monsieur le Président du Groupe des 77, Monsieur le Représentant du Panama.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

El Grupo de los 77 desde el primer día que se abrió esta reunión, aceptó todo lo que sería tratado en el tema Asuntos Varios y que se quitaba una palabra del título.

A este respecto, el Grupo de los 77 acepta iniciar los debates con relación al nuevo tema, en el entendimiento de que los Estados Miembros no tienen la obligación de adoptar una decisión sobre el fondo del mismo de carácter inmediato. En consecuencia, durante este período de sesiones del Consejo, el Grupo de los 77 se limitará, como lo estoy haciendo en este momento, a una intervención, una declaración muy general y muy preliminar, en la que se resumirá la posición como uno de los Estados Miembros sobre las decisiones que se adoptarán con respecto a los siguientes puntos de importancia fundamental. El Consejo es el órgano que decidirá sobre el proceso y lo vigilará dentro del ámbito de su mandato. El Grupo acepta considerar la posibilidad de establecer en este período de sesiones del Consejo un Grupo de Trabajo entre períodos de sesiones para que formule, en nombre del Consejo, dos proyectos de mandatos, incluidos procedimientos de presentación de informes, según proceda, de conformidad al Artículo 6º de la Constitución.

El primero, para la posible creación del Comité del Consejo que se encargue de todo proceso en nombre del Consejo. El segundo, para un equipo viable de evaluadores que se seleccionarán de conformidad con los criterios que establece el propio Consejo.

La participación en el Grupo de Trabajo entre períodos de sesiones estará abierta a todos los Estados Miembros. Deberá constituirse un grupo básico con arreglo a los principios de la distribución geográfica equilibrada. Para facilitar su labor, el Grupo de Trabajo entre períodos de sesiones deberá contar con el apoyo y la ayuda de la Secretaría. El posible Grupo de Trabajo entre períodos de sesiones presentará sus sugerencias sobre grandes proyectos en el Consejo para que se tome una decisión formal en el 2005.

En todos los casos, los fondos para la realización del ejercicio entero deberán garantizarse antes de que el Consejo tome una decisión, y las constituciones extra-presupuestarias no conferirán ninguna prerrogativa especial a los contribuyentes. En el desempeño de las funciones del Grupo de Trabajo entre períodos deberá tomar en consideración el documento CL 127/6/LIM, Informe del Director General sobre la propuesta de que se realice una evaluación externa amplia e independiente de la FAO. La evaluación constituye una oportunidad para que los Estados Miembros entiendan la complejidad de la FAO y evalúen diferentes aspectos de las funciones de

la Organización desde un punto de vista neutral y con un proceso independiente sin excluir de antemano ninguna hipótesis de trabajo. La evaluación se entiende como un diagnóstico clínico que, no obstante, deberá prestar la debida consideración a la realidad jurídica y política de la FAO. El resultado de la evaluación no deberá prejuzgar los intereses de los Estados Miembros. De igual modo, no impide que los Estados Miembros realicen una ulterior labor política y que los órganos rectores competentes de la FAO adopten las decisiones adecuadas con respecto a las medidas que se deben tomar sobre cómo, cuándo y dónde actuar con el fin de convertir a la FAO en una organización mejor y más eficaz.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Représentant du Panama et Président du Groupe des 77. Monsieur le Représentant du Gabon.

Faustin BOUKOUBI (Gabon)

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président. Monsieur le Président, je ne serai pas long mais dans la mesure où je prends la parole pour la première fois, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter pour l'efficacité avec laquelle vous dirigez les débats. Monsieur le Président, je voudrais simplement solliciter que vous puissiez passer la parole au Représentant du Cap-Vert qui parlera au nom du Groupe africain. Je vous remercie.

Jorge Maria CUSTODIO SANTOS (Observateur du Cap-Vert)

Merci Monsieur le Président de m'avoir accordé la parole au nom du Groupe africain. Tout d'abord, il m'est gré de soutenir la position du Groupe des 77 sur cette question. En effet, pour le Groupe africain la proposition "Evaluations externes de la FAO" intervient au moment où les motivations des pays en développement pour lutter contre la pauvreté, la faim et la malnutrition ou plutôt un développement durable sont plus structurels qu'il y a plus de cinquante ans, lorsque la FAO a été créée. Nous apprécions les efforts déployés par le Secrétariat et les pays de l'Amérique du Nord pour nous fournir des documents qui constituent une bonne base de discussions. Nous saisissons cette occasion pour vous faire partager certaines idées qui se rapportent à la teneur possible d'une évaluation externe et son processus préparatoire.

L'initiative de l'Amérique du Nord de recourir à une relation externe ne nous paraît pas inopportune dans la mesure où ce qui est en jeu aujourd'hui, ce n'est pas seulement les questions de gestion, de gouvernance ou d'ordre financier mais, également les aspects liés aux questions politiques, économiques et sociales et donc, au mandat de l'Organisation depuis sa création et son évolution, et qui, à notre sens, devrait tenir compte de la réalité actuelle du monde de plus en plus mondialisé. C'est pour ces raisons qu'il faudrait, d'ores et déjà, commencer par définir les contours et les objectifs de cette évaluation, et le cadre dans lequel elle s'inscrit ainsi que ses échéances et ce, pour en sortir avec des propositions claires et concrètes. L'évaluation devrait tenir compte, d'abord, du mandat de l'Organisation et des réformes introduites depuis la création de la FAO et tenir compte aussi des différentes décisions pertinentes prises et du degré d'engagement des Etats à tous les niveaux qui ont suivi. Et enfin, tenir compte des différents rapports des évaluations réalisées jusqu'à aujourd'hui, sans pour autant ré-ouvrir le débat sur ces questions.

Au terme de l'évaluation, il est nécessaire que les résultats soient présentés sous une forme claire, concise et facilement accessible. Pour ce qui est de la composante du groupe de l'évaluation, nous appuyons la création du Comité qui sera mis en place et surveillera et définira avec le concours de la FAO, mais avec un coût très limité de sa part, les termes et le travail de l'évaluation, sans pour autant être partie prenante de cette évaluation. Le Comité ne devrait avoir aucun pouvoir d'engagement ou de décision, en ce qui concerne les questions qui sont liées à l'évaluation. Les conclusions auxquelles il pourra parvenir seront transmises à l'intervalle des sessions au Conseil de la FAO ou au bureau du Conseil, qui lui, les présentera à la Conférence. Pour ces raisons, il est important de rappeler le mandat du Conseil qui doit servir de liaison entre le Comité et la Conférence générale de la FAO. A cet égard, nous devrions préciser au cours de cette session du Conseil, la façon dont le Comité s'acquittera de son mandat et la portée de son action en ce sens. A notre avis, il est évident que le Comité conserve une taille limitée; la qualité de ses

délibérations sera mieux assurée. Ceci dit, une répartition géographique équitable qui tient compte de l'importance par ordre des pays formant les régions est nécessaire. Le Comité, à l'occasion de ses premières réunions, organisera ses travaux et arrêtera son calendrier. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Délégué du Cap-Vert, au nom de l'Afrique. Je passe la parole à Monsieur le Délégué du Royaume-Uni.

Matthew S.S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

I would to as you if you may please to pass the chair to the Netherlands who will speak on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

Hans HOOGEVEEN (Observer for Netherlands)

The Netherlands is speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States. Furthermore, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Turkey, Switzerland and Norway associate themselves to this statement.

The European Union welcomes the initiative for an independent external evaluation of FAO which has been added to this agenda. The European Union also welcomes the statements of support for the evaluation already made by regional groups. We believe that this Council should take the decision to carry-out an independent external evaluation. The initiative aims at strengthening and improving FAO by considering FAO's performance and impact and how effectively and efficiently the Organization is discharging its mandate.

External evaluations are important in strengthening the performance of the United Nations Organizations and we note that such an evaluation of FAO has not been carried out for more than 15 years.

The evaluation can be a useful evidence based resource for the coming review of the strategic framework in 2007 and the decisions based on this review. In our opinion, the evaluation should cover the full range of FAO's work. It should also include FAO's Organizational structure, its corporate processes and its Governing Bodies relevant to FAO performance. This evaluation and lessons learned from major evaluations conducted in all the U.N. Organizations will also provide valuable information to help the FAO to integrate further into the ongoing UN reform process lead by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

The European Union would like to make a few remarks that we consider very important for the credibility, efficiency and quality of the evaluation process.

The European Union believes it is crucial that an external evaluation of FAO should have the full support and cooperation of FAO, its Governing Bodies and the Membership.

We attach importance to the evaluation being mandated and supervised by the FAO Council and believe that the Secretariat should provide support as being requested by the Council and its organs.

We also strongly feel that the evaluation should be conducted by independent professional evaluators in line with international practices. This is essential to ensure that the evaluation is, and is to be seen, objective and credible. The evaluation team should include professional evaluators from different regions. We suggest that it should be reflected in the Terms of Reference.

To conclude, with reference and regard to the next step in this process, the European Union is willing to engage in an open discussion with the regions as long as we do not miss the review of the Strategic Framework in 2007.

Mohamed LASSOUED (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe)

Permettez-moi d'exprimer notre soutien à la position exprimée au nom du Groupe des 77, de même appuyons-nous la proposition en vue de la création d'un Comité du Conseil qui superviserait cette évaluation externe qui a pour objectif de renforcer les structures de cette Organisation et lui conférerait plus d'efficacité et d'efficience dans l'accomplissement de ses tâches et que les résultats de telles évaluations soient soumis au Conseil puis à la Conférence.

Fabio VALENCIA COSSIO (Colombia)

Hablo en nombre del GRULAC para manifestar que apoyamos integralmente la declaración del G 77 y sobre esta declaración queremos reiterar los siguientes aspectos: la iniciativa de incluir el tema de evaluación externa independiente de la FAO bajo el ítem VI Otros asuntos en la agenda del Consejo, refleja la voluntad política de los Países Miembros y su deseo en promover el multilateralismo así como el fortalecimiento del sistema de Naciones Unidas. Una evaluación externa independiente de la FAO presupone un proceso integral y equilibrado donde prime la voluntad de los Estados Miembros en la toma de decisiones sobre cualquier asunto relacionado con el perfeccionamiento de la Organización. Dicha evaluación deberá ser integral, es decir, deberá tener en consideración todas las áreas cubiertas por los órganos rectores de la FAO, todos los Países Miembros de la FAO deberán tener derecho a participar en el proceso si así lo desean, sean o no miembros del Consejo. Finalmente, consideramos que este proceso es realmente complejo y el Consejo necesita tiempo necesario para considerar cuidadosamente los objetivos y el procedimiento de la evaluación que posiblemente se emprenderá. En este sentido, consideramos pertinente lo mencionado por el Presidente del G 77 en su declaración con relación a los puntos considerados si se lleva a cabo el proceso de evaluación externa independiente para la FAO. De tal manera, el GRULAC reitera su total apoyo a la declaración del G 77.

Ms Ryuko INOUE (Japan)

Japan fully supports the proposal made by the North American Group. An independent external evaluation is valuable for any kind of organization. In addition, considering that we are facing very complicated and difficult problems regarding food and agriculture all over the world. The independent external evaluation of FAO which is supposed to provide evidence based information and guidance for all Member Nations regarding FAO's activities in the future is very welcome. Also, Japan supports the idea of setting up the small groups to proceed with the whole process under the mandate of all Member Countries and every region and under the condition of implementing feed back to the Governing Body, though the flexibility regarding the number of seats from each regional group would be desirable. To set up the Friends of the Chair group is an ordinary process here.

Ms Gabriela DUMITRIU (Romania)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group and we want to fully endorse what has been said earlier by the European Community.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Near East Group, we fully support the statement made by the Group of 77, regarding the creation or setting up of a Council Committee to supervise the separation.

Noel D. DE LUNA (Philippines)

On behalf of the Asia Group we would like to support the setting up of a mechanism to facilitate the discussion of this important item on the independent evaluation of the FAO. The Asia Group will play a constructive role and help in consensus building, so that we can make this Organization a better one and reflective of the changing times.

Considering the dynamics of the funding processes of the Donor Countries we would like to expedite this evaluation process so that the output will be reflected also in the other midterm

reviews which will be occurring within the next 2 years. These reviews are on the strategic framework of FAO, the World Food Summit Plan of Action as well as on the Millennium Development Goals. We do not want to be obstructionists and as a matter of national principles of the Asian Countries we believe in evaluation within the ongoing reforms of the United Nations System. However, since this is a multilateral effort we would like to emphasize that ownership of this evaluation exercise should rest with the FAO Council in a fair and balanced manner under the G-77 Proposal.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

On behalf of the Southwest Pacific Regional Group we welcome the decision to have this item on the agenda and we welcome the comments that have been made by the G-77 Africa and Asia Groups and others on this today. The Southwest Pacific Region supports the initiative of an independent external review put forward by the North American Group. We see this as important for the future of the Organization. We would also wish to associate ourselves in this regard with the statement of the EU.

Finally, we would wish to indicate that we look forward to working with other Members of FAO to take this process forward including through the discussion this week.

Olusegun O. OGUNKUA (Nigeria)

Since this is my fourth time of intervening in this process I also want to express the congratulations of my delegation for the able way in which you have driven the process of this Council. As the Chairman of the EU, Nigeria fully supports the position of the G-77 with regard to the issue of the evaluation. We however want to make two observations.

The group that is going to be set up should only provide guidance for the evaluation, and should not in anyway interfere with the final decision on this issue. They should provide the guidance for action.

Secondly, the evaluation that is being proposed is, in our judgement, something that is necessary, in view of the fact that evaluation of FAO has not been done for a long time. As I said, Nigeria supports the position of G-77 and the Chairman of the EU.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il n'y a plus de demande de parole, très bien!

Je vous remercie. D'après mes consultations de ce matin et d'hier, je suis arrivé à la conclusion qu'il était nécessaire de créer un Groupe des Amis du Président et que ce groupe serait composé de trois pays par région et le Groupe des 77 m'a demandé également d'y participer. Si vous êtes d'accord, on pourrait créer ce Groupe des Amis du Président et la première réunion.

Avant de continuer, je passerai la parole à Monsieur le Délégué de Colombie.

Fabio VALENCIA COSSIO (Colombia)

Simplemente para proponer algo que hemos conversado ya: que el coordinador del G 77, los presidentes y dos miembros más de cada grupo sean los que integren este grupo de trabajo.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Très bien, c'est ce que j'avais proposé. Si tout le monde est d'accord, le Conseil pourrait créer ce Groupe des Amis du Président. Ce Groupe pourrait se réunir cet après-midi à quinze heures.

Monsieur le Représentant du Cap-Vert.

Jorge Maria CUSTODIO SANTOS (Observer of Cape Verde)

I would like to have a clarification because according to what I heard here, it seems to me that you are talking about three per region, but there is another interpretation of Chairman plus two, but if the Chairman is not available he can make himself a replacement for someone else of his region I think that this is consequential in itself.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Les régions sont souveraines. Vous décidez de qui veut participer.

Si vous êtes d'accord, nous créons ce Groupe des Amis du Président tel que nous l'avons défini. On pourrait se réunir cet après-midi à quinze heures à la Salle du Liban. Je présiderai ce Groupe qui présentera les conclusions sur ses travaux demain sur ce que le Conseil décidera sur cette question de l'évaluation lorsqu'on abordera cette question demain matin. Est-ce que tout le monde est d'accord? Oui? Très bien, parfait.

On travaillera cet après-midi. Donc je vous donne rendez-vous, cet après-midi à 15 heures à la Salle du Liban où il y aura l'interprétation.

Voilà, merci. Très bien. Voilà. Mesdames, Messieurs, on reprend nos travaux.

Donc hier après-midi, nous avons commencé à traiter le Plan à moyen terme 2006-2011.

**IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(continued)**

IV. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

10. Medium Term Plan 2006-2011 (CL 127/7) (continued)

10. Plan a moyen terme 2006-2011 (CL 127/7) (suite)

10. Plan a Plazo Medio, 2006-2011 (CL 127/7) (continuación)

Matthew S. S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

I would be very grateful if you could pass the floor to the Netherlands who would like to make a point of order on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

Point of Order

Point d'ordre

Punto de Orden

Hans HOOGEVEEN (Observer for Netherlands)

I would like to make two points of orders. The first point of order on the Medium Term Plan. I think that many delegations were a little bit taken by surprise yesterday evening that the agenda items 9 and 10 were taken up in an evening session. Although presentations took place yesterday evening it was almost in a quite empty room. The documents, especially the Medium Term Plan, are essential and crucial documents for the planning and accountability of FAO. I think they should get due consideration from and by this Council. For that reason, I would like to suggest to you that the presentations, especially by the Chairs of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee would again be given to this room this morning so that everybody could listen to those presentations as a basis for the discussions on agenda item no.10.

Secondly, Mr Wade gave a quite interesting overview of the increasing costs of meetings within the FAO. Given the scarcity of funds, and the fact that we are quite on schedule this morning, I would like to see whether or not it would be possible to conclude this Council on Friday late afternoon or Friday early in the evening. It will not only save everybody a Saturday morning, but especially it would save considerable costs for FAO which could be used in a better way than sitting here on Saturday.

We have done this also during the last Conference so with the help of the Secretariat and you, Mr Chairman, I hope that we could conclude our meeting on Friday evening and save some costs.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, y a-t-il quelqu'un qui souhaite intervenir sur ce point d'ordre?

Fabio VALENCIA COSSIO (Colombia)

Yo creo que la presentación ya fue hecha y me parece más oportuno continuar con la orden del día, para que los delegados puedan hacer las observaciones o consideraciones sobre la presentación.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

La présentation, comme Son Excellence, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de la Colombie vient de le dire, a été faite hier. La salle, si elle a été vide comme nous l'avions attendu, c'était volontaire, parce que les travaux du Conseil n'étaient pas encore arrêtés. D'autre part, à propos du calendrier que l'on veut modifier, nous vous rappelons que ce calendrier était déjà adopté. Je vous remercie.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il d'autres interventions? Je crois que la présentation a été faite hier. Je pense que le document de présentation est disponible. On pourrait, bien sûr, songer à demander à Monsieur le Président du Comité des Programmes de faire un résumé de sa présentation, mais je me demande si cela serait très utile.

Monsieur le Président, est ce que vous voudrez faire un résumé très rapide?

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

I will first very briefly summarize what have been the findings and considerations of the Programme Committee and then very briefly cover a number of issues which I addressed yesterday, that is, the improvements, resources, priority setting and content.

I think overall, the Programme Committee welcomed the improvements made in the document, especially that we have progressed again incrementally to result-based budgeting principles to the non-technical and technical cooperation areas. The Programme Committee welcomed the concept of a Rolling Plan in this third version of the Medium Term Plan.

Part 1 of the Medium Term Plan was very much welcomed. It is on the 12 strategic objectives of FAO and the six strategies to address cross organizational issues, as it was facilitating the understanding of the links between the strategic framework and the Medium Term Plan. Moreover, the Programme Committee welcomed the inclusion of a new priority area for interdisciplinary action on HIV/AIDS.

Of course coming to my second point, the resource levels as contained in the Medium Term Plan, the Programme Committee had an extensive discussion as it noted that indicative resource projection had been included with a proposal being for a Real Growth scenario at 2.2 percent per annum exclusive of eventual impact of cost increases.

It was also possible for the members of the Programme Committee to appreciate resource levels on the Zero Real Growth conditions. While there was some discussion about resource levels, the Committee recognized that it would not be possible to arrive at a consensus at this stage, but in any event, the Committee was generally satisfied with the major substantive trust in the Medium Term Plan. I note however that some members asked for the inclusion of a Zero Nominal Growth scenario.

I would like to stress one thing, in repetition of what I said yesterday and this is about After Service Medical Care Liabilities. Both the Finance and the Programme Committee in its joint meeting recalled that another aspect with potential impact on future financial contributions from members was the ongoing amortization of After Service Medical Care Liabilities.

The Committees were advised that the amount of US\$14.1 million, which has been added by the last Conference to assess contributions for the 2004–2005 biennium, was no longer sufficient. The latest actuarial evaluation showed a sharp increase in this liability and a consequent increase of US\$15.9 million in the biennial amount required. Assuming the additional liability was to be fully funded over the same period as the original liability.

Members of the Council, the Programme Committee had a discussion on priority setting and welcome the application of earlier criteria set by this Council in the planning work of the Medium Term Plan. The Committee intends to return to the issue of priority setting at its next session, in order to conclude the discussions carried out so far.

Again the Programme Committee welcomed the substantive thrust of the Medium Term Plan. This summarizes what I presented yesterday.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur le Président du Comité financier, vous voulez faire un rapport rapidement?

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

Simplemente voy a tocar los puntos más importantes tocados durante el Comité de Finanzas.

En primer lugar, debo referirme a que el Comité acogió favorablemente el Plan a Plazo Medio 2006-2011 y, en particular, la aplicación de principios basados en los resultados a las esferas no-técnicas y técnicas de la cooperación, las propuestas para la presupuestación de capital y el hecho que proporciona la conexión necesaria entre las estrategias de la Organización establecidas en el marco y las propuestas bienales de los sucesivos programas de labores y presupuestos. Se nos informó que las propuestas del Programa de Labores para cada uno de los tres bienios se había formulado con un enfoque gradual, partiendo del PLP 2004-2005 aprobado y suponiendo un poder adquisitivo constante. En primer lugar, se solicitó a los Jefes de Departamento que prepararan un plan a mediano plazo para sus programas dentro de la asignación de recursos del bienio actual, transfiriendo recursos entre entidades programáticas según fuera necesario para abordar los correspondientes cambios de énfasis y prioridades.

El factor de crecimiento real propuesto, o sea, el 2.2 por ciento anual, se aplicó posteriormente a la consignación neta total y los recursos adicionales resultantes se asignaron selectivamente a los Departamentos para elaborar propuestas de crecimiento real en un conjunto restringido de ámbitos de elevada prioridad; a continuación se sumaron estas propuestas de crecimiento real a nivel de programa y se añadieron a la actual consignación neta, con el fin de obtener la misma indicativa con crecimiento real para cada bienio del plan a plazo medio.

El Comité manifestó también su aprecio por la formulación basada en los resultados de los programas del capítulo 5, Servicios de apoyo, y del capítulo 6, Servicios comunes, que se incluyen por primera vez en el Plan a Plazo Medio y refrendó, en general, las propuestas que nos hizo llegar la Secretaría. El Comité, dentro de sus labores, acogió favorablemente las propuestas de presupuestación de capital que se presentaron para aplicar el servicio de gastos de capital, aprobado por la Conferencia en su resolución 10/2003; refrendó el planteamiento adoptado por la Secretaría en cuanto a propuestas elegibles y nivel de financiación. El Comité de Finanzas también aprobó, en principio, la propuesta de transferir cualquier saldo no utilizado de atrasos al 31 de diciembre del 2005 al servicio de gastos de capital. El Comité de Finanzas reconoció que el Plan a Plazo Medio era la propuesta del Director General para abordar los objetivos estratégicos de la Organización, en un contexto donde hay mayores retos y demandas, para un período de 6 años, donde se ha considerado niveles indicativos de recursos que no eran vinculantes para los Miembros; algunos, consideraron que el plan debería exponer una hipótesis alternativa sin crecimiento, en línea con las recientes tendencias presupuestarias; otros, consideraron que el nivel presupuestario proyectado en el plan suponía tan solo un crecimiento modesto y que no ayudaría a que la Organización cumpliera su mandato, teniendo en cuenta las exigencias que los Miembros le formulan, por tanto, el documento debería refrendarse para su envío al Consejo junto con los comentarios y sugerencias del Comité de Finanzas.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Maintenant je donnerais la parole aux délégations qui souhaitent s'exprimer sur ce point.
Monsieur le délégué de Colombie.

Fabio VALENCIA COSSIO (Colombia)

El GRULAC quiere hacer una declaración sobre el tema 10, Plan de Plazo Medio 2006-2011, saluda la incorporación de principios de presupuestación basados en los resultados; además acoge los tres criterios de importancia para el establecimiento de prioridades relativas a saber: la importancia para el Marco Estratégico, el hincapié en las prioridades manifestadas por los miembros y la ventaja comparativa de la FAO, en el entendido de que dicho Marco Estratégico tendrá como fundamento primordial los objetivos de la Organización que son: incrementar los niveles de nutrición; mejorar la productividad agrícola; optimizar la vida de los pobladores rurales; contribuir al desarrollo de la economía mundial; y eliminar el azote del hambre.

El GRULAC felicita y se felicita por haber recibido el apoyo del Comité del Programa a esta triple aproximación de criterios, la cual fue introducida por nuestros representantes regionales en el 21° período de sesiones de dicho Comité. En cuanto a los niveles de presupuesto recomendados por la Secretaría para el período 2006-2011, el GRULAC entiende que se trata de una propuesta meramente ilustrativa, recordando que el monto de las cuotas a ser abonadas por los Estados Miembros será determinado en el proceso político que con esos fines quedará abierto en ocasión del 33° período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Con esto, el GRULAC reitera favorecer los principios que idealmente llevarían a la negociación de un presupuesto bianual, basado en programas y resultados.

Felix Jose MONTES (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to congratulate the Secretariat for its excellent work in drafting the Medium Term Plan for 2006–2011. We are most pleased to note that in building on the preceding versions of the MTP, this draft includes a number of innovations such as, the application of new programme model to the non technical and technical cooperation areas, in addition to the technical programmes.

Result based approach to all the activities has also been proven to be applicable to the Programme of Work and Budget. Other innovations such as the addition of chapters on regional dimensions and capital budgeting are also meaningful.

Considering that the Medium Term Plan is anchored on the Rolling Plan, we sympathize with the Director-General that the resources for this Medium Term Plan should be based on Real Growth assumption.

We are concerned about the Secretariat's view on paragraph 25 of the MTP, as it projects a continued deepening of the agricultural trade deficit of developing countries. The opportunities offered at the WTO Meeting in Doha and carried on to the Geneva consensus last July, to embark upon a further reform of the regulatory framework governing international agricultural trade, must take account of the imperatives forced by the millions of hungry people worldwide.

Policy directions that are supportive of poverty alleviation and food security for all must be pursued. These reforms must also form part of the FAO's Medium Term Plan, possibly under the strategies to address the members' needs.

We believe that countries that succeed in using trade to enhance agricultural and rural development are likely to succeed in reducing food insecurity. Agricultural trade with results-based multilateral trading system is an essential system for promoting agricultural development, food security and poverty alleviation. We feel that FAO should help developing countries in this particular area.

For these reasons, while the Secretariat has provided adequate versions for our concern under Corporate Strategy B2 such as priority areas for interdisciplinary action on WTO, multilateral trade negotiations on agriculture, fisheries and forestry, we believe that in absolute terms under the present strategy of distribution of resources by Corporate Strategy. Corporate Strategy B only gets 18 percent of the pie compared to E, knowledge and assessment, which gets 31 percent.

We believe that under the fluid situation of the International Agricultural Trade, this strategy merits a bigger slice. We are in fact surprised that compared to the 2004–2009 MTP, this resource allocation for this Corporate Strategy would decline from 9.1 percent to 8.1 percent for the MTP 2006–2011. We believe that the Secretariat should increase this.

Regarding Chapter 4, on the technical cooperation programme. We would like to commend the Secretariat for its Real Growth proposal, which will increase its total budget percentage by a closer 2 percentage points - to 15.7 percent - somewhat closer to the sought out figure of 17 percent.

It goes without saying that we would prefer it to reach the 17 percent benchmark. Nevertheless, we are satisfied with the aggregate numbers and we would like to restate again our concerns in other agenda items that the Secretariat should try to minimize the restriction on release and disbursements of the TCP funds.

In our experience, the process is extremely lengthy. Moreover, we think that a big chunk of the disbursements for TCP projects actually go to consultations and consultants. We believe that we do not need a lot of these foreign consultants to tell us what to do; most of the time what is needed is other software, such as training, materials and equipment.

Kasem PRASUTSANGCHAN (Thailand)

My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat on the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan document in its improved form. We would like to emphasize the objective of this Medium-Term Plan on the reduction of undernourished people, sustainable agriculture and rural development, and sustainable use of natural resources.

With the recent XV International AIDS Conference held in Thailand, we have learnt that the world HIV/AIDS situation has not improved. It has, in fact, threatened world food security. We, therefore, agree with the inclusion of this matter in the Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action (PAIA).

Also, Thailand would like to support the priority given to capacity building especially in water resources development and CODEX-related work of food safety. And as we mentioned earlier, on agenda item 3, my delegation believes that the work of the early warning system should be strengthened. Therefore, we would appreciate if FAO could include this programme on its priority list.

Last, but not least, the outbreak of avian influenza in much of Asia has caused a strong negative effect in the region, not only in terms of food security, but also on human health. The disease may spread if attention given to it is inadequate and this could be devastating to the world. My delegation, therefore, would like to ask FAO to place high priority on avian influenza in the Work Plan.

V. HEARD (United Kingdom)

I would like to ask you please to give the floor to the delegate of the Netherlands who will speak on behalf of the European Community and its twenty-five Member States.

Hans HOOGEVEEN (Observer for Netherlands)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its twenty-five Member States. Furthermore, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The European Community would like to express its appreciation for the improvements made to the third version of the Medium-Term Plan. The plan differs from its predecessors in that it extends results-based budgeting to all programme areas. So, for the first time, all outputs by the Organization are covered by a new programming model. Each major output is justified by its contribution to resolving a specific problem. We welcome that the document for reasons of brevity is drafted as a rolling plan by seeking to concentrate on new or substantive changes from its predecessor.

With regard to improving the Medium-Term Plan by providing a more regional focus, we strongly encourage the Secretariat and the committees to find ways to make this section more relevant. For example, by linking it more closely to the activities under the technical and the economic programmes.

It is with regret that we note the discontinuation in this MTP of the sections with projections for extra-budgetary resources for FAO's normative and operational activities. We call upon the Secretariat if it will reconsider this since such projections increase transparency and are absolutely essential for a full picture of the situation.

From the discussions in the Programme Committee, we understand that the past filling of regular programme resources for core activities have been partly compensated by extra-budgetary funding. Although this might be understandable from a management perspective, we remain of the view that priority activities should not depend on extra-budgetary resources.

The substantive narrative of FAO's programme and actions is preceded by a recapitulation of the global demands and challenges facing FAO. This analysis falls short of mentioning the increased international coherence in the development arena reflected in the Millennium Development Goals. The importance of country development processes like the PRSPs and the urgent need for increased coordination and harmonization at the country level amongst donors and the UN Community.

This context should not have been ignored. The new PAIA on HIV/AIDS is a welcome addition to the MTP but more should be done to leverage FAO's comparative advantage as a normative and operational Organization for the timely achievement of these crucial goals.

With its mandates focusing on food and agriculture, FAO should be recognized as one of the most important UN organizations to promote sustainable development. The EU endorses the overall thrust of the substantive proposals in this MTP. However, the need for adequate resourcing of a number of high priority areas such as the International Plant Protection Convention, CODEX-related work on food safety, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, Food and Insecurity and Vulnerability information and mapping systems, FIVIMS, and the global hunger indicator, as well as country-driven forestry activities cannot be stressed enough and should get higher priority. We attach much importance to policy assistance and capacity building in these and other areas.

Special mention, in this respect, should be made to the need for swift implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security by concerned countries. The EU recognizes that a Technical Cooperation Programme is instrumental in strengthening complementarity between FAO's normative and operational activities. It would be preferable that more substantive justification be given for the proposed significant budget increase.

Turning now to the resource proposals, the EU has found it difficult to understand the budget scenarios put forward in the MTP. We note that in its long-term report on 2002-2003 audit, the external auditor puts his finger on the same problem drawing our attention to the disconnection between the numbers in the previous MTP and those which subsequently appeared in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and the Programme of Work and Budget itself. In order to reconsider what figures should appear in the Plan, we propose that the Council should task the Finance Committee to look at this in its Session in May 2005. The Committee should then make recommendations to the Council when it meets in June.

Furthermore, the EU would like to see a ZNG Scenario in the next Summary Report of the Programme of Work and Budget. An alternative budget scenario framed in these terms would help the membership grapple with the difficult question of prioritization.

Besides this, we are still missing an analysis of scope for efficiency savings. The EU has taken note of the actions taken in this respect by the FAO in the progress report on efficiency savings. With the Finance Committee, we look forward to receiving detailed information including a

comprehensive and convincing analysis of efficiency savings in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Antonio RUÍZ GARCÍA (México)

Mi delegación agradece a los Presidentes de los Comités de Finanzas y de Presupuesto la información que nos fue presentada ayer por la tarde sobre el escenario planteado en el documento CL 127/7 de Crecimiento de los recursos financieros para el Plan a Plazo Medio 2006-2013.

Mi país ve con satisfacción los progresos observados en la aplicación del enfoque de presupuestación con base en resultados a las actividades técnicas y no técnicas de la Organización, tal y como se observa en los informes presentados a este Consejo. Consideramos que con ello se ha avanzado en manera significativa en la utilización de mejores prácticas en esta materia. Estas mejoras permiten conocer con mayor detalle el uso y destino que se da a los recursos financieros de que dispone nuestra Organización.

Sin embargo, cabe reiterar que mi delegación se suma a la propuesta formulada por otras delegaciones durante las reuniones de los Comités, para que la Secretaría presente otros escenarios de crecimiento del presupuesto para el período señalado, en virtud de que consideramos que ello contribuirá a que los Estados Miembros tomemos una mejor opción durante 2005, año en que la FAO cumplirá 60 años de haber sido creada. Así también, convendría definir si se tiene previsto algún tipo de evento especial para conmemorar la fundación de esta Organización.

La Delegación de México desea dejar asentadas las actividades prioritarias para el Gobierno de mi país en el ámbito de competencia de la FAO: inocuidad alimentaria, sanidad vegetal, salud animal, manejo poscosecha, biotecnología aplicada a la agricultura, recursos fitogenéticos, bioseguridad, uso y conservación de suelos y desarrollo rural.

Estas prioridades son relevantes para promover el desarrollo agrícola de nuestro país y un importante pilar del sector para cumplir los objetivos de garantizar la producción y disponibilidad de alimentos de calidad, sanos e inocuos, y el desarrollo rural. Por ello, consideramos que deben ser fortalecidos los programas de la FAO que están vinculados con las prioridades nacionales de México.

Ms Sharon KOTOK (United States of America)

We would like to thank Mr Wade and the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees for their presentations.

The United States would like to address two issues, both the format of the MTP and the real growth assumption of the Plan. On the format, we note improvements. They are the application of results-based budgeting principles to non-technical and technical cooperation areas, the efforts of the Secretariat to include priority setting in the proposed Plan and linking changes and resources for specific programmes to their relative priority based on the three criteria of conformity to FAO's mandate, the views expressed by Member States and FAO's comparative advantage.

On the issue of the 2.2 percent per annum real growth, we do not believe that the 2.2 real growth assumption assumed in the Plan is very helpful. The United States continues to advocate Zero Nominal Growth for international organizations, and in order for the MTP to guide the work of the FAO, we believe that it must reflect prioritization within a likely budget environment.

Takuya MURAKAMI (Japan)

I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for providing the Medium Term Plan 2006-2011 and I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Japan's position.

Japan's basic position towards international organizations is to make its utmost contributions as a major donor for the attainment of the objectives of these organizations. In doing so, Japan attaches particular importance to the budgetary discipline, since Japan considers that international

organizations, including FAO, should make continuous efforts in streamlining and improving efficiency to ensure maximum use of their limited regular budgets. Japan emphasizes that the regular budget basically should be reduced.

Japan understands that the Medium Term Plan 2006-2011 decides the strategies and priority areas over a six year period, in order to facilitate the production of the Programme of Work and Budget.

With regard to the result projections of the Medium Term Plan 2006-2011, Japan's understanding is that figures are merely indicative and therefore only an aid for discussion.

Looking at the Medium Term Plan 2006-2011, the biennium regular budgets over a six year period are supposed to be Real Growth. Also, the Medium Term Plan 2006-2011 does not project the biennium regular budget right now. Japan does not support the Medium Term Plan 2006-2011 containing such Real Growth proposals, since it causes a misunderstanding among Member Nations, on the forthcoming discussion about the next biennium regular budget.

As already mentioned in the past Council, Japan strongly urges the Secretariat to submit scenarios as a base of pragmatic discussion, including lower levels of financial resources, a Zero Nominal Growth option and a Decreasing option of the Programme of Work and Budget, at the next session of Council and the Conference.

Japan is fully aware of the importance of achieving the objectives of the World Food Summit but with regard to the biennium regular budget, numbers of Member Nations are facing serious difficulty in paying these contributions, even at the current level. Japan emphasizes that FAO should reduce its regular budget through programme streamlining and improving efficiency saving measures.

Faustin BOUKOUBI (Gabon)

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi, d'abord, de vous réitérer nos compliments. Je remercie ensuite les Présidents des Comités du Programme et Financier, ainsi que Monsieur Wade pour leurs brillantes présentations sur ce point.

La Délégation gabonaise voudrait également féliciter le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la nouvelle présentation du Plan à moyen terme, qui comprend maintenant une approche fondée sur les résultats et tend vers l'ensemble des activités de l'Organisation et une meilleure application du Plan à évolution continue. Nous sommes également satisfaits qu'apparaissent plus clairement les liens entre le Programme de travail à moyen terme et le cadre stratégique 2000-2015. Nous nous félicitons des changements proposés au niveau des domaines prioritaires pour une action interdisciplinaire des DPAI et, particulièrement, le nouveau DPAI concernant les incidences du VIH-SIDA dans le monde rural et son approche par la FAO que mon pays a fortement recommandé dans le passé.

En ce qui concerne le taux de croissance réelle de 2,2 pour cent proposé pour ce Programme de travail, et qui correspond à la croissance nette du PIB actuellement enregistrée dans les pays de la zone Euro nous pensons, sauf meilleur avis, l'approuver et encourageons les autres Pays Membres à faire de même.

Monsieur le Président, le discours d'ouverture du Directeur général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, ainsi que l'examen du point "Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 2004" nous ont montré combien la situation est préoccupante. Nous convenons qu'il ne sera pas possible à ce rythme d'atteindre les objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, ni ceux de la Déclaration du Millénaire. Il est indispensable de doter la FAO de moyens conséquents qui lui permettront de venir en aide, de façon déterminante, aux pays en développement. La réduction de la pauvreté dans le monde et, par conséquent, la prospérité des affaires et la réussite de la mondialisation, en dépendent. Nous félicitons le Secrétariat de la FAO pour sa nouvelle application des critères de priorité qui donnent aux Membres l'assurance que leurs besoins sont pris en compte dans le plan à moyen terme. En ce qui concerne l'examen du Programme de travail à moyen terme proprement dit, nous voudrions apporter un appui particulier à certains grands programmes, notamment:

- le Programme 2.1 en soulignant l'importance du renforcement des capacités nationales et régionales des pays en développement
- le Programme 2.2 et particulièrement les travaux du *Codex* sur la sécurité sanitaire des aliments
- le Programme 2.3: nous appuyons particulièrement l'attention accordée à la lutte contre la pêche illicite non déclarée et non réglementée. Mon pays, le Gabon et la zone côtière de la sous-région Afrique centrale étant actuellement touchée par ce problème. Nous encourageons également l'appui de la part de la FAO aux organismes régionaux de la pêche
- le Programme 2.4: nous appuyons les activités visant à renforcer les commissions régionales des forêts et celles ayant un impact direct au niveau national. Permettez-moi de vous rappeler que mon pays, le Gabon, a mis à la disposition de la communauté mondiale 10 pour cent de son patrimoine forestier pour servir de réserve biologique naturelle, autrement dit, pour servir de poumon du monde
- le Programme 3.1: pour les pays en développement les avis en matière de politique, qui nous aident à créer un cadre favorable au développement agricole et à la sécurité alimentaire, revêtent une grande importance
- Enfin, le Programme 3.4: l'idée d'une augmentation des responsabilités opérationnelles pour les représentants en ce qui concerne la réalisation de projets dans leur pays d'affectation accroîtra leur efficacité sur le terrain.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, nous appuyons l'accroissement des allocations proposées dans le plan à moyen terme. Sur ce point, nous joignons notre voix à celles des Membres du Comité du Programme qui se sont félicités de l'amélioration du niveau d'approbation et d'exécution d'un projet PCT durant le dernier exercice biennal, et encourageons le Secrétariat à poursuivre dans le même sens. S'agissant de la partie du plan à moyen terme, réservé aux dimensions régionales, et pour ce qui nous concerne dans la région Afrique, nous apprécions l'approche adoptée et les domaines retenus.

Nous appuyons particulièrement la FAO dans son action d'aide aux pays africains en vue de la mise en place du programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture dans le cas du NEPAD, et aux programmes régionaux pour la sécurité alimentaire. L'aboutissement de ces initiatives permettra certainement d'atteindre les objectifs que nous nous fixons.

Ms Radha SINGH (India)

India commends FAO's management on the format of the Medium Term Plan 2006-2011 (MTP), which has been prepared on result based budgeting principles and in the form of a Rolling Plan.

We trust that the inherent advantages provided by the Rolling Plan approach, of enabling mid-stream corrections, will enable the Organization to take the earliest cognisance of emerging needs and respond accordingly.

We note that the MTP has been prepared on the basis of a Real Growth rate of 2.2 percent per annum. There is no denying the fact that the rate of growth envisaged is depressingly low and we would have liked to have seen a significant step up of this rate. We do, however, realize the constraints which dictated this realistically cautious approach and pledge our support and endorsement in the present scenario of fiscal distress.

We have consistently taken the position that extrabudgetary resources, welcome as they are, should not substitute budget finances and would like to take this opportunity to repeat the same principle. Again, however, we realize that there is no alternative to this category of resource mobilization when contributions are pegged at lower levels. We strongly suggest that FAO make a concerted attempt to outsource and relocate some of its activities, so as to maximise cost efficiency and to relieve these pressures, to the extent possible, on the regular budget.

We agree with the three criteria's for establishing relative priorities in the MTP document. We endorse the importance assigned to expressed priorities of Members. This might, however, result

in certain important activities, such as maintenance and strengthening databases and information systems – that are not specifically mentioned by Members – being assigned to a lower priority.

We also note that while 33 programme entities have been concluded, another 31 have been added in the MTP. We feel that, in many instances, resources have been spread too thin and that a critical mass has not always been ensured to achieve effective results. This aspect would be needed to be looked into very seriously and carefully.

We support the new entities proposed for strengthening of capacity building under Major Programme 2.1. We regard the linkages between FAO's normative and field activities to be extremely important and wish to accord the highest priority to policy assistance, technical advice and capacity building at the country level, especially in areas such as plant and animal genetic resources, biotechnology, biosecurity and animal health.

We are happy to see the increase in the share of Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCP) to 15.7 percent of the total. We regard TCP as the cornerstone of FAO's work. We would, however, have like to see the target of 17 percent – that was set by the FAO Conference far back in 1989 – being met. We urge that a conscience effort be made towards achievement of this target.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de passer la parole au Représentant suivant, j'annonce qu'il y a une réunion de Grulak actuellement à 11h50 à la salle de l'Ethiopie. Merci.

Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

En ce qui concerne le plan à moyen terme, nous pensons qu'il est bien élaboré et applique une approche fondée sur les résultats à l'ensemble des activités et est bien complété par les chapitres sur les dimensions régionales et la budgétisation des investissements. En ce qui concerne la projection du budget pour les prochaines années, nous pensons que le scénario minimum pour atteindre les objectifs préconisés, les travaux définis par chaque comité et le scénario de croissance réelle zéro. Le choix de 2,2 pour cent de croissance nous semble réaliste dans la situation actuelle. La mobilisation des ressources extra-budgétaires complémentaires est de grande utilité pour des cas spécifiques, mais ils peuvent faire prendre un risque: l'autonomie de l'Organisation et fragiliser la cohérence et la programmation s'il s'applique aux principaux travaux accomplis à la FAO.

Il nous semble que la décision prise d'adopter un système fondé sur l'utilisation des deux monnaies pour réduire l'impact négatif, la dévalorisation de l'une de ces monnaies a été positive. L'application de ce système devra poursuivre. Il faut continuer à équilibrer les travaux de terrain, les activités normatives et à soutenir les objectifs de décentralisation en renforçant les structures régionales pour améliorer son intervention dans les projets des pays. Les aspects de capacitation des ressources humaines et des institutions, en particulier dans les pays en développement, doivent être considérés comme priorités premières de tous les programmes. En particulier, en ce qui concerne les programmes de terrain, pour faire face au défi du développement agricole et rural et l'anxiété d'améliorer les services de recherche appliquée. Nous remercions la FAO pour sa collaboration active dans le problème du NEPAD, nous estimons que la coopération étroite doit se poursuivre pour atteindre les objectifs du développement agricole et de la pêche du continent africain. Les investissements dans la réhabilitation des infrastructures et l'irrigation sont indispensables pour que le continent soit moins dépendant des pluies et puisse stocker l'excédent et que des réserves stratégiques pour réduire les pertes et pour faire face aux calamités et au cours des années de faible production agricole.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation est sensible au grave problème que provoque le criquet pèlerin. Avant-hier et hier, plusieurs délégations ont manifesté les profondes préoccupations en ce qui concerne ce fléau. Nous sommes touchés par les appels et demandons également à la FAO de procéder dans le programme à moyen terme le renforcement des moyens pour minimiser les effets de ce fléau.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, ma délégation est favorable à l'approbation du plan à moyen terme qui a été présenté et suggère que la FAO continue à renforcer les liens avec d'autres agences des Nations Unies, qui ont leur siège à Rome, à collaborer avec d'autres organisations d'aide bilatérale et multilatérale, des institutions financières internationales avec l'objectif d'établir des accords de partenariat, dans les domaines de développement de l'agriculture, de la pêche et des forêts.

Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

Regarding the Medium-term plan 2006/2011, the Brazilian delegation fully supports the intervention made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group.

My delegation absolutely stress the need that during the elaboration process related to the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO, Member Countries should focus on those programmes which favours developing countries efforts in combating hunger and poverty. In this sense it is important that adequate financial resource be conveyed to technical cooperation programmes which must be concentrated on initiatives which help Member Countries efforts toward economic and social development in autonomous way.

We can not open any space to discussions which could cause any harm to the interest to developing countries.

Finally, we support the statement made by India. Brazil is also concerned with the increasing importance given to extra-budgetary funds, while the regular has been decreasing in real terms. Multilateralism is based on the principle that all countries contribute and all countries participate in the shaping of programmes.

Diverting the focus from the regular budget is against this principle and is a practice that should be progressively avoided.

Jugdus BUNDHOO (Mauritius)

Mauritius commends the Secretariat on the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan which spans over the period 2006–2011. We would just like to make one specific observation, and this is in regard to Programme 2.2, Responding to Food Security Challenges in Light of the transforming Food Economy, but more specifically with regards to 220A4 Managing Nutrition in a Transforming Food Economy.

In paragraph 303 it is mentioned that there is relative little detail from developing countries which make a link between data reporting changes and arising risk in cities. Therefore, the issue is: how can we come up with recommendations for nutrient intake globally, that is, for all the countries irrespective of the level of their development, culture or traditions and national habits and practices. It is, therefore, evident that the recommendation made in the Joint WHO/FAO Report, Technical Report 916, is not based on sound information and therefore, it is bound to meet with severe resistance because it is incorrect.

So in this regard, we commend the Secretariat on the proposal made in paragraph 333 there is a need: first, to build capacity in developing countries for collection, analysis and dissemination of data, in order to adequately and convincingly document dietary transition; secondly, to raise countries' awareness on the problem and its consequences; and thirdly, to develop appropriate responses including strategies and programmes that effectively promote – and we would like to stress here – its healthy diets.

Olusegun Olujimi OGUNKUA (Nigeria)

The Nigerian Delegation congratulates the Secretariat of the Programme Committee for putting together the MTP 2006–2011.

We also note that it was based on the result-based approach. We welcome the innovations in the report, in the proposal which includes the application of the new programme model, to non technical and technical cooperation.

Having said that, we note the 2.2 percent increase and we support the Real Growth Options in increasing the resources available to FAO.

We note the comments of the Director-General, on page iii of the MTP, which is that resource requirement for the future are to be addressed, they cannot be artificially divorced from the experience of the recent past and the situation prevailing at the present time. We wish to relate this to the innovation in the MTP which has addressed the issue of regional dimensions, with particular reference to Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. If we are looking at regional dimensions, we note that paragraph 22 of the MTP restates the recent position that sub-Saharan and Africa South Asia account for a very large share of the 842 million people worldwide that are still undernourished. This shows that sub-Saharan Africa is still lagging behind and may not achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The issue of undernourishment, in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa has become a global responsibility. It is the view of my delegation that enough resources have not been made available to address these fundamental issues, also in relation to Programme 2.1.4. which deals with the issue of agriculture production and support systems and Major Programme 2.2 which deals with food and agriculture policy and development. These aspects more than strengthen in sub-Saharan Africa so as to be able to address the fundamental problem of hunger in that region. It is the view of my delegation that in addressing this, capacity building and technical cooperation will be strengthened especially in the production and support system. My delegation is of the view that enough resources in times of prioritization will be devoted to sub-Saharan Africa to take it out of the claws of hunger.

Once again my delegation congratulates the Secretariat and the Programme Committee for this wonderful job.

Siheem SELTENE (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe)

Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat pour l'excellente qualité de ce document qui est le plan à moyen terme pour la période 2006-2011. Je souligne la méthodologie efficace et adéquate qui a été suivie dans l'élaboration de ce document, d'autant plus que l'on tient compte de l'importance que revêt ce document dans le processus de planification et de programmation.

Par ailleurs, je voudrais saluer les aspects novateurs qui ont caractérisés ce document dans sa troisième version amendée qui nous est soumise aujourd'hui. Cette innovation a porté sur l'application du nouveau modèle de programmation, notamment sur les aspects techniques et non techniques ainsi que l'ajout de deux chapitres à la capitalisation, l'habilitation des dépenses d'équipement ainsi qu'aux dimensions régionales qui ont apportées davantage de clarté au contenu de ce document, permettant de rendre compte des spécificités des différentes régions, et tenant compte des recommandations des différentes conférences régionales de manière à permettre à l'Organisation de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour les dépenses capitalistiques qui s'étendent sur plus d'une période biennale. Ce plan à moyen terme a tenu compte des principaux défis qui s'imposent à notre Organisation dans la période à venir et ce, dans le cadre des orientations à long terme qui avaient été arrêtées depuis 1999 pour la période 2000-2015. De ce fait, nous appuyons l'ensemble des programmes ambitieux qui sont proposés dans ce document et qui répondent dans leur ensemble à nos attentes. Nous espérons que tous les efforts seront consentis pour assurer les ressources financières nécessaires à la mise en œuvre d'un tel Programme.

Néanmoins, nous voudrions faire part de certaines recommandations. Nous pensons, notamment, d'abord à la nécessité de maintenir l'équilibre entre les activités normatives et celles de terrain lors de la mise en œuvre des différentes activités proposées ici. De même, faut-il tenir compte des recommandations issues des opérations d'évaluation. Il faudrait par ailleurs arrêter les choix prioritaires et, à ce propos, nous voudrions insister sur l'importance cruciale que revêtent les programmes et les activités qui doivent venir en aide aux pays en développement dans leur quête d'assurer leur sécurité alimentaire et de préserver leurs ressources naturelles, compte tenu des problèmes de facteurs naturels sévères auxquels font face ces pays. Notamment en ce qui concerne la rareté des ressources hydrauliques, de la récurrence des périodes de sécheresse ainsi que les rapides mutations que connaît le monde au niveau des échanges commerciaux et l'imposition de normes draconiennes en matière de sécurité alimentaire des aliments et de qualité en ce qui concerne le commerce des produits agricoles. De telles considérations peuvent constituer autant d'entraves à l'accès des produits des pays en développement aux marchés mondiaux. À ce propos, nous voudrions insister sur la nécessité d'intensifier l'aide apportée aux dits pays de manière à leur permettre de mettre leur politique en adéquation avec ce qui est arrêté dans le cadre des négociations portant sur le commerce des produits agricoles au sein de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce. Et notamment, celles qui portent sur les trois points relatifs à la subvention, à leur production interne, à la compétitivité au niveau de l'exportation et qui ont atteint une phase avancée dans les négociations.

Pour conclure, je voudrais appuyer la proposition d'adopter une croissance réelle en matière de ressources d'autant plus qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une proposition généralisée mais circonscrite aux domaines de priorité dans les activités de l'Organisation comme c'est le cas de certains programmes techniques ainsi que le Programme de coopération technique et de l'assistance en matière de politique.

Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

Uganda's delegation thanks the two Committees for having prepared and tabled the two presentations for discussion. Further my delegation salutes all other distinguished delegations that have already contributed to this subject.

My delegation, further notes, the focus of the Medium Term Plan to improve and increase the operations of FAO priority activities that will in turn help reduce the food insecurity and poverty currently greatly afflicting hundreds of millions of people in the poor countries world over especially in sub-Saharan Africa. We have been reminded on a daily basis that efforts to attained food security, the Millennium Development Goals are lagging far behind schedule and one of the reasons being inadequate resources.

My delegation further specifically notes that the intention of FAO to utilize more funds to support development and implementation of Africa's priorities as summarized on pages 177 and 178 of the Medium Term Plan document with emphasis of NEPAD placed on the forefront.

My delegation considers it important that the assistance provided by FAO to fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic should not be scaled down which would otherwise be detrimental to our populations.

Without any reservation, my delegation fully endorses the Medium Term Plan document as requested by the Director-General of FAO.

Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia)

Thank you for giving me the floor on this consideration for this important agenda item.

Let me express my delegation's appreciation to the Secretariat for the successful efforts for preparing this comprehensive document CL 127/7. The MTP embodies FAO's main programme planning process and the results based planning and budgeting principals. As such, it focuses primarily on the formulation of programme proposals including their rationale contribution to the strategic objective and cross organizational strategies, intended outcome and related performance indicator and on the prioritization of such proposals.

We support the FAO Secretariat concept of six major challenges: the persistence of food insecurity and poverty; urbanization dietary transition and changes in processing and marketing systems; changing pattern of trade; access to production inputs and technology; the environment of threats; gaps in knowledge and information.

The above challenges are relevant to the struggle of the developing countries to address the problems of hunger and poverty in rural areas. The most important thing is to ensure that we are able to tailor a suitable programme relevant to the real situation of the developing countries in this MTP and whether the funds and resources are sufficiently allocated to each of the programmes.

The plan with all its complexities will be meaningless if the end result is not clear. Our expectation is that at the end of the terms, an important progress in the agricultural development sector of the Member Countries happens.

As noted by the Programme and Finance Committee, we welcome the application for the first time as a result based budgeting principals for the non-technical and technical cooperation areas and the stricter adherence to the concept of a rolling plan.

On the priority areas for inter disciplinary action (PAIA) we note the importance of formulating the cooperate strategy B2, the paragraph 59; strengthening the capabilities of developing countries for the WTO Multilateral Trade Negotiation in agriculture and we associate ourselves with the statement of the Philippine delegation concerning this matter.

We support the Special Programme for the Food Security, as mentioned in paragraph 70. The SPFS is needed to address a macro level constraint creating an environment favourable to expanded agriculture production and trade. In this regard we also support the strengthening of the works of The Committee on World Food Security, giving a central place for food Security in the international agenda.

With regards to the forestry programme, Indonesia supports the restructuring of the forestry programme into three programmes; Forest Resources, Forest Products and Economics and Forestry Policy and Institution with one additional cross-cutting substantive programme namely Forest Information and Liaison.

Related to FAO's Programme to provide information about Forest Resources, we note paragraph 413 and we propose FAO to continue financial and technical assistance for National Forest Inventory in Member Countries, which was conducted in Indonesia in 1988 and 1986 through the Forest Inventory and Conservation Project. This is due to the need for the viability of the forest inventory system as well as forest data base validity. We support FAO's contributions to the issues of Forest and Water and Forest and Climate Changes. We agree that the issues linked to the MDGs and support the implementations of major UN convention on biological diversity, climate changes, and desertification.

As we have mentioned, acceleration of the National Movement for Forest and Land Rehabilitation mentioned, yesterday, we eagerly welcome will come the dissemination of the new and innovative approaches to watershed management and communication tools under the Real Growth proposals as mentioned on the page 117.

Concerning FAO's programme to enhance forestry products and economics we look forward to FAO's support to assessing and disseminating best practices for the generation and use of wood energy as well as the harvesting, processing and trade of non-wood products.

We are very supportive of the efforts of FAO's Secretariat to provide additional resources for TCP. To bring the TCP closer to the level of 17 percent as decided by the conference. In this regard we associate ourselves with the statement of the leader of the Indian delegation with regard to this TCP.

We note on paragraph 5 of document CL127/6 that the resource projects were of an indicative nature and non-binding on the membership. We also note that the Real Growth proposal that is a

proposal of 2.2 percent per annum growth is a logical alternative in strengthening of the work in fighting hunger and poverty and in achieving the MDGs goals.

As the consideration of this MTP will continue up to the next conference we will follow it with great attention in consideration of this agenda and we will go along with all of the Members in further supporting the proposal of the FAO Secretariat.

Veli-Pekka TALVELA (Finland)

Finland speaks here on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. We want to express also our support to the statement made by the delegation of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Committee and its twenty five Member States.

The Nordic Countries recognize the important role that FAO plays in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. With a view of the major event in 2005 we would like FAO to accord itself a more prominent role in the MDG process. We would like to see FAO's activities more clearly streamlined according to the Millennium Development Goals and the Goals more visibly reflected among the major challenges for FAO's activities in this third Medium Term Plan.

The strategic review process starting in 2006 should deal with the MDG's in a more explicit way. The MTP for the period 2006-2011 is a clear improvement of the previous versions. We commend the FAO Secretariat for the efforts to make the MTP a more concise document. We appreciate the application of results based budgeting principles to the non-technical and technical cooperation and we support the general direction taken by the Secretariat. It is, however, still difficult to follow through the various levels of strategies and relationships between them, or to verify how the strategies have impact or resource allocation. We fully support the effort of the Secretariat to interlink strategies and concrete actions in the document, but we suggest that it be made easier to interpret, for example, by using diagrams and tables in order to illustrate these linkages.

Regarding programmes and priorities, we welcome the use of the three criteria in establishing the priorities. Relevance to the strategic framework, focus on Members' expressed priorities and FAO's comparative advantage. Prioritization should, however, be developed even further to prevent the allocation of the scarce resources too thinly at the expense of efficiency. Our point of departure cannot be the amount of funds but the strategic framework within which the Organization must work. We welcome the intention of the Programme Committee to continue to consider these issues in its forthcoming meetings.

The role of priority areas for interdisciplinary actions, the PAIA is central. They address many fundamental issues in FAO's work. The concept and its implementation should be further intensified and strengthened. We fully endorse the addition of a new PAIA to address the implications of HIV/AIDS in areas of FAO's mandate. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has been identified as one of the major threats to food security, and the Nordic Countries, like many other Members, have encouraged FAO to intensify its work in mitigating the impact of the disease. The Nordic Countries support many of the high priority areas to which the Real Growth Scenario has been applied in the MTP. Among them forestry and fisheries, gender issues, genetic resources, Codex Alimentarius and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). We would like to emphasize the importance of their insufficient funding regardless of the future level of FAO's budget. In part 1, the document presents two budget scenarios, Zero Real Growth and Real Growth, and the summary table is included for the Real Growth alternative. There is, however, no summary table for the Zero Real Growth alternative, this renders the document somewhat inconsistent. In addition, it seems that the main priority setting has been conducted only under the Real Growth alternative. We would, however, have preferred clear prioritization also in the case of Zero Real Growth. We would also appreciate an analysis of the relation between regular budget and the extra budgetary resources in order to see the importance of the latter in different programmes.

Finally, we would like to reiterate the importance of coordination and partnership within the UN Organizations and other development partners, especially at the country level. Coordination is

emphasized in the Medium Term Plan but not in clear terms, not analyzing the achievements or failures in partnerships, nor giving guidance on the directions to take. Deeper cooperation with other organizations improves the efficiency of the actions and enhances the comparative advantage of FAO. Closer collaboration with organizations such as WFP and IFAD at the country level was particularly recommended also in the independent evaluation of FAO's decentralization. An encouraging example of global collaboration is the role FAO is playing in international forestry processes and especially in chairing the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

Canada has closely examined the information presented in the Medium Term Plan. As a strong supporter of the work of FAO we are pleased with the ongoing implementation of results based budgeting principles by the Organization. Canada recognizes that FAO faces many demands and high expectations from its Membership and from imperatives such as the Millennium Development Goals. FAO has a key role to play in meeting the Millennium Development Goals and Canada believes FAO can make its most effective contribution by ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of its programming. We believe FAO and indeed any organization should reform continuously so as to become more efficient and effective in fulfilling its mandate.

Canada supports budgetary discipline in all UN agencies and efforts to look at ways to better define priorities and align spending according to those priorities. We believe that it is important that priorities are set in a way that the needs and concerns of the broad membership are taken into account. Priority setting is essential to ensure that resources are efficiently and effectively used to meet those priorities. We note with concern that many countries are having difficulties in meeting their current level of assessed contributions as evidenced by the ongoing high level of arrears, and this is a challenge which must be taken into account when considering future budget levels. In this regard we believe that the budget scenarios presented in the Medium Term Plan could benefit by providing Members with more information in order to facilitate Members' assessment of budgeting issues and therefore the programming envisaged in the plan. In particular, my delegation requires a detailed indication as to how the Secretariat would implement a Zero Nominal Growth Budget. We need this information so that Canada can assess in detail the implications of such an approach and can understand in detail what additional benefits higher levels of spending would imply.

Canada looks forward to working with the other Member States and the Secretariat in considering proposals for the FAO budget to be considered at the next Conference.

David INGHAM (Australia)

Firstly, Australia would like to thank Tony Wade and his team and other members of the Secretariat for their work on this important document. Australia would like to welcome the improvements in the structure of the MTP and, in particular, the application for the first time the document's results based budgeting principles and the non-technical and technical areas. They represent a further step forward in improving the MTP.

Australia believes that the framing of the MTP 2006-2011 ran a budget which grows at 2.2 percent per annum in real terms is inappropriate, given the experience over the past decade of budgets that ran Zero Nominal Growth. Australia's concern is that by adopting this unrealistic assumption as to future funding the MTP, as currently drafted, is unlikely to be delivered. Scenarios covering the range of alternate possible outcomes should have also been included as paragraph 8 of the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee endorses, this is necessary to enlighten the Membership about the possible impact of lower allocations.

The problem of not adequately canvassing possible outcomes in documents was starkly illustrated in the 2003 Conference when there was no appropriate scenario available for the Programme of Work to match the Conference's decision to reduce funding by around US\$50 million. It was left until May of this year for these decisions to be taken by the Programme and Finance Committees. Looking ahead, Australia believes that, as with the PWB produced for the most recent

Conference, the PWB for the 2006-2007 biennium should be prepared on the basis of a number of different scenarios about funding. With ZNG being the base assumption, and ZRG presented as an option, with possible areas of increased funding. If these options were chosen and the Real Growth Scenario a third option, such an approach would allow Members to understand implications of all funding scenarios and to make informed judgements on the budget level and Programme of Work.

Australia supports strongly the comments in the Director-General's introduction to the MTP, that it is inappropriate to change funding for programmes across the board, Australia believes that the most important role of bodies, such as the Programme Committee and Council, is to determine how circumstances and the requirements of Members change, the higher and lower priority programmes and to fund these programmes accordingly. We look forward to continuing this discussion on priority setting in the Programme Committee to enable this to occur.

With this in mind, we would wish to highlight a number of specific programme areas where Australia believes that increased funding is necessary. Australia believes that with the increasing importance of trade to developing countries a crucial role for FAO is to assist global harmonization of plant quarantine and food standards, and support to international trade rules; adequately resourcing the international standards work of IPPC and Codex is an essential part of helping developing countries to expand their trade. This has been recognized in the report of the Programme Committee. We would urge that greater attention be focused on these areas in the MTP and in the forthcoming PWB, particularly with regard to increased funding for IPPC.

Similarly, if I have support from Members the license to trade negotiations is considered by Australia as being a higher priority. Australia also places considerable importance on a number of other FAO programmes which are key to achieving FAO goals of assisting Member Nations to achieve food security. FAO's Fisheries and Forestry programmes are especially important, such as Fishery's work on Illegal, Unreported and Non-regulated Fishing (IUU Fishing), regional fisheries management organizations, monitoring control and surveillance schemes for fisheries. The FAO forestry programmes designed to promote sustainable and responsible forest management and regional cooperation are especially important. In this regard, we support the conclusions of the September Programme Committee Report on the importance of these fisheries and forestry programmes included in paragraphs 31 and 33 respectively.

Australia is also very supportive of the FAO work on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Its provision of scientific assessment work to support the work of Codex such as JNPR and the important work on FAOSTAT and seeks both a better reflection of these with MTP and PWB funding.

Finally, we welcome the conclusion of the PAIA on the AIDS/HIV to address access within FAO's mandate. We also note that a review of the priority areas for interdisciplinary actions is to be expected in the current biennium. Australia looks forward to considering this review.

LEE YOUNG-GU (Korea, Republic of)

The Korean delegation would like to begin with expressing many thanks to the Secretariat for the preparation of this comprehensive report.

We welcome the changes applied in the report including extension of the results-based approaches to non-technical and technical areas, efforts to sharpen the focus of programmes and adherence to the rolling nature of the MTP. We are very concerned about the regular budget scenario in the report. We support the view expressed by the distinguished delegates of Netherlands, United States, Japan and Canada who emphasized the Zero Nominal Growth budget. I would also like to ask the Secretariat for more efforts in increasing efficiency savings. Much work has been done so far, but our understanding is that, there is more room for further improvements, these should be taken into account in the Medium Term Plan.

In this regard, FAO should focus on priority areas and we support the three priority setting criteria in the report.

Ms Barbara EKWALL (Switzerland)

Switzerland would like to thank the Secretariat for the Medium Term Plan, we appreciate in particular that it focuses on change over the previous plan, adopts result based principles and now covers the entire Programme of Work and Budget programme structure.

Switzerland shares the report's analysis of the main challenges and demands on FAO among others the persistence of food insecurity and poverty, access to resources, patterns of trade environment, the information and technology gap. We believe however, that another major challenge will affect the work of FAO in the six years covered by the Mid-Term Plan. Indeed, important reforms are taking place in the UN System, particularly at operational level in view of achieving more coherence and efficiency and in order to harmonize and simplify programming and management procedures.

The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), constitutes the common frame of reference for the UN System's response to national needs and priorities. They are in line with the country owned poverty reduction strategies. Specialized Agencies of the UN are invited to participate in these efforts, we therefore would have appreciated to find this challenge reflected in the Medium Term Plan.

Switzerland is aware of and appreciates the considerable efforts undertaken by FAO to do more with fewer resources. On the other hand, past reductions in the budget are not as such a sufficient argument to support budget increases, rather the later are response to a plan containing priorities outlining options for decisions and building on the Organization's comparative advantage.

One key question is how and where FAO can make a difference in improving the food security of the poor, particularly the rural poor.

The present Midium-Term Plan with a few exceptions proposes a continuation of present programmes. It sets a series of priorities by pointing out areas where additional resources would be required. In our understanding, these constitute priority areas independently of any future budget scenario. In this context, we appreciate the priority given again to Major Programme 2.5 in particular the elements dealing with sustainable agriculture and rural development, gender and population and the Special Programme for food security. EMPRES in programme 2.1.2 is another such priority.

Switzerland is very much in favour of a balance between FAO's operational and normative activities and therefore also calls for strengthening of the technical cooperation programme in chapter 4.

Switzerland looked in vain for a reference to the right to food and voluntary guidelines recalling our statement made under Item 4.1 of the Council, we ask FAO to integrate the implementation of the guidelines in the next Programme of Work and Budget and in the next Medium Term Plan.

Members of the Swiss delegation recently had the opportunity to conduct a field visit to Niger to get acquainted with FAO's special programme for food security and with the functioning of the UN System. We came back with two main insights.

Firstly FAO's country presence is crucial for supporting operational work and assisting governments in their efforts to reach the goals contained in the Programme of Action of Rome and the Millennium Development Goals.

Secondly, in the context of the reforms of the UN Development System, more and more coordination work is being undertaken at country level, that is where the UN System and FAO as part of this system can make a difference. These insights have strengthened us in our view that FAO's decentralization process must continue. The Organization's country presence must be enhanced by delegating tasks responsibility, authority and resources to the country level as well as by streamlining procedures between Headquarters and the country representations.

To conclude, let me add that we found in Niger an FAO country team that the Organization can be proud of.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

Es sólo para hacer una pequeña aclaración. Cuando llegó el Embajador de Colombia se hizo la declaración del GRULAC, en el segundo párrafo teníamos un error: en el plan a plazo medio se hizo alusión al 2006-2001 y queríamos corregir que es 2006-2011, que no vaya a quedar en actas.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Délégué de la Colombie. Nous n'avons plus de délégués inscrits pour prendre la parole. Messieurs le Président du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier souhaitent-ils répondre? Monsieur le Président du Comité du Programme.

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

First of all I would like to express my appreciation for all the comments made by delegations on the preparations in the Programme Committee of the Medium Term Plan and actually I note broad acknowledgement on the floor of the improvements made in this Medium Term Plan relative to its predecessors. I would like to join those delegates who have actually applauded and commended the Secretariat for their efforts to incrementally improve the planning methodology within FAO.

Furthermore, it is gratifying to note as well that many of the issues raised by the floor are actually also echoing the issues which are very much at the heart of the discussions in the Programme Committee, such as the application of the result based principles in a Medium Term Plan, what is actually the right format to present to Council, that we have included a PAIA on HIV/AIDS. Consequently all those interventions were directed towards the issues mentioned were also extensively discussed in the Programme Committee. It is good for me to note as a Chairperson of the Programme Committee that there is a synergy between the discussions we have in our small Committee of 11 members and the interventions made here to the floor.

The next meeting of the Programme Committee will have to address the summary Programme of Work and Budget. As Chairperson of the Programme Committee, I have taken note of the comments made during the discussion on the MDGs, on the adequate resource levels, on the extent to which normative activities of FAO should actually be funded, whether it is EMPRESS, whether it is the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. I have also noted that many delegations thought that the TCP needed to be additionally funded, as they adhere much importance to political assistance and capacity building.

Furthermore I have taken note of a number of comments which have been made about the offsetting of regular budget resources by extra budgetary funding and this is indeed an issue on which the Programme Committee should focus its attention.

Let me assure you all that the calls made to continue working on the issue of priority setting at a programming level will not go unheard by the Programme Committee and you can expect a continued discussion with the Secretariat on how we can improve the internal system of setting priorities. It is a challenging task we are slowly moving forward with the help of the Secretariat and I want to commend Tony Wade for his support to enhance the internal system of setting the right priorities for the Organization, so that the Organization can serve its mandate and the Governing Bodies better.

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

En primer lugar deseo agradecer a cada uno de ustedes por los comentarios vertidos que, sin duda nos darán el derrotero para nuestro trabajo, y sin duda se van a tomar en cuenta en las próximas reuniones. Deseo hacer mención que algunos temas que han sido tratados los veremos esta tarde, por ejemplo, el tema de las cuotas de las delegaciones o fondos extrapresupuestarios. Sin duda, uno de los temas que es una piedra angular sobre lo que hemos hablado es el ahorro por eficiencias; de manera sistemática lo hemos visto en el Comité de Finanzas porque creemos que a través de los ahorros por eficiencia podemos obtener mayores logros con nuestro reducido presupuesto. Hemos visto en el Comité de Finanzas en su 108º período que el proceso establecido

por la FAO da buenos resultados y por eso la hemos felicitado. También hemos pedido a la Secretaría que contactara una variedad de organizaciones públicas y privadas, no solamente organismos de las Naciones Unidas a fin de obtener datos comparativos e información sobre la experiencia adquirida en cuanto a ahorros por eficiencia. Además hemos solicitado a la Secretaría su interés en recibir información más detallada, incluso sobre la reducción de gastos y los plazos en el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos 2006-2007.

Sin duda, establecer un programa a mediano plazo como el que hemos analizado esta mañana parte de supuestos escenarios y también fue debatido ampliamente en nuestro Comité de Finanzas. Sabemos que no es fácil para la Secretaría presentarnos hipótesis de trabajo, especialmente si sabemos que se quiere un crecimiento real y, sin embargo, hemos tenido un presupuesto de crecimiento nominal cero; en este sentido felicitamos a la Secretaría y les agradecemos todos los comentarios que han hecho que sin duda nos servirán en nuestro trabajo.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Président du Comité financier. Je pense que nous allons lever notre séance maintenant. Monsieur Wade répondra cet après-midi car il est déjà une heure moins le quart. Cela nous permettra de travailler. La session de cet après-midi sera présidée par Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de Bulgarie, qui est le Vice-Président de notre session, car moi-même je présiderai le Groupe des Amis du Président pour la question de l'évaluation. Je vous remercie.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session Cent vingt-septième session 127º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-27 November 2004 Rome, 22-27 novembre 2004 Roma, 22-27 de noviembre de 2004
SIXTH PLENARY SESSION SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
24 November 2004

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
Mr Ilia Krastelnikov,
Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Ilia Krastelnikov,
Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Ilia Krastelnikov,
Vice-presidente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN

I have the honour to preside this afternoon's Sixth Meeting of the Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session of the Council. As you all know, the Independent Chair will preside, to be more precise, after five minutes, the so-called Friends of the Chair Group and as I look at the room I see that the Chairman has very many friends indeed.

In the morning, the EU presidency was very optimistic that we are ahead of schedule and we can even finish our Session on Friday evening but we could not conclude today in the morning even one agenda item and I now give the floor to Mr Tony WADE to answer questions and summarize what has been discussed under Agenda Item 11.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

First of all, we would like to express our appreciation for the strong support given by the Council to what we have been trying to do to improve the Medium Term planning process. It was particularly noticeable for the application of results-based budgeting to the non-technical and technical cooperation programmes. Also, support for the concept of a rolling MTP and for the priority setting process, in particular the three criteria that we applied.

On the latter, we noted two caveats. One was from India which is an important one concerning the risk of what I would call orphan activities; activities that do not get a lot of mention but are actually very important such as the basic data collection, statistics data collection, etc. However, these are certainly activities that the other two criteria, that is the strategic framework and comparative advantage, ought to take into account if they are properly applied.

The Netherlands also had a caveat concerning the application of the criteria to RG only. I should explain that the criteria were applied to all entities, regardless of the resource levels, it was only in the measurement of the correlation to RG and where the additional resources were applied that we tested that there was, in fact, a correlation there.

But there is a very important inherent issue in the Netherlands' question which is, in effect: Would these criteria work for ZNG? Would they work for a resource reduction situation? Can you apply them and find ways of reducing the programme? I will come back to that later.

There are other welcome innovations, capital budgeting and regional dimensions, on which we recognize we need to do some more work.

The Netherlands, on behalf of the EU, also noted the absence of the mention of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), PRSPs and harmonization issues from the section on challenges and demands in Part I of the document. I am not sure they belong in Part I of the document. Part I of the document contains things like the "persistence of food insecurity and poverty", "urbanization", "the changing patterns of trade", etc. These are all challenges in the external environment which we have to address. Whereas the MDGs, PRSPs and harmonization issues seem to me to be part of the response to those challenges. So, for example, you will see that the first MDG which is to "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" is a restatement of the first challenge in the MTP. The first challenge is the "persistence of food insecurity and poverty". So the relationship to this particular section of the document may not be as strong as suggested. That was not to say that the MTP should not be addressing these issues, clearly it should be. In fact, the Director-General in his opening speech and recently, internally, has re-emphasized the need for FAO to make itself more visibly committed to the MDGs. In fact, the very point that Finland made earlier on today; and he has asked that an exercise be carried out to identify the linkages between all of FAO's programmes and the MDGs with a view to better focussing the work on MDGs and putting ourselves in a better position to communicate our commitment to the MDGs to the wider public. There is a mention of this in paragraph 507 under programme 352, but I think you will see that this topic will get a lot more attention in the next document which is the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

As regards PRSPs, there is a concentrated effort by the Organization at present to get agriculture properly recognized in PRSPs. There are constraints, for example, as the US pointed out, if we are not represented in forty-one countries, how do you get involved effectively in a country-level activity. So it is particularly hard there, and it is not easy anywhere, as a matter of interest.

Our Division TCA, which looks after policy assistance, has it in its programme to ensure that FAO's national and regional strategy frameworks are consistent with and reflected in the PRSPs. You will see that in paragraph 454 of the document.

In fact, there is a strategy to address cross-organizational issues on "Leveraging resources" which requires the full integration of all FAO projects and programmes into the PRSPs. That is mentioned in paragraph 134 of the document. So again this is an issue which is very current in the institution and getting a lot of attention.

As regards harmonization, I would refer you to the strategy on cross-organizational issues, "Broadening partnerships and alliances". In paragraph 109, we see what FAO will be doing in its partnerships with the UN System and the other inter-governmental organizations. And that is also reflected under programme 352.

Now, of course, the current strategic framework predates the MDGs, although it is interesting to observe how well they correlate the two documents. On the other hand, it frankly is a problem if the main strategy document of FAO, which is one of the largest UN System agencies, does not mention the MDGs. It simply gives the wrong impression. So, as already mentioned, the Director-General has asked that this be corrected immediately, as a first step in the document of the next meeting of the CFS and then, undoubtedly feeding into the revision of the strategic framework in the following periods.

If I can address the question of efficiency savings, various members raised this issue. The Netherlands indicated its interest in the next report of the Finance Committee. India made a particular suggestion concerning outsourcing. Canada, Korea, Japan, and I imagine others, all see scope in this particular area.

So what is the current status of efficiency savings in FAO? The first point is, of course, that we have already identified and implemented efficiency savings amounting to between 55 and 62 million dollars per annum and that is fully detailed in the last Programme of Work Budget, paragraphs 179-181 of C2003/3. So those are savings that have already been made.

The second thing that we have done is that we have developed a programme to research and identify further efficiency savings. And, this we have shared with the Finance Committee as mentioned by the Chairman of the Finance Committee in FC108/14. That contains 23 separate exercises aimed at identifying ways of reducing the cost of inputs in this institution but maintaining the level of outputs. There are six of them in governance, there are two in documents and publications, there is registry management, there are four in business process and entitlement change, there are six in information systems governance, three in streamlining business processes and one in improving support cost-recovery. Now, each of these has been assigned to a Department within FAO and are now being examined for feasibility including where possible, as mentioned by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, for comparison with other organizations.

I would just like to get expectations at the right level. It took us ten years to capture the efficiency savings of 55-62 million dollars per annum, that is about 15 percent. That happened at a time when there was considerable scope. The Organization had barely introduced information communication technology, and so there were many opportunities for savings. Now we are talking about what we can do in the next two-year period against a budget that has been effectively cut by 24 percent in the last ten years, so clearly the scope is a lot less. The point I am making is that I would be surprised if we could find as much as 10 million dollars for 2006-2007. But we are making every effort to maximize the amount that we find. To put that figure in context, the cost increases for the next biennium will probably be between 35 and 45 million dollars, so it will not even cover the cost of maintaining purchasing power.

On the question of priorities, as I mentioned, there was good support for the priority-setting process and for continuing to work on that, and in particular support for the three criteria. However, there was an interesting observation by the Philippines concerning the allocation of only 8.9 percent to B.2; that is, the strategy which deals with applying international regulatory frameworks at the national level, and that can be taken in conjunction with Finland's question about how resources are allocated by strategic objective. The Secretariat did raise this issue with the Programme Committee in May 2004 and in its document to the Committee PC91/77, it put the question that the Committee may also wish to advise whether the major challenges identified (i.e. similar challenges to those that you have read in front of the MTP) imply a need to rebalance resource allocations by strategic objectives. In broad terms, the Secretariat believes that the historical pattern of allocations is reasonable and that the changes which may arise from the six challenges suggest new or re-emphasized priorities for all five corporate strategies but do not, at this stage, warrant an effort to redistribute resources. Then we added that the Committee may also wish to confirm the relevance of the strategic framework in relation to priority setting as the only unanimously adopted document describing how the Organization should assist its Members to attain their goals.

Now in the report which you have before you today of that meeting, that is CL127/11 paragraph 47, the Committee effectively responded that it confirmed the validity of FAO's strategic framework which, while not a priority-setting instrument *per se*, provided a solid vision for the work of the Organization over the longer run. So the Programme Committee's view, and the Chairman may wish to comment on this afterwards, was that the strategic framework does not really provide a basis for resource allocation. This is certainly true in terms that, when it was developed, we were unable to assign a proportion of resources to each of the five corporate strategies. It was felt that that was not a practical proposition.

Members listed a great number of priorities. Apart from the trade issue in B.2, the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) was emphasized by Thailand. Avian flu was mentioned by Thailand as well, and I would like to add in passing that, in response to their concern that FAO give it priority, the Director-General had already earmarked an envelope of 5.5 million dollars from TCP to avian flu issues and currently there are twelve TCP projects under implementation. So, that is being addressed to the extent that we can within the resources available.

HIV/AIDS was another issue very widely supported, I might say, by both developing and developed countries. IPPC, CODEX, IUU, ITPPGR, FIVIMS, all supported by the EU and also by Australia in many cases, the right-to-food issue was supported by several, fisheries and forestry by Australia, TCP by many countries asking for the implementation of resolution 9/89 and hence that it have a share of 17 percent of the budget.

We have, on the one side of the balance sheet, this request for priority to be given to these many areas.

Can I again, as a footnote, respond to a question on the use of international consultants in TCP. Concern was expressed that it may be excessive. The Secretariat recognizes this issue and has been progressively reducing the proportion of international consultants in the total. This in fact is in the Programme Implementation Report which you reviewed this morning. If you look at Table 4.1-4 in paragraph 608 of the PIR, that is C2005/8, you will see that the share of international consultants has fallen from 72 percent of TCP budgets in 1996-97 to 17 percent in 2002-2003. So it is a massive reduction. The use of national consultants has doubled as has the use of partnership schemes - that has more than doubled, of course. So we recognize the problem, we are addressing it, and I think we have very effectively changed the balance. If you are talking in terms of personnel input, that is the number of person months, international consultants only make up 7 percent of the total now, whereas national consultants make up 69 percent of the total. I think you can see that good progress has been made on that particular point.

Talking about priorities brings me to the resources issue. I would like to start with the external audit issue which was raised by the Distinguished Delegate of the Netherlands on behalf of the

EU. This issue is raised in a very substantial report by the External Auditor on budgeting in FAO and you will find that in C2005/5 B, that is the External Auditor's report for the last biennium. The basic problem that he points to is that the resource levels in the MTP cannot be matched to or reconciled with the resource levels in any subsequent version of the budget. It is always different and, in fact, there is no common resource assumption between the two. A part of the problem, of course, is that member nations discuss the resource levels for this institution over a long period of time. For example, you have started today, in November 2004; in June 2005 you will discuss the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and again resource levels. In November 2005 you will discuss them again and you, incidentally, by experience, will not decide on the resource level in any of those three meetings. You will, in fact, pass it to the Conference who will decide at the last minute.

To address that problem and respond to the external auditor, the one thing that we have done is prepare for the first time this MTP as ZRG as well as RG. The proposal is Real Growth, but there is an underlying ZRG proposal in there. We did that because we always build the budget first of all at ZRG and then build it up to RG or build it down to ZNG. So, it means that we now have a common base assumption between the two documents which should mean that we ought to be able to reconcile them in the final analysis. That does not mean, however, that we can solve the problem, because the MTP will not be the same as the budget which you approve. In part, because the Secretariat cannot anticipate the decision about the budget level. Australia correctly pointed out that none of the proposals at the last Conference for the budget matched the budget that was approved. In fact, the Secretariat presented several proposals but the amount approved was neither RG, ZRG or ZNG. It was an amount that came to the Distinguished Ambassador of Italy in a dream. Now, as the Secretariat does not have easy access to the dreams of delegates, which may be a relief to you all, we could not know what budget level to apply in advance and that problem will continue to apply.

In fact, the External Auditor also addresses this issue under the same recommendation. In paragraph 58, he says: "The new programme model used in the Organization is based on the principles of results-based budgeting in which programme formulation revolves around a set of pre-defined objectives and expected results. In results-based budgeting, resource levels represent the optimum mix of what is required to accomplish the desired results. The growth rates of required resources both in the MTP and PWB should ideally be driven by expected results and outputs". In paragraph 63, he acknowledges that the Director-General had to reduce the growth rate in order to respond to a call by the Membership to limit the burden on increased assessments, but he notes that such an approach is in contradiction to the principal results-based budgeting as resources should match the expected outputs and results. And, in fact, this is the very point that Finland was making and it brings me to the basic difficulty faced by this Organization today.

I have already recounted to you, the Membership, a long list of priorities on which many agree, require additional resources. Yet, you the membership can point to no single activity which you agree that should be eliminated. You, the membership, at the same time, through other bodies, are asking for more resources to be allocated to, for example, IPPC, to the Right-to-Food, to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Yet in this body you are asking for scenarios which might well involve cuts of up to 45 million dollars. Now, in seeking scenarios such as ZNG, the reasonable argument is put that they are needed to provide the information which members require in order to make sound decisions on the budget level. You need to understand what would be reduced if the budget was cut, or what would be increased if you gave us a Real Growth budget. That is very reasonable.

However it is a complete illusion. I point, for example, to what you have heard from the two major donors today, USA and Japan. They call for a ZNG scenario to be prepared, but they also make it perfectly clear that their national policy is to apply ZNG to all international organizations. In other words, it does not matter what we propose in the way of programmes, or what results we plan to achieve, the budget will remain the same. That makes the question, what is the purpose of the scenario?

Several countries, including the Netherlands, India and Brazil have expressed concern about the substitution of regular programme budgetary resources with extra-budgetary resources and we would agree entirely, but where do we go?

I would like to conclude by saying that the process that we are now and have been facing for the last ten years is like death by a thousand knives or a thousand cuts, if you like. The budget has been gradually reduced over the last ten years by 24 percent. That is; if you had awarded ZRG to this Organization, it would be 24 percent more than it is today. In fact, through this period, we are at the same time being consistently asked to do more. The consequence of continuing this policy can only be a reduction in the effectiveness of the Organization in delivering its services to you, the Membership, until such time as it finally fails to meet any of its objectives. This is surely an issue that your proposed independent evaluation of FAO must address. That is, it must do something about matching the resources available to the demands that you, the Membership, make on the Organization.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Mr Wade, for your comments and answers on the questions raised.

With this, we conclude our work on Agenda Item 10.

Let us move on to Item 11, the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee (May 2004 and September 2004).

The papers you have in front of you are CL 127/8 and CL 127/16.

I would like to now ask Mr Seminario Portocarrero, Chairperson of the Finance Committee – who chaired the May Session – and Mr Wermuth, Chairperson of the Programme Committee – who chaired the September Session – to introduce the Item.

Afterwards, I would like to pass the floor to Mr Wade, Director of Programme, Budget and Evaluation, so that he can make his introductory remarks on the Item.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

11. Report of the Joint Meetings of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee (May 2004 and September 2004) (CL 127/8; CL 127/16)

11. Rapport des Réunions conjointes du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier (mai 2004 et septembre 2004) (CL 127/8; CL 127/16)

11. Informes de las Reuniones Conjuntas de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas (12 de mayo de 2004 y 29 de septiembre de 2004) (CL 127/8; CL 127/16)

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTACARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

El tema que vamos a abordar es Ajustes al Programa de Labores y Presupuestos para el 2004-2005. Este no es un tema ajeno a lo que hemos venido discutiendo esta mañana y al comenzar esta tarde. Muchos de los elementos expuestos en esta sala tienen relación con lo que les voy a comentar, lo sucedido en las reuniones conjuntas entre el Comité de Programas y el de Finanzas.

En primer lugar quiero informarles que hemos tenido un rico debate sobre el tema, tanto al interior del Comité de Finanzas y del de Programas como de manera conjunta. Ambos Comités reconocieron el considerable trabajo de elaborar un conjunto de propuestas que tuvieran en cuenta las prioridades establecidas por todos los Miembros en circunstancias difíciles, y nos referimos a circunstancias difíciles porque había una reducción de recursos en 51.2 millones de dólares, o sea una reducción media de 6.4 por ciento.

Los Comités, manifestamos nuestra preocupación básicamente por dos programas, en los cuales solicitamos que las reducciones fuesen menores: el Programa 3.1.2 Asistencia para las Políticas en las Distintas Regiones, y el Programa 5.2.1 Servicios Financieros. Sobre estos dos programas solicitamos que en lo posible las reducciones sean inferiores y que, a través de los ahorros por eficiencia, se puedan restituir los presupuestos de estos dos programas.

Los Comités refrendaron en términos generales los ajustes del presupuesto, permitiendo de tal modo a la Secretaría proceder a la aplicación del Programa de Labores modificado. Asimismo los Comités reconocieron que el prolongado período de restricciones presupuestarias había impulsado a los Miembros a expresar grave preocupación respecto de la capacidad de la Organización de cumplir su mandato. Los Comités instaron a la Organización a iniciar un proceso que le permitiera cumplir sus objetivos estratégicos.

Ewald WERMUTH (Committee)

Indeed, I had the privilege to chair the Joint Meeting of the Programme of Finance Committee in September 2004 and actually, I can be very brief on reporting the results of the discussion on Savings and Efficiency in Governance. You may remember that you actually tasked the Programme of Finance Committee to seek further Savings and Efficiency in Governance and we continue working on that with the collaboration of the Secretariat.

On Savings and Efficiency in Governance, the September 2004 Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees reviewed proposals regarding the management of the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference to take place in November 2005, which has been reduced from nine to seven days. The Committee noted that the details of in-session arrangements, for the Conference, would be included in a document on the draft arrangements to be submitted to the Hundred and Twenty-eight Council for approval in June 2005.

The Committees were advised that the reduced Conference time frame meant that no more than two round tables on the same theme could be convened and that their interactive nature would best be assured by limiting participation, preferably, to Ministers only.

The Committees requested that the modalities concerning the round tables, and economy measures, be the subject of a detailed analysis, including a comparative study with other United Nation agencies and be submitted to the May 2005 Session of the Joint Meeting.

This is work in progress, Mr Chairman, and I leave it here.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation Division)

I really do not have much to add, except to bring the Council up-to-date with the issue of reallocating resources from efficiency savings to the Finance Division and to the Policy Assistance Division. This has been taken note of by the Secretariat and, in fact, we have been instructed to allocate resources as soon as we can. Unfortunately, we are also being hit – in addition to the 6.4 percent cut which we applied to arrive at the adjusted budget – by some increases in staff costs, which are offsetting any savings we can produce at the moment. We are making every effort to respond to the request of the two Committees and we will do so as soon as we can generate the savings that are necessary.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GILARDO (Colombia)

Voy a intervenir en nombre del GRULAC con respecto a la reunión conjunta de los Comités de Programa y Finanzas. El GRULAC comparte plenamente la preocupación manifestada por los Comités de Programa y Finanzas relativo a la cancelación de la Consulta sobre Gestión de la Información Agraria (COAIM), que debería celebrarse en el segundo semestre del 2005, pues entendemos que es el único foro donde los Estados Miembros de esta Organización tienen la posibilidad de intercambiar informaciones y experiencias. Sin embargo, vemos con beneplácito que la Secretaría presentará una alternativa a esta Consulta, sin que ello signifique la cancelación definitiva de la Consulta sobre Gestión de la Información Agraria. Es por esta razón que

solicitamos se mantenga la misma para el siguiente Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, lo mismo que en el Plan a Plazo Medio.

El GRULAC entiende la situación presupuestal de la Organización pero, de igual modo, hace un llamado no sólo a la FAO sino a cada uno de los Estados Miembros para que entiendan la necesidad de avanzar en la consecución de un equilibrio lingüístico y, en ese contexto, la definitiva eliminación de la COAIM atentaría contra este objetivo.

Con estas consideraciones el GRULAC expresa su apoyo al trabajo realizado por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, lo mismo que a la Secretaría, y acoge con beneplácito el informe presentado de ante los documentos CL 127/8 y CL 127/16.

CHAIRMAN

Are there any other delegations wishing to take the floor on this Agenda Item?

We move now to our next Agenda Item.

Before that, would someone like to comment after the lively debates we had on this Agenda Item. There is nothing to be commented.

This brings us to the conclusion of our work on Agenda Item 11. We now move to Agenda Item 12, Reports of the Ninety-first Session of the Programme Committee, held in Rome in May 2004 and Ninety-second Session of the Programme Committee, held in September 2004.

The documents in front of you are CL 127/11 and CL 127/12.

I would now like to ask Ambassador Wermuth, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, to introduce the Report. Mr Wade, Director of Programme and Budget Evaluation may also wish to make introductory remarks for this Agenda Item.

12. Reports of the Ninety-First (Rome, May 2004) and Ninety-Second (Rome, September 2004) Sessions of the Programme Committee (CL 127/11; CL 127/12)

12. Rapports des quatre-vingt-onzième et quatre-vingt-douzième sessions du Comité du Programme (Rome, mai et septembre 2004, respectivement) (CL 127/11; CL 127/12)

12. Informes de los Períodos de Sesiones 91º (Roma, 10-14 de mayo de 2004) y 92º (Roma, 27 de septiembre – 1º de octubre de 2004) del Comité del Programa (CL 127/11; CL 127/12)

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

May I, from the outset, pay tribute to the other ten Members of the Programme Committee, as I did yesterday? I commend them with their very open attitude and their engagement in the discussions of the Programme Committee on how we can improve and enhance FAO's performance. I feel very privileged, to preside over these people as I see a lot of commitment and care for the Organization. I hope that our work provides valuable advice to the Council and is supportive, as well, of the Secretariat's efforts to increase FAO's overall effectiveness.

I briefly want to touch on three issues: a little bit of history; then, on the budget and the implications of the cumulative budget cuts imposed on FAO; a few words on decentralization – which is a very promising discussion and may be very beneficial for FAO and its effectiveness; and then I have some final words on the TCP review.

You may recall that in the Ninety-first Session, the Programme Committee had to propose a judgement to the Programme of Work and Budget 2004-2005, to bring it into line with the total net appropriation of US\$749.1 million, voted by the Conference for this biennium.

The Committee draws the attention of Council to the very, very serious concern of many, many Members that a cumulative budget restrictions experienced by the Organization over recent biennia have led to a much weakened capacity to meet recognized challenges and to assist the Membership in the implementation of such international pronouncements as the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals.

The Committee noted, as well, that the Technical and Economic Programmes, under Chapter 2 of the Programme of Work and Budget, had to absorb more than half of the total reduction while Major Programmes 2.1, 2.1 and 2.5 had been proportionally hit harder than Fisheries and Forestry. Those are the programmes on the Agricultural Support System, Economic and Social Affairs, and the Sustainable Development Department.

Of course, the Committee welcomed the year cooperation of further efficiency savings in the proposals and the intent to pursue the search for additional savings, including, in particular, through structural change. However, the Committee recommended that should sufficient efficiency savings be found, US\$1.34 million will be restored to the programme which deals with policy assistance to various regions, as in accorded high priority to delivery of policy advice to Member Countries through decentralized offices. The Committee observed that this programme had been treated comparatively harshly in terms of budget reductions.

The September 2004 Session of the Programme Committee spent much time on the evaluation of FAO's decentralization and the Policy and Operational Framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

Taking Decentralization first, the Committee welcomed the depths and the independence of the evaluation of FAO's decentralization; emphasized its appreciation of both the Evaluation Team's work and FAO management for its role in working with the Evaluation Team; and for its positive and constructive response aimed at building on the evaluation to improve services to Member Countries at both national and regional levels.

Distinguished colleagues, if I can give you a personal advice, I would recommend you to read the Decentralization Evaluation. The Report contains a wealth of interesting information on how FAO conducts its business and how effective it is at the country level. It is a very promising avenue to explore, I assure you that the Secretariat – which we were told, is very enthusiastic about the Decentralization Evaluation – will pursue the matter further in our next meeting. The Committee concurred with the main identification of the problems within the Report and while more time was needed to consider the details of proposals, there was general agreement with the overall thrust of the proposed decentralization strategy.

The details of our elaborations are contained in the Report of the Ninety-second Session but I will highlight a few areas of our discussion.

Members emphasized that FAO had to be more rapid and flexible in response to requests for advice at a national level and that work, at a policy and strategy level, had become increasingly important. The Committee suggested that, to the extent possible, FAO's decentralized capacity should be more proportionately matched to: firstly, the needs of countries – particularly in terms of rural poverty and food insecurity; and secondly, those countries and areas of work where it could expect most impact.

The Committee agreed on the need for increased decentralization of authority to improve a responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness. And, in this context, emphasize the importance of decentralized staff competencies and performance – noting the importance of ensuring that the necessary competencies were in place both among national and international staff.

The Committee welcomed FAO's management proposal to develop, for consideration, by the Ninety-third Session of the Committee, a comprehensive response to the evaluation, including an action plan for strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization through decentralization. Management was urged to make clear where additional resources would be required for one time and for recurrent costs and the envisaged benefits in terms of FAO's services to Members. The Governing Bodies could then address the proposals on their merits. In this context it was noted that proposals would be progressively incorporated into the Programme of Work and Budget for consideration by the Governing Bodies.

The Programme Committee will have a detailed discussion of the findings and recommendations of the Evaluation Report and consider the comprehensive management response and action plan at its next meeting, so as to be able to give a proper advice to next years Council.

Finally, I would like to report on the Committee's consideration of the Policy and Operational Framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

In appreciating the view of many Members, that TCP was of critical value for developing nations, and reaffirming the Programmes core objective to provide unprogrammed, short-term, flexible assistance in response to the unforeseen needs of developing countries, the Committee underscored the importance of the ongoing TCP Review process, as an opportunity to strengthen the Programmes value and impact for Member Countries. In this regard, Members supported a proposal aimed at ensuring that a TCP could respond to the needs of government in the most effective, efficient and strategic manner possible, through strength and dialogue between FAO and governments at a country level.

At this stage I would like to applaud the Secretariat for its very, very open attitude towards the discussion on the underlining principles of the TCP.

The Committee agreed to the Secretariat's suggestions regarding the development of preliminary proposals for strengthening the TCP – for discussion at the Ninety-third Session – and gave guidance, as detailed in the Programme Committee Report. It also agreed that the Evaluation Service would undertake an independent review of certain aspects of TCP, including recommendations for strengthening its effectiveness for the Committee's consideration at its next Session

This concludes my Report on the work of the Programme Committee in this year and it provides an indication of some of the work that the Committee will undertake in 2005.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I think the Chairman's summary covers just about everything so I will pass if I may.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

El GRULAC se congratula de la composición del Comité del Programa en el 91° y el 92° períodos de sesiones, cuyos Miembros, en representación de todos los grupos regionales, han hecho aportes de claridad discursiva consistentes con el mandato recibido, demostrando un profundo conocimiento de los temas y cooperando al fortalecimiento institucional de la Organización bajo el positivo liderazgo de su Presidente el Embajador de los Países Bajos, Ewald Wermuth. El GRULAC da la bienvenida a la evaluación independiente de la descentralización de la FAO, tema que continua abierto y será examinado por el 93° período de sesiones en mayo del 2005, a la espera que la Secretaría pueda formular un estudio detallado de sus importantes recomendaciones.

El GRULAC desea reiterar ante el Consejo lo expresado en ocasión de las dos recientes sesiones del Comité del Programa, su apoyo irrestricto al fortalecimiento de los Programas de Campo y el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y su resuelta disposición a continuar trabajando junto a los demás grupos regionales para apoyar a la FAO en la consecución de sus objetivos.

Ms Radha SINGH (India)

India commends the Programme Committee on their in depth deliberations at the Ninety-first and Ninety-second Sessions. With regard to the Programme of Work and Budget 2004/05 we reiterate the deep concern about the damaging impact on many valuable programmes stemming from the budget cuts of US\$51 million below Real Growth proposal. This will obviously weaken the capacity of FAO to meet the expectations of Members and we are seriously concerned about its impact on the Organization.

By and large, we support the proposed adjustments to the programme and work budget as a compromise in the given circumstances. We also agree with the Programme Committee's suggestion that the reduction in Programme 3.12 policy assistance to various regions be brought

in line with the average for all other programmes. We are happy that the PWB provides full protection to the TCP allocation although we would have preferred a higher allocation to this entity, as this activity goes to the very core of the organizational mandate. We also appreciate the achievements of FAO as reported in the Programme Implementation Report 2002/03 including full utilization of budgetary resources.

As regards the Medium Term Plan 2006–11 we support the revised format with the modifications recommended by the Programme Committee. We endorse the criteria for priority setting and resource allocations among entities. We strongly feel that the MTP should have proposed a more ambitious growth rate but, in the interest of arriving at a consensus, we are prepared to accept the indicative growth rate of 2.2 percent proposed by the Secretariat.

With regard to the evaluation of FAO's decentralization to be an important and valuable exercise. Decentralization is a key element for improving FAO's efficiency in the field and responsiveness to Member's demands.

We look forward to the response of the management, to the recommendations of the evaluation and to a time bound implementation plan. We note the interesting discussion in the Programme Committee on the policy and operational framework of TCP. We reiterate the critical value of the programme for developing countries for obtaining on programme short-term flexible assistance to meet unforeseen needs. With India's experience of more than half a century of TCPs we wish to underscore the key role played by this intervention in promoting growth of agriculture and allied sectors in developing countries.

In any strategic plan this area of strength must continue to find the highest priority.

Felix Jose MONTES (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to first express its appreciation to the evaluation team for a very timely and comprehensive evaluation of FAO's decentralization.

We note with interest the 22 recommendations it made and we are glad that out of these recommendations 10 are being called for early implementation and 11 are called for implementation for the biennium 2006/2007 and beyond. One recommendation does not have a time frame but nevertheless is very important.

While the Philippines supports all the recommendations made we would like to highlight our own recommendations 19 and 20 which we believe would be able to improve the delivery of FAO for TCPs. We think that the internal management restrictions being put on TCP funds have caused bottlenecks in the delivery of service which nullified the very emergency nature of the funding request. We have a saying in the Philippines, "what good is the grass if the horse is already dead". We hope that the Secretariat can revisit these restrictions so that TCP assistance will be faster and timely.

We are pleased to read that Management does agree with many of the recommendations and that steps are being taken to improve the delivery of these actions even if the response is a preliminary one. We are looking with great interest to hear the final response of the Secretariat on this recommendation.

Romualdo BETTINI (Italy)

Just to ask you if you could allow the floor to be given to the Representative of Netherlands who will speak on behalf of the European Community and the 25 Member States.

Jeroen T. M. G. STEEGHS (Observer for Netherlands)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States, the Candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey also align themselves with this statement.

We would like to express our appreciation to all members of the Programme Committee for their dedicated and skilful work. The Committee's advice is highly valued as it guides us through often difficult topics key to the future of this Organization.

Having read with great interest the two reports submitted to us for discussion, we wish to comment on three issues. In our earlier statement on agenda item 10 we have already taken into account the Programme Committee's views on the Medium Term Plan 2006-2009.

The European Community welcomes the constructive discussion in the Committee on the proposals to update and modernise the Technical Cooperation Programme. We applaud the Secretariat's open approach towards revisiting the underlying principles such as maximum size, duration and eligibility. The consultative process, the Secretariat and the Committee have agreed upon raises expectations about the result of the consultations with all stakeholders concerned. We support fully to include in this process external stakeholders, like the recipient and donor countries, other UN agencies, etc. Substantiating the review by an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of past TCP interventions is equally important. We are looking forward to receiving proposals in the next year's Council to strengthen TCP's impact at the country level. Our hope is that an adapted Technical Cooperation Programme will further enhance synergy between operational programmes and normative activities, and will be supportive to country driven development processes.

Mr Chairman, the development paradigm has in recent years shifted to country-led strategies on the basis of which bilateral and multilateral donors and the international NGOs aligned their development assistance. For that reason, many bilateral donors have decentralized their development portfolio. Increasingly, the UN agencies follow suit by strengthening and coordinating their country programmes. Therefore, the comprehensive and in depth evaluation on FAO's decentralization comes at a critical juncture in time and we understand that the Programme Committee, the Management and the evaluators have had a thorough discussion on the broad themes of the Evaluation Report. We think indeed that the Decentralisation Evaluation Report merits full attention as building on the Director General's previous reforms in the 1960s is essential for FAO to keep track with the dominant changes in the international environment and retain its effectiveness. We do concur with the general thrust of the decentralisation strategy.

However, we fully understand the Committee's decision to allow more time to the Secretariat to respond to the concept as well as to the individual recommendations. For following up on these successfully, enormous efforts are required by Management in terms of structural and procedural changes, working culture, delegation of authority and enhancing staff competencies. We welcome the Secretariat's commitment to this challenging process and are looking forward to their comprehensive response and action plan for strengthening the effectiveness of the organization through decentralization where appropriate.

The European Community encourages the Programme Committee to reflect on the issue of enhancement of further strategic partnerships with other UN Agencies and the donor community at country level. This could be taken up in relation to the Decentralization Evaluation.

We value the stepwise approach of the Programme Committee on the setting of priorities for the organization's work at the programme level. It is a complex issue and we regard the committee's discussions very much as work-in-progress. In our statement on the Programme Implementation Report 2002-2003 the question was raised if resources were not too thinly spread over a broad range of activities. We found the paragraph in the MTP on priority setting in general difficult to understand. Furthermore, the paragraph does not address the basic challenge of resourcing FAO's programme activities, within the budget set by Conference, adequately so that they can be carried out effectively. Therefore, we encourage the Committee, at its next session, to focussing this discussion in the context of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The availability of the results of the first batch of the so-called auto-evaluation by the Programme Managers should facilitate this. In our view auto-evaluations have huge potential to assess the effectiveness of programmes and the need for their continuation. We, therefore, strongly support the full implementation of this instrument.

Ms Sharon KOTOK (United States of America)

The United States would like to address the evaluation of FAO's decentralization. The United States welcomes the evaluation of FAO's decentralization efforts. The report identifies many weaknesses in the Organizations operations in the field and makes valuable recommendations on how to remedy them. All of these recommendations should be taken seriously.

FAO's success or failure as a key institution promoting rural development is measured on the success of its work on the ground. Our ambassadors and our missions' observations of FAO's country offices, have revealed some excellent operations and some that were not. As this report clearly points out, FAO needs to make certain that its delivery is uniformly of the highest quality in all countries served. We also welcome the Programme and Finance Committees call for a costed and time bound Implementation Plan from the Secretariat for strengthening FAO's effectiveness through decentralization.

We look forward to reviewing the Secretariat's response at the next meeting. We would like to highlight the following issues identified in the report. It is important for FAO to clarify its priorities in each country. The evaluation recommends that national policy frameworks be developed in consultation with the governments concerned and notes that this would be welcomed by governments, other United Nations Organizations and donors keen to enter into partnerships with FAO.

Second, FAO should continue to strengthen partnerships with WFP, IFAD and other relevant Organizations at the country and regional levels. Third, FAO's decentralization capacity should be more closely matched to those countries in areas of work where FAO could expect the greatest impact. Fourth, the evaluation found that procedures for FAO Representatives and for senior regional staff have not been fully open and competitive, and that criteria for assessing staff performance have not been adequately developed.

Encouragingly, the majority of FAO representatives, 66 percent of them, responded to a questionnaire, that they would prefer a performance assessment system where they were assessed against outcome targets and actual achievements.

The Evaluation notes that United Nation funds and programmes as well as ILO, UNIDO and WHO have formalized staff assessment systems and that the UNDP system links staff assessment into its results based management system.

The United States supports recommendations to raise competencies including the introduction of an open and competitive selection process for FAORs and senior regional staff as well as strengthened appraisal, rotation and training, as well as greater gender balances in decentralized offices.

Finally, the evaluation made proposals for increasing resources for FAO Country Offices including the use of volunteers. In this regard, the United States Peace Corps will be signing a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation between FAO and Peace Corp volunteers.

David INGHAM (Australia)

Australia would like to make some brief comments on two issues. Firstly, we welcome the consensus reached during the Programme Committee meeting on the process for considering change to the TCP, to modernize it and to make it more responsive to the needs of the FAO Membership. Second, Australia welcomes the evaluation of FAO's decentralization and we commend the excellent analysis and recommendations in the constructive response of the Secretariat in addressing some of these recommendations.

Australia looks forward to further consideration of the evaluation and the Implementation Plan at the next Programme Committee meeting.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Observer for Afghanistan)

I think it would be fair to say that the Programme Committee has not yet made its assessment of the decentralization evaluation. It is a very in-depth, independent, but very complex evaluation. There are so many issues raised in that, something like 22 recommendations. So we had a very first review of that evaluation. I do not think we have gone into depth. The reason why we could not go into depth is because the management responsible was not ready. So it was agreed that we would go again in- depth after us receiving Management's response, and I hope it could be fair to say that the final, review of the Programme Committee will not be available until May next year. That is with respect to decentralization.

On TCP, it was pointed out that it is not an independent evaluation, it is a review by the Secretariat itself, it is looking, it is an auto-evaluation of the TCP Unit by the Secretariat, and I think there we agreed to a situation where a road map is established on how they should do this evaluation of themselves. I think two other issues that need to be emphasized is that we requested, the Programme Committee requested, that two other issues be looked at. One is eligibility, should TCP be widely spread or should it be limited to a category of countries? That is one point. Another point that we tried to emphasize and, I think India said it and I said it, is co-financing. Can TCP engage in co-financing? This is the situation and I think on both evaluations it would be premature to say that the Programme Committee has any definite views, it will be in May 2005.

Ewald WERMUTH (Chairman, Programme Committee)

For reasons of brevity I will not go into detail in responding to many observations made by the distinguished colleagues. The issue on TCP and the review of TCP and the decentralization of evaluation are both issues where we have to continue our debate and I understand there is much interest as well from the floor in the result of these discussions with the Secretariat and, as was pointed by our colleague from Afghanistan, we are waiting for the process to be evolved on TCP and on the in-depth management response by the Secretariat on the decentralization evaluation. So, we will come back on both issues to you with an appropriate advice after having all the information available.

I have no doubt whatsoever that both these issues will attract a lot of interest from the Members of the Programme Committee and I hope that each of the Members of the Programme Committee will consult with their respective regions so that we get a full picture of each others interests in these matters, and I can come back to the Council with a balanced advice. So for the moment I feel supported by the Council's comments and again feel very privileged to preside over a Committee which is very much interested in carrying forward both issues.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

Really there was only one question I think. It was a question from the distinguished delegate of the Netherlands who expressed his hope and concern maybe, that the analysis of external collaborators in the external consultations on TCP review include a wide range of stakeholders. I can confirm that it would cover Governments, Donors, UN Agencies, UNDP, and five IFIs and that it will be in 26 different countries.

CHAIRMAN

We are progressing quite quickly and we conclude now the work on agenda item 12, and we now move to agenda item 13. The reports of the Hundred and Sixth and Hundred and Seventh and Hundred and Eighth Sessions of the Finance Committee. We have four sub-items under agenda item 13. Sub-item 13.1 regarding the status of contributions 2004 and this is document CL 127/LIM/1, sub-item 13.2 budgetary performance 2002-2003 and sub-item 13.3 on the results of the application of the new methodology for equitable geographic distribution. The relevant document for sub-item 13.3 is CL 127/ and finally we have sub-item 13.4 concerning other matters arising out of the reports of the Finance Committee. Document CL127/LIM/1 regarding the status of contributions for 2004 is presented to the Council for information in accordance with

General Rules 24.3B and 27.7I of the Organization. The document has been prepared by the Secretariat to provide the Council with an update on contributions at 18 November 2004. At that date the Organization had received over US\$126 million and EU119 million in respect of 2004 assessments. This represents 74.12 percent of US dollars and 68.23 percent of Euros. The receipts of areas of contributions have amounted to US\$33.2 million which is substantially higher than the same time last year. Regrettably, as of 18 November 2004, 60 Member Nations, which is over 32 percent of the Membership of the Organization, have not made the payment towards their US\$ portion of the 2004 assessment and 84 Member Nations, which is 45 percent of the Membership, have not made any payment towards their Euro portion in the 2004 assessment.

In addition, 53 Member Nations still have arrears outstanding from 2003 and previous years, and 34 owe arrears in such amounts as would prejudice their right to vote at the forthcoming session of the Conference in accordance with Article 3.4 of the Constitution.

No decision is called for on this item at this time. It is customary, however, for the Council to emphasize the importance for all Member Nations irrespective of size to honour their financial obligations towards the Organization since only in this way, with proper financing can the Organization continue to fulfill its mandate.

The Council may wish to include a statement to this effect on its report on this item.

I would like to underline the fact that issues requiring the Council's attention are presented in the table at the beginning of each Report of the Finance Committee. Ambassador Seminario Porto Carraro, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, will now introduce the report of the Finance Committee and Mr Mehboob, Assistant Director General of the Administration and Finance Department, may also introduce this item if he so wishes.

13. Reports of the Hundred and Sixth (Rome, February 2004), Hundred and Seventh (Rome, May 2004) and Hundred and Eighth (Rome, September 2004) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 127/13; CL 127/14; CL 127/15)

13. Rapports des cent sixième, cent septième et cent huitième sessions du Comité financier (Rome, février, mai et septembre 2004, respectivement) (CL 127/13; CL 127/14; CL 127/15)

13. Informes de los Períodos de Sesiones 106º (Roma, 16 de febrero de 2004), 107º (Roma, 10-18 de mayo de 2004) Y 108º (Roma, 27 de septiembre – 1º de octubre de 2004) del Comité de Finanzas (CL 127/13; CL 127/14; CL 127/15)

13.1 Status of Contributions 2004 (CL 127/LIM/1)

13.1 Situation en ce qui concerne les contributions 2004 (CL 127/LIM/1)

13.1 Estado de las cuotas de 2004 (CL 127/LIM/1)

13.2 Budgetary Performance 2002-2003

13.2 Exécution du budget 2002-2003

13.2 Ejecución del presupuesto de 2002-2003

13.3 Results of the Application of the New Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution (CL 127/6)

13.3 Résultats de l'application de la nouvelle méthodologie pour une représentation géographique équitable (CL 127/6)

13.3 Resultados de la aplicación de la nueva metodología para una distribución geográfica equitativa (CL 127/6)

13.4 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports

13.4 Autres questions découlant des rapports

13.4 Otros asuntos planteados en los informes

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

En primer lugar les pido paciencia porque el informe va a parecer un poco largo, más aún si estamos hablando de números y cifras que por lo general son frías. Sin embargo, este informe que

presento al Consejo refleja la importancia de los temas que hemos visto en el Comité de Finanzas; refleja también la dedicación demostrada por los miembros del Comité de Finanzas al tratar estos temas y lo delicado que son; sin duda nos ha demandado en nuestras reuniones largos días de discusión y en este informe presentaremos algunos resúmenes de ellos. Yo, como Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, solamente he sido el conductor de los miembros de este Comité y el producto que llevo a consideración del Consejo es el reflejo, o el resultado, del trabajo de los señores miembros del Comité de Finanzas. Dicho esto, paso a informarles lo que hemos venido trabajando a lo largo de este año.

En primer lugar, me complace presentarle los informes de los tres períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas que tengo el honor de presidir y que se han celebrado en el curso del 2004. Estos informes se presentan al Consejo en los documentos CL 127/13, CL 127/14 y CL 127/15. En primer lugar, deseo referirme al 106º período de sesiones celebrado en febrero pasado en que se eligió por unanimidad al Sr. Anthony Beattie, Representante del Reino Unido como vicepresidente para el presente año. Se convocó esta reunión con carácter extraordinario para abordar exclusivamente cuestiones relacionadas con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos; entre los temas que vimos destacan: el examen de los procesos operativos, financiación de los proyectos experimentales, así como la base para el cálculo de los costos de apoyo indirecto correspondiente a los costos de transporte marítimo. Nuestro informe sobre tales cuestiones se presentó a la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA para su estudio. Las agendas de trabajo de nuestros dos períodos de sesiones ordinarios, me refiero al 107º y 108º períodos, cubrieron una amplia gama de asuntos, entre ellos, presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos que conciernen y afectan la situación general de la Organización. Además del examen de la situación financiera de la Organización, el Comité de Finanzas estudió cuestiones de supervisión, entre ellas, el Informe Anual del Director General y el Programa de Trabajo del Auditor Externo. Como de costumbre, estos períodos de sesiones también incluyeron reuniones conjuntas de lo que hemos ya informado al Consejo.

Deseo comenzar con el Tema 13.1, Estado de las cuotas del 2004. La salud financiera de la Organización siguió siendo materia de gran preocupación para el Comité y a ello se dedicó mucho tiempo en los dos períodos de sesiones ordinarios. El Comité tomó nota que el déficit del Fondo General se incrementó de 90 millones de dólares a finales del 2003 a 134 millones de dólares al 30 de junio de 2004. Varios factores han incidido en el déficit, pero permítame resaltar dos de ellos: a) la continua disminución del porcentaje de recaudación de las cuotas, tendencia con graves repercusiones para el flujo de caja de la Organización; y b) la persistencia de un nivel elevado de atrasos en el pago de las cuotas, que ascendía a 77 millones de dólares. La liquidez de la Organización seguirá viéndose seriamente afectada por dicho déficit y por otras presiones, entre ellas, permíteseme señalar, las cargas correspondientes de amortización bienal del pasivo relativo a los gastos médicos después del cese en el servicio que, según los cálculos más recientes, crecerá de los 14.1 millones de dólares a los 30 millones en el 2004-2005, y la necesidad de respaldar un ritmo acelerado de desembolsos del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, una tendencia que se espera continúe. El punto c) del déficit: los desembolsos necesarios para cubrir la asignación de 41 millones de dólares con cargo a los atrasos para gastos que se realizan una sola vez en el 2004-2005; y d) los efectos de cualquier retraso ulterior en el pago de las cuotas de los Estados Unidos. El Comité fue informado de que la proyección correspondiente a la posición neta del capital social arrojará un saldo negativo de 95 millones de dólares a finales del 2005. Sin embargo, se hizo notar que si todos los Estados Miembros abonaran la totalidad de las cuotas corrientes y atrasadas en 2004-2005, las consecuencias sobre el déficit consistirían en el regreso de la Organización a una posición general de capital social positiva cifrada en 35 millones de dólares. Las deliberaciones detalladas del Comité sobre la situación financiera de la Organización figuran en los párrafos 9 al 18 del documento CL 127/14, y en los párrafos 5 al 16 del documento CL 127/15. Además, se facilita una actualización de la situación de las cuotas en el documento CL 127/Lim/1.

Ahora pasaré al Tema 13.2, Ejecución del Presupuesto del 2002-2003. De conformidad con lo dispuesto en el artículo 4.6 del reglamento financiero, el Comité examinó el 37º Informe Anual del Director General sobre la ejecución del presupuesto y las transferencias en el Programa y el

Presupuesto, basado en la cuentas por comprobar para el 2002-2003. El Comité tomó nota de que la consignación correspondiente al 2002-2003 de 651.8 millones de dólares, se había gastado en un 99.9 por ciento y que las transferencias de los capítulos 2 y 4 a los capítulos 1 y 3, se había mantenido dentro de los niveles previamente aprobados por el Comité. El Comité refrendó el Informe para remitirlo al Consejo. Las consideraciones del Comité se detallan en los párrafos 4 al 8 del documento CL 127/14 y el informe se adjunta como Anexo n° 1.

Paso a continuación a tratar el tema 13.3, Resultados de la aplicación de la nueva metodología para una distribución geográfica equitativa. En diciembre del 2003 la Conferencia decidió introducir una nueva metodología para la determinación de la distribución geográfica equitativa. La Conferencia solicitó a la Secretaría que, por conducto del Comité de Finanzas, presentara un informe al Consejo sobre los resultados de la aplicación de la nueva metodología junto con la información, con fines comparativos, sobre el resultado de añadir al sistema un factor de ponderación por grado. Según se señala en el documento CL 127/6, la aplicación de la nueva fórmula dio como resultado un notable incremento en el número de países equitativamente representados. Entre las tres opciones analizadas, a saber, dos métodos de ponderación por grado y el método no basado en la ponderación por grado, se observaron pequeñas variaciones en el nivel de representación. El Comité de Finanzas recibió garantías de que la consideración principal en la selección del personal era la búsqueda de los niveles más elevados de competencia técnica e integridad. El Comité de Finanzas tomó nota del análisis realizado sobre la aplicación de la nueva metodología; las consideraciones del Comité figuran en los párrafos 90 y 92 del documento CL 127/15.

Paso a continuación a informar sobre el Tema 13.4, Otros asuntos planteados en los informes. En el informe del 107° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, al tratar Asuntos para la supervisión, se hizo una evaluación de los Informes separados del Auditor Externo sobre la eficacia en el uso de los recursos. El Comité recordó que el Informe del Auditor Externo constaba de tres partes, a saber: la opinión del auditor externo sobre la cuentas de la Organización, las cuentas comprobadas con los correspondientes cuadros y notas, y una parte detallada conocida como la parte de la Eficiencia en el uso de recursos que contiene observaciones acerca de la eficiencia de los procedimientos financieros, el sistema de contabilidad, la fiscalización financiera interna, así como la administración y gestión de la Organización. Me permito recordarles que, la práctica seguida por la FAO desde hace 30 años había consistido en publicar un informe único que contenía estas tres partes al final del bienio. El Comité tomó nota de la opinión del asesor jurídico según la cual el hecho de que los distintos informes sobre la eficiencia en el uso de los recursos se publicara por separado a lo largo del bienio y se consolidaran después en la parte detallada del Informe Final del Auditor Externo para su presentación a la Conferencia, no sería contrario a los textos fundamentales. El Comité recordó que los distintos informes sobre la eficacia en el uso de los recursos se produjera en su totalidad en el Informe Final de Auditoría presentado a la Conferencia. El Comité tomó nota de que el nuevo método de presentación de informes se ajustaría al requisito de dar la oportunidad al Director General para formular observaciones sobre cada proyecto de informe antes de la finalización del mismo. Las consideraciones del Comité se detallan en los párrafos 48 al 54 del documento CL 127/14. Al tratar los asuntos presupuestarios, el Comité de Finanzas revisó el tema Ajustes al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el 2004-2005. El Comité estudió los ajustes el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el 2004-2005 recordando que la Conferencia había pedido al Director General que presentara la siguiente reunión conjunta de los Comités de Programa y Finanzas para su aprobación, propuestas teniendo presente las prioridades indicadas por el Consejo y la Conferencia, así como los criterios para el establecimiento de prioridades. El Comité tomó nota de la propuesta de reducción de 232 puestos y reconoció el hecho de que los ahorros se habían buscado en la medida de lo posible en los puestos vacantes y en aquellos ocupados por personas cercanas a la jubilación obligatoria, de forma que se redujese en el mínimo los costos de redistribución y separación de personal. Tras las deliberaciones de la reunión conjunta de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas, este último aprobó las transferencias entre capítulos presupuestarios necesarios para llegar a las propuestas presupuestarias aprobadas por la reunión

conjunta. Las consideraciones del Comité se detallan en los párrafos 64 al 76, del documento CL 127/14.

Informe sobre la utilización de los atrasos. El Comité aprobó la medida de reservar una cantidad de 4.1 millones de dólares correspondiente al 10 por ciento del saldo no gastado de los atrasos al final del 2003 con vistas a su posible utilización para sufragar gastos extraordinarios, por única vez, tanto por una redistribución y separación de los funcionarios, como por la de seguridad en el entendido de que la Organización haría todo lo posible para absorber tales gastos en el marco de su programa ordinario. El Comité acogió la aplicación del saldo restante de los atrasos a las ocho áreas que inicialmente se había previsto. También observó de que parte de los recursos correspondientes al Proyecto de Sistema de Gestión de los Recursos Humanos, no se gastarían en su totalidad para finales del 2005 y fue informado de que la Secretaría tenía la intención de proponer que todo saldo restante se transfiriera al Servicio de Gastos de Capital. Las consideraciones del Comité se detallan en los párrafos 77 al 80 del documento CL 127/14.

En nuestro Informe del 108º período de sesiones, al abordar los temas de informes financieros y presupuestarios, efectuamos un análisis de las cuotas de contribuciones recibidas y propuestas de mejora. El Comité debatió la disminución general de la tasa de recepción de las cuotas y las formas de hacer frente al problema. El Comité fue informado de que el porcentaje de recaudación de la FAO se encontraba entre los más bajos en comparación con otras organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas. El Comité reconoció que la difícil situación del flujo de caja era debido al impago de las cuotas y que las medidas en vigor no habían tenido prácticamente ningún efecto en la mejora de las tasas de recaudación. El Comité observó con preocupación que determinados países que estaban atrasados en el pago de sus cuotas habían hecho contribuciones voluntarias considerables a los fondos extrapresupuestarios de la Organización durante el bienio 2002-2003. El Comité reconoció que sólo mediante la recepción puntual de las cuotas de la FAO podría hacer frente a las necesidades de efectivo sin recurrir a las reservas estatutarias o a préstamos externos. Decidió examinar medidas alternativas en su período de sesiones de mayo del 2005 con vistas a formular una recomendación al respecto al Consejo en su período de sesiones en junio del 2005. Entre tanto, el Comité de Finanzas exhortó a todos los Estados Miembros a que pagaran puntualmente las cuotas asignadas. Al respecto, las consideraciones del Comité se detallan en los párrafos 19 al 21 del documento CL 127/15.

Otro de los temas tratados es el Plan de Incentivos para estimular el pago puntual de las cuotas y determinación del tipo de descuento. El Comité debatió la eficacia del Plan de Incentivos y reiteró su anterior conclusión de que este Plan de Incentivos no tenía efectos reales en lo relativo a estimular el pago puntual por los Estados Miembros. El Comité examinó y debatió los tipos de descuentos propuestos que se acreditarían respecto de las cuotas del 2005 en dólares americanos y en euros y decidió que ambos tipos se fijaran en cero. El efecto de un tipo de descuento igual a cero en relación con las fechas de los pagos a principios del 2005 se analizarían y revelarían si el Plan de Incentivos ha tenido los efectos deseados. El Comité de Finanzas, asimismo, efectuó la comprobación de las cuentas 2002-2003. El Comité tomó nota de que el Auditor Externo había emitido un dictamen sin reservas sobre las cuentas comprobadas de la FAO para el bienio 2002-2003 y de que la Organización no había tomado las medidas oportunas para responder a la mayor parte de las observaciones contenidas en el mismo o había asegurado al Auditor Externo que las tomaría. El Comité, tomando nota de las observaciones y las aclaraciones comunicadas por el Auditor Externo y por la Secretaría, recomendó que el Consejo presentara a la Conferencia las cuentas comprobadas 2002-2003 para su aprobación. Las deliberaciones del Comité figuran en los párrafos 24 al 28 del documento CL 127/15 y la correspondiente resolución destinada a ser refrendada del Consejo se encuentra en el párrafo 29.

Al tratar los asuntos para la supervisión se tocó el tema nombramiento del Auditor Externo de un Estado Miembro. Estamos refiriéndonos al artículo 12.1 del Reglamento financiero. El Comité tomó nota de que la disposición contenida en el artículo 12.1 del Reglamento financiero en el que se estipula que el Auditor Externo debe ser el auditor de un Estado Miembro estaba vigente en prácticamente todas las organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas. Con respecto a la posibilidad de discursar la invitación a elicitar por el contrato de auditoría externa de la FAO no sólo a los

auditores generales de todos los Estados Miembros sino también a grandes empresas de auditoría del sector privado, el Comité pidió que, en vistas al carácter intrínsecamente interinstitucional del tema, el Director General remitiera la documentación a la junta de los jefes ejecutivos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para la coordinación a fin de solicitar información adicional. Las consideraciones sobre este tema han sido recogidas en los párrafos 40 y 42 del documento CL 127/15.

Asuntos relativos a las políticas financieras. Aquí se trató el tema de resumen histórico del pasivo relativo al personal. El Comité fue informado de que los actuarios cifraban el total del pasivo relativo al personal en 452 millones de dólares a finales del 2005. El pasivo había aumentado considerablemente debido a un cambio puntual en la metodología para la valoración actuarial del seguro médico después de la separación del servicio. Los futuros cálculos actuariales bienales no deberían fluctuar tanto. El Comité tomó nota de que se precisaría incrementar la financiación hasta los 30 millones de dólares para el bienio 2006-2007 con el fin de compensar el aumento de la amortización bienal de dicho seguro médico. El Comité decidió examinar las opciones disponibles para el pasivo correspondiente al seguro médico después de la separación del servicio en su siguiente período de sesiones y formular una recomendación al Consejo sobre el importe que debe incluirse en la consideración presupuestal para el 2006-2007. Las consideraciones del Comité se detallan en los párrafos 54 al 61 del documento CL 127/15.

En cuanto a los asuntos relativos a los recursos humanos, el Comité de Finanzas efectuó un análisis del informe sobre cuestiones relativas a la gestión de los recursos humanos. El Comité de Finanzas valoró positivamente el hecho de que se hubieran alcanzado con éxito alguno de los objetivos establecidos por la Dirección de Gestión de Recursos Humanos, tales como el teletrabajo, el empleo de los cónyuges y la validación del marco de competencia de gestión aunque señaló que aún se esperaba el progreso en otros ámbitos de la gestión de los recursos humanos. Se manifestó preocupación por el hecho de que se hubieran incluido una serie de plazos de aplicación por lo que la FAO podría terminar quedándose a la saga de otras organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas, por lo que respecta a las mejores prácticas en materia y gestión de recursos humanos. El Comité hizo referencia más específicamente a la necesidad de introducir un sistema integrado de gestión basado en los resultados. Mejorar el equilibrio entre los sexos en la categoría profesional, tanto por lo que respecta a número como grado, así como reforzar las políticas de apoyo a la agenda, trabajo, familia y establecer un programa de perfeccionamiento del personal directivo para atender las necesidades de competencia; la introducción, en tiempo oportuno, del sistema de gestión de los recursos humanos se consideró esencial para alcanzar dichos objetivos. Las consideraciones del Comité se detallan en los párrafos 85 al 88 del documento CL 127/15.

Asuntos de organización. Sobre este tema se efectuó un análisis de la evaluación independiente de la descentralización de la FAO. El Comité elogió la independencia y la amplitud del informe, la profundidad de su análisis y la gran variedad de recomendaciones útiles contenidas en el mismo. Se apreció la positiva respuesta inicial de la administración a las conclusiones de la evaluación y el compromiso de la administración superior de seguir aumentando la descentralización. El Comité reconoció que la administración no había tenido tiempo para considerar plenamente las implicaciones de las conclusiones contenidas en el informe de tanta complejidad, por tanto, el Comité recomendó que tanto el Comité de Programas como el de Finanzas volvieran a examinar el Informe de Evaluación en sus siguientes períodos de sesiones. La respuesta completa de la administración debería facilitar un plan de aplicación con plazos para incrementar los beneficios de la política de descentralización y especificar el costo y las implicaciones de la misma. Las deliberaciones del Comité se detallan en los párrafos 93 al 97 del documento CL 127/15.

En términos generales las reuniones del Comité de Finanzas resultaron muy productivas y, en concreto, consideró que fue posible abordar algunas cuestiones financieras y presupuestarias importantes que se le plantean a la Organización. En nombre de los Miembros del Comité quisiera manifestar nuestro aprecio a la Secretaría por su ayuda en todas nuestras deliberaciones y nuestra gratitud a los Estados Miembros de la FAO por facilitarnos esta oportunidad de hacer progresar la importante labor de la Organización. Atenderé con mucho gusto peticiones de mayores explicaciones y muchas gracias por su paciencia.

CHAIRMAN

I thank Mr Seminario for the detailed presentation of this Agenda Item and I would like to ask the Assistant Director-General of Administration and Finance Department, Mr Mehboob whether he would also like to introduce this Agenda Item.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

I would just like to highlight a couple of things for the benefit of the Council. One of the items is the Status of Contributions, since the issuance of our document CL 127/Lim 1 there have been other countries who have made payments, and I would like to inform the Council of that.

One is China, we have received payment in full of the 2004 assessments from China which is US\$2 678 869 million and that is the dollar figure, and the Euro payment from China is also €2 475 000 million. We have received a partial payment for the Euro assessment from the United States of America which amounts to €7 899 522 million. We have received partial payment of accumulated arrears from Cuba of US\$72 000. That is the status of the contributions.

One other item I would like to highlight and that is the audited accounts of the Organization, this was one of the main items considered by the Finance Committee and as the Chairman has pointed out, the External Auditor issued an unqualified premium on the Organization's financial statements. He also had his long form report where he made a number of recommendations. Our process is a very formal process set up by the Finance Committee where they submit a progress report at each Session of the Finance Committee, this progress report also contains the comments of the External Auditor to see how the implementation is going and whether the recommendations are being implemented within the timeframe suggested by the External Auditor.

I wanted to refer this information to you for the benefit of the Council.

CHAIRMAN

Now I would like to open the floor for discussions on this Agenda Item with its four sub-items.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

Me voy a referir al tema 13 con las subdivisiones, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4. Hablo en nombre del GRULAC.

El GRULAC aprecia la presentación hecha por el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, cuyo trabajo, profesionalismo y dedicación han contribuido a que las labores de dicho Comité redunden en beneficio de la FAO y refuerce sus labores a favor de la agricultura y la alimentación mundial. El Embajador Roberto Seminario está realizando un excelente trabajo y, a nombre del GRULAC, deseo dejar constancia del reconocimiento a su labor.

El tema 13 incluye tres períodos de sesiones del Comité. La posición del GRULAC sobre varios de los temas analizados en dichas sesiones es la siguiente: en relación con el 106° período de sesiones el GRULAC considera que el Comité realice una extraordinaria labor para fortalecer los lazos que unen a la FAO y al PMA. El análisis de estos temas relevantes del PMA por parte del Comité legitima aún más las actividades del PMA y le brindan una base de análisis para una mejor toma de decisiones.

Considerando lo anterior, el GRULAC considera que debe reforzarse la labor del Comité en relación con los demás temas pertinentes del PMA. Los resultados de las deliberaciones del Comité deben remitirse con debida oportunidad a los integrantes de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA para su análisis. Adicionalmente, deben realizarse gestiones ante el Presidente de la Junta del Programa, para permitir que el Presidente del Comité pueda presentar directamente a la Junta el resultado de las deliberaciones del Comité.

En relación al 107° período de sesiones, el GRULAC desea manifestarse sobre el tema Ajuste al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 2004-2005. El GRULAC lamenta que la actual situación financiera de la Organización haya motivado una reducción del 6.4 por ciento de los costos del Programa de Labores, tal como se indica en el párrafo 65 del documento CL 127/14. Sin

embargo, desea dejar constancia que no está de acuerdo con la decisión que se indica en el párrafo 76 del citado documento, en el que se señala que tras las deliberaciones en la reunión conjunta de los Comités, el de Finanzas aprobó la transferencia entre capítulos presupuestarios, transferencia que afectó sobretudo al capítulo 3, Cooperación y asociaciones, por más de 6 millones, y al capítulo 2, Programas técnicos y económicos, por 3.6 millones. En contrapartida, el capítulo más beneficiado fue el 1, Política y dirección generales.

Sería conveniente saber las razones que motivaron a favorecer ésta última y afectar programas fundamentales para los objetivos de la FAO. Sería también conveniente que en el futuro, cuando haya restricciones presupuestarias y en consecuencia necesidad de hacer transferencias, los Comités favorezcan más las acciones directas a favor de la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo rural y menos el capítulo 1.

En relación con el 108º período de sesiones, el GRULAC desea manifestarse sobre el Tema a Plazo Medio 2006-2011. EL GRULAC entiende que se trata de un documento indicativo y, por lo tanto, no vinculante a los Estados Miembros. En la actualidad, el documento muestra un solo escenario. Sería conveniente, como se indicó en la reunión del Comité de Finanzas, que se expongan hipótesis alternativas, lo que permitirá tomar una decisión mejor fundamentada.

En relación con el tema 13.3 sobre la Metodología para una Distribución Geográfica Equitativa, el GRULAC considera que una vez analizado el documento CL 127/6 y considerando la opinión del Comité de Finanzas, en el documento CL 127/15, que la introducción del factor de ponderación postgrado no tiene efectos significativos en la distribución geográfica general. En este sentido, el GRULAC considera, y pide a la Secretaría, que en la aplicación de la nueva metodología para una distribución geográfica equitativa ya no se incluya el factor de ponderación postgrado.

Takuya MURAKAMI (Japan)

I would like to make a comment on Item 13.3. First of all Japan welcomes the final decision made by the Conference to introduce the new methodology for the determination of equitable geographic distribution. Considering that the Asian Group, including Japan, has positively been committed to the introduction of a new methodology. Also Japan highly appreciates the effort made by the Secretariat to elaborate the statistics document CL 127/15 Annex 3 containing statistics on staff broken down by region, nationality, grade and gender. This is exactly what Japan has been requesting the Secretariat to prepare since last year's September Session of the Finance Committee.

The data would be very useful to think about all human related issues including the equitable geographic distribution, gender balance problem further implementation of the decentralization process and equitable personnel allocation among regional offices.

We clearly know the result of the application of the new formula, paragraph 13 of CL 127/6 articulates that, following the introduction of the new formula for the determination of equitable geographic distribution, the representation status of the vast majority of Member Countries is now within the desirable range, this outcome is the same regardless of whether a grade weighted approach is applied or not.

However, we still have a persisting problem under the new formula. Not only Japan, but also the Asian Region is suffering from severe under representation. I would like to reiterate that the Asian Region has the largest population in the world and that the Asian Region provides the second largest assessed contribution to FAO, but the rate of the number of staff from the Asian Region against its contribution is the smallest.

Finally I would like to underscore that what is important, is how the organization tried to redress the situation, rather than merely observing the situation. In this sense, I hope the Secretariat and Member Nations jointly explore constructive workloads toward a predictable positive result in this regard.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

I will comment first on Item 13.1 and then on Item 13.4. Canada is mindful of the need for FAO to work from a strong and dependable financial base. We were mainly concerned with the continuing high-level outstanding assessments and arrears.

The financial stability and consequently the implementation of the FAO's mandated activities depend on payments of assessed contributions being made in a timely manner.

The Ninety-second Session of the Finance Committee noted in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Document CL 127/15 that the cash flow position of the Organization has been worsening, mainly due to a net increase in unpaid contributions and the persistently high level of arrears.

We note with concern that the Organization had to resort to external borrowing for the first time in more than ten years to meet disbursements in October and early November as reported in CL 127/15. According to document CL 127/Lim 1 only 82 Member States had paid their 2004 assessed contributions in full by 18 November 2004 while some 60 countries had made no payment at all.

We welcome the fact that 29 countries have paid their arrears in full as of 18 November 2004, but we note with concern that 53 Member Nations remain in arrears. In order to ensure the financial health of the Organization, Canada calls on all Members to fulfill their financial obligations and to pay their dues without further delay.

We would invite comments from the Secretariat on three points.

Firstly, what negative implications might the current level of unpaid assessments have on core activities of FAO.

Secondly, what are the repayment plans in place for Member States currently in arrears.

Thirdly, are significant payments anticipated in the foreseeable future.

With respect to Item 13.4, Canada would make the following point, throughout the system of UN Organizations Canada has always been a strong proponent of the early payment incentive schemes, comparatively speaking, the scheme has served well as an incentive to those Member States which might otherwise not be inclined to pay.

In the light of this the Canadian delegation is concerned with one of the recommendations made by the Finance Committee during their most recent session in September of this year. In particular, I would draw Council's attention to paragraphs 22 and 23 in Document CL 127/15 which address the incentive scheme to encourage prompt payment of contributions.

In these paragraphs, it is reported that the Finance Committee review Document FC 108/5 had concluded that the incentive scheme had no real impact in encouraging prompt payment by Member Nations. Basing its discussion on this conclusion the Committee goes on to take a decision that the discount rate to be credited against 2000 contributions should be set at zero.

Canada opposes any elimination or suspension of the incentive scheme. The recommendation by the Finance Committee to reduce the discount rate to zero for 2005 would effectively suspend the scheme as a zero discount rate would provide no incentive for early payment. This proposed reduction risks setting a precedent within the UN System which Canada would certainly oppose.

We believe that it is important to point out that 35 countries qualified for the incentive scheme in 2004, the vast majority of which were developing countries.

We fail to understand the Finance Committee's rationale of reducing the discount rate to zero for 2005, in particular its conclusion that the scheme is ineffectual as there is no such conclusion drawn in the reference document FC 108/5, while some may argue that the scheme does not provide enough of an incentive for timely payment of contributions, FAO's already difficult cash flow situation could in fact worsen should the incentive be eliminated.

Rather than suspending the incentive scheme, we would suggest that a closer study of its advantages and disadvantages be undertaken.

Canada urges Council to reconsider this decision taken by the Finance Committee and set the discount rate for incentive scheme according to established FAO procedures.

Romualdo BETTINI (Italy)

I would be grateful if you would allow the Representative of the Netherlands to take the floor in the name of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

Jeroen STEEGHS (Observer for Netherlands)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States, the candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey also align themselves with this statement.

We are grateful to the Finance Committee for its Reports, which deal authoritatively and lucidly with an important, but often difficult collection of subjects. We have already commented on the Medium Term Plan and on the associated matter of Efficiency Savings under Item 10 of the Agenda, I will not repeat what we said then.

We echo the Committee's concerns about the deteriorating financial situation of FAO. We note from the Report of the Hundred and seventh Session, confirmed by the Report of the Hundred and eighth Session, that FAO is projected to reach the end of the current biennium in December 2005, with a negative net worth of US\$95 million, more than double the figure of US\$42 million at the end of 2003. Important contributory factors in this are the worsening payment record of Member Nations and a revised estimate of the unfunded liability for After Service Medical Costs.

The payment record of Member Nations is also responsible, in part, for the fact that FAO is running short of cash to pay its bills. According to the Report of the September Session of the Committee, FAO was faced with the prospect of borrowing money in October, for the first time in more than ten years, in order to continue operating.

We agree with the opinion expressed by the FAO Finance Committee, that special attention should be paid to the cost of relying on external borrowing to overcome cash shortages. In this respect we also urge Member Nations to fulfil their obligations towards FAO as soon as possible.

The remedy for this troubling situation lies in the hands of the Council. It is our duty and responsibility to ensure that Member Nations pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. We therefore warmly support the conclusion of the Finance Committee to review the range of sanctions that could be applied to defaulters at its meeting in May 2005, and we trust that the Council will be ready to grasp the nettle when it considers the Committee's recommendations next June.

It is likewise our responsibility to decide how to handle the financial burden of the After Service Medical Costs. Like others, we are dismayed that the funding plan agreed by Conference last November, has shown to be, by a subsequent actuarial valuation, grossly insufficient. It now appears that the biennial sum of US\$14.1 million accepted by Conference as a charge on the membership needs to be increased to US\$30 million. If we do nothing, the net worth of the Organization will progressively deteriorate by the difference between the figures, that is by US\$15.9 million each biennium. It would be irresponsible to allow this to happen, but addressing the problem means reaching deeper into our own pockets in settling the budget next November, or requiring FAO to absorb the sum by cutting services, or some combination of the two.

This is a second nettle for the Council to grasp in June 2005, based on the further advice promised by the Finance Committee.

We have closely followed the Finance Committee's consideration of oversight issues. We note with satisfaction that the External Auditor has issued an unqualified opinion on the Audited Accounts for 2002–2003 and we endorse the Finance Committee's recommendation in paragraph 29 of its September Report that these should be submitted for adoption by Conference in 2005.

We welcome the arrangement under which the External Auditor will henceforth submit his Value for Money Reports sequentially during the biennium and then reproduce them in his Audit Report for the Conference.

We are pleased to note the submission to the Committee of the first report on the activities of the Audit Committee established in 2003 with external members and the Secretariat's agreement in principle to introduce an Executive Head Statement on Internal Controls. Both innovations reflect emerging best practice in public and private sector organizations around the world. Finally, we share the concern expressed by the Committee and the External Auditor about the risks to internal control posed by the deletion of finance posts under the revised Programme of Work and Budget for the current biennium. We wish to see these reinstated at the first opportunity.

In concluding, we are disappointed by the Committee's account of its review of the Progress Report on Human Resources Management issues. We have long doubted whether sufficient time and resources were being devoted to this area and our worries are reinforced by what the Independent Evaluation of the Decentralization Programme has to say about staff quality and management.

Under-investment in the management of people impacts directly on the quality of services provided to the membership. We hope that other Members of the Council will join us in emphasising the need to address the subject comprehensively in the Programme of Work and Budget for 2006–2007.

GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to speak on two items. First of all, on the application of the new Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution. And the other is on the After-Service Medical Liabilities.

The Chinese Delegation thanks the Secretariat for its preparation of the document for the results of the application of the new Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution (CL 127/6). The Chinese Delegation notes that the document has given us an analysis of the impact of the new methodology on geographic representation of Member States. We also note the relevant statistical data given in Annex 3, in document CL 127/15, that is, the report of the Hundred and Eighth Session of the Committee.

The Chinese Delegation feels that the Secretariat should now transform the analysis into concrete actions and adopt effective measures to increase the appointment of nationals from under-represented regions and countries, for instance, from Asia and the Near East, so as to really reflect and utilize to the fullest degree various cultural and technical resources of all Member States.

The Chinese Delegation would also like to point out that there are, in fact, five working languages in the FAO, that is, English, French, Arabic, Spanish, and Chinese. However, in the linguistic requirement for FAO recruitment, it does not specify the mastering of any two of the above five languages. It specifies two languages, out of English, French and Spanish. I would like to say, as far as we understand, that for instance, WFP has seven official languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese and Russian, and their requirement is any two out of the seven. Undoubtedly, such a requirement from FAO is less than fair for the Asia and Near East countries, and objectively speaking, it constitutes a technical barrier in staff recruitment. We wish to understand the legal justification for such a linguistic requirement by FAO.

I would like to speak on the other item, on the liabilities for after-service medical costs. The Chinese Delegation notes that in the review of the relevant report of the Financial Committee at this Session, the problem of the liabilities for after-service medical costs again comes up. In fact, FAO has been discussing this problem for many years. Last year, the Conference adopted a resolution deciding on a progressive augmentation method, that is to say US\$14.1 million for each financial biennium, to be completed over twelve financial biennia, namely 24 years.

It is regrettable that we have recently been informed that because of a one-time change in methodology for evaluation, the present amount of amortization is far from adequate now and has to increased by two-fold, that is to say, from 14.1 million to 30 million.

We can understand that these costs involve uncertainty and relative complexity and it is difficult for the Secretariat to evaluate extremely accurately the amortization requirements. Deviations are hard to avoid, and yet after-service medical insurance has been implemented over many years in FAO. We have quite a number of capable managerial staff with rich experience, for instance a case in point for the 2002-2003 budgetary performance, appropriation of up to 99.9 percent was spent with accuracy. And yet, devaluation for amortization for after-service medical costs and incomprehensible dramatic deviation has occurred. This has put us all in a very embarrassing situation whereby, we are hard-put to explain such cost-deviation to our competent authorities, our parliament and our tax-payers back home. China has a proverb: let him who tied the belt to the tiger take it off. That is to say, whoever started the trouble, should end it. We hope that the Secretariat can help us to persuade parties concerned and solve soonest a problem that has persisted for so many years.

KIM CHANG-HYUN (Korea, Republic of)

I would to refer to sub-item 13.3. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Finance Committee and Secretariat for the informative document and excellent presentation. I would also like to associate with the Statement made by the distinguished delegates of Japan and China.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea welcomed the application of the new methodology for an equitable geographic distribution, with a view to enhancing a more equitable country representation. However, the application of the new methodology alone does not guarantee that countries are actually represented in a more balanced way.

The Finance Committee took note that the application of a new formula had resulted in a significant increase in the number of equitably represented countries.

In this regard, I would like to point out that an increased number of equitably represented countries does not reflect a real progress in the current situation. I would also like to share the concern that the satisfaction of this kind of achievement may have a negative impact on our endeavour to ensure a more equitable representation of Member Countries.

The Korean delegation would therefore like to emphasize the member countries and the Secretariat that further efforts are needed in order to improve this situation.

In particular, it would be highly recommended to take into consideration a special treatment and effort towards the severely underrepresented countries.

Ms Sharon KOTOK (United States of America)

The United States would like to address five issues included in the reports of the Finance Committee meetings.

Firstly, the MTP with its assumption of a 2.2 percent Real Growth. My delegation addressed this under agenda item 10 this morning. In order for the MTP to be relevant to the work of the FAO, it must reflect prioritization within a likely budget environment.

Secondly, in 2003, the United States agreed, on an exceptional basis, to include the US\$14.1 million for after-service medical cost liabilities on top of the assessed budget for 2004-2005. We are concerned that the Secretariat is now projecting to increase funding for after-service medical costs to 30 million for the 2006-2007. We do not believe that these costs should be automatically transferred to Member States in the 2006-2007 budget. The Secretary must consider options to accommodate this unfunded liability. We look forward to reviewing the options paper the Secretariat will prepare for the May 2005 Finance Committee meeting.

Thirdly, we believe that the WFP Executive Board and the ACAPQ, not the Finance Committee, are the appropriate fora for detailed discussions of WFP's financial activities, devoting meeting time and often entire Finance Committee sessions to WFP issues is not a wise use of resources that could be better used accomplishing FAO's primary objectives. Both organizations should work closely to resolve this problem which costs US\$25 000 a day for interpretation into five

languages. In the meantime, we request that WFP agenda items be informally treated on a "for information basis".

Fourth, discussions with the Secretariat during the Finance Committee meeting revealed that the bridging component of the Organization's Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities had not been utilized in spite of critical needs to meet the locust infestation in North West Africa. We welcome the Committee's scrutiny of the use of this fund over the next year. We also welcome the request for an after action analysis of FAO's performance in the locust crisis to identify impediments to better resolving emergency needs in the future.

Finally, at its Hundred and Seventh Session, the Finance Committee approved the use of US\$4.1 million on unexpended arrears for possible use in covering one-time cost related to redeployment and separation and one-time security cost. The report notes that the Organization would make every effort to absorb these costs within the regular budget. We would like to ask the Secretariat to provide at the next meeting of the Finance Committee, details on efforts to cover staff redeployment and separation costs by eliminating vacant positions, adjusting its hiring of new staff, relying on normal attrition and using the unexpended balances.

Kasem PRASUTSANGCHAN (Thailand)

Thailand is concerned about the weak financial condition of the Organization reported to be mainly due to unpaid contributions or to accommodate arrears of some Member Countries. We also see the failure of the intensive scheme in collecting payments of contributions. However, it is difficult for Thailand to agree with the work proposal made by the Finance Committee to set the discount percentage. We take this opportunity to recall that Thailand has always met its financial obligations to FAO on time, even in the worst years of the last financial crisis. We, therefore, really appeal on Member Countries to do their best in order that the Organization can operate smoothly. Concerning the Equitable Geographic Distribution, Thailand supports the statements made by the delegates of Japan and Republic of Korea.

Ms Radha SINGH (India)

My intervention is with regard to item 13.3. We agree that the Secretariat has expeditiously operationalized the new methodology for equitable geographical distribution. We note that the Secretariat has attempted to enhance recruitments from under represented countries. As a consequence, the number of equitable represented countries is growing. There is, however, a need to work towards the ideal of throwing open an increasing number of positions in the FAO to merit and capability based on open competition. We strongly feel that considerations of equity and excellence not being allowed to be mutually exclusive, need to be harmonized. We, would, however, urge that even more concerted action be taken to ensure that candidates from under represented countries are recruited in FAO. The Asian region in particular, where many of the larger under represented countries are located requires special attention. While a few countries in this region have received special recruitment missions, more such initiatives are clearly indicated.

The agenda document which provides information on the application of the different grade weighting scenarios, reveals that nothing much is to be gained by tinkering with the new methodology for some years to come. We strongly feel that the methodology adopted as recently as December 2003 should be allowed more time, before any further modification is considered. We must also bear in mind that the new methodology is in line with that of the UN system.

David INGHAM (Australia)

An issue which the Finance Committee Chairman and a number of other Members have already raised today and discussed in the report of the Finance Committee at the September Finance Committee meeting, is the shortfall in the provision of the after service medical costs following the agreement to set aside US\$14.1 million per biennium at last year's Conference. This provision is now noted to be US\$15.9 million less than is required to meet this ongoing liability. A massive underestimation. Can the Secretariat please advise how this extra amount is to be funded. Does the undertaking to set aside US\$14.1 million per biennium taken at the last Conference translate

to a new requirement to find US\$30 million per biennium? Any guidance that the Secretariat can provide on this issue would be most welcome.

Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia)

With regard to the Report on the result of the Application of the New Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution, I wish to record my appreciation to the Secretariat for this very comprehensive Report. I would only like to underline the statement of China. We will go along with that statement, including the proverb inside that statement.

I would also like to underline that we also go along with the statement of India, with regard to the under representation of Asia in FAO.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

En el documento CL/127/LIM/1 en español, en lo que corresponde al estado de las cuotas pendientes, cremos que hay un error en las dos ultimas columnas puesto que ambas están en euros y debe ser la penúltima en dólares y la ultima en euros; llamamos la atención para que se corrija.

Ms Maryam Ahmed Moustafa MOUSSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to stress what has been said by the delegate of China regarding equal treatment of all official languages. I would just like to stress that.

Abdel Moshin Mohammed AL OTHMAN (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

As we have been reminded by the delegate of Egypt, who seconded what has been said by China, regarding the equal treatment of the official languages of FAO, I would also like to say that Arabic should be treated equally, like the other official languages of FAO, in most of the meetings.

Muhammad Ismail QURESHI (Pakistan)

I would like to make a brief statement regarding Agenda Item 13.3.

Pakistan wishes to endorse the normative formula being applied to the equitable geographical distribution of posts. The reason for this has been very well elaborated in the paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Document CL 127/6, in support of this argument.

We also appreciate FAO's efforts for the progress achieved as reported in paragraph 13 of the Document.

Jesús HUERTA GONZÁLEZ (México)

Mi delegación respalda en todos sus términos la declaración que formuló Colombia a nombre del GRULAC, con relación a los temas que hemos estado debatiendo. Asimismo, reiteramos la importancia de que la Secretaría presente otros escenarios alternativos para el presupuesto del PLP 2006-2011, que permita a los Estados Miembros tomar una mejor decisión en 2005 respecto al presupuesto.

Simon Joseph DRAPER (Observer for New Zealand)

Firstly, I would like to thank Mr Mehboob, Mr Flood and Mr Nelson and also the Chairman, Mr Roberto Seminario Portocarrero and others who have suffered my presence on the Finance Committee. They have a degree of patience, which I find truly admirable to this day.

As a Member of the Finance Committee, my name is on these Reports and I, of course, endorse it. Having said that, I must confess that before I become a Member of the Finance Committee, I never actually read a Finance Committee Report and I suspect I am not alone in this room.

There are two bits of the report – bearing my imprint – I would like to bring to the Member's attention.

The first is on the document CL 127/15, paragraph 20. I think Members here should know that there are a number of countries who are not on the Council, there are millions of dollars in arrears

but, at the same time, have managed to find millions of dollars for extrabudgetary support. I cannot really understand that. A cynic, which of course I am not, could interpret this as some countries are free riding on the multilateral architecture, to advance their own individual bilateral needs.

I think it is also important to remember that we are not donors. By signing up to this Organization, this is our legal liability to pay – a point that was very well made by the Secretariat during Finance Committee. I just wanted to speak on the floor and draw people's attention to the fact that some countries cannot some pay their dues but the same pool of government money is there for extrabudgetary support. It is an issue that certainly New Zealand will be taking up in Finance Committee.

The other issue that has my imprint is regarding the Discount Rate. I certainly sympathize with the comments made by my Canadian colleague. It was to my surprise to find that New Zealand was the only Member of Finance Committee affected by this. Of all the Members of Finance Committee, there was only one that benefited from paying their dues on time. I do think it interesting to contrast the reluctance to penalize those people in arrears but our haste and quickness in removing benefits for those who pay early.

What I would say to Canada, in relation to their intervention, is that I would emphasize that this is a trial to see if behaviour changes and I would encourage them to, at least, let the trial take place. It is not a permanent measure. It is to see if this incentive, which it is, actually works. With the papers Finance Committee was showing, said it did not. Just to clarify, my understanding is that it is, in fact, Finance Committee's mandate to set that Discount Rate. It is not that we have done something that we should not have done, as we understood that it was, in fact, part of the decision of Finance Committee.

Finally, I would say to Canada, that your Regional Representative, at the time, did not make any issue of the Discount Rate.

One of the other things I just want to quickly pass on is that this Organization faces real financial risk. Let me make this clear. I am not talking about Zero Nominal Growth, Zero Real Growth or any of those things that has been the focus of my time here. What I am talking about are the commitments of this Organization to its Working Capital Fund, to its After Service Medical Costs and to its pensioners and as Membership, you should aware of that. The finances of this Organization do not end when you set the budget.

I also want to make clear that, despite the really excellent work that has been done by Mr Mehboob and his team, FAO is under some real structural financial pressures.

My final comment is on the After Service Medical Costs. A number of delegations have queried this and certainly the Finance Committee did as well.

I think one piece of the puzzle that the Secretariat might want to consider in their reply is that this was not a miscalculation. This was a result of the WFP withdrawing from part of the Pension Fund. So, if one is an optimist, you can look at the net affect. In fact, WFP's contribution goes down considerably. Therefore, I think when we have this discussion you need to consider it is not just FAO; it is those Members who contribute, some have withdrawn, and that has affected the liability of this Organization.

Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to support what has been said by the delegates of Egypt and Saudi Arabia, regarding the use of the Arabic language. One of our poets said that this is a very important language. Why is FAO not treating Arabic on an equal basis as other languages? We would like to say to Jacques Diouf, the Director-General, that the Arab League has supported him and his terms and will be supporting him in order to continue as Director-General but we would like to ask this question – why is Arabic neglected? Do we have to ask the Director-General in person or is there somebody else to whom we can make this request.

We have been repeating this in all of our meetings: Arabic is an official language, but nothing has changed despite our repeated requests. I hope that we will have an answer from those who are in charge.

China has also requested an explanation. There are five official languages and they should be treated equally. Arabic and Chinese, while treated equally, are not treated like the other languages. The other three languages are treated in a very fair manner.

This is a question we have been asking and we hope, this time, we will receive an answer.

CHAIRMAN

Is there still someone who would like to take the floor and intervene on this Agenda Item? If that is not the case, I thank you very much for your contribution to the debates on this Agenda Item and would like now to ask the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr Seminario Portocarrero to answer some of the questions raised during the debate.

Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)

Quiero agradecer a los Señores Delegados por su participación e importantes comentarios de los cuales hemos tomado debida nota, para ser tratados en nuestras reuniones del Comité de Finanzas. Las guías que hemos escuchado ahora, sin duda, contribuirán y serán un derrotero en los trabajos que venimos haciendo. Como Comité de Finanzas tratamos de señalar a ustedes dónde hay problemas, hacerles conocer los peligros que enfrenta la Organización y a eso hemos dedicado nuestros trabajos. Hemos visto que numerosos delegados han mencionado la debilidad financiera de la Organización; y han mostrado inquietud sobre la infrarepresentación geográfica. En cuanto a los incentivos en el pago, nuestro distinguido colega de Nueva Zelanda ya les ha puesto al corriente de las deliberaciones que tuvimos en el Comité de Finanzas sobre este tema, es simplemente hacer de su conocimiento que se trata de un plan ineficaz, que quizás, deberíamos pensar en alguna otra medida. Nuestro colega de Nueva Zelanda, también les ha manifestado que en esta oportunidad les pedimos que tengan paciencia con lo que hemos sugerido, en cuanto a que nos podría demostrar lo que hemos venido manifestando, de que estos incentivos no están contribuyendo en el pago de las cuotas. Por lo general son países muy disciplinados y que en los primeros meses hacen sus contribuciones, cosa que la Organización agradece.

En cuanto al trabajo relacionado con el PMA, sin duda ha sido un tema que hemos venido debatiendo en el marco del Comité de Finanzas, no hemos todavía tomado una decisión al respecto, ya que habíamos pedido a la Secretaría, a la Asesoría Legal, que nos informe si debemos trabajar o no sobre los temas del PMA. Este tema lo estamos aun conversando en el marco del Comité de Finanzas.

Hay otros temas que se han presentado sobre que vamos a hacer con respecto al pasivo relativo al personal y la valoración actuarial, o sea, estamos hablando de que se estaría pasando de 14 millones a 30 millones, cosa que en realidad nos preocupa y cómo vamos a hacer para pagar es una pregunta que nosotros vamos a discutir también en el Comité de Finanzas, imagino que también la Secretaría tiene algunas ideas de cómo trabajar este tema.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

I would also like to thank members of the Council for the very full discussion. We have taken note of their comments and I would like to assure them that we will be guided by these comments as we take some of these issues forward. As you can imagine, the Finance Committee deals with so many different topics that they involve different departments so that you will have different people answering different questions. I will start of with taking two questions: one is the question of under-representation and the other is the question of the language requirements.

As regards the under representation, we are very conscious of this fact and we do understand the concerns of the countries who have their positions not so well represented here in the Secretariat, but we are actively taking measures to redress this situation. Just to give you an example: not so

long ago, the non-represented countries totalled 54 in number now they are down to 30. So, this is as a result of measures taken by the Organization to address this issue.

Some of the measures we are taking were mentioned by some of the distinguished delegates themselves. We are undertaking recruitment missions to specific countries, which are severely under represented or non-represented. In fact, we undertook about three recruitment missions this year. Aside from the recruitment missions, we are trying to show flexibility in the language requirements because one of the issues we identified was that the language requirements of our vacancy announcements were difficult to meet. So, we are actually showing flexibility in the language requirements and looking further into the possibilities of other flexible arrangements. We are trying to give our vacancy announcements more publicity as it were, to make them easily accessible in various countries. We are in touch with the institutions in some countries so we can send our vacancies directly to them for dissemination because the internet connection is not so stable in some countries, and that is where our vacancies are at the moment but we are taking action to make our vacancies accessible to countries and institutions in those countries.

We are in fact developing a roster of qualified candidates, candidates identified through these recruitment missions and we are having regular contacts with the departments which have vacancies to see how these candidates which we have identified could be considered and evaluated.

These are some of the measures we are taking to redress the situation, so we take the point that the situation of certain countries is a severe under representation but we hope to be able to come back to you one day and inform you that the situation has improved.

On the question of language of requirements, on the issue of language, FAO is not out of step with the rest of the United Nations System. In fact, the United Nations itself has seven official languages but only two working languages. In other words, most of their vacancy announcements cover two languages although the official languages are seven in number. Some of the other specialized agencies like ILO and WHO have exactly the same position as FAO; we have five official languages and so far we have had three working languages which are generally applied but the language requirement in each vacancy is determined by the job, by the function which that position is going to discharge. In fact we have had vacancy announcements with Arabic mentioned on it. We have had vacancy announcements with English, French and Spanish, so the determination is the question of the function of the position. This matter was I believe, debated in the Council in 1999 and this practice of the Organization was reaffirmed by the Council on the basis that they left the requirement of the Organization or the requirement of the position being advertised to the Director-General, it being in his authority to determine what the requirements of a particular function or a particular position is.

So that is the situation at the moment. We are not out of step with the rest of the UN system, in fact, other specialized agencies follow what we are doing. I think we are more flexible than the UN itself like I said they have seven official languages but they advertise in two and, again, their determination is also based on the job.

There was the question of the After Service Medical Liability. The details will be given by the Director of Finance, but I would just like to clarify one aspect. That it is not the liability which has increased; the liability was always there. In fact, if a situation arose where that liability came into operation as it were, the figure would be what it is now. What was different before was the actuarial valuation of that liability, so we need to make that distinction but the details I will ask my colleague, the Director of Finance, to give you.

Nicholas NELSON (Director and Treasurer, Finance Division)

I will try to address the various questions that came from the floor in the order that they arrived. Starting with the remarks by the distinguished delegate of Canada who referred to the severe cash shortages experienced by the Organization in the latter part of the year and the conditions of arrears.

His first question was what was the negative impact on the core activities of the organization. The Secretariat makes every effort to fulfill the cash requirements of the Programme of Work and Budget without distinction by types of activity. All of our cash obligations we need to meet on a month-to-month basis and that is our starting point vis-à-vis cash requirements.

We also regret that the borrowing did have to occur and, in fact, we had been signalling the looming cash shortage for several months during the year. The negative impact on the Organization, of course, is the interest costs which must be sustained when we go to external borrowing which ultimately means less funds available for programme activities.

Canada's second question concerned whether there were any repayment plans for countries in arrears. That information is in your LIM document LIM/1, on page 6, at the bottom of page 6. There are seven countries listed with arrears instalments arrangements approved by the Conference.

The third question was where there are any significant payments expected soon. After the Finance Committee meeting, within two weeks the second major contributor paid in full its 2004 assessments, which was a very welcome development and alleviated our borrowing requirements at that moment in time.

As we approach the year end we still are expecting the full payment from the major contributor and we do hope that occurs in the next few weeks because we do face another cash shortage before mid December.

The next series of questions concerns After Service Medical Care as first raised by the distinguished delegate of China, who termed the increase in the calculation of the liability as incomprehensible. We fully realize the magnitude of the change and of the increase, and in fact considerable text in the Finance Committee's report is dedicated to explain this. In particular, paragraphs 57 and 58 attempt to explain the basis for the development.

One remark there, at the very end of paragraph 57, is that we should not be faced with another change of this magnitude since the precision of the actuarial evaluation is now well established. However, I would like to take the occasion, considering other questions that came forward, to give a little more on the history in plain words of this liability. As Mr Mehboob says it has been on the horizon for some time. In fact, in the mid-1980s the Organization began to have actuarial calculations of the staff related liability. When the UN System began to introduce accrued accounting in the 1990s FAO also recognized this in its accounts for the first time in 1996/97, and it began to recognize this liability and record it against its general fund requirements. This was based on a single valuation on the part of an external actuary firm of all the Rome-based agencies.

In November 2003 the Conference took a very important first step to approve additional funding towards this legal liability and that was based on the 2001 valuation. Subsequently, in the course of 2004 we obtained the results of the new valuation and the difference was that in fact this valuation is just for FAO and IFAD together.

As the distinguished delegate of New Zealand pointed out, the demographic factors came into play. FAO is a much older organization with a much longer history, a much larger population of retirees and the full effect of this change was upon FAO's shoulders. However, it would be interesting to point out to you that in percentage terms amongst the Rome-based agencies the FAO liability increased by 56 percent, the WFP Programme liability decreased by 41 percent and the IFAD liability decreased by 44 percent. So I hope that helps give more of a picture.

Turning to remarks by distinguished delegates of USA and later Australia, about the impact of the increase and whether this is an automatic application for the coming Conference resolutions on budget and so on. One should turn back to the Council's own decision last November in which the Report of the 125th Session, paragraph 37, the Council did, recognize that this amount should be reviewed in each subsequent biennium and adjusted accordingly to reflect the current valuation. Not presuming that this means it is automatic, but it is a starting point for which we have been

providing the fullest possible information for the Finance Committee to continue its deliberations next year in May.

Those were the questions directed of a financial nature but of course, any further questions I would be glad to take.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

My apologies for intervening but there was one question from Columbia that I feel I ought to answer. The question concerned the transfers between Chapters and, in fact, if you look at the table of transfers approved by the Finance Committee you will see that Chapter I did not get a cut but got an increase and therefore, what is the explanation for that given the fact that other programmes faced reductions.

Can I first say that transfers between Chapters as approved by the Finance Committee were from a base which does not have any meaning. The Conference, when it approved the budget for 2004/2005, did not have a set of figures by Chapter in front of it, so it took the figures it had for ZRG and just prorated the difference to 749 million across all Chapters, which did not make any particular sense and has no programme basis to it. So, the first point is it is very hard to explain any of those figures in either direction.

On the other hand, the Finance Committee was interested in what the real performance changes were and there is another table in the document which is following paragraph 14 of the Adjustments to the PWB (PC 91/3). You will see there that Chapter I in fact also benefits reasonably well in the sense that it does not have a reduction, in fact, it had a very small increase. That is a genuine situation which does still require explanation.

The explanation for it is in fact that there were two upward adjustments: one for US\$1 million for additional costs of evaluation which was a recommendation that came out of the Programme Committee through the Council, and the other one for US\$3 million which was additional security costs which we have to face in relation to the field security costs managed by UNSECORD in New York.

So both of these were factors that were essentially beyond our control and had to be funded from even this reduced budget.

I hope that responds to your question.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Mr Wade. So this brings us to the end of the deliberations on the agenda for this afternoon's meeting. I declare the meeting adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17.50 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.50 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session Cent vingt-septième session 127º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-27 November 2004 Rome, 22-27 novembre 2004 Roma, 22-27 de noviembre de 2004
SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
25 November 2004

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.55 hours
Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,,
Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 09.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Vicepresidente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)**III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)****III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)****8. Progress Report from the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CL 127/20)****8. Rapport interimaire du Secrétariat de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (CL 127/20)****8. Informe sobre los progresos realizados presentado por la Secretaría de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (CL 127/20)****CHAIRMAN**

I declare open the Seventh Meeting of the Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Council.

We start with item 8, which is a Progress Report from the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

As you know, we did have two back-to-back meetings on the Genetic Resources, one meeting was a meeting of the Commission on Genetic Resources and the second one was the meeting of the Interim Committee. They both were back-to-back, which was last week and now in order to avoid any confusion I would like to ask Dr Esquinas to present these two items separately. Would you please first introduce the report of the Commission and then we will discuss it; then we will come back to the Report of the Interim Committee, in order for everything to be clear and separate. So, with this I pass the floor to you Dr Esquinas and would you please introduce the item?

José ESQUINAS-ALCAZAR (Secretario, Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura)

Como ustedes saben, estas dos reuniones han tenido lugar en las dos semanas precedentes al Consejo. Eso hace que los informes finales estén disponibles solamente de una manera provisoria. En el caso de la 10ª Reunión Regular de la Comisión, que tuvo lugar en la semana del 8 al 12 de noviembre, tienen a disposición una "advance" copia del informe en todos los idiomas. El informe con los apéndices será finalizado en breve y enviado a todos los países.

Esta 10ª Reunión Regular de la Comisión marca el 20º aniversario de la misma, y los países quisieron reflexionar sobre los éxitos y las debilidades del pasado para poner las bases en sus decisiones sobre la visión del futuro y las actividades para los próximos veinte años.

En la recapitulación que hicieron sobre las actividades precedentes vieron que los máximos éxitos o actividades se habían concentrado en plantas y animales. En el caso de plantas, reconocieron la negociación del Primer Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, las decisiones de la Conferencia y de la Comisión sobre los Derechos de los Agricultores, el desarrollo en un proceso que iba de abajo hacia arriba y dirigido por los países del Plan de Acción Mundial para Plantas, la elaboración periódica del Estado Mundial de Recursos Genéticos para Plantas, ambos procesos culminaron con la Conferencia Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos en Liepzig en el año 1996 y el Sistema Mundial de Información y Alerta Rápida también para plantas.

En el caso de los animales de granja, revisaron como actividades la elaboración del primer Estado Mundial de los Recursos Genéticos Animales y la Estrategia Mundial.

Vieron, sin embargo, que el mandato de la Comisión había sido revisado en el 1995 por la Conferencia de la FAO y que en la resolución aprobada se pedía que la Comisión se ocupara de todos los componentes de la diversidad biológica relevante para la agricultura y la alimentación, incluyendo por tanto otros sectores como los peces, los micro-organismos, etc., y una serie de actividades intersectoriales.

Esta celebración del 20° aniversario tuvo tres componentes: la de apertura, donde se discutió todo esto, un diálogo abierto en medio de la reunión con las organizaciones no-gubernamentales que habían contribuido de manera constructiva a lo largo de los veinte años, y que fue sumamente apreciado por estas organizaciones, y, al final, las reflexiones y las discusiones sobre el futuro de la Comisión. Las decisiones que se tomaron en esta última discusión sobre el futuro de la Comisión fue, en primer lugar, que a medio y largo plazo era preciso implementar su mandato completo, tanto en lo que se relaciona a sectores de biodiversidad para la agricultura, distintos a las plantas y animales, como a los sectores intersectoriales, biotecnología, bioseguridad, bioética, etc., y que todo ello debería de hacerse, con un enfoque basado en los agro-ecosistemas o ecosistemas agrícolas.

Esto fue considerado por algunos como un primer paso para la elaboración periódica por parte de la FAO sobre informes sobre la situación mundial de los recursos genéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación y la agro-biodiversidad en general, obviamente en fuerte cooperación con el convenio de diversidad biológica. En la misma línea, la 10ª Reunión Regular de la Comisión pidió a la Secretaría que preparara un programa de trabajo plurianual. Tengo que decir que hasta ahora los programas han sido bi-anales y por primera vez se pidió un programa plurianual que contemplara los objetivos a medio y largo plazo y esto se hiciera en consulta con ustedes a través de los grupos regionales. Este programa estableció muy claramente: "La Comisión deberá contribuir a los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio, especialmente al objetivo 1, Erradicar la pobreza extrema y el hambre, y al objetivo 7, Garantizar la sostenibilidad del medio ambiente." Esto es importante porque, también por primera vez, se enfoca en un contexto mucho más amplio. También se verificó el desarrollo de las actividades futuras, para mantener el mismo ritmo en los avances que sectores tales como el medio ambiente, a través del Convenio de Diversidad Biológica, o el comercio, a través de la Organización Mundial del Comercio, están siguiendo en aspectos que solapan las actividades de la propia Comisión.

Posteriormente, la Comisión discutió los programas ya tradicionales de plantas y animales y consideró que deben seguir teniendo una alta prioridad. En este contexto, discutió las relaciones con el nuevo Tratado Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, y consideró que debe continuar proporcionando apoyo al Tratado. Especialmente, desarrollar un marco de cooperación con el órgano rector del mismo y el desarrollo de las componentes del Sistema Mundial que se contempla en la sección 5ª del Tratado, Plan de Acción Mundial: el estado mundial, sistema de información, redes, cooperación con los centros internacionales de investigación agrícola, etc.

En el tema de las plantas la Comisión revisó el contenido y el calendario para el segundo Informe sobre la Situación Mundial de los Recursos Fitogenéticos, que debería estar finalizado para el año 2008. También apoyó y proporcionó orientación sobre el trabajo de la FAO para el monitoreo y facilitación de la implementación del Plan de Acción Mundial y decidió apoyar los trabajos de la FAO para el Sistema de Semillas y Desarrollo Sostenible de los Recursos Genéticos.

En relación con animales de granja, fue muy importante la participación de numerosos técnicos venidos de las capitales de más de treinta países expertos en el tema, también esto por primera vez. La Comisión revisó el desarrollo del primer Informe sobre el Estado Mundial de los Recursos Genéticos Animales, supo que se habían presentado más de 160 informes nacionales por parte de sus países y numerosas reuniones regionales, y decidió que este proceso debería culminar con la Primera Conferencia Internacional sobre Recursos Genéticos Animales en el año 2007. También discutió, y aquí no hubo un acuerdo, la posibilidad de negociar un instrumento jurídico para los recursos genéticos animales como existe un tratado para los de plantas. La Comisión también apoyó el informe de sus dos grupos subsidiarios intergubernamentales, uno para plantas y otro para animales, y renovó la composición de los mismos teniendo en cuenta el equilibrio regional. Posteriormente, la Comisión discutió la cooperación con el Convenio de Diversidad Biológica y otros acuerdos internacionales, al mismo tiempo que recibió, como es normal en sus programas regulares, informes de numerosas organizaciones intergubernamentales, no-gubernamentales y del Grupo Consultivo de Investigaciones Agrícolas Internacional.

Y concluyo que en el trabajo futuro se deben reforzar las relaciones con el Convenio de Diversidad Biológica, de forma que se aumente la complementariedad y la sinergia entre sus programas y actividades a través de informes mutuos en igualdad de condiciones; especialmente, se puso énfasis en la cooperación sobre acceso y distribución de beneficios. También pidió un reforzamiento de las relaciones con la Organización Mundial de Propiedad Internacional y los centros internacionales de investigaciones agrícolas.

Por último, esta reunión de la Comisión discutió el Código de Conducta sobre Biotecnología y el estado de su desarrollo. Tuvo en sus manos un documento preparado por el Secretariado, a petición de la reunión precedente, sobre las duplicaciones y lagunas que podría haber en relación con las actividades de otras organizaciones internacionales sobre biotecnología. La Comisión, o al menos gran parte de ella, identificó algunos de los elementos en los que debería concentrarse su trabajo en el futuro en relación a este Código, los gertz, el flujo de genes procedentes de organismos genéticamente modificados, especialmente hacia las colecciones *ex situ* y, principalmente, los centros de origen y diversidad de las plantas cultivadas, la responsabilidad en relación con los organismos genéticamente modificados, la distribución de beneficios y los incentivos necesarios para que los países en desarrollo puedan aprovecharse de estas nuevas biotecnologías, y pidió que se tengan en cuenta estos temas en la elaboración del programa de trabajo futuro. También pidió que el estudio presentado por el Secretariado vuelva a ser estudiado y discutido en la próxima reunión de la Comisión, ya que se necesitaba más tiempo dada la importancia de los temas que se trataban en el mismo.

Por último, y desde el punto de vista de políticas y financiamiento, se pidió a la Secretaría que preparara un análisis sucinto de los recursos humanos y financieros disponibles en la FAO para apoyar los trabajos relacionados con los diversos sectores, no sólo plantas y animales sino los diversos sectores de los recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, y que determinase las lagunas existentes. La Comisión dijo "es preciso movilizar recursos, tanto humanos como financieros, en apoyo del programa de trabajo de la Comisión, reconoce la necesidad de ajustar las prioridades e invita la FAO a movilizar recursos extrapresupuestarios para este fin."

Esto es todo con respecto a la 10ª Reunión Regular de la Comisión.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Mr Esquinas for your comprehensive report and especially because the report is forward looking and looks at the future and in essence is a pro-active report. Now the floor is open for your contributions and, of course, the endorsement of the report.

Ms Jo YVON (United Kingdom)

I would like to ask you please to pass the floor to the delegate of the Netherlands who will speak on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

Ewald WERMUTH (Observer for Netherlands)

We are happy to take the floor first on the Report of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We express our statement on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States, the four exceeding countries Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia associate themselves with our statement.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the Progress Report of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The European Community would like to compliment the Commission on Genetic Resources with the progress made relating to plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. We recognize that the extensive work addressed by the Commission requires sustained effort and priority setting.

In the opinion of the EU, the immediate priority for the Commission is to continue its work on plant genetic resources, in particular, on the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, by preparing the first session of the Governing Body.

On animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, priority should be given to the follow-up mechanism for the implementation of strategic priorities for action.

The EU supports the proposal for an international technical conference to adopt the Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources in 2007. The EU stresses the importance of making further progress in the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources process and to benefit from the country-driven activities which have taken place in most countries. The indicative draft budget that has been prepared gives possible ways of assembling the required resources. These priorities on plant and animal resources should be budgeted in FAO's Medium Term Plan and in next year's biennial Programme of Work and Budget to the largest extent possible.

The EU supports the proposal of the Commission that the Secretariat should submit a multiyear programme of work to its eleventh session. The EU also fully supports the establishment of a multi-year planning by the FAO. This would certainly be helpful for FAO's overall priority setting mechanism for next year's biennial Programme of Work and Budget and for the priority setting of the Commission for Genetic Resources.

The multiyear programme of work would have to be reflected in FAO's Medium Term Plans and in the biennial Programme of Work and Budget.

The EU agrees with the proposal of the Commission on Genetic Resources to prepare a succinct analysis of the human and financial resources available within the FAO, by the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources, for submission at the eleventh session of the Commission on Genetic Resources. This will support work on the various sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture and identify gaps.

In this respect the EU would like to reiterate that priority should be given to the continuation of work on plant and genetic resources, including strengthening national and regional levels. Furthermore, the EU would like to compliment the Commission's close cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant organizations. The cooperation however, could be enhanced.

The EU also takes note of the Report on the work of the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in preparation of the first meeting of the Governing Body.

CHAIRMAN

We have decided to deal with these two Reports separately, therefore, so if your statement on the first part is finished, we can continue.

I invite the distinguished representative of Finland to take the floor.

Ms Heidi PIHLATIE (Finland)

Finland now speaks on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. We also want to express our common support to the statement delivered by Netherlands on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

The Nordic countries have, for more than three decades shared common views on genetic diversity and in the broader picture, all biological diversity. Genetic diversity is essential for our future possibilities to fight hunger and we see with great satisfaction, that awareness of this is rising all over the world. Choosing biological diversity as the theme for the 2004 World Food Day, was one of many supportive measures taken by FAO.

We congratulate the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on its Twentieth Anniversary. Looking back there are many reasons to be proud of its achievements. We would, in particular, like to note the long and demanding, but fruitful, negotiations on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Nordic countries have taken an active part in this work and we are convinced that the Treaty will contribute significantly to the sustainable management of biodiversity and to food security.

We would like to commend the valuable contributions by the CGRFA, especially Mr Jose Equinas and Mr Clive Stannard for their dedication to these negotiations. The coming into force of the Treaty this summer, is indeed a milestone, and States now need to implement and operationalize what has been agreed.

The Nordic countries welcome the generous offer made by Spain to host the forthcoming meeting of the first Governing Body of the Treaty. Operationalization of the Treaty relies on thorough preparations for this meeting and such preparations have so far been possible due to extra-budgetary funds. Many essential tasks are, however, pending. In our view the implementation of the Treaty should be prioritized and resources from the regular budget of FAO should be allocated for that purpose.

The Nordic countries also look very favourably upon the Commission's increased emphasis on other aspects of agricultural biodiversity. This is an important step towards a more holistic, long-term and cross-sectorial perspective of agrobiodiversity. Particular focus is now needed on animal genetic resources in preparation for the Technical Conference in 2007. We trust that the process will increase our common knowledge, strengthen national capacities and create a solid basis for necessary action on animal genetic resources.

Mr Chairman, other initiatives deserve to be mentioned. The establishment of the Global Crop Diversity Trust will be crucial for safeguarding the world's plant genetic resources in a long-term perspective. Sweden has been among the first to take action on this and has already decided to contribute to the Trust with 50 million Swedish Coronas about US\$70 million.

Finally, the Nordic countries want to reiterate the importance of agro biodiversity for food security. For biological diversity, as for so many other issues, crucial to hunger and poverty reduction, it is a fact that we all need to be more committed and act now to be able to feed future generations.

CHAIRMAN

At the beginning I had said that we are talking and considering two different Reports, one is the Report of the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission. The second is the Consideration of the Second Committee of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, acting as the Interim Committee for International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. The first item was introduced and I was expecting the comments to be focussed on the first Report. However, I see that most of the delegations have prepared their statements on both. They are right, because we had only one agenda item on this matter. I apologise to the EU and I will get back to him.

Let us go ahead as per the preparation of your documents, that is, both reports or separately.

I will invite the distinguished delegate of Canada to take the floor.

James MELANSON (Canada)

Canada would like to welcome the entry into force of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources as of 29 June 2004. Canada views this new legal instrument as an important corner stone in the global system for conservation, access, benefit sharing and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

With the entry into force we believe that FAO needs to consider how in the near term, as well as in the future, to fund and facilitate treaty activities. A clear indication of the resources available for the full implementation of the Treaty is critical as the work programme is developed.

Many key issues remain unresolved including the standard material transfer agreement, rules of procedure, financial rules, compliance and development of funding strategy. These and other related resources need to be addressed so that the Treaty can become fully functional.

Canada would join the EU in asking the Secretariat to develop an operational plan and provide funding for the Treaty, given its rapid entry into force, working in concert with the Secretariat of the Interim Committee for the Treaty, taking into account the critical resource requirements for this new global instrument.

Canada would also like to recognize the significant contribution of the European Community for funding and hosting the Expert Meeting held in Brussels earlier this year, the gracious offer of Spain to host the first meeting of the Governing Body of the Treaty and the United States for offering to fund the Working Group Meeting on the material transfer agreement. These extra budgetary contributions are critical to the further development of global conservation efforts.

CHAIRMAN

Before giving the floor to distinguished delegate of Colombia, I think that this is the time to ask Mr Esquinas to very briefly comment on the Report of the Interim Committee.

José ESQUINAS-ALCAZAR (Secretario, Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura)

La segunda reunión de la Comisión, pero esta vez como Comité Interino del Tratado, tal como fue decidido por la Conferencia de la FAO en el año 2001, tuvo como objetivo la preparación de la primera reunión del Órgano Rector del Tratado. También en este caso la reunión estuvo marcada con una celebración, la celebración de la entrada en vigor del Tratado Internacional el 29 de junio del presente año, cuando 40 países llegaron a ratificarlo en sus respectivos parlamentos. Hoy tengo el honor de decirles que el número de ratificaciones del Tratado es ya de 62, creo que en este sentido el Tratado Internacional ha batido todos los records dentro de esta Organización en la rapidez con que ha sido ratificado por los países y es uno de los más rápidos también en el Sistema de Naciones Unidas; esto, a pesar de que se tardó 20 años en negociar, quiere decir que el consenso obtenido en el 2001 por todos ustedes está dando sus frutos.

En las discusiones del Comité Interino se tuvo siempre en cuenta que, según el reglamento, la primera reunión del Órgano Rector del Tratado tiene que tener lugar dentro de dos años de su entrada en vigor, lo cual quiere decir que en cualquier caso debe de ser antes del 29 de junio de 2006. Se tomó nota en primer lugar de los avances que se habían hecho desde octubre de 2002, primera reunión del Comité Interino, principalmente en dos frentes: la elaboración de los acuerdos de transferencias de material normalizados, donde se había creado un Grupo de Expertos que se reunió durante este periodo y proporcionó a la Comisión los distintos puntos de vista con las ventajas e inconvenientes de cada una de las opciones identificadas; y se informó también a la Comisión de que desgraciadamente, el segundo órgano creado por la Comisión como Órgano Subsidiario, un Comité abierto para la discusión del mecanismo de cumplimiento y los asuntos financieros y de procedimiento, no pudo realizarse por falta de fondos extra presupuestarios. Es preciso tener en cuenta que, debido a la rapidez con que había entrado en vigor el Tratado, en el Programa Regular de la FAO para este bienio no se habían considerado suficientemente los posibles gastos, debido a que se pensaba que no entraría en vigor hasta el bienio próximo.

Durante la reunión de la semana pasada la Comisión concentró sus trabajos en avanzar en algunos de los aspectos de los documentos para la primera reunión de los Delegados de Gobierno, y a determinar el procedimiento para terminarlos. De esta manera, se avanzó en el Proyecto de Reglamentos del Órgano Rector, donde se revisó y se introdujeron una serie de enmiendas y paréntesis, y se pidió que un Órgano Interino se reúna para avanzar un poco más y después presentar el Proyecto al Órgano Rector en el 2005 ó 2006. Lo mismo ocurrió en el Proyecto de Reglamento Financiero del Órgano Rector, también aquí se discutió, se incluyeron enmiendas y adiciones, se pusieron cosas entre paréntesis y se pidió que este órgano abierto lo revisara de nuevo antes de enviarlo al Órgano Rector. En el proyecto para la Relaciones con otras organizaciones internacionales que mantienen colecciones *ex-situ*, especialmente el Grupo

Consultivo de Investigaciones Agrícolas Internacionales, revisó este Proyecto y se decidió que fuera directamente al Órgano Rector, todo esto tiene que ver con el Artículo XV de las colecciones *ex-situ* bajo los auspicios del Tratado. Con respecto a otros elementos no fue posible avanzar tanto, pero se explanó el camino para decidir cómo actuaría el Secretariado, esto tiene que ver con el informe sobre los resultados de la reunión del Grupo de Expertos sobre Condiciones de Acuerdo de Transferencia de Material Normalizado. Aquí el Comité determinó que se estableciera un grupo de contacto encargado de la redacción del Acuerdo, a fin de preparar un Proyecto de Acuerdo de Transferencia de Material para su examen por el Órgano Rector; el Comité Interino aprobó el mandato y la composición del mismo.

Se especifico también que el Proyecto para el procedimiento de mecanismos para promover el cumplimiento y hacer frente a los casos de incumplimiento, se discutiría en la Reunión de un Órgano Abierto Intersectorial y de la misma manera, la Estrategia Financiera del Tratado. Se estudió por último la preparación del Proyecto de Programas de Trabajos y Presupuesto para su aprobación por el Órgano Rector y se pidió a la Secretaría que, en cooperación con los grupos regionales, terminara un informe que seria presentado al Órgano Rector y finalmente se aprobó un Programa de Trabajos y Presupuesto de la Comisión para el Proceso Interino. Este Programa incluye esencialmente la reunión del Grupo de Contacto para redactar los términos de transferencia de Germoplasma, y el Grupo Abierto de Trabajo que trataría cuatro temas: normas de procedimiento, normas financieras, cumplimiento, y estrategia financiera; que se haría solo en el caso en que hayan suficientes fondos extra presupuestarios. De la misma forma, se discutió también la primera reunión del Órgano de Gobierno, que tendría que ser convocada a la mayor brevedad siempre dentro del 2005 ó el 2006.

Todo esto significa, sin duda ninguna, un costo estimado en aproximadamente unos 4 millones de dólares; dicha estima fue presentada a la Comisión y ésta decidió que se revisase ligeramente.

La Comisión agradeció a países como Canadá, Finlandia, Alemania, Irlanda, Japón, Noruega, España, El Reino Unido y Estados Unidos, su contribución al proceso y, tengo que añadir que, Holanda también ha enviado una carta apoyando financieramente el proceso. Durante la reunión hubo dos ofertas más, Estados Unidos ofreció financiar la próxima Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Transferencias de Material, y España ofreció hospedar en su país y financiar la primera reunión del Cuerpo de Gobierno de la Comisión; la oferta de España fue acogida con agrado y aprobada por unanimidad.

CHAIRMAN

Now we have both documents and the reports of both meetings presented by Mr Esquinas, and I will continue with my list of speakers. I invite the Distinguished Representative of Colombia to take the floor please.

Sra. Paula TOLOSA ACEVEDO (Colombia)

Quisiera intervenir en prima instancia en nombre del GRULAC y posteriormente en nombre de Colombia.

En nombre del GRULAC agradecemos a la Secretaría y, en especial, al Sr. Esquinas por su excelente informe y su alto trabajo durante la Comisión. Se realizaron en las últimas semanas dos eventos de gran importancia para los Países de América Latina y el Caribe: la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación y la reunión de la misma Comisión actuando como Comité Interino en el Tratado Internacional sobre Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Tanto la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos como el Tratado Internacional juegan un papel fundamental en los esfuerzos de nuestros países en la lucha contra el hambre y la miseria, a través de promoción de la conservación y del uso sustentable de recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, así como motivando y generando una mayor participación de los países de América Latina y el Caribe. Voy a recordar que la Comisión celebró sus 20 años y fue creada por sugerencia de los países en desarrollo bajo el liderazgo del GRULAC; la larga y difícil negociación que llevó al Tratado Internacional fue liderada por muchos años por un ilustre representante de nuestro grupo, el Embajador Fernando Gervasi. En

ambas reuniones los países de la región sobresalieron tanto individualmente como a nivel de grupo actuando coordinadamente en el marco del GRULAC. Sin lugar a dudas, hemos intentado contribuir de la mejor manera para obtener los buenos resultados alcanzados de los cuales me gustaría destacar los siguientes: en el ámbito de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación debemos esforzarnos para reforzar la continuidad del trabajo en curso en materia de recursos filogenéticos y zoogenéticos con énfasis en el fortalecimiento de capacidades a nivel nacional y regional, así como el direccionamiento del trabajo futuro de la Comisión para el cumplimiento de las metas del milenio dirigidas primordialmente a la lucha contra el hambre y el uso sustentable de los recursos. En el ámbito del Comité interino del Tratado Internacional, donde Colombia tuvo el honor de coordinar el GRULAC y el G 77, es importante ir avanzando en la preparación de la primera reunión del Órgano Rector que se realizaría en el primer semestre del 2006. Hay, sin embargo, mucho trabajo aún por concluir por lo que será importante la continuidad de las contribuciones de cada uno de nuestros países así como de nuestros esfuerzos de coordinación regional.

Leeré una declaración en nombre de Colombia: atendiendo a lo que recomendó el grupo de trabajo técnico intergubernamental en su reunión de marzo de 2004, la FAO deberá continuar hasta diciembre del 2006 a través de sus consultores regionales apoyando a los países en la elaboración de proyectos que atiendan las prioridades identificadas en el informe de la situación de recursos zoogenéticos. Esta propuesta surge de la importancia que se tuvo a través de la participación en reuniones con autoridades de los diferentes gobiernos y los grupos de técnicos nacionales en la elaboración de los informes. Se considera que hay necesidad de que por los dos primeros años, después de conformado el informe de los países, la FAO mantenga estas estructuras para continuar apoyando a los países y sirviendo de nexo entre los mismos y sus necesidades con la FAO. Consideramos que con dos visitas a cada país en el 2005 y una en el 2006, se conseguiría continuar apoyando al proceso. En la primera visita se elaboraría el proyecto, en la segunda se analizarían los avances obtenidos, y la del 2006 sería ya para la puesta marcha del proyecto mismo. Tomando como base la importancia fundamental que tuvo para la elaboración de los informes la reunión regional de todos los coordinadores nacionales realizado en julio de 2003 en Lima, se pretende solicitar que la FAO organice dos reuniones subregionales a inicios del 2005 para poder definir las actividades de las mencionadas subregiones. Una subregión sería Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Bolivia, y la otra sería Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brasil y Argentina. Pensamos que trabajar por subregiones pueda ser más eficiente en las actividades debido a las proximidades y recursos naturales y necesidades más comunes. Todo el proceso de elaboración de los informes tiene como objetivo fundamental conocer la realidad de cada país sobre sus prioridades y de qué forma pueden ser relacionados con la cooperación internacional. Esta etapa fue concluida con suceso. De esta forma los diez países de América del Sur entregaron sus informes a la FAO. Para que eso realmente tenga el impacto deseado y principalmente, para que sirva como impulso para crear en nuestras sociedades y mayor conciencia de la importancia presente y futura de los recursos genéticos animales, es necesario que para el 2005, por lo menos, un proyecto de las prioridades de cada región sea aprobado entre las actividades.

Vemos con mucha preocupación que en la casi totalidad de los países, todo lo conseguido con los grupos técnicos de trabajo que elaboraron los informes casi junto con la finalización del informe también han paralizado sus actividades y no se ha avanzado. Eso es para nosotros motivo de alta preocupación, puesto que sin la continuación de las actividades de estos grupos, muy difícilmente conseguiremos establecer acciones concretas. Por lo tanto, solicitamos a la FAO la aprobación de al menos un proyecto regional que sirva como polo difusor de las estrategias y como estímulo para la continuación de los trabajos. Con base en la recomendación a la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y Agricultura, numeral 24 XVIII y XIX, por parte del Grupo de Trabajo Técnico Intergubernamental sobre Recursos Zoogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura en su tercera reunión, en lo referente a la utilización sostenible de los recursos zoogenéticos y un mejor uso de las razas localmente adaptadas, solicitamos que se dé apoyo a aquellos proyectos que pretenden dar cumplimiento a este mandato, situación en la cual ya está empeñada Colombia a través del ya mencionado proyecto sobre multiplicación, uso estratégico y

mejoramiento genético de las razas bovinas criollas y colombianas, el cual fue presentado en la Secretaría en la Comisión de Recursos Filogenéticos de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN

I would request all the speakers please who are reading from their written statements not to be too fast so that the interpreters can keep pace with you and you do not cause them much trouble. Now I would like to come back to EU with apologies to Ambassador Wermuth for any inconvenience and we are ready to listen to the rest of your statement.

Ewald WERMUTH (Observer for Netherlands)

We took note of the report of the Work of the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in preparation of the First Meeting of the Governing Body as stated earlier.

The EU is disappointed by the lack of progress made at the Second Meeting of the Interim Committee for the Treaty in the preparation of essential decisions for the First Session of the Governing Body. We have to acknowledge that last week has highlighted aspects of our work that have not been productive. The EU hopes that future sessions will adopt work processes, such as parallel working groups, which will progress our objectives in a more effective and efficient manner. Therefore, the EU fully supports the decision, based on EU proposals, that regional groups meet one day in advance of the First Session of the Governing Body and that financial resources be made available to that end.

The EU welcomes the last moment results of the Second Interim Committee, especially on the Terms of Reference for the Contact Group on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, the Programme of Work and Budget of the Governing Body and the Programme of Work and Budget for the interim period. We agree with the recommendations of the Second Interim Committee to organize a Contact Group to draft the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, based on the Terms of Reference as adopted in the second Interim Committee. The Contact Group will meet before the First Governing Body, to be hosted in Spain. We would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Spain who kindly offered to host the first Governing Body meeting.

To conclude, the EU believes high priority should be given to the preparatory work for the First Session of the Governing Body; in particular, to adopt the rules of procedure and financial rules, to adopt a programme for work and budget and to agree on Standard Material Transfer Agreement and compliance. The EU believes that these priorities, as well as the staffing requirements and consultancy provisions are requirements for an effective implementation of the International Treaty. These should come, as much as possible, from the core budget of FAO, and will have to be reflected in FAO's Medium Term Plans and next year's biennial Programme of Work and Budget.

CHAIRMAN

I will again ask the delegations that have a written statement to send a copy to the interpreters before taking the floor. With this, I would like to invite the Distinguished Representative of Angola to take the floor.

Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Merci Monsieur le Président. Ma délégation aimerait, avant tout, féliciter le Comité des ressources génétiques pour le vingtième anniversaire de sa création, remercier tout le personnel technique et d'appui qui, pendant cette période, a réalisé un prodigieux travail qui a culminé par la récente entrée en vigueur du Traité international des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Ma délégation aimerait saluer deux personnes en particulier, au nom de tous les collaborateurs, notamment son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Gerbasi du Venezuela et le professeur Esquinas, qui représentent bien la dynamique de tous ceux qui ont travaillé pendant ces vingt années pour que le travail produise de bons résultats. Nous espérons que bientôt le Comité des ressources génétiques puisse commencer à négocier un nouveau traité sur les ressources

zoogénétiques pour l'alimentation, tenant compte de leur importance permettant d'établir une référence pour améliorer la conservation et l'utilisation de ces ressources.

Monsieur le Président, nous considérons que la dernière réunion de la Commission intérimaire du Traité international, qui a eu lieu la semaine dernière, analysait des documents d'une extrême importance pour le succès de l'application du Traité, notamment des règlements internes et financiers, des Programmes de travail et budget et stratégie de financement. Il n'était pas possible d'arriver à un compromis sur tous les points mais nous considérons que le travail déjà réalisé est positif. Toutefois, il y a un point qui n'est pas encore résolu et que l'on considère, en général, comme un des plus importants. C'est la contrepartie financière de l'accès au système multilatéral et le transfert de matériel. Nous savons que le thème est délicat mais nous pensons qu'avec la compréhension de tous, nous pouvons arriver à un compromis acceptable avant la première réunion de l'Organe directeur.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, nous aimerions remercier les Gouvernements d'Espagne et des Etats-Unis pour avoir appuyé la première réunion de l'Organe directeur et la session de travail et nous approuvons le Rapport de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et la deuxième réunion du Comité intérimaire du Traité international.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Australia welcomes the outcomes of the recent discussions within the Commission on Genetic Resources and the Interim Committee of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We would, however, wish to comment briefly on a number of issues.

Firstly, we welcome the clear guidance of the Commission that the immediate priority for future work should be to continue to work on plant and animal genetic resources. Clearly, the immediate priority here is the Commission's conclusion that it should support the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Australia also welcomes the Commission's agreement to strengthen mutual cooperation with the CDD and other relevant organizations and would note that the agreement was for such cooperation to be within the mandate of the Commission on Genetic Resources and that such work would need to take into account the timing and scope of the CDD's programme of work. We would, however, urge FAO to be cautious in seeking to pursue an overly ambitious agenda in this area. The Commission agreed that the immediate priority should be to continue on plant and animal genetic resources and to support implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. The Secretariat is already experiencing difficulties in finding the resources to undertake this work. In the Commission's conclusions, it was also recognized that such work would be subject to further consideration by the Eleventh Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources as part of its future multi-year work programme and important decisions will need to be taken at that time on how best to prioritize FAO's limited resources in the genetic resources area.

The Commission also recognized that FAO will need to develop a staged approach to pursuing such work in line with the work programme of the CDD and, also, we would recognize that the potential scope for FAO cooperation with the CDD programme of work is much broader than that of the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources, and that the Commission has only agreed to work within its mandate in cooperating with the CDD.

Finally, on the outcomes of the Commission on Genetic Resources, we would also like to welcome the agreements on the Multi-Year Work of Programme which we will see as an important document to feed into FAO's broader planning processes.

Turning now to the International Treaty, we would note that the Treaty's Governing Body which is expected to take place before the end of June 2006 will have before it a significant workload and that many issues remain to be resolved. We also appreciate the generous offer of the Government of Spain to host the Governing Body meeting. In terms of the Treaty's Secretariat, Australia supports the FAO providing funds through its Regular Programme budget to support the core activities undertaken by the Secretariat. There are efficiencies to be gained by having this

Secretariat located within the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources. Australia also supports the FAO providing funding to help implement and achieve the Treaty objectives.

Hubert POFFET (Suisse)

La Suisse considère que le Traité sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture constitue en fait la reconnaissance en droit international de l'agriculture durable et contribue de manière significative à la réalisation d'un des objectifs du Programme Action 21 de la Conférence de Rio.

Je n'aimerais pas cacher ici, cependant, la déception que mon pays a éprouvé devant le peu de progrès réalisé lors de la réunion du Comité intérimaire. La Délégation suisse aurait souhaité, dans un esprit constructif, participer à des discussions sur des questions importantes de substance et ne pas perdre des journées précieuses de travail sur des problèmes de procédure.

J'aimerais toutefois relever que la Suisse se félicite, et les en remercie, de l'offre de l'Espagne et des Etats-Unis d'accueillir et de financer respectivement la première réunion de l'Organe directeur du Traité ainsi que celle du groupe de contact sur les termes de l'accord type relatif au transfert de matériel.

Monsieur le Président, en dépit de sa déception, la Suisse entend continuer cependant à apporter une contribution active et positive à la mise en œuvre du Traité. Elle est disposée, à cet effet, à accorder un appui financier aux travaux préparatoires du Secrétariat du Traité pour la première réunion de l'Organe directeur.

Pour la mise en œuvre du Traité et aux fins de donner un signal clair en faveur d'une agriculture durable, nous estimons nécessaire que l'Organe directeur se réunisse le plus rapidement possible.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Switzerland, especially thank you for the good news of the financial support.

I now invite the distinguished representative of the United States of America to take the floor.

David B. HEGWOOD (United States of America)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for its Report on both the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the Interim Committee on Plant Genetic Resources.

We would like to welcome the substantial progress that has been made in the Commission on Genetic Resources over the past 20 years. We join those celebrating the work that has been done and we look forward to continuing the important work in that Commission.

We believe that the priorities for work in the Commission should continue to be plant and animal genetic resources. It is important that we recognize the need to match priorities with the available financial and human resources. While there are many other areas of genetic resources that fall within the Commissions mandates, we do need to set priorities and make sure that those priorities are matched with the resources available.

In that regard, we welcome the request for the Secretariat to prepare a succinct analysis of the human and financial resources available within FAO to support the work on genetic resources.

We would also like to add our support to the statement of my colleague from Australia on the relationship between the work of the Commission and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). While we think it is important to ensure cooperation between the Commission and the CBD, it is also important to ensure that that cooperation takes place within the existing mandate of the Commission.

Turning to the work of the Interim Committee, while we would note the substantial progress that was made at the last meeting, I have to share the frustration expressed by many others – the slow pace of progress, particularly given the substantial amount of work that needs to be completed and preparation for the first Meeting of the Governing Body and the limitation on the financial resources, as well as resources of the Secretariat – to complete all of the work that needs to be

done. We believe that we could have accomplished much more last week if we had been able to work in a more efficient manner and we welcome ideas and proposals to ensure that future work is conducted more efficiently.

The priority for the Interim Committee should be the completion of the Draft of the Material Transfer Agreement before the first Meeting of the Governing Body. We look forward to substantial progress on that issue in the coming months.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Members of the Secretariat, particularly Mr Esquinas, Mr Stannard and Mr Smith for their substantial contributions to the Commission over the past years. I would like to thank Ambassador Gerbasi for his contributions to the negotiation of the International Treaty. I would like to thank the European Union for its support for the work of the Expert Group and the Government of Spain for its offer to host the first Meeting of the Governing Body.

And, in conclusion, the United States supports adoption of these two Reports.

Mooneeshwar RAMTOHUL (Mauritius)

First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the Report on Genetic Resources on Food and Agriculture.

Mauritius recognizes the importance concerning the diversity of both plant and animal genetic resources and the contribution to food security, poverty alleviation and the protection of the environment.

We have already signed several international conventions in relation to nature conservation and protection of the environment, among which are the Convention of Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species (CITES), the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

In the context of agriculture, Mauritius was among the first countries to sign the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Yesterday, it has joined 15 other countries in signing the Establishment of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, which seems to be an element of the funding strategy of the International Treaty.

Although Mauritius does not have a great diversity of crops, its reliance on crops – potatoes, rice, beans, vegetables, fruits and flowers – from other parts of the world is of paramount importance for feeding its population and generating income. The maintenance of these collections and the use needs to be supported.

Sugar cane is one of the major crops and we need germplasm collections from different parts of the world. In the Programme of Diversification, obtaining germplasm of other key crops may become more important in the future for Mauritius. Adherence to the International Treaty and its funding mechanism can help in this respect.

As the current Chair of the SADEC Plant Genetic Resources Programme, Mauritius has an important role to play at the regional level and can influence the trust involvement in this region to benefit all of its Members.

Although a small island, Mauritius has unique flora and fauna and is considered to be one of the major centres of plant diversity by the World Conservation Union. To ensure the preservation, we have already prepared a National Biodiversity Action Plan and ensured the integration of agricultural biodiversity with overall nature conservation activities. We recognize the value of crop relatives and the roles these play in agriculture and ecosystem processors.

We are looking for an early finalization of the Material Transfer Agreement and finalization of the Compliance Issue and the Funding Mechanism for Implementation of the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Shobar WIGANDA (Indonesia)

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the comprehensive Report of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Our government has noted that there is a crucial condition, pros and cons, for the utilization of GMOs as a source of food and agriculture in our country. However, our government policy has a very strong recommendation to use GMOs with precaution, since we believe that there is a stagnation or gradual decline of food and agricultural production.

The government also promotes the GMO utilization for food security through the use of GMO as a source of leverage in the intensification programmes.

Finally, we support the FAO Commissions working on GMO utilization to focus on the most appropriate works, such as: conservation of genetic origin resources obtainable in the centres of origins inter alia collection and identification; national capacity building and international cooperation; biodiversity and implemental concerns; and incentives to be given to promote appropriate biotechnology.

Hideo INOMATA (Japan)

At this time, I confine myself to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

As one of the persons involved in the negotiation last week, I am personally delighted to see the progress made in many areas on this issue. It was real progress, with a spirit of cooperation by all the people concerned, including the Secretariat.

I fully agree with the need to facilitate the process for the Treaty to become fully activated. In particular, we have to finalize, as early as possible, the rules of procedure, financial rules and the Standard Material Transfer Agreement. In that sense, I would fully appreciate the generous offer made by the Governments of Spain and the United States of America for this purpose.

I would add that, with regard to the modality of the Secretariat and its associated costs for the Treaty, perhaps we may need to deepen our discussion at future opportunities, in terms of its administrative and financial implications, while keeping holistic aspects perspective on the entirety of FAO itself.

In this sense, I am looking forward to having fruitful discussions on this issue by the Governing Bodies, both of the Treaties and FAO.

Saulo ARANTES CEOLIN (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation would like to thank Dr Esquinas for his excellent presentation of the Reports of both the Tenth Meeting of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Second Meeting of the Commission on Genetic Resources, acting as the Interim Committee of the International Treaty.

We align ourselves with the statement of the distinguished Representative of Colombia, in the name of the Latin American and Caribbean Group and we welcome the outcome of both meetings.

Like other speakers before, we would also like to thank the generous support of Members States for our work at FAO on the issue of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Brazil would like to particularly stress its satisfaction with the results of last week's meeting. Important advancements were achieved regarding the Material Transfer Agreement as well as in the preparation of the Rules of Procedure and the Financial Rules for the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

Despite the lack of preparatory work by the Open-ended Working Group, never convened for lack of funds, the work on these and other structuring elements of the Governing body progressed as

much as possible last week. We should thank for that the hard work of the Secretariat and the positive disposition of all participating delegations to negotiate under pressing conditions.

In that sense, Brazil welcomes the suggestion of the European Community that future meetings allow for the necessary regional coordination.

Regarding the future budget for the core activities of the International Treaty, Brazil is concerned about the suggestion that it should come entirely from the FAO budget. Our understanding is that new funding sources will be needed, in order not to risk other priority activities of FAO, including those of the Commission on Genetic Resources itself.

José A. QUINTERO (Cuba)

La delegación de Cuba quisiera agradecer a la Secretaría por el documento que ha puesto a nuestra consideración sobre el tema en cuestión. Queremos apoyar las declaraciones hechas por las distinguidas representaciones de Colombia en nombre del GRULAC y la declaración que acaba de realizar el Representante de la distinguida Representación de Brasil.

Cuba quiere expresar su satisfacción por la entrada en vigor del Tratado Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura para cual nuestro país recientemente ha depositado su instrumento de ratificación. Sin embargo, queremos expresar nuestra preocupación por la falta de recursos extrapresupuestarios necesarios para iniciar la aplicación de este tratado por lo que deseamos unirnos a los llamados hechos por otras representaciones para buscar y encontrar los recursos necesarios para la aplicación del tratado y para poder realizar la primera reunión del órgano rector de este importante instrumento que, de seguro, va a ayudar a la lucha contra la pobreza y contra el hambre en los países en desarrollo y en todo el mundo.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

En nuestra declaración general en nombre del GRULAC, se nos pasó por alto ratificar el apoyo que el GRULAC le dio a la propuesta de España para que se celebre allí la Primera Reunión del Órgano Rector y queremos ratificar ese apoyo. Lo segundo es que el GRULAC ve con muy buenos ojos y se siente muy orgulloso de la labor que desempeño el Embajador Gerbasi, en la hermana República de Venezuela en todo lo que tuvo que ver con la negociación del Tratado, y queremos en esta Reunión manifestarlo nuevamente. Como tercer punto, agradecer la labor realizada por el Sr. José Esquinas durante 20 años al frente del Tratado; en ese sentido el GRULAC se había pronunciado en la Comisión de Recursos, como Comité Interino. Lo último es para respaldar la propuesta de Brasil de buscar recursos extra presupuestarios para llevar adelante el Tratado, sin que tengamos de alguna manera que menoscabar la labor de la Organización extrayendo recursos ordinarios y podamos llevar por buen camino el Tratado Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

CHAIRMAN

Any other requests for the floor on these items. We have heard lots of comments and recommendations especially concerning future conduct of business.

Both reports have been endorsed by the Council and comments, recommendations have been noted by the Secretariat.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)**V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)****V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS (continuación)****14. Reports of the Seventy-Sixth (March 2004) and Seventy-Seventh (October 2004) Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters**

(CL 127/5; CL 127/21; CL 127/21-Corr.1)

14. Rapports des soixante-seizième et soixante-dix-septième sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (mars et octobre 2004, respectivement) (CL 127/5; CL 127/21; CL 127/21-Corr.1))**14. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 76º (marzo de 2004) y 77º (octubre de 2004) del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CL 127/5; CL 127/21; CL 127/21-Corr.1)****CHAIRMAN**

We now move to proceed to Item 14 on our Agenda, Reports of the Seventy-sixth and Seventy-Seventh Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. The documents are CL 127/5, CL 127/21, 21 Corrigendum 1.

Mrs Gaudot Vice-Chairperson of the Committee of Constitutional and Legal Matters will introduce the report of the Seventy-sixth Session of the Committee held in March 2004 as set out in the Document 127/5. Ambassador Zakariaou, Chairperson of the Committee of Constitutional and Legal Matters, will introduce the report of the Seventy-seventh Session document 127/21 and 127/21 – Coord.1.

I would like to pass the floor, first to Mrs Gaudot and then to Ambassador Zakariaou to introduce the items.

Mme Claire GAUDOT (Vice-Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

Alors, comme vous l'avez dit, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a tenu sa soixante-seizième session le 30 mars 2004. Lors de cette session, il a été procédé à l'élection de notre Président du Comité, Son Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Adam Maiga Zakariaou, du Niger. Comme il était absent lors de ce Comité, en ma qualité de Vice-Présidente, il m'appartient donc de vous présenter le résultat de nos travaux.

En fait, lors de cette session, le Comité n'avait qu'un seul point à l'examen, et ce point concernait l'amendement qu'il est proposé d'apporter à l'Article VIII.5 du Règlement intérieur de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius*; et cet amendement concerne les fonctions consultatives du Comité exécutif, quant à l'octroi, par les Directeurs généraux de la FAO et de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, du statut d'observateur à des organisations internationales non gouvernementales. A cet égard, je crois qu'il convient de rappeler que les propositions qui avaient été formulées par l'évaluation conjointe de la FAO et de l'OMS du Comité du *Codex Alimentarius*, et qui ont été examinées par la Commission du *Codex* en juillet 2003, contenaient trois recommandations qui concernaient les organisations internationales non gouvernementales et, parmi ces trois recommandations, une était relative à l'amélioration de la procédure d'octroi du statut d'observateur à ces organisations internationales non gouvernementales, ainsi qu'à l'approbation de chaque organisation par le Comité exécutif. Cependant, le Comité sur les principes généraux, suite à ses recommandations de l'évaluation, a noté que les procédures des organisations mères, ainsi que le statut de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius* limitaient la portée de l'intervention de la Commission ou du Comité exécutif dans le processus de l'octroi du statut d'observateur auprès de la Commission.

Ainsi, ni la Commission ni le Comité exécutif ne peuvent être investis de pouvoirs leur permettant d'approuver les demandes d'obtention de statut d'observateur. Dans ce contexte, le Comité sur les principes généraux a approuvé une option, en vertu de laquelle les Directeurs généraux

demanderaient l'avis du Comité exécutif, au sujet des demandes d'octroi du statut d'observateur. Cette option renforcerait ainsi la transparence et la base démocratique de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius*. C'est ainsi que le CQCJ a examiné le libellé de l'amendement qu'il était prévu d'apporter à l'Article VIII.5 du Règlement intérieur de la Commission du *Codex* et, en particulier, le libellé de l'Article VIII.6 qui est relatif à ces organisations internationales non gouvernementales. Le CQCJ a estimé que cet amendement était conforme aux procédures actuelles qui régissent les relations entre la FAO et les organisations internationales non gouvernementales et qu'il n'existait aucun obstacle juridique qui empêcherait d'accorder au Comité exécutif des fonctions consultatives dans le processus proposé. Les amendements proposés devront donc, d'abord, être vus par le Comité sur les principes généraux du *Codex* et ensuite, approuvés lors de la prochaine session de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius*. Je crois savoir qu'ils auraient déjà dû être approuvés, mais que pour des raisons de procédures, cela sera fait lors de la prochaine session de la Commission.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Mrs Gaudot. I pass the floor to Ambassador Zakariaou to introduce the report of Seventy-seventh Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Adam Maiga ZAKARIAOU (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

Avant de procéder à la présentation proprement dite du rapport de la cent dix-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, je voudrais saisir l'occasion, qui m'est offerte, pour remercier une fois encore tous les Membres du Comité pour la confiance qu'ils ont bien voulu me renouveler à me réélisant à la présidence de cet important Comité. Cette réélection fait honneur non seulement à mon pays, le Niger, mais aussi et surtout, à mon groupe régional, l'Afrique. Ceci dit, Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, la soixante dix-septième session du CQCJ, s'est tenue les 7 et 8 octobre derniers, afin d'examiner les points ci-après inscrits à son ordre du jour, à savoir:

- premièrement, le statut juridique des organes établis en vertu de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO;
- deuxièmement, une proposition de création d'une Commission des pêches pour le sud-ouest de l'Océan Indien en vertu de l'Article VI de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO;
- troisièmement, les dispositions relatives à la place attribuée à la Communauté européenne, lors des réunions de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius* et de ses organes subsidiaires;
- quatrièmement, les corrections d'erreurs relevées dans les différentes versions linguistiques des Textes fondamentaux et enfin, l'information sur les faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies en ce qui concerne les partenariats enregistrés et les mariages entre personnes de même sexe.

Monsieur le Président, aux fins de l'étude du premier point, le CQCJ, après avoir examiné le document CCLM/77/2, a rappelé les vues exprimées par la Commission des thons de l'Océan Indien à sa huitième session tenue en décembre 2003, qui relevait la nécessité d'une clarification de ses relations avec la FAO. Le Comité a également passé en revue le cadre juridique d'ensembles applicables aux conventions et accords conclus au titre de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO, ainsi qu'un certain nombre de considérations juridiques à savoir:

- que les conventions et accords conclus en vertu de l'Article XIV avaient expressément pour objet de créer des obligations financières et autres pour les Membres de la FAO qui y adhèrent en sus de ceux qu'ils assumaient déjà au titre de l'Acte constitutif;
- que les organes établis en vertu de ces instruments, devaient jouir d'une autonomie fonctionnelle dans le cadre de leurs attributions et que leur secrétaire devait bénéficier de la plus grande autonomie possible, dans les limites fixées par le cadre juridique pertinent;
- que ses organes étaient placés et opéraient dans le cadre institutionnel de la FAO, en ce sens que les instruments qui les créent étaient approuvés par la Conférence ou le Conseil, selon des procédures strictes;

- que les instruments sus-mentionnés n'octroyaient pas de personnalité juridique, c'est-à-dire la capacité des organes établis, et de faire l'objet de droits et d'obligations propres. Ces organes devaient donc agir par le biais de la FAO ou se fonder sur la capacité juridique de celle-ci;
- que les secrétaires de ces organismes étaient des fonctionnaires de la FAO nommés par le Directeur général et assujettis au statut du personnel et aux règles de l'Organisation.

À la lumière de ces considérations ci-dessus mentionnées, le CQCJ a été d'avis que les questions qui en découlent devaient être traitées de manière à concilier de façon appropriée, d'une part, les évidences liées à l'autonomie fonctionnelle de ces organismes et d'autre part, le fait qu'ils étaient placés et opéraient dans le cadre de la FAO. Le Comité a ainsi relevé une série de quatre questions qui y ont trait.

. Premièrement: à la capacité juridique des organes établis en vertu de l'Article XIV de prendre des mesures juridiques et autres, plus particulièrement en ce qui concerne la possibilité de conclure des accords. Le Comité a estimé que si ces organes venaient à conclure des contrats ou accords autres que des arrangements informels de travail de façon directe et autonome, sans l'avis préalable de la FAO, ils agiraient de manière incompatible avec leur statut. Donc, afin d'éviter l'acceptation par ces organismes, d'engagements pouvant avoir des implications pour la FAO dans son ensemble et pour ses Membres, le Comité a recommandé de suivre à l'avenir une procédure établie pour la conclusion d'accords autres que des arrangements informels de travail. En d'autres termes, ces accords devraient être portés à la connaissance de l'Organisation avant leur conclusion pour que la FAO puisse vérifier qu'ils n'auront pas d'incidence sur ses politiques, ses programmes ou sur ses ressources financières dans l'esprit de la partie R des Textes fondamentaux. Le Comité demande donc au Conseil d'inviter l'Organisation à suivre l'application de cette recommandation afin de déterminer s'il était nécessaire d'amender la partie R des Textes fondamentaux.

. La deuxième question a trait à la procédure de sélection et de nomination des secrétaires des organes établis en vertu de l'Article XIV. Dans sa tentative d'apporter une réponse à cette question, le Comité a examiné les circonstances particulières dans lesquelles cette question a été soulevée. Il a noté qu'elle concernait essentiellement l'interprétation des dispositions de l'Article III du paragraphe 32 des principes contenus dans la partie R des Textes fondamentaux et des dispositions d'un certain nombre d'accords selon lesquels les secrétaires de certains organes établis, en vertu de l'Article XIV sont nommés par le Directeur général, avec l'approbation des organes concernés. Le Comité a estimé que ces dispositions étaient de nature à créer deux volets parallèles et indépendants.

À savoir: d'une part, l'identification d'un candidat par l'organe concerné et d'autre part, sa nomination par le Directeur général qui serait chargé uniquement de nommer le-dit candidat sans aucune forme de participation au processus d'identification des candidats qualifiés. Le Comité a été d'avis que cette pratique ne serait pas compatible avec le cadre juridique applicable en la matière, notamment les obligations constitutionnelles du Directeur général en ce qui concerne la sélection et la nomination du personnel. Le Comité a estimé que la procédure adoptée récemment par la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée, lors de sa session extraordinaire tenue à Malte du 19 au 23 juillet 2004, constituait une solution acceptable sur le plan juridique pour la nomination des secrétaires des organes établis en vertu de l'Article XIV. Par conséquent, le Comité recommande au Conseil d'inviter la Commission des thons de l'Océan Indien à amender son Règlement intérieur dans sa partie concernant la procédure de sélection et de nomination de son Secrétaire, en s'inspirant de la procédure approuvée par la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée, étant entendu que cette procédure ne serait applicable qu'à l'avenir.

. La troisième question soulevée par le Comité, concerne le statut des documents où des décisions ayant une incidence sur les politiques, les programmes ou les ressources financières de la FAO. A ce propos, le Comité a exprimé l'opinion selon laquelle de telles décisions devraient être portées à la connaissance de l'Organisation afin que celle-ci puisse avoir la possibilité de faire connaître ses points de vue en temps opportun. Par ailleurs le Comité a été informé par le Conseil juridique de la FAO, de deux points essentiels; à savoir: d'une part que l'exigence sus-mentionnée était sans

préjudice de l'autonomie fonctionnelle des organes créés en vertu de l'Article XIV en ce qui concerne les questions purement techniques et, d'autre part, que si un document ou une décision ayant une incidence sur les politiques, les programmes et les ressources financières de la FAO, avaient été préparés lors des sessions des organes concernés, un représentant du Directeur général devrait avoir la possibilité de présenter la position de l'Organisation. C'est ainsi que le Comité recommande au Conseil de réaffirmer cette prise de position et de demander que cette question soit maintenue à l'étude afin d'évaluer la nécessité éventuelle d'amender la partie R des Textes fondamentaux en conséquence.

. La quatrième question a trait au statut des organisations membres de la FAO au sein des organes établis en vertu de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif. Sur ce point, le Comité a rappelé que le statut des organisations membres était identique à leur statut à la FAO, c'est dire que la qualité des membres de ces organes repose essentiellement sur le principe fondamental de l'alternance, dans l'exercice des droits des membres entre l'Organisation et ses Membres, dans les domaines relevant de leurs compétences respectives. Le Comité recommande donc de refléter dûment cette exigence dans le Règlement intérieur des organes créés en vertu de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif.

C'est là le premier point de l'ordre du jour examiné par le Comité à sa soixante-dix-septième session.

Le deuxième point inscrit à son ordre du jour concerne la proposition de création d'une Commission des pêches pour le sud-ouest de l'Océan Indien en vertu de l'Article VI de l'Acte constitutif. À ce sujet, il convient de noter que cette proposition fait suite à la suppression en 1999, par le Conseil, de la Commission des pêches de l'Océan Indien et de tous ces organes subsidiaires. La présente proposition est également le résultat d'une série de réunions tenues entre 2000 et 2003 en vue de créer une nouvelle Commission des pêches. Le Comité a examiné le projet de résolution ainsi que les statuts de la future Commission et, après y avoir apporté quelques amendements, a jugé ces textes acceptables sur le plan juridique. Le Comité transmet ainsi ces textes au Conseil pour leur approbation à la présente session. Ces textes figurent en annexe du document CL/21.

Le troisième point est relatif à la place attribuée à la Communauté européenne lors des réunions de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius* et de ses organes subsidiaires. Il faut noter que l'examen de ce point répond à la demande formulée par la Communauté européenne, visant à ce qu'aux réunions de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius*, ses représentants soient placés à côté de la délégation du pays assurant la présidence tournante du Conseil des Ministres de la Communauté européenne. Le Comité a, tout d'abord, rappelé qu'un certain nombre d'amendements au Règlement intérieur de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius*, relatifs à la qualité des Membres de la Commission d'organisation d'intégration régionale, ont été adoptés en 2003 par la vingt-sixième session de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius*. À la lumière de ces amendements, le Comité a convenu qu'il n'existe aucun obstacle juridique à des dispositions particulières concernant le siège occupé par la Communauté européenne pendant les sessions de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius* et de ses organes subsidiaires. Par ailleurs, le Comité a souligné que de telles dispositions devaient être considérées comme découlant de la nature particulière de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius* et de ses travaux, et ne créaient aucun précédent par rapport aux usages suivis par la FAO depuis 1991.

Le troisième point examiné par le Comité à sa soixante-dix-septième session concerne des corrections d'erreurs relevées dans les différentes versions des Textes fondamentaux. Il s'agit là de trois erreurs relevées dans le Règlement général de l'Organisation. Le Comité a estimé que ces erreurs étaient mineures et qu'elles n'avaient pas d'effet matériel sur la valeur juridique du règlement en question; c'est ainsi que le Comité a noté que les cinq versions du Règlement général dans les différentes langues faisaient également foi et que, tous les écarts constatés dans une version par rapport aux autres devaient être corrigés afin d'harmoniser les cinq versions linguistiques. C'est pourquoi le Comité recommande que le Conseil approuve les corrections contenues dans le document CL 127/21.

Enfin, nous arrivons au dernier point examiné par le Comité. Il concerne les informations sur les faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies au sujet des partenariats enregistrés et du mariage entre personnes de même sexe. Le Comité a tout d'abord rappelé que cette question avait été examinée à sa soixante-quinzième session en octobre 2003, et qu'à cette même session, il a pris note que le sujet faisait l'objet d'un examen attentif au sein du système des Nations Unies et a recommandé que la FAO suive de près les débats à ce niveau de manière à aboutir à une position commune dans ce domaine. Cette recommandation a été appuyée par le Conseil à sa cent vingt-cinquième session en novembre 2003; cependant depuis octobre 2003, certains faits nouveaux sont survenus dans le système des Nations Unies, qui ont été portés à la connaissance du Comité, en particulier la publication de quatre documents relatifs à la situation de famille considérée aux fins de versement de prestations. Il s'agit de deux circulaires du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, d'une résolution de l'Assemblée générale et d'un jugement du Tribunal administratif des Nations Unies qui sont cités dans les références dans le document CL/21.

Le Comité a noté que certains de ces documents avaient été publiés très récemment, au moment même où se tenait la soixante-dix-septième session du Comité, de sorte qu'il n'en existait aucune traduction. Il a demandé au Secrétariat de préparer un document exhaustif intégrant ces renseignements ainsi que d'autres informations appropriées, de telle sorte que ses membres puissent consulter les autres Membres de la FAO avant la tenue de sa prochaine session au printemps, au cours de laquelle la question serait débattue et une proposition formulée. Ainsi, l'Organisation et ses Membres seraient prêts à traiter cette question de manière constructive à la session suivante du Conseil.

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, avant de terminer, je voudrais, au nom du Comité, remercier le Secrétariat pour avoir fourni des documents de qualité qui ont permis un excellent déroulement des travaux de la soixante-dix-septième session du Comité. Je fonde l'espoir que cette qualité se répétera à l'avenir afin de permettre à notre Comité de répondre aux attentes de ses organes de tutelle.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Mr Ambassador for your rather detailed report on the Seventy-seventh Session of the CCLM and now the floor is open for your comments or questions. I will start with China.

Guo HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to speak on the reports of the Seventy-sixth and Seventy-Seventh Session of the CCLM.

First of all, the Chinese Delegation would like to express appreciation to the CCLM on its careful and responsible attitude vis-à-vis relevant issues and would like to thank the Secretariat for the technical support and service. The Chinese Delegation notes the Report of the Seventy-seventh Session of the CCLM on the amendment of Article 8, paragraph 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Chinese Delegation would like to express its concerns on this amendment, even though the Chinese Delegation can understand the wish of parties concerned to see NGOs' participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. However, we would like to point out in particular that the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies are jointly administered by the FAO and WHO and it is an intergovernmental organization. In particular, the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is very restricted in membership, in charge of functions of implementation and management. In order that such a body can effectively serve the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Member States, it is essential that its authority and its efficiency have to be guaranteed.

Today, with the rapid development of information technology and with the openness and transparency existing now in the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the understanding and participation of parties concerned is fully guaranteed. Our priority at present should be to speed up the formulation of related technical standards, so that the Commission can effectively and timely serve the economic build up of Member States.

As for the issue of the legal status of bodies established under Article 14 of the FAO Constitution in the report of the Seventy-seventh Session, we support the views expressed by the CCLM on these issues. In particular, we support the positions taken in the Report in its paragraphs 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 14.

We believe that, in accordance with the spirit of paragraph R of the basic texts of FAO, the Bodies must bring to the attention of the Organization any documents or decisions which have policy implications or which affect the programme or finances of the Organization, and if necessary, subject to the approval of the Organization.

We believe that such an approach by FAO will not only not hinder the operations of these Bodies, rather it will enable that the Bodies established under Article 14 of the Constitution will be able to work in a sound, orderly and smooth manner under the guidance of the Organization.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to thank the CCLM for preparing the report and I have a comment concerning document CL127/5, and concerning paragraph 10. The difference between NGOs and Intergovernmental Organizations, is this also part of FAO competencies? With respect to observers, article 8 paragraph 6 it is stated that the Director-General will not be able to grant Observer capacity without receiving the opinion of the Executive Committee. This is against resolution 44/57 paragraph A, which authorizes the Director-General to give Observer capacity to international intergovernmental organizations. If this is the case we would like paragraph 6 in Arabic be amended to say that the Director-General of FAO or of WHO, after prior consultation, take into account, any opinion provided by the Executive Committee in this regard. These amendments, however, have to do only with the Arabic text of paragraph 6 which was not properly translated.

CHAIRMAN

Ok, thank you very much; I'm sure that the Secretariat will take care of that issue of translation, properly translated in the Arabic version. Any other requests from the floor? United Kingdom.

Ms Jo YVON (United Kingdom)

I would like to ask you please to pass the floor to the Delegate for the Netherlands, who will be speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States.

Ewald WERMUTH (Observer for Netherlands)

The Netherlands is speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States and this statement is delivered as well on behalf of the acceding countries, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia who align themselves to the statement. We have taken note of the Report of the Seventy-sixth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, held in March 2004. The participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Codex Alimentarius Commission reinforces the transparency and the democratic basis of that Commission. The advisory functions granted to the Executive Committee in this, will only serve to strengthen its role further to the joint FAO/WHO evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The CCLM's proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission should be approved by the Committee on general principles and the Commission itself. Likewise, we too remain committed to the ongoing revision process concerning the principles and criteria for the participation by Non-Governmental Organizations in the Codex Alimentarius. We have also taken note of the Report of the Seventy-seventh session of the CCLM. The European Community and its Member States endorse this session report. In particular, we approve the recommendations made to the Council regarding the legal status of Bodies under Article 14 of the FAO Constitution. These recommendations mainly concern the selection and nomination procedures for Secretaries of these Bodies. We also agree with the draft resolution and establishment of the southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission. We are pleased to note that there are no legal impediments to the special seating arrangements for the

European Community in meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary Bodies, so that the Delegation of the European Community may sit next to the Delegation of the country holding the rotating Presidency of the Community.

A final point concerns the developments in the United Nations in the year 2004 regarding registered partnerships and same sex marriages. The European Community and its 25 Member States expect that an active discussion of this issue will take place at a Council Session in June 2005, on the basis of a draft resolution to be drawn up by a CCLM in time for its next session in spring 2005.

It is important, in this respect that a policy adopted by FAO takes account of the discussions and developments taking place on this matter in the United Nations.

James MELANSON (Canada)

I would just pick up briefly on the last point raised by the Representative of the European Union. Canada is concerned at the lack of progress so far on this issue, in the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. We believe it is time to implement UN policy regarding family status as agreed in UN General Assembly Resolution 58/283 and set out in Secretary General Bulletins 4 and 13 of this year. This UN policy does not impose recognition of any type of family status on any country, but rather respects the laws of each country regarding its own citizens. We believe that staff should expect to be treated in the same manner wherever they work in the UN system, including the FAO.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Canada, any other requests for the floor? Ok, am sure that your comments have been taken note of by the Secretariat. I think Kenya is asking for the floor.

Joseph K. MBURU (Observer for Kenya)

I would like to comment on Document CL 127/21. Specifically on establishment of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission. Kenya fully supports this, as this would provide an appropriate forum for the countries covered by this to exercise good fishing practices and to share experiences for the benefit of its people. For this reason we want to give our full support to the realization that is put in front of us and also the statutes that are attached.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Kenya, I do not see any other requests for the floor. So, as I mentioned your comments and recommendations have been taken due note of by the Secretariat and since I do not think that there are any questions. Ok, Egypt, for the second time, yes.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I asked for an explanation, a legal explanation on how to distinguish between the international NGOs and NGOs because they are given observer status and asked for an explanation if there is a difference between the two. In paragraph 10 of the Report CL127/5, if there is a distinction to be made between the two.

CHAIRMAN

I refer the question to the Legal Counsel of FAO to seek the answer.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I do not know whether I understood the question correctly. There is a clear distinction in the Basic Texts of FAO between Inter-Governmental Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations. In legal terms, Inter-Governmental Organizations are Organizations composed of States having a governing body composed of States and whose budget is contributed to by States. Part N of the Basic Texts establishes precise criteria in this respect.

International Non-Governmental Organizations are normally Organizations established under the national law of one State - so they are National Organizations in this sense. However, they are

“international” in terms of structure, scope of activities and membership. In particular, their activities cover more than one single state. There are various definitions of these Organizations in Part P of the Basic Texts of the Organization.

So this is the distinction in FAO. WHO has, by and large, the same distinction. The Committee on General Principles considered it appropriate to make a distinction between Inter-Governmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt)

A distinction in what sense? In providing the status of observer or what? Because it is mentioned in paragraph 10 that the Committee of Principles has agreed to distinguish between the NGO and Non-Governmental Organization and Governmental Organizations. It is not clear in this paragraph in what sense, the distinction, in providing the status, on giving the status or in what sense? At least in the Arabic version it is not clear for me.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The question which arose in the Committee on General Principles concerned only International Non-Governmental Organizations. It is for this type of organizations that a special treatment in respect of the granting of Observer status was considered necessary, in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. So the proposed procedure, whereby the Executive Committee is entrusted with an advisory role, was introduced only for International Non-Governmental Organizations. No particular problems arose in respect of Inter-Governmental Organizations.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you for the clarification of the issues clear. Therefore I can conclude this session of our meeting and the reports have been endorsed, of course with the comments which have been raised and this brings me not only to the conclusion of this report but conclusion of my task today and I return the Chair to its real owner, the Independent Chairman.

Aziz Mekouar, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the Chair

Aziz Mekouar, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Aziz Mekouar, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

VI. OTHER MATTERS (continued)

VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

16. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2005-2006 (CL 127/LIM/3)

16. Calendrier des sessions des organes directeurs et des autres réunions principales de la FAO 2005-2006 (CL 127/LIM/3)

16. Calendario para 2005-2006 de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores y de otras reuniones importantes de la FAO (CL 127/LIM/3)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Noori de m'avoir remplacé pendant toute la matinée; il l'a fait avec beaucoup d'habileté, tel que je le connais. Nous allons maintenant examiner le point 16 de notre ordre du jour intitulé: "Calendrier 2005-2006 des sessions des Organes directeurs et des autres réunions principales de la FAO". Le document concerné est le CL 127/LIM/3. Ce calendrier a été préparé en tenant compte des dates des sessions des Organes directeurs du FIDA et du PAM, afin d'éviter tout chevauchement. Le calendrier pour 2005 est soumis au Conseil pour approbation et le calendrier pour 2006 pour information seulement. Le calendrier 2005 pourrait subir des modifications. S'il n'y a pas d'objections, puis-je considérer que le calendrier pour l'année 2005, tel que proposé dans le document CL 127/LIM/3, est adopté? Oui? Très bien. Donc, le document CL 127/LIM/3 est adopté. En adoptant le calendrier, le Conseil a fixé la date de sa

cent vingt-huitième session: elle se tiendra du 20 au 25 juin 2005. Nous avons donc terminé avec le point 16 de notre ordre du jour.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

17. Other Matters

17. Questions diverses

17. Otros asuntos

17.1 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee (CL 127/LIM/5)

17.1 Nomination de représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel (CL 127/LIM/5)

17.1 Nombramiento de representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (CL 127/LIM/5)

17.2 Advance Funding for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (CL 127/22)

17.2 Avance de fonds pour les activités d'urgence et de relèvement (CL 127/22)

17.2 Financiación anticipada de actividades de emergencia y rehabilitación (CL 127/22)

17.3 Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CL 127/LIM/4; CL 127/LIM/6) (continued)

17.3 Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO (CL 127/LIM/4; CL 127/LIM/6) (suite)

17.3 Evaluación externa independiente de la FAO (CL 127/LIM/4; CL 127/LIM/6) (continued)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames, Messieurs, le dernier point inscrit à l'ordre du jour de la session est le point 17 intitulé: "Autres questions". Ce point est composé de trois sous-points: le sous-point 17.1, c'est-à-dire "Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions" (document CL 127/LIM/5), le sous-point 17.2 "Avance de fonds pour les activités d'urgence et de relèvement" (document CL 127/22) et le sous-point 17.3 "Evaluation indépendante externe de la FAO" (documents CL 127/LIM/4 et CL 127/LIM/6).

Nous allons maintenant considérer le point 17.1: "Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel". Le Conseil est donc appelé à nommer un membre suppléant au Comité.

Vous trouverez dans le document CL 127/LIM/5 le texte de cet article du Statut du Personnel, ainsi que l'actuelle composition dudit Comité. Vous y observerez qu'en sa trente-deuxième session de décembre 2003, la Conférence a nommé comme membre suppléant du Comité, Madame Guardia Alvarado de Hernández, Représentante permanente de la République du Costa Rica pour une période allant du 1^{er} janvier 2004 au 31 décembre 2006. Madame Guardia Alvarado de Hernández a démissionné. Le Conseil est donc invité à nommer Monsieur Oyuela Castellón, Représentant suppléant de la République du Honduras, en remplacement de Madame Guardia Alvarado de Hernández dont il assumera la fin du mandat. Je demande aux Membres du Conseil s'ils ont des objections concernant cette candidature? Non? Je propose donc que Monsieur Oscar Antonio Oyuela Castellón soit élu par acclamation. Je félicite Monsieur Oyuela Castellón.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons maintenant passer au point 17.2 de notre ordre du jour: "Avance de fonds pour les activités d'urgence et de relèvement" (document CL 127/22). Monsieur Juneja, Conseiller particulier au Département de la coopération technique, va introduire ce point.

Nous allons avancer. Je crois que Monsieur Juneja n'est pas ici. Pardon? Il n'est pas là. Monsieur Juneja va arriver dans une minute. Cela nous permet de nous reposer un petit peu.

Mesdames, Messieurs, je crois que Monsieur Juneja n'est pas là; il va arriver un peu plus tard. Je vous propose donc, si vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénient, de passer au point 17.3 de l'ordre du jour, intitulé: "Evaluation indépendante externe de la FAO". Les documents relatifs à ce point portent la référence CL 127/LIM/4 et CL 127/LIM/6. Mesdames, Messieurs, hier nous avons constitué un Groupe des Amis du Président; ce Groupe s'est réuni à 3 heures de l'après-midi et je crois que ses travaux ont été profitables et utiles. Au cours de nos travaux, nous avons débattu d'un texte et ce texte a été distribué à l'ensemble des Délégations, j'espère que tout le monde a ce texte. Ce texte est le fruit du consensus du Groupe des Amis du Président. Si tout le monde a vu ce texte et approuve ce texte, le Conseil pourrait l'adopter et il figurera *inextenso* et tel qu'il est sur le Rapport de notre Conseil. Est-ce que le Conseil approuve le texte tel qu'il l'a reçu? Très bien, je vous remercie. Est-ce que des Délégations souhaiteraient faire des déclarations?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Tony P. HALL (United States of America)

Thank you Ambassador Mekouar for chairing this Council and for raising and supporting this important issue of an Independent External Valuation of the FAO and I am very glad to learn that the Friends of the Chair Group yesterday reached consensus on the first steps for this way forward. Thank you for an excellent job.

I wish to report briefly to the Council on my trip to Sudan and Libya, from which I returned on Tuesday and there I witnessed firsthand the good, the bad and the ugly situations that have happened because of the crisis in the Darfur Region of Sudan.

I was honoured to be one of the first American diplomats to return to Libya, to thank the Libyan Government and the people for their cooperation in transporting food aid to their hungry neighbours in the South, I would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Libya and the Ambassador for their cooperation. It was a very historic humanitarian event to go to this southern city in the southern part of Libya, a city called Al-Koufra and see 40 trucks full of American food and logistics handled by the World Food Programme on its way on a desert road down to Chad to feed several hundred thousand hungry people, it was truly an historic humanitarian event.

To turn now to the situation in Sudan, I was very saddened by the number of hungry people in Sudan and Chad who are desperately in need of humanitarian assistance. I was appalled to hear from many women who told me of the ravaging of their villages and their bodies, there are many problems that are contributing to the crisis in Darfur and they are all better related, but here are the three major ones. There is a great fear among the people in the camps, they are gripped by fear and they do not want to return home, they are afraid of further attacks, their women will be raped, their men beaten and killed.

Two is the lack of security, this is really the over-riding issue, there is not nearly enough protection for the people to be able to return home free of violence.

Three food and humanitarian supplies are desperately needed for the near future and the longer, the food crisis will be with us for at least another year and possibly two.

The United States is committed to the people of Sudan and that commitment is sincere and it is long standing; we have given more than half of the food assistance and humanitarian aid for the Darfur crisis that amounts to about US\$300 million over the past 13 months. And we have given another US\$200 million in food aid alone for southern Sudan, I am proud of this and I think that the American people are proud of this as well. Unfortunately we need more resources, because there are more people to feed, we are not reaching approximately three to four hundred thousand people, because of the security situation of people who desperately need assistance because we do not have access to them.

FAO staff in the region informed me that this year's harvest is expected to be extremely poor in the Darfur Region, only 15 percent of the average yield is going to come forth and, in a region that did not have a lot to begin with, this is a terrible blow to people's lives and their livelihoods and their ability to survive.

In Zalinghi, West Darfur, I met several women who thanked me for the food they were receiving, it was the first distribution of food in the area for seven weeks because of the insecurity and when you are truly hungry, it is amazing how you really appreciate the food even more.

I spoke with a woman in Abashook Camp in north Darfur who had walked almost 160 kilometres because her village was destroyed. In the common camp near Nialla in south Darfur the largest and one of the worst camps in all the Darfur, I spoke with a midwife and a nurse in a clinic and she told me a horrible story about a group of women who went to collect firewood outside the camp and they were raped by a group of men and four of them were brought to the clinic in terrible condition, one 18 year old young woman had been gang raped by eight men, another woman was pregnant and then men used a stake to kill her child, this all happened two weeks ago.

What I discovered in Darfur, is what I have seen too often in too many countries, helpless people left without food and struggling to produce enough to eat. This is a world where there is a tremendous need for the FAO and its mission to increase the access of all people to food and nutrition, through promoting agricultural development. This matter is so important to all of us that we must sharpen our efforts to make FAO as effective as possible. FAO is a good organization and it can become even better. Over the past year many Member States have had numerous discussions of how we can enhance its outreach and effectiveness as a result of these conversations and exchanges, my colleague from the North American Group, Canadian Ambassador Bob Fowler, and I proposed an Independent External Valuation of FAO.

We wanted to initiate a process through which we can learn what we can all do better, one that would lead to better achieving the noble mission of this Organization. Thanks to your leadership, Mr Chairman, and to the work of the Friends of the Chair and many other delegates, we are close to initiating a positive process that will establish what the Organization does best and where weaknesses may exist. This will assist us in determining how we can achieve the best programmatic impact in places like Sudan, Ethiopia and suffering countries like them everywhere in the world. I say we, because it comes down to the fact that we are Member States, we are the FAO. If FAO is to be even better, this process must start with us, the Members.

A proposed evaluation would identify the issues, the programmes, the structures and efforts which Member States must consider, promote and, if necessary, change. This will allow us to better get at the root of the world hunger, the inability of 842 million people to produce and procure enough to eat.

FAO already has initiatives and place, which if properly supported will refine its effectiveness, the strategic framework is one of these and we want the results of this evaluation to be ready for the Mid-Term Strategic Framework Review that is to begin in 2007.

It is extremely important that we keep to a tight timeline in order to achieve this goal, we all want the evaluation to be a first class piece of work, we want it to be independent and hence credible to all the Members, we want it to be external but with the cooperation of the Secretariat, we want it to be all-inclusive in looking at the entire Organization. We need a baseline to guide our discussions in the Governing Bodies. We want the evaluation to provide that for us. For our part the United States is willing to join with other countries to make a voluntary contribution to cover the cost that such an evaluation will entail.

Over the past few months, I have had the honour of having some of you to my home to discuss this important initiative and as I said then and say now, I am convinced that this evaluation is necessary for the future success of FAO. The Organization we all care about deeply. At this Council we are taking an important first step in launching the evaluation.

I appreciate the spirit of cooperation that has made this possible but much hard work remains to be done, we look forward to working with all of you in making this Organization a shell piece of excellence in meeting the needs of the rural poor and hungry.

In conclusion, today is an American holiday, we call it Thanksgiving and we are thankful for the many things that we have, we are thankful that we can celebrate the many freedoms that we have, but we also like to take this day to remember the least fortunate and so with this in mind, I wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving and a very nice weekend.

Jorge Maria CUSTÓDIO SANTOS (Observer for Cape Verde)

On behalf of the African Group, I would like first and foremost to thank you Mr Chairman, as well as other Distinguished Delegations both from G-77 and from the developed world. In fact, after the success we have known some weeks ago with the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the right to adequate food, we were able once more to demonstrate that, where there is political will, it is possible to go directly to good results. This is the beginning of the exercise in the framework of the evaluation of FAO to give each of the Member States represented here an opportunity to demonstrate it is possible to get good results when there is a political will.

This allowed us to have a consensual document that should represent a good basis for our future work and deliberations. So allow me to thank, on the behalf of the African Group, the delegations of Panama, as the Chairman of the G-77, the Distinguished Colleague and friend from Brazil for the way that he was able to put forward the common ideas, the delegations of the North America and EU that took part and made it possible, in a spot, we may say, to put together a document that got general consensus.

Fabio VALENCIA COSSIO (Colombia)

Hablaré en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe. Primero deseo felicitar a usted en forma muy especial por la manera inteligente y equitativa de manejar todo este proceso y las deliberaciones del Consejo.

Celebrar el consenso sobre un tema que realmente nos interesa a todos, que es el de la evaluación externa, es una iniciativa que todos estamos mirando con mucho optimismo, porque efectivamente la Organización necesita una revisión, y necesita que se dinamice más para poder cumplir fielmente con los objetivos, los nobles objetivos que tiene trazados en la lucha contra la pobreza y erradicar el hambre.

Escuchando la intervención del señor Embajador de los Estados Unidos realmente le llega a uno a la mente la conmovedora situación de África y Asia y de los sitios mencionados, lo que está padeciendo hoy la mayoría de los seres humanos en el mundo. Cuando escuchamos las estadísticas de la gente que está muriendo de hambre, cuando se habla de 24 mil personas que mueren diariamente de hambre, yo creo que esa es una cifra que realmente tiene que golpear en las conciencias de todos nosotros, de todos los Estados, pero muy especialmente tiene que golpear en las conciencias de aquellos que, por fortuna para ellos, tienen la acumulación de la riqueza. Porqué, cuando hablamos de un 60 por ciento de población en el mundo en niveles de pobreza, y de ese porcentaje una inmensa mayoría en niveles críticos de desnutrición y de hambruna, pues necesariamente esto corresponde a un esquema económico del mundo que es inequitativo, que es injusto. Yo se que todos los Estados hemos tomado un compromiso y lo tenemos que cumplir, el de luchar contra el hambre, el de luchar contra la pobreza, el de cumplir con los objetivos del milenio, pero la verdad es que hay que pedirle, a quienes más tienen, que deben hacer realmente un esfuerzo mucho más significativo.

Recibíamos hace poco, en el FIDA, un informe de que apenas unos tres o cuatro países desarrollados habían cumplido con la promesa de destinar el 0.7 por ciento del producto interno bruto de sus países para lograr el objetivo del milenio. En general, los países desarrollados no lo han cumplido, y por eso, cuando aquí nos dan las estadísticas y vemos que no se están cumpliendo las metas del milenio, que efectivamente, si lo miramos desde un punto de vista proporcional, lo que se está haciendo es un retroceder en estas metas del milenio, pues hay que

hacer un alto en el camino; reformar la estructura de la FAO es muy importante, pero, buscar los recursos con los cuales realmente se puede cumplir el objetivo de erradicar la pobreza, de erradicar el hambre, y de luchar contra la pobreza, también debe ser otro propósito. Claro, agradecemos a los países desarrollados por el esfuerzo que han hecho, pero no es suficiente, de manera que esa reflexión que hacía el Embajador de los Estados Unidos, es muy válida y además es muy conmovedora, y eso que él vio allá también existe en América Latina, también existe en casi todas las regiones del mundo incluyendo a Europa. Por eso, el propósito es muy lodable pero debe ser real. Menos frases, menos documentos, más hechos, porque si no, la situación en el mundo se va a plantear de tal manera que los países desarrollados no van a tener cómo contener el gran flujo de inmigrantes de todas las partes del mundo que van a buscar la subsistencia donde está la riqueza.

Quiero hacer un último llamado, para que la FAO y el PMA acudan con ayudas muy especiales también a Centro América, donde ha habido problemas muy graves últimamente, sobre todo en Haití con motivo de los huracanes que se han presentado. Y finalmente un llamado para que la FAO y el PMA también proporcionen una ayuda extraordinaria para la emergencia que estamos viviendo en Colombia a raíz de graves inundaciones, donde hay más de 350 mil familias hoy con problemas derivados de eso.

A usted y a todos los delegados muchas gracias y esperamos que estas declaraciones tan fructíferas sean para beneficio de toda la humanidad.

Michael TABONG KIMA (Observer for Cameroon)

Since this is the first time that Cameroon is taking the floor during this Session, permit me to do what others have done, sending warm congratulations for the way that you are handling this meeting and also, as Chairman of the Friends of the Chair, for the excellent job that you are doing.

It is obvious, at this point in time, that the proposal on the process of the independent external evaluation of FAO has received full support and endorsement by all regional groups. Through this support, and with the adoption of the consensus text negotiated yesterday by the Friends of the Chair, we are now putting before us an impressive doubting, but exciting task, which would be highly demanding in terms of human and financial resources and time.

It is, therefore, my profound wish that the Inter-Sessional Working Group entrusted with the challenging responsibility of appointing a Chairperson with its own set-up, establishing its own operational modalities and preparation of the intended proposal for the Council's consideration, shall work hard towards the delivery of the expected outputs within the time limit. I have no doubt whatsoever that the regional representatives will be fully committed to this task. I personally foresee a full time job for those who will be nominated by their region. I am, therefore, advising them to devote their energy in this endeavour.

The finances are the key element for a proposal like this and securing the funding before we embark on the process is paramount. I thus call on the generosity of all Member Countries, especially the developed countries, to secure the necessary funding for the exercise as shall be estimated by the Inter-Sessional Working Group.

Let me now say a word on the independent nature of the entire exercise and the necessary ownership by Member Countries. It is of extreme importance and absolutely imperative that these two cardinal principles, in this context, shall be preserved. The independent external evaluation of FAO shall be free from any country or regional lobbies, as well as kept away from the influence of FAO's Secretariat. We have a collective obligation to ensure that this is respected, for it is only in this way, that we can make the findings of the evaluation acceptable to all Member Countries and that its recommendation be considered by all for a systematic follow-up with the FAO Governing Bodies.

If you will permit me, we join the other colleagues in saying thanks together with the United States on this Thanksgiving Day.

James MELANSON (Canada)

I wanted to join other speakers in recognizing the positive spirit in which the Friends of the Chair process was conducted and also recognize, particularly, your facilitating role. I think we have arrived at a well-drafted Council decision to launch the independent review. I think this augurs well for a constructive Inter-Sessional process and eventually for a full evaluation exercise. Canada looks forward to fully supporting the evaluation and, in our view, an outcome that will put FAO in the first rank of best multilateral practice.

Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank Ambassador Tony Hall for the evaluation issue. The Ambassador of Yemen who is receiving the President of Yemen has asked me to speak on behalf of the Near East Group to point out that we accept the proposal regarding the external evaluation.

I would like to refer to what the Ambassador of the United States said about Darfour. We would like to wish him welcome back after his trip to the Sudan and we apologize for the problems he had regarding his visa because it was the month of fasting, the month of Ramadan. We would like to tell him that what is more important than Darfour, which only erupted two years ago, is the problem in the South which has been there for over twenty years now.

We are pleased that the UN is being represented by the Security Council which met in Nairobi. We also would like to thank China and Pakistan and other countries, regarding their situation or their position on the sanctions imposed on Sudan. We hope that the Government of Sudan and the movement in the south, the SPLA, will be able to conclude an agreement by the end of this year.

We all believe that if peace is restored in the South, it will also be restored in the other regions of the Sudan. We thank Ambassador Tony Hall for his visit. We would like to affirm that the Government of Sudan is sovereign over its territory and is capable of reaching a final solution to this problem in a way to ensure the security of all its people and the entirety of its territory.

Ms Jo YVON (United Kingdom)

The European Community would also like to make a statement on this issue. So I would like to ask you please to pass the floor to the Delegate of the Netherlands who will be speaking on behalf of the EU and its twenty-five Member States.

Ewald WERMUTH (Observer for Netherlands)

The EU is very thankful for your efforts to reach the consensus on launching an independent, external evaluation. There are no doubts that there are still many challenges ahead as this is a complicated process. But the EU is very confident that, if we maintain the goodwill of all regions demonstrated in recent days, this exciting exercise will be meaningful for all of us.

Therefore, I would once again thank all regions for the spirit of cooperation shown in these recent days. The EU is looking forward very much to make this evaluation a success for FAO and the whole membership.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie Monsieur l'Ambassadeur des Pays-Bas. Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres commentaires? Australie.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

I wish to make a few brief comments on behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region. We wish to welcome the agreement reached by the Council to launch an Independent External Evaluation and, particularly, the spirit in which this was achieved.

We consider this an important initiative to improve and strengthen FAO and we now stand ready to work in a positive and constructive way, with all Members of FAO, to take this Evaluation forward in a successful way.

Ms Gabriela DUMITRIU (Romania)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We also want to add our voice to what previous distinguished representatives of Regional Groups expressed before me and to thank you for your whole effort and excellent job during the entire week.

Very briefly sir, the European Regional Group fully endorse what has been said before by the European Community.

Yohannes TENSUE (Observer for Eritrea)

On this special day, allow me to thank you for allowing me to express my thanks to you.

I would also like to express thanks to the United States of America and congratulate them for Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is all about togetherness, love and sharing and, especially, giving thanks to our blessing and the generosity of the United States of America, especially to people in need. As the Ambassador expressed, when he went to see people and they were very thankful.

As John F. Kennedy said: as we express our gratitude, we must never forget that highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them. This is just a quotation from John F. Kennedy and with these words I would like to express my thanks to the United States for their immediate reach of assistance that it has given to our region and even, very recently, to my country.

Ms Maryam Ahmed Moustafa MOUSSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to add my voice to those who preceded me in thanking you for all your efforts in reaching a consensus, under your leadership of the Friends of the Chair Group.

I would like to thank the Group of 77 and all of the other regions, and I would like to mention the special efforts made by Brazil in helping with the drafting of this proposal.

I would also like to thank the United States of America for this Evaluation and for supporting it, due to its impact on the better performance of this Organization.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il n'y a plus d'autres déclarations? Très bien. Alors, à mon tour, je voudrais remercier infiniment les Membres du Groupe des Amis du Président pour l'esprit constructif avec lequel ils ont travaillé; nous sommes arrivés assez vite à une conclusion et un texte de consensus.

Je remercie également tous les pays qui contribueront et qui amèneront des fonds pour mener à bien cette évaluation. Parfait.

Je déclare clos ce point 17.3 de l'ordre du jour et nous revenons au point 17.2 de l'ordre du jour: "Avance de fonds pour les activités d'urgence et de relèvement" et je demanderai à Monsieur Juneja, Conseiller particulier, Département de la coopération technique, d'introduire ce point.

M. JUNEJA (Special Adviser, Technical Cooperation)

To properly serve countries that face a potential or actual emergency crisis, FAO requires good emergency planning. This includes early warning systems, needs assessment for food assistance, livelihood support and market research for procurement of agricultural inputs. Good planning has to be followed by timely and effective action.

Rapid and effective commitment of resources by FAO also makes a positive difference for hard-pressed donor budgets. For example, in the case of the locust crisis in Africa, US\$9 million were appealed in February 2004, to stop the locust breeding cycle, but the resources were not immediately available to FAO. By August 2004, the financial resources needed for control activities had increased to more than ten times the amount appealed only six months earlier.

In response to comments made by the Finance Committee in September 2004, the paper before you – CL 127/22 – describes the present funding arrangements and resources available for

planning and implementing emergency operations before cash from a donor is available for a specific project. It does not seek any decision from the Council, but it informs you that FAO's present mechanisms and extrabudgetary funding levels are insufficient for properly performing emergency operations. The paper starts an appeal, to donors, for extrabudgetary support.

The present arrangements for dealing rapidly with emergency planning and implementation became operational in April 2004 through a Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA). One category of the SFERA provides a revolving fund for emergency planning and preparedness work. The other category provides working capital, which is a form of guaranteed loan that allows FAO to implement emergency operations before donor cash is available for a specific project.

The present total funding level of US\$2 million, comprising US\$1 million for each category of the SFERA, has thus far been supported, almost exclusively, from internal FAO resources.

The US\$1 million of the SFERA, currently earmarked for emergency planning and preparedness work, comprises funding for the establishment of emergency coordination units to manage field-based interventions and to undertake food and livelihood support needs assessments on a revolving basis.

The paper concludes that a target funding level of US\$5 million is needed. This will assure adequate resources for more comprehensive needs assessments, as well as early involvement in market research to understand local conditions and to anticipate the procurement of agriculture related inputs. It will also provide for complimentary emergency preparedness activities, via early warning and natural disaster monitoring systems – work which had not previously been foreseen for funding from the SFERA.

The remaining US\$1 million of the SFERA is currently available to provide advance funding for approved emergency projects where a donor has committed funding in writing but the cash has not been transferred to FAO. These advance funds from the SFERA provide an essential short-term loan to the approved emergency project for a period of a few weeks, until donor funds are received. I say "essential" because FAO's financial rules would not, otherwise, allow the Organization to enter into any commitments until the donor's cash is in FAO's bank account. However, the current amount available for advance funding is also far too low when compared with recent requirements arising from the desert locust swarms, Avian influenza, floods, hurricanes and conflict induced emergencies. Donor support for a one time increase in working capital, from US\$1 million to US\$15 million, is needed to enable immediate action during the period between obtaining a written pledge from a donor and receiving funds.

However, even a properly funded SFERA, with an overall funding target of US\$5 million plus US\$15 million, for the categories I just described, will only partially assure rapid and effective commitment of resources by FAO. This is because the SFERA fails to address the time lag that occurs between the identification of an emergency response and finding a donor able to pledge financial support. FAO does not have mechanisms or resources for substantial action during this critical period – a period of several weeks, or even months, while appeals are being considered by donors – during which time FAO is rather helpless. Valuable time, during which opportunities for FAO to pre-order and pre-position inputs, are lost.

Therefore, a new flexible emergency trust fund is proposed to cover the present void. A funding target of US\$80 million is proposed. I must stress that these funds would not entirely be additional resources, over and above existing levels of donor support for FAO's Emergency and Rehabilitation Programmes – which, incidentally have reached around US\$185 million so far this year. They should rather be seen as an advance pledging to FAO by donors to permit a more flexible and programmatic approach to emergencies, which in the long run will also prove to be more cost effective for donors, the affected countries and vulnerable households.

A brief and tentative outline of how such a trust fund could be financed and how it might operate, is put forward in paragraph 26 of the paper. Clearly, this would require consultation and

discussion with donors. The arrangement could, of course, be modified following such consultation.

In conclusion, FAO's Emergency Operations have grown six fold in the past three biennia, thanks partly to donor's increasing confidence in FAO's capacity to play an important role in emergencies. Internally, the Director-General is taking immediate steps to identify the procedural constraints and is committed to improving FAO's internal capability to respond to emergencies. A comprehensive review of financial, administrative, technical and operational processes has been initiated. Externally, the need for a new funding mechanism and funding targets has been identified in the paper before you. No decision is sought from the Council, but the Director-General appeals to donors for support to increase the target funding level of the SFERA to US\$20 million and to establish a new US\$80 million Emergency Trust Fund that permits a more flexible and more programmatic approach towards FAO's Emergency Operations.

J. Michael CLEVERLEY (United States of America)

Mr Chairman, thank you very much and thank you very much to the Secretariat for describing the initiative they are taking in order to improve the functioning of the Emergency Fund – the SFERA.

During the Finance Committee, the United States, and some other Members of the Committee, expressed concern over the way the fund had been utilized in the crisis in the Sahel region, caused by the locust infestation. We, therefore, welcome the Secretariat's proactive response, in order to attempt to identify ways in which it may respond to such a crisis in the future in a better way and, in particular, regards to the SFERA and its use in such crises.

One of the important points with the SFERA and the Revolving Fund for bridging the gap between donor commitments and allocations of funds is the fact that it is a rotating, revolving mechanism. Therefore, there is an inherent multiplier in the way it works – US\$1 million will be spent tomorrow, reimbursed six weeks from now and be available to be used again, again and again over the course of a year. So, if the mechanism is working properly, US\$1 million is actually worth a lot more than that over the course of time.

Therefore, it may not be necessarily the size of the mechanism, as it is how effectively it is working and how effectively the donors are replenishing the mechanism as it moves along. Therefore, as we look at the size, we welcome the initiative but we are not committed yet to whether this is the right size but we will look forward to additional information from the Secretariat, as it considers the SFERA proposal more fully and comes back to the Council at a future point.

We also welcome the Director-General's initiative to look through the response to the west and north Africa locust infestation, to see how the FAO response could have been done better and how the SFERA could have been utilized in a more effective way.

It is a question of, as we understand it, some of the regulatory issues – the regulations and how the Organization may work. We also suspect there are issues related to management. These should all be involved in this after action assessment. We think that as the SFERA – this particular initiative – is better refined, it should be seen in the light of this assessment to make sure that whatever decision we are asked to make in the future is the best decision, to make sure that the emergency response to such terrible crises (as in the locust infestation) can be better – not only on the part of the donors but also on the part of the Organization. Working together, Member States and the Secretariat, we can immediately be able to intercede and prevent crises, such as this from becoming larger.

Ms Maryam Ahmed Moustafa MOUSSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We are very grateful to those who have prepared this Report and to FAO likewise for having engaged in these emergency operations, especially for the locust scourge.

Nevertheless, I would like such a document, which reflects the emergency activities, to include detailed information on these specific operations. The document before us does not have any statistical table giving details of expenditure of the fund. A table of that nature would assist us by providing more detailed, precise information.

I would like the Secretariat to explain to me why this information has not been embodied in the document.

M. JUNEJA (Special Adviser, Technical Cooperation)

The Secretariat very much appreciates the comments from the distinguished delegate from the United States. They certainly encourage us to be proactive and to continue the two-pronged action that has been put forward in the paper before you. An external action to initiate a dialogue with the Council and, in particular, the donor community, to get support for this rather large Trust Fund and the extension of the SFERA, and internally the activity which we are equally committed to, looking at our own internal procedures and ways of operations, to ensure that our planning and emergency response is effective.

Indeed, if the SFERA and the Trust Fund works effectively on a revolving basis, there is a substantial multiplier effect. This is, however, entirely dependent on the level of donor support that the Organization is able to get. The experience so far with the SFERA has not been too encouraging. The TCE Division wrote to 28 donors back in April 2004 to explain the operation of the SFERA and to seek some commitments. There have, since then, been contacts with at least 15 representations locally and those efforts have not really achieved the desired result so far.

We are, however, hoping that, as we proceed to further explain the expanded scope of the SFERA and the Emergency Trust Fund to donors and Members of FAO, we will be able to get this additional support and, therefore, be able to generate that multiplier effect, which the distinguished delegate from the United States referred to.

With regard to the question raised by the distinguished representative from Egypt, to provide tables on the emergency operations, the Finance Committee discussed the SFERA at its September 2004 Session, you may recall from the discussion that took place yesterday that there is a commitment on the part of the Secretariat to provide detailed tables - statistical tables and financial tables - on the operation of the SFERA at its Session in September 2005. Therefore, the Secretariat is already committed to providing the information next year and did not feel that it was necessary in this document, which is an information document and a call for support from the donor community.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce que quelqu'un souhaiterait encore prendre la parole? Non.

Très bien.

Donc, nous avons terminé le sous-point 17.2 de l'ordre du jour.

Nous nous apprêtons à conclure d'autres sessions, mais avant cela je crois qu'il y a... voilà.

Madame la Déléguée du Royaume-Uni.

Ms Jo YVON (United Kingdom)

The Netherlands would like to make a short intervention under any other business, so I would like to ask you please to pass the floor to the Netherlands, who will be speaking this time in their national capacity and not as the Presidency of the European Community.

Ewald WERMUTH (Observer for Netherlands)

Thank you, distinguished colleagues. The Netherlands appreciates this opportunity to inform the Membership of FAO about the upcoming Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems which is jointly organized by FAO and my Government.

The Focus of this Conference will be the implementation of international commitments made at several recent summits and international conferences with regard to water for food and ecosystems.

The Conference will be held from 31 January to 5 February 2005 in The Hague. The objective of the Conference is to identify and discuss the concrete progress being made in the implementation of sustainable water management for food, agriculture and ecosystems. It is expected that the Conference will produce recommendations which will foster the implementation of international commitments related to water, agriculture, food and ecosystems.

The Conference will focus on three main themes: fostering implementation and know-how for action, the new economy for water for food and ecosystems, and an enabling environment for implementation.

During the Conference we seek to deepen the discussion by including an examination of regional approaches. Case studies will be presented to this end. Special attention will be given to the African region given the strong link between sustainable water management and poverty alleviation in this region.

In this respect a successful African pre-conference was held in Addis Ababa last month. The results and report will be available on the internet next week. The programme of the Conference will include Plenary sessions of working groups, a ministerial roundtable and a multi-stakeholders dialogue. Also several side events will be organized.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Conference will be forwarded to the Thirteenth Session on the Commission of Sustainable Development in April 2005 in New York, the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference in November 2005 in Rome and the Fourth World Water Forum in March 2006 in Mexico.

All Members of the FAO are invited to this Conference. Furthermore, representatives of relevant international organizations, NGOs, private sector and civil society are invited. The Netherlands Government is pleased to cover daily allowance and accommodation expenses for two representatives from IDA eligible countries.

We are looking forward very much to welcome you in The Hague next year.

Yoshitaka SUMI (Japan)

Concerning one information issue Japan would like to report shortly about the International Year of Rice 2004.

Japan appreciates FAO's initiative in implementing the International Year of Rice 2004. On this occasion, our delegation would like to inform the Member Countries, that the International Year of Rice 2004 has been very actively implemented in Japan.

I would like to introduce one forum, namely the World Conference on Rice Research which was held in Tokyo and Sukuba in Japan at the beginning of this month. It was co-hosted by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the International Rice Research Institute. The objective of the Conference was to introduce and exchange updated information from the recent rice research including the information about the coding sequence of the rice genomes and about medicalized new rice for Africa.

More than one thousand people had gathered from 36 countries, about 10 international Organizations and had a good chance to discuss about the further developments in the rice research field. On this occasion, our delegation would like to express sincere gratitude from Japanese Government to all the participants to the Conference, including the Director-General of FAO, Doctor Jacques Diouf, who participated in the Conference.

I wish to add that the International Year of Rice should not end merely for ceremony. What is important is action, in particular, at field levels. Japan in cooperation with UN Headquarters and

FAO, initiated implementation of the project to introduce the medical hybrid rice in Ghana and Sierra Leone.

This is just an example for your reference. Japan is more than happy to cooperation with FAO and its Member Countries in order to further promote the spirit of the International Year of Rice for the sake of food security of Africa, Asia and other regions.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation aimerait se joindre aux Délégations qui ont remercié le Groupe des Amis du Président pour la proposition qui a été présentée et approuvée par acclamation, au titre du point 17.3 sur l'évaluation externe.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation voudrait se prononcer sur deux points, deux documents d'information. Le premier étant la réunion ministérielle de la FAO sur les pêches. Le second sera sur les forêts.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation aimerait féliciter le Secrétariat de la FAO pour avoir programmé une réunion des Ministres de la pêche le 12 mars 2005, qui aura lieu juste après la réunion du Comité des pêches.

Le thème proposé pour cette réunion est la lutte contre la pêche illicite et promouvoir le suivi, le contrôle et la surveillance, comme composante ou clé du développement durable des pêches. Cela nous semble d'un grand intérêt, en particulier pour la pêche des captures marines, tenant compte de la situation dégradante de beaucoup de ressources commerciales du monde et les difficultés que la pêche illicite oppose à la gestion durable des pêcheries et à la sécurité alimentaire.

L'échange d'expériences au plus haut niveau et l'analyse des possibilités de coopération bilatérales et multilatérales seront certainement exploitées pendant la réunion.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation prend la parole pour proposer la réalisation pendant la session du Comité des pêches, d'une réunion parallèle des Ministres des pêches des pays africains. Par exemple, vendredi, sur le thème spécifique du programme des pêches du NEPAD. Etant donné que la décision d'intégrer la composante pêche dans le NEPAD est récente et que c'est la FAO qui appuie actuellement les pays dans la préparation des projets bancables pour leur présentation aux bailleurs de fonds, le Secrétariat de la FAO qui fournit l'assistance technique à ce programme ferait un exposé sur la situation du programme.

Ma délégation espère compter sur la compréhension et l'appui des Membres du Conseil sur cette proposition.

J'ai parlé des Ministres des pêches, maintenant je passe aux Ministres des forêts.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation voudrait se prononcer sur ce point. Sur le document 127/INF/14. Dans ce document, la FAO propose d'organiser une réunion ministérielle des forêts le 14 mars 2005, avant la tenue de la dix-septième session du Comité des forêts.

Lorsqu'on regarde le paragraphe 3 du même document, la réunion des Ministres proposée serait la troisième, six ans après la deuxième.

Ma délégation pense, que le Directeur général de la FAO a répondu favorablement à la demande formulée par les Etats Membres, cette demande se trouve au paragraphe 47 du rapport de la trente-deuxième session de la Conférence de la FAO, tenue à Rome du 29 novembre au 9 décembre 2003. On lit, je cite: "Plusieurs membres ont demandé au Directeur général de la FAO de convoquer des réunions de haut niveau, de préférence au niveau ministériel pour examiner les questions mentionnées dans le présent paragraphe et passer en revue l'efficacité des arrangements internationaux correspondants". Fin de citation.

Ma délégation voudrait appuyer favorablement cette intention du Directeur général de la FAO afin de la concrétiser. C'est pourquoi nous saisissons cette opportunité, pour le féliciter vivement.

Etant donné que la tenue de cette réunion est devenue régulière, ma délégation voudrait proposer que la FAO convoque ladite réunion des Ministres des forêts, tous les quatre ou cinq ans avant la

tenue du COFO, afin de fournir des orientations sur des thèmes choisis par le Secrétariat ou proposés par les Etats Membres.

Je sais que des problèmes budgétaires vont se poser mais c'est une initiative qui doit être étudiée par le Secrétariat et soumise au Organes directeurs de l'Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, comme vous le savez, le nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique (NEPAD) met les forêts, les pêches et l'élevage à une place de choix dans son programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine. Programme qui a été élaboré en collaboration avec la FAO en mai 2002. La réalisation de la réunion des Ministres des forêts des Etats Membres de la FAO, est une occasion particulière, unique, pour les pays africains compte tenu de l'importance que jouent les forêts dans la sécurité alimentaire de nos populations.

Je crois que cette réunion, que notre délégation propose, serait la première après la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique.

Je voudrais rappeler, Monsieur le Président, que la vingt-troisième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, tenue à Johannesburg du 1^{er} au 5 mai 2004, a fait une recommandation à l'attention de la FAO. Cette recommandation se trouve dans le document CL 127/INF/13, paragraphe 19.

Je cite: "À l'attention de la FAO, la Conférence a recommandé de procéder à de nouvelles consultations avec les Gouvernements nationaux et les organisations paysannes afin d'identifier les préoccupations, priorités et domaines d'investissement lors de l'élaboration d'un document supplémentaire du PDDAA sur l'intégration des forêts, des pêches et de l'élevage". Fin de citation.

C'est pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, pour terminer, profitant de la présence des Ministres africains des forêts à Rome, nous voulons demander à la FAO d'organiser une réunion parallèle le premier jour de la session du COFO, pour les informer sur ce qui est mentionné au paragraphe 19, que j'ai cité précédemment.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

We would also wish to just comment on one of the information items that is before this Council that is in relation to the proposed ministerial meeting on fisheries in March 2005. Australia welcomes the convening of the Ministerial meeting in March 2005 to consider and address the issues facing world fisheries, in particular that of illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.

Australia would hope that this Ministerial will be a product and forward looking meeting that will be successful for Ministers and FAO Member Nations. It is therefore important that the agenda for the meeting reflect this and we would therefore wish to make a number of comments.

Australia strongly supports and is actively involved in strengthening, monitoring, control and surveillance schemes for domestic and international fisheries. Including but not limited to authorized vessel registers, IUU vessel registers, vessel monitoring schemes, observer programmes and catch documentation schemes. Australia considers that to make the Fisheries Ministerial a fruitful meeting it will also need to actively focus on stopping the flags of convenience by IUU fishing vessels, which remain a fundamental issue in combating IUU fishers.

Australia also supports greater political engagement from fisheries ministers to support and strengthen the efforts of regional fisheries management organizations and to make members accept their full responsibility so that they take strong and decisive action to sustainably manage world fisheries stocks and combat IUU fishing. In short we need to make regional fisheries management organizations work, both in terms of accountability and performance.

To sufficiently monitor the global fisheries and fishing operations, our FMOs need to form an integrated global network, in particular with respect to vessel registers, IUU vessel registers and catch and trade documentation schemes.

Australia considers that a process to create accountability in regional fisheries management organizations needs to be established. Where possible our FMOs should report on stock status

under their jurisdiction and the conservation and management measures implemented to achieve the objectives of each respective RFMO.

In conclusion, we urge FAO and its Members to make the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries a successful and fruitful meeting that will take forward the international communities' efforts to combat IUU fishing.

Willem BRAKEL (United States of America)

The United States would like to make some brief comments on two of the information documents; mainly those regarding the upcoming Fisheries and Forestry's Ministerials. With regard to the fisheries meeting, the United States suggests that the scope of the meeting be broadened considerably. FAO is convening a global fisheries enforcement meeting in Kuala Lumpur in April 2005. One of the key items on the agenda for that meeting is the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems as one of the many tools that can be used to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.

FAO should use the Ministerial Meeting to reclaim its leadership role in the Global Sustainable Fisheries Debate and to underscore its fisheries department's robust programs and expertise in fisheries. The meeting should stress the importance of the ecosystem approach to fishery conservation and management at the local, national and regional and global levels. The ecosystem approach is at the very core of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Code addresses illegal fishing, but it also covers all other aspects of the ecosystem approach, from integrated coastal management to issues related to conservation of deep sea corals and other habitats. FAO can make invaluable contributions towards understanding and solving problems in these areas. In addition, the ecosystem approach is already being implemented in varying degrees by many of the world's leading fish producing countries. We believe that FAO's endorsement of the concept at the ministerial level is critical at this time as FAO is beginning to reengage the World Bank in sustainable fisheries programmes.

The United States strongly supports measures requiring all flagged states to control the activities of their fishing vessels. In this regard, we urge all States that have not yet done so, to become parties to the 1993 High Seas Fishing Compliance Agreement and to the 1995 Fish Stocks Agreement. We also urge States and fishing entities to implement fully the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related International Plans of Action, particularly in this context, the IPOA on IUU Fishing. If all States were implementing these obligations the use of flags of convenience to evade International Fisheries Restrictions would diminish significantly.

In the mean time the United States will continue to work with our international partners to crack down on IUU Fishing. The United States supports regional fishing management organizations and is working to make them more effective. For example we have recently negotiated and signed a new treaty strengthening the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. We are also engaged with countries in the Caribbean to strengthen the Western and Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission.

Also, a brief comment on the upcoming Forestry Ministerial. The United States welcomes the FAO initiative and we in the United States have come to understand that fire, whether its wild fire, or fire use, is a complex ecological and social, economic issue that has a significant impact on long term forest health and environmental services that are provided by forests. Effective change requires time, sustained investment and a cooperative action and resolve. We believe that the results of the March FAO Ministerial will provide valuable inputs to the ministerial segment of the Fifth Session of the UN Forum on Forests which will convene in New York City in 2005

James MELANSON (Canada)

I also have some observations regarding the upcoming Fisheries Ministerial Meeting; however given the hour and the very detailed interventions of Angola, Australia and the United States I will simply state our expectation as they have, that this Fisheries Ministerial should generate

positive will for implemented existing frameworks, and address the general theme of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing.

I would particularly though, associate myself with the comments of Australia with regard to the detailed content of an agenda, which I think, is an important input to the planning of that conference. Finally, if I may, I would just like to remind members of a Conference on High-Seas Fisheries Governance in the UNFA to be held in St. John's Newfoundland, Canada in May 2005. We believe this conference, the purpose of which, is to generate an action agenda for strengthening international fisheries governance, will compliment the work of Ministers at the FAO Fisheries Ministerial.

Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia)

Indonesia is a country with large areas for fisheries and of forests, productive areas would like to present a very brief statement with regard to this FAO M ministerial Meeting on Forests and FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries.

On forests, Indonesia supports the agenda meetings, addressed to international cooperation aimed specifically at the prevention and control of forest fire as well as reducing the continuing world forest and land degradations which implicate to the food security, hunger and poverty. Along with the need for cross-sectoral approach and local participation, Indonesia agrees that prevention and control of forest fire needs international cooperation in technological development and appropriate forest fire control system.

Likewise, with regard to the meeting of Ministers on Fisheries, Indonesia supports the suggested theme for the Ministerial Meeting the "Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU)-Fishing and Promotion and Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) as Key Components for Sustainable Development on Fisheries". The meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for us to discuss the MCS and its implementations.

We agree that these two ministerial meetings with their technical committee sessions, will provide a mutual benefit to all of us, related to the implementation of the key recommendations of each subject, but they require advanced preparations to both the FAO Secretariat and Member Countries. We therefore, encourage Member Countries to cooperate closely with FAO for the successful deliberation of this very important Ministerial Meeting.

Emile ESSEMA (Congo)

Pour être bref, à l'instar des Etats-Unis, du Canada, de l'Indonésie et de l'Australie, nous voulons appuyer la proposition de l'Angola.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I speak on behalf of the African Group, we would like to express our support to the proposals advanced by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Angola.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il d'autres interventions sur les documents qui ont été distribués sous le point 17 de l'ordre du jour? Non? Très bien.

Il me semble que nous avons examiné l'ensemble des points inscrits à l'ordre du jour de la session et, avec la coopération du Comité de rédaction qui doit poursuivre son travail cet après-midi et toute la journée de demain, en principe, on devrait se retrouver samedi matin à 11 heures pour adopter le rapport. Ceci étant, si le Comité de rédaction travaille vite, avec l'esprit de coopération qui a prévalu pendant ces jours de réunions du Conseil, nous pourrions adopter le Rapport demain, en fin d'après-midi.

Donc, j'encourage vivement les Membres du Comité de rédaction à travailler pour que nous puissions adopter le rapport demain après-midi, cela permettra d'avoir un bon week-end et cela coûtera beaucoup moins cher à l'Organisation. Je vous remercie infiniment.

Le Comité de rédaction se réunit à 15 heures, cet après-midi.

J'ai une annonce: la liste des participants, incluse dans le Rapport final du Conseil, ne comptera que les noms de ceux qui se sont ré-enregistrés au *Turkish Registration Centre*. Ceux qui ne se sont pas encore enregistrés devraient le faire aujourd'hui, sinon ils ne figureront pas sur la liste des participants à ce Conseil.

The meeting rose at 13.25 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.25 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session Cent vingt-septième session 127º período de sesiones
Rome, 22-27 November 2004 Rome, 22-27 novembre 2004 Roma, 22-27 de noviembre de 2004
EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA
27 November 2004

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 12.45 hours
Mr Aziz Mekouar,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 12 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 12.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Aziz Mekouar,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

**DRAFT REPORT - PARTS 1 – 13 (CL 127/REP/1, CL 127/REP/2, CL 127/REP/2-ADD.1, CL 127/REP/3, CL 127/REP/4, CL 127/REP/5, CL 127/REP/6, CL 127/REP/7, CL 127/REP/8, CL 127/REP/9, CL 127/REP/10, CL 127/REP/11, CL 127/REP/12)
LES PROJETS DE RAPPORT – PARTIES 1 – 13 (CL 127/REP/1, CL 127/REP/2, CL 127/REP/2-ADD.1, CL 127/REP/3, CL 127/REP/4, CL 127/REP/5, CL 127/REP/6, CL 127/REP/7, CL 127/REP/8, CL 127/REP/9, CL 127/REP/10, CL 127/REP/11, CL 127/REP/12)
LOS PROYECTOS DE INFORME, PARTES 1 – 13 (CL 127/REP/1, CL 127/REP/2, CL 127/REP/2-ADD.1, CL 127/REP/3, CL 127/REP/4, CL 127/REP/5, CL 127/REP/6, CL 127/REP/7, CL 127/REP/8, CL 127/REP/9, CL 127/REP/10, CL 127/REP/11, CL 127/REP/12)**

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la huitième séance de la cent vingt-septième session du Conseil. Nous allons procéder à l'adoption du rapport de la session. J'invite les Membres du Conseil à s'assurer qu'ils disposent bien des différentes parties du rapport, il y a treize parties qui portent la référence CL 127/REP/1, CL 127/REP/2, etc... jusqu'à CL 127/REP/12. Nous précisons que le CL 127/REP/2/Add.1 porte le nombre des parties du rapport à treize.

J'aimerais demander à Monsieur Noël de Luna des Philippines, qui a présidé le Comité de rédaction, de présenter le rapport.

Noel D. DE LUNA (Chairman, Drafting Committee)

I am most pleased to transmit to you for your consideration the Draft Report of the Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Session of the FAO Council. The attention of the Council is drawn to paragraph 11 of CL 127/REP/1, which lists the six Member Nations elected to the World Food Programme Executive Board for term of office of three years. Paragraph 12 of the same document gives further details of the List C seat which passes from El Salvador to Nicaragua as of 1 January 2005, and the list D seat which passes from Belgium to Switzerland, also as of 1 January 2005.

I should also like to draw your attention to the fact that Thailand and Kuwait have informed the Secretariat in writing of Thailand's intention to stand down from the list B seat it will occupy in 2005 to enable Kuwait to fill it in 2006 and 2007. The aforementioned letter will be included in the document on WFP membership to be submitted to the Council at its Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Session in November 2005.

The Drafting Committee worked for five sessions instead of the original six for a total of fifteen hours instead of the original eighteen hours in the hope that it can save money for the Organization. All of your representative to the Drafting Committee worked very hard and made very big sacrifices. They stayed late at night and missed the reception hosted by Germany and their Thanksgiving dinners. The negotiations were tough and intense. Nevertheless, everybody worked in a constructive spirit to arrive at the consensus. The consensus remains very fragile, and for this reason, I am afraid that a small dissension might re-open decisive debates and break that consensus. For this reason, I am recommending for your consideration the adoption of this report in block with the additional amendment which will be later announced by the Chairman of this Council. It is not a perfect document that will make everybody happy, however I feel that it is a document that everybody can live with and that it is a fair and balanced reflection of what transpired in this room for the past four days within all the human limitations.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the members of the Drafting Committee for their understanding, patience and cooperation. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for its efficiency, support and dedication. If the members of the Drafting Committee stayed late at night, the Secretariat stayed later.

Finally, I would like to thank the support extended by the interpreters and messenger girls. They have made like easier for us.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur le Président du Comité de rédaction a proposé que nous adoptions en bloc le rapport de son Comité. Il y avait quelques problèmes ce matin avec une partie de ce rapport, mais je crois que les consultations ont données des résultats satisfaisants et je vais vous lire les modifications qui ont été approuvées par toutes les Délégations et à partir de cela nous pourrions peut être adopter le rapport.

Alors, les modifications concernent le paragraphe 6 du document CL 127/REP/4. Il s'agit de supprimer la deuxième phrase du rapport, c'est-à-dire du paragraphe 6 qui commence par: "il a noté que de nombreux Membres rejetaient certaines des recommandations du rapport" et comme cela jusqu'à la fin du paragraphe 6. Il s'agit d'enlever cette phrase et de la remplacer par une phrase du paragraphe 7, le document CL 127/9, du rapport du COAG. Je vais la lire en anglais: "*A majority of Members expressed the view that the scientific basis for the expert report recommendations was inadequate and the application of its global recommendations at individual country level will need to take into account the specific circumstances of each country*". Donc, à la place de la deuxième phrase du paragraphe 6 du rapport du Comité de rédaction CL 127/REP/4, on la remplace avec cette phrase du paragraphe 7 du document CL 127/9 du rapport du COAG. Est-ce que nous sommes tous d'accord pour cette modification du rapport du Comité de rédaction? Oui. Très bien. Donc, avec cette modification, est-ce que le Conseil est disposé à adopter en bloc le rapport tel qu'il nous a été remis par le Comité de rédaction? Oui. Très bien, je déclare le rapport adopté.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie. Je passerai donc la parole à Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint en l'absence de Monsieur le Directeur général qui ne se trouve pas à Rome.

David HARCHARIK (Deputy Director-General)

I do not wish to prolong our Session here today but I do wish to express, on behalf of the Director-General and all of us here in the Secretariat, our appreciation to you, Chairman, to the Officers of the Council, to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and all of the members who served on the Drafting Committee and to all the delegations and observers and others who participated in this meeting. We would like to express our appreciation to you for a very well-done job. I think the collaborative spirit that you demonstrated resulted in a good, useful, high-quality report of your Council Session.

For those of you who are travelling over this weekend, returning home, I wish you a safe journey, and the others who are in Rome, we look forward to seeing you soon in the days ahead.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint.

Nous avons donc fini nos travaux de cette cent vingt-septième session du Conseil de la FAO. Je vous remercie.

Mathew S.S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

Could I please ask you to give the floor to the Netherlands who will speak on behalf of the European Community and its twenty-five Member States.

Ewald WERMUTH (Observer for Netherlands)

The Netherlands, on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States, just has endorsed the report and we want to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and all delegates, for the positive results of this meeting. Especially we would like to express our appreciation to the staff of the FAO Secretariat for the preparation of this Council meeting and their ongoing support during this week.

Let me highlight, because we thought this was a very memorable Council, a few issues.

The European Union would like to compliment the refocusing of FAO, presented by the Director-General Jacques Diouf, in relation to its contribution to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and to UN Reform. Especially as FAO is one of the most important UN agencies for the achievement of sustainable development, it should focus its work on the achievement of the MDGs as it strives to realize the overarching goal of achieving food security worldwide. In doing so FAO can ensure it makes a valuable contribution to the crucial task of strengthening the UN System through full implementation of UN Reform. However, to achieve these goals, FAO needs to address more effectively problems connected with its financial situation.

We see, as a milestone of this FAO Council as well, the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. In this respect, EU note the challenges now before us all, for the FAO Secretariat as well as the Member Countries to implement these guidelines.

We want to compliment the Secretariat with the more-result based approach in the PIR and MTP. It improves the planning system and the accountability of FAO. We encourage the Membership and FAO to further focus on the priorities set in the MTP and the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, in order to improve FAO's effectiveness and its visibility within the UN System in the near future.

In this respect, the EU also would like to reiterate the importance we attach to substantial financial resources being made available for the preparatory work of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture including the Secretariat of the Commission, within the core budget of the FAO as well as via voluntary contributions.

The European Union would like to applaud the decision to launch an Independent External Evaluation of FAO, aimed at strengthening and improving the Organization. It will play a crucial role for the future of FAO within the UN System. The EU especially would like to mention the open, constructive and positive atmosphere during this Council and the excellent cooperation with all the regional groups. This built on the successful negotiating process in the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Adequate Food earlier this year. Let this be an example of our future collaboration.

The EU stands ready to support the decisions made during this Council and to engage in an open discussion with other regions in the next steps of the evaluation process. In doing so we all can contribute to FAO and the ultimate goal to achieve food security worldwide.

Muhammad Ismail QURESHI (Pakistan)

Pakistan commends the excellent work done by the Chairmen of the Drafting Committees' members in submitting a draft report consisting of various parts despite last minute hiccoughs recording accurately the views of the Council Members and the groups on all agenda items. It was a painstaking job that has been accomplished professionally.

Pakistan also appreciates full understanding on the final agreement of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, Item 17.3. There are many challenges ahead. Pakistan wishes, however, that the final product will be achieved reflecting similar sense of harmony, understanding and trust among the Council Members.

We note that FAO deserves special recognition for being perhaps the only UN agency which has taken concrete steps to voluntarily reform itself.

I also wish to record our deep appreciation of the Director-General and the Secretariat especially for the hard work done, by the ADG and the Assistant Secretary-General as well as the monitors, messengers and interpreters for their performance and efficiency.

Finally, we wish to sincerely felicitate you for providing valid leadership and handling the Sessions competently and gracefully.

Dario Alberto BONILLA GIRALDO (Colombia)

En nombre de los países de América Latina y el Caribe queremos expresarle a usted nuestra complacencia y gratitud por la forma en que manejó este período de sesiones; igualmente congratularnos con la Secretaría por la forma como atendió todas las cuestiones relativas para llevar a feliz término la conclusión del Consejo. Creemos que se ha hecho un excelente trabajo y que todo esto redundará en beneficio de todos los países, y especialmente de nuestros países en vía de desarrollo.

No quiero extenderme más, y reiterar también al Presidente de la Comisión de Redacción, señor De Luna, nuestra felicitación por la forma en que condujo el trabajo de este Comité. Sabemos que es un arduo trabajo, pero lo ha sabido llevar adelante. Muchísimas gracias.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Monsieur le Président, je vous ai demandé la parole pour savoir si vous pouvez donner la parole au Délégué du Cap-Vert qui va parler au nom du Groupe africain. Merci.

Jorge Maria CUSTODIO SANTOS (Observer for Cape Verde)

I would like, on behalf of the African Group, to thank you Sir for the way you were able to lead us in our working deliberations. Let me also extend our thanks to a job well done, together by the Council and the Secretariat.

It goes without saying, that we extend as well our thanks for Mr de Luna, our colleague that was able to achieve good results in the Drafting Committee. As you know, it is never an easy job.

We would also like to extend our thanks to all regional groups for the important outcomes that we achieved during this Session and as well to the Secretariat, including the interpreters.

Richard W. BEHREND (United States of America)

On behalf of the North America Group I would like to join the sentiments expressed by other groups in thanking you for your leadership; thanking the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for his leadership; thanking the Secretariat for their outstanding support; and finally, thanking other delegates for the constructive, positive spirit in which they participated in the Council.

Ms Maryam Ahmed Moustafa MOUSSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Near East Group, I would like to express to you, Mr Chairman, the Secretariat and the Drafting Committee our deep appreciation and thanks for a job well done.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 13.20 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.20 horas